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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Commercial Fertilizers Important Crop Aids But Don't Overlook Barnyard

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

Much is said about the use of commercial fertilizers these days. They surely do have an important place but some of us are inclined to overlook the value of good old barnyard manure. Emil Exley, who lives in the north end near Fairview school, is not one of these. "Regardless of commercials," he says, "I see that my farm is well supplied with barnyard, but I also use commercial."

"This practice pays off too. This year, for instance, my Certified Burbank potato field of five and one-half acres made a yield of better than 300 bushels per acre, and we had no rain from planting until a week before harvest. Humus in the soil, resulting from previous manure applications and liberal cover cropping, helped to retain enough moisture to mature the crop without rainfall."

"Of course, I do not apply manure the same season during which potatoes are grown, but my ground always has a liberal supply of organic matter."

"Commercial fertilizer has its place also, and I applied 600 pounds of 3-20-15 when planting last July."

Diagnosis Symptoms
We learned also that certification inspectors found only two diseased plants in Emil's potato field. Certainly this is a tribute to Emil's expertness in diagnosing diseases in plants as symptoms appear. Diseased plants are removed from the field as soon as they show that disease is starting.

As we have remarked previously, if it were not for the many expert potato seed growers, like Emil Exley, the United States potato surplus would soon disappear and housewives would find potatoes the size of marbles on the market and at terrific prices.

—ATF—
Fred Trachsel and son, Merle, were callers last week. Fred reports that he planted a mixture of Cornell timothy and lotus major on a piece of wet land the spring of 1949. "Timothy grew 4 feet high in the higher portions of the field, which are still pretty wet. There the grass crowded out most of my lotus plants. In submerged portions of the field lotus plants survived but the timothy could not take it."

This was an interesting observation for we have wondered just how much water this new timothy could take. Meadow foxtail might be a better grass for these spots under water most of the winter. Lotus major is a marvelous legume and can stand more winter flooding than any that we know of.

—ATF—
Ernie Kruse, Frog Pond, was a caller last week also. His son, Stanley, is doing most of the farming on the Kruse farm these days and Ernie says that Stanley raised 18 acres of hairy vetch this past season. Ernie had forgotten the yield per acre, "but," says he, "we like the crop, so Stanley planted between 36 and 40 acres this fall and he will

like hairy vetch acreage expansion is well on the way.

—ATF—
Many Clackamas 4-H old timers will remember "Andy" I. M. C. Anderson, 4-H club leader in Clackamas county who met us at the train when we came to Oregon City just 24 years ago. Andy, now Farmers Home Administration supervisor for the territory of Alaska, paid us a call recently. The Andersons live in Anchorage. Those who know the family will remember that the Anderson's lost a son in a tragic shooting accident several years ago.

Joan Anderson, daughter, now Mrs. Ralph Walter, is living in Anchorage and so does son, Lorn. Joan graduated from the University of Alaska in Home Economics and Science. She is now working as a radio establishment engineer for C.A.A. Lorn is married also and has two sons, 3 and 4 years of age. He graduated from Oregon State in civil engineering and is now employed by the Corps of Army Engineers.

Test Baiting Will Eliminate Slug Activity

Garden slug activities start with wet weather, when considerable damage is done both in gardens and in field crops, including legumes.

Slugs often work out from fence rows and pasture lands into newly planted vetch, rye and clover fields.

If growers are not certain slugs are present in a field, test baiting is recommended by Leon Garoian, county extension agent. This is done by putting out bait in various parts of the field.

Each bait is marked with a stake. Bait is examined the following day, and if two or more dead slugs are found, it is advisable to bait the entire field, says Garoian.

Metalddehyde, calcium arsenate and bran baits are effective in controlling slugs.

Nell's Notes . . .

MR. and MRS. JACK GREENWOOD have returned from their 2nd honeymoon. MRS. JENNY WELCH went along as chaperon—MRS. GEORGE JACOBS spent a few days in Portland with her daughter—IVAN BARKER laughing heartily over a choice tid-bit—MRS. FABRI in Portland for the day—The Wy'east Garden Club sale of Christmas decorations will be the 16th and 17th—RUTH SEWARD dashing across the Highway—MARGE LYNCH in her snow boots—Wonder where CLEAT BOYD got that sweat shirt—VERNA MEDLEY hurrying to the Post Office—GENE VEEVE LANGDON busy with her many interests—BARBARA JAMES caught in a hail storm—PEGGY CARLSON pretty as a picture in her short bob—FERN GOFF, MARY V. NELSON and ELEANORE BOURAY surprised BUTTERCUP CHRISTENSEN with a party on her birthday—CHUCK BRITTON bewitched, bothered and bewildered with a flash-light display—Letter from MADELINE NORINE who is now in Anchorage, Alaska, saying it hit 40 below—PETIE STOLL with the Red Cross blood-mobile at Fort Lewis is taking blood from 600 Canadian soldiers—BERNICE LASH-ER ill with tonsillitis—Memories of one enchanted evening of listening to the Rev. Thyra Funk.

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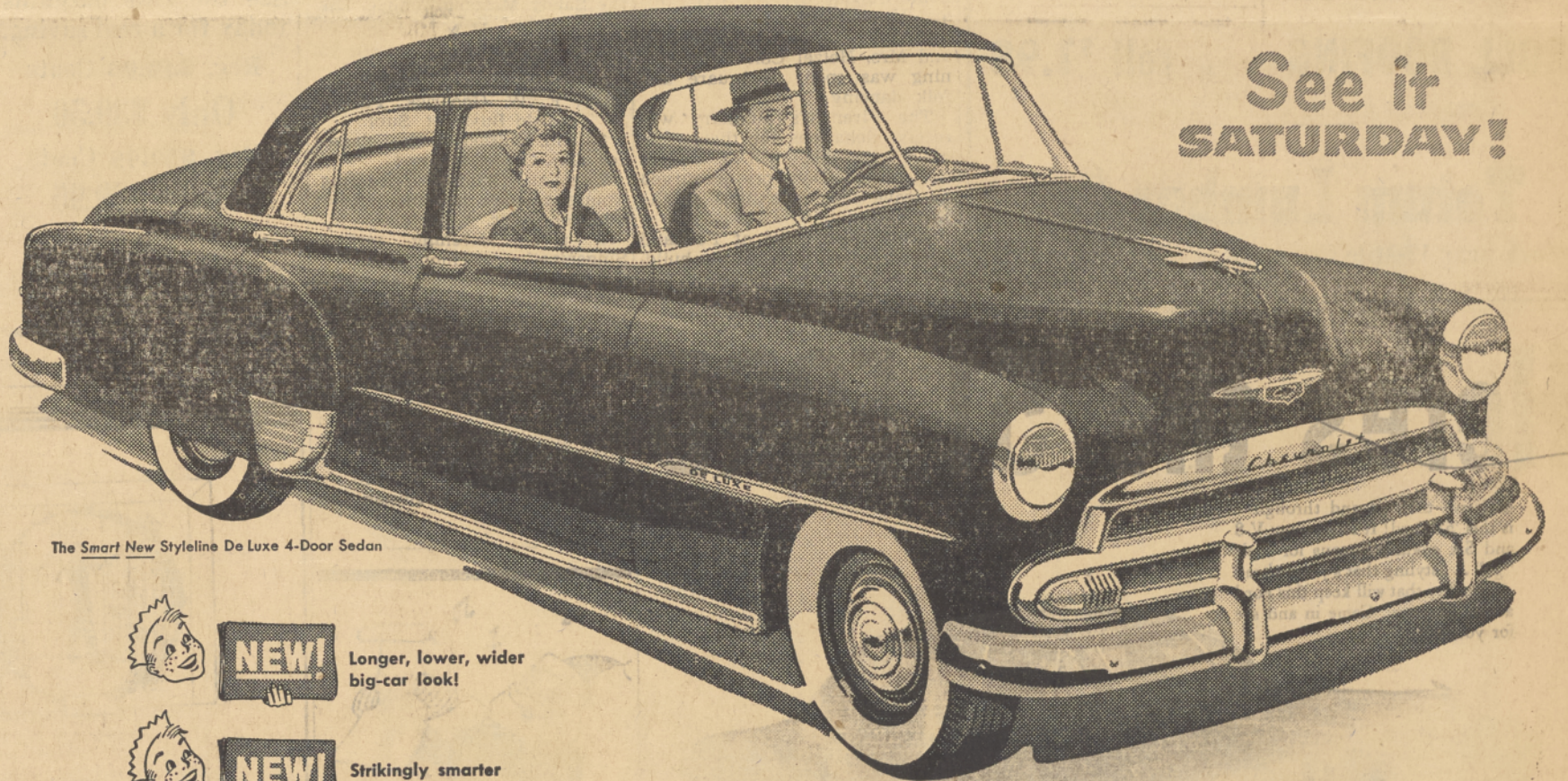
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