

Smooth runs the water where the brook
is deep. —Shakespeare

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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Better Pasture And Forage Has Made Finer Quality Meat Says County Agent

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

As we develop a livestock program in Clackamas county, the matter of developing non-irrigated legumes and forage crops which mature later is one of importance. We are more likely to have good hay weather the last of June than we ordinarily experience the first of June. Falling into this list of new plants are lotus major, with which most are well acquainted, Cornell timothy and Montgomery red clover.



J. J. Inskeep the 7th of June. We have ordered 100 pounds of seed from the experiment station for early fall delivery. Of this lot, Dwight Miller, Monitor, has reserved 250 pounds. Now, Harold tells us, he expects to harvest this crop for seed. So we should have a fair seed supply this fall.

As we see it now, Cornell timothy might be grown for seed on clean land, and for hay and pasture with lotus major, Montgomery red clover, white clover and sub clover.

During the recent field day tour of Oregon Experiment Station fields, some of us lagged behind and had a look at a number of experimental lawn plots. Included in them were native grasses and some from other states. Of course, our red fescues and bent grasses looked pretty good, but so did alta fescue which we ordinarily consider as a forage grass. Granted that alta leaves are rather broad and coarse; however, the

color was excellent, and there was less competition from undesirable wild, broadleaf grasses which ruin the appearance of lawns planted to narrow leaf lawn grasses.

It probably won't be too long until we see alta used extensively on school grounds and athletic fields. In fact, we learn that one of the larger football gridirons near Los Angeles is planted to alta, and that it is the best on the coast.

Clackamas county was well represented at the Northwest Lamb show held in the Pacific International Building, North Portland. Clackamas county growers received eight out of 34 placings in the show. In pens of 25, second place went to Raymond Sether, Molalla. In pens of 10, third place went to Raymond Sether, Molalla; fourth

to Rex James, Marquam; seventh to Robert Seaman, Marquam; twelfth to Marcus Vetter, Oak Lawn. In pens of five, eighth place went to Rex James, Marquam; ninth to Marcus Vetter, and fourteenth to Ted Rostvold, Monitor.

So was our Clackamas county show a good one, with 99 lambs entered.

But why have a show? Well, maybe the following incident will illustrate the point. After the auction of lambs shown at the P.I. started, a few of us visited the Swift plant and made careful inspection of carcasses from 43 lambs shown at Canby and sold as one band there.

Our guide was F. R. Clymer, who told us something of the development of the market lamb enterprise in the Willamette valley.

"A few years ago," he explained, "our company was the object of much criticism because of low prices paid for valley lambs. As a matter of fact, prior to the last 10 years, we would much rather not have a Willamette valley lamb go through this plant. Quality then was so poor that we couldn't find a market for them."

"They were soft and unfinished and wouldn't ship. Now we are getting many deliveries of the finest of lambs here, and we ship them all over the United States, even to the Atlantic seaboard."

While we were there we saw two cars being loaded, one for Seattle and one for Chicago.

Better Grass—Better Lambs

Better management and improved pastures, we think, are the two factors most responsible for this improvement. During judging of these shows, lamb growers are able to look over the type and finish desired by the market and to exchange ideas. This newly found lamb business didn't "just grow" like Topsy.

We have ample opportunity to produce farm products which are not in surplus but in keen demand. May and early June lambs are among them. We have the only lambs ready for market in the United States at that time, and the whole country for a market, provided we produce a good carcass.

It is too bad that everyone showing at Canby didn't have an opportunity to look the finished product over. Next year we expect to arrange it. As a whole, our lambs were very good, with an average dressing percentage of 49.3. But there was a whole of difference in different lots, breeds and finish of lambs exhibited by different growers.

Soft lambs are just that, soft and flabby across the loin and flank. One soon learns to judge them at a glance. Every soft lamb lacks fat across the kidneys and finish throughout. Soft lambs do not hold up from packing house to retail butcher shop.

There were a few soft carcasses from lambs shown at Canby, and a few others were not tops—but most of them were tops. We shall not give any owners' names here for fear of possible embarrassment, but we kept notes on conditions of each carcass, and we shall be glad to discuss them with individual owners.

Here is another point brought out by Clymer. "We have a good market for carcasses varying from 35 to 57 pounds, provided they are firm and fat. Larger ones go to the restaurant trade. The housewife wants smaller leg of lamb because of high meat prices. For the same reason, smaller beef carcasses are now preferred."

We noticed a tendency on the part of judges to favor small carcasses during the show. We shall not argue with them because they know what the packer likes. At the same time, it costs but little on our good pastures to make a lamb gain from, say 70 to 90 or even a hundred pounds. The grower may sacrifice when selling lambs when too light when there is little per pound price differential for the lighter and heavier carcass.

Fire Slogan Told By State Head Of Forestry Group

"This is our most shameful waste" is the slogan of the 1950 cooperative forest fire prevention campaign sponsored jointly by the federal government and the state forestry divisions of Oregon and Washington.

Directed toward the reduction of man-caused forest fires, the campaign will be assisted by Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts, women's clubs, schools and all organizations actively interested in civic betterment.

Merle S. Lowden, assistant regional forester, in charge of information and education, U. S. forest service, reports that the posters will feature pictures of "Smokey" the forest ranger bear, holding a frightened fawn and pointing to a raging forest fire. The homes of wildlife as well as our nation's timber supply are destroyed each year by forest fires.

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Maybe This'll Wake Us Up!

Because a couple of thoughtless drivers threw a newspaper out of their car yesterday, Miss Gilbert, our school principal, nearly had a bad accident.

She was following them on the highway and the paper flattened over her windshield, so she couldn't see. In a minute her little coupe was across the line—right in the path of an oncoming trailer-truck. It missed... but only just!

The parties were recognized and soon as I heard about it I ran over to Sheriff Harper—demanded they be brought up on charges. But

Harper says: "Hold on, Joe. Let's talk this out, over supper and a glass of beer at Andy's." He pointed out that those aren't criminals. Just careless, like a lot of us seem to be getting these days, judging from the trash we see along roadsides. From when I sit, this near accident may be the lesson we need to make us stop littering our roads—and start showing a little tolerant consideration for our neighbors!

Joe Marsh

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