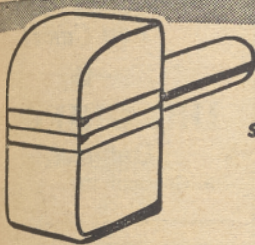


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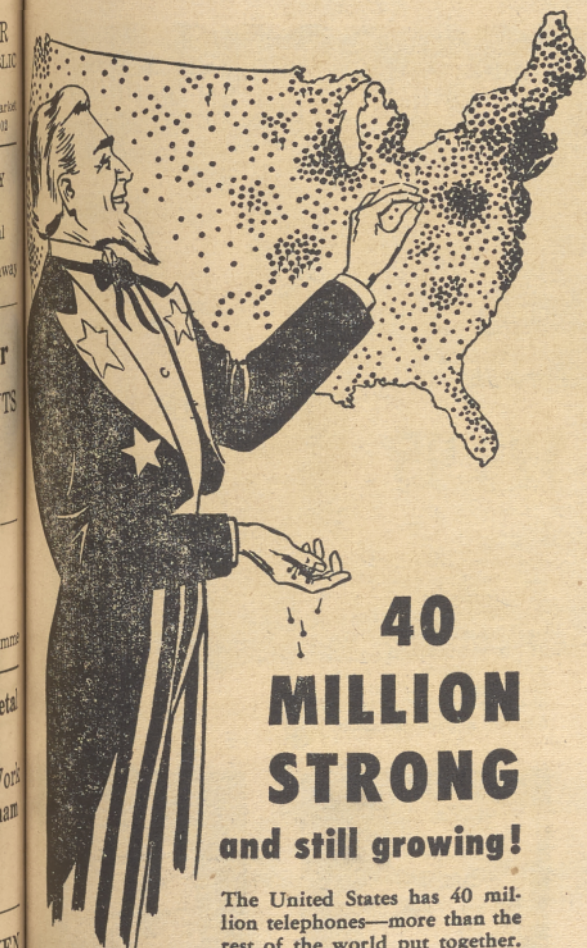
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ABOUT THE FARM ---

Notes by the Wayside—

County Crops Have Bright Forecast With Strawberries Good, Agent Says

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent
Severe winter temperatures sure damaged loganberry and boysenberry plantings—but market outlook for these fruits are dim anyhow. Pastures are a little late, and wet weather delayed spring cultivation and hoeing of strawberry fields. But when did Clackamas county farms look so good and when were crop prospects as a whole brighter?



J. J. Inskeep

All over the county we see excellent fields of grass seeds, pastures, red clover, winter peas, spring peas, vetch and fall grains. Strawberry fields are now cleaned up, and, despite some frost damage, we look for an average crop. We also expect a bumper crop of subterranean clover seed, but price prospects for seed of this legume are obscure.

Prominent recent Clackamas county visitor was J. C. Holliday representing a seed firm doing business in most of the cotton belt states. Holliday seemed highly pleased after inspecting many Clackamas county fields, and told us, "In my opinion the outlet for high grade alta fescue seed in the South is almost unlimited."

"As you know, Kentucky 31, alta fescue's competitor, has been glamorized by certain public agencies. Actually, we can see no difference between performance of alta and Kentucky 31. Two years ago I made a public statement to this effect, and I had the backing of prominent southern agronomists. We have now pretty well broken down the barrier of prejudice. Last fall the demand for alta was so great that we barely started selling before the supply was exhausted. Actually, I have often seen retailers supply demands for both alta fescue and Kentucky 31 from the same bag."

"It is true that your growers obtain higher prices at times by delayed selling, but this hurts the market because we do not obtain this seed in time for fall planting and are forced to hold it over for a year. Anything you can do to encourage early cleaning and shipping will help your market in the long run."

"Alta fescue provides 12 months of pasture in our trade territory while our native grasses become dormant as cool fall weather approaches."

"These Clackamas county row plantings look good to me. We can seldom obtain Kentucky 31 with a purity test better than 90. This is the principal reason that we prefer alta."

"I am also convinced that subterranean clover has quite a place from South Carolina south and west, but there again we may have to break down prejudice, and it may take time to create an extensive outlet. The same is true of lotus major. We have sold some of the latter, but prices have been up to four dollars a pound, which is discouraging. We think that lotus prices should not be more than prices for ladino clover seed if we are to encourage greater use of this seed."

Holliday is the son-in-law of Harry Lane, Stafford, president of the Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club.

Hot Cows
A good example of growing high protein forage may be seen of Walter Fisher's, Carus, polled Hereford spread. The recent Willamette Valley pasture tour ended on the Fisher ranch where Walter showed some of the best pasture and fattest cattle shown on the trip.

Walter uses quite a little commercial nitrogen but little barnyard manure because his cattle are seldom around the barn. Here is about the way he explained it to visitors:

"I apply about 200 pounds of ammonium nitrate per acre with the first fall rains and 200 pounds early in the spring. This fall, during the October rainy spell, I expect to apply 100 pounds of treble phosphate."

"I cut enough fescue and sub clover hay for winter feeding, but have never had to feed longer than nine weeks. I do not feed any grain or other concentrates."

"I had my hay analyzed last fall and the report showed nine per cent protein. My cattle are almost too fat, and I have no need for concentrates."

Some of the visitors questioned Walter relative to winter shelter for his herd.

"My cattle refuse to enter the barn except for long enough to eat their hay during the coldest weather when pasture may be short. That is about an hour a day. They lie in the pasture or seed timber for shelter. Sometimes they come in covered with snow and ice, but since they have plenty of rich hay, they do not seem to mind what would seem to be severe weather. In fact, if left in the barn during cold weather, they become too warm for comfort and sweat."

Store Fertilizer Now
As we point out each week, the only way to lick short fertilizer supplies is to purchase

and store during summer months when plenty of high-grade material is available. Fertilizer comes high, but purchased concentrates and hay comes higher.

Our new pasture circular contains a suggested schedule for kind, time and amounts to apply.

Extension Entomologist Robert Every and Clive Cook made a partial survey of Clackamas county's clover and lotus acreage for lygus bug and European clover seed weevil infestation Saturday of last week, too late for a report in this week's issue of "Notes by the Wayside." Look for a report next week. This may be a matter of great importance. If these insects are found in sufficient number, we shall recommend a dusting program for seed production.

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