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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Lienharts Conduct Soil Experiments; Clipping Suggested For Pasture Weeds

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

How much forage can a 20 acre tract of land produce? "Quite a jag," according to John D. Lienhart and his dad, John L. They operate a 180 or so north of Monitor and they should know, for the Lienharts conduct interesting soil fertility experiments on their own and have been doing so for a number of years.

The Lienharts are better known as Jersey breeders, and justly so, as they maintain 20 cows in the milking string with a herd butterfat average of 406 pounds. Some of the outstanding cows in Oregon for the past 30 years have come from the Lienhart herd. They are not so well known as general farmers and swine producers. "But we usually turn off about 400 head of porkers a year," John L. told us during a recent visit. "This last year we anticipated the price drop and produced only 200 head."

The Lienharts conduct another operation unique to this area. They skim their milk at home and feed the skimmed milk to the pigs as a protein supplement. Skim milk, home grown corn, together with home grown barley and oats and a little purchased feed serve to fatten the shoats which are also kept pretty well supplied with seasonal pasture.

The Lienhart acres, common to the area, are very productive, but it is the 20 acres of pasture adjoining the farmstead with which they are especially interested. Here is the story of that 20 acres in John D.'s words. "This pasture is made up of alta fescue, volunteer ryegrass, subterranean clover, and white clover.

"We pastured this 20 practically every day last winter. Our pastures are so well established that rainy weather finds our cows in the field without damage to the turf.

"We have considered irrigation of course, but with this production we have hesitated to gamble with obtaining a well with adequate flow.

Potash Helps
"Our fertilizer program? Of course we use what barnyard manure we have, but since our cows run out so much of the time, we do not have too much barnyard manure to haul. So we use quite a little commercial fertilizer and I think we could use much more than we are using at present with profit. Our fertilizer program this last fall included 200 pounds of 10-16-8 complete fertilizer last fall and the same amount again this spring. We would like to use more but we have 200 acres in our farming operations and we find it pays to use commercial fertilizer on every acre regardless of the crop grown.

"You will note that our fertilizer contains a little potash, which is at variance with the usual recommendation. We may be mistaken but we think addition of potash to nitrogen and phosphorus helps a little.

"While we pastured all winter, as I indicated, really heavy pasturing started this year on March 4. At the peak of pasture production, 22 cows could not keep up with growth on 2½ acres of pasture. During the winter we used a total of approximately 20 tons of hay. Additional roughage included 35 pounds of grass ensilage per adult animal per day."

Excellent Lotus
Two Clackamas county farm operators have excellent stands of granger lotus coming into

production this summer. They are Arthur Shrock and Dan Yoder. Arthur, "Art" to his many friends, lives just south of 91 corner on the Barlow-Monitor road on the west side of the highway. Dan Yoder lives a half mile or so south of Art on the east side of the road.

These are row plantings and quite remarkable considering the fact that no rain fell between the time the plantings were made, in early June 1950, and about September 25 when our first good fall rain appeared, as we remember it.

Granger is a new and superior variety of lotus corniculatus or birdsfoot trefoil. The birdsfoot trefoils, including the Empire variety, should not be confused with our lotus major or lotus uliginosus which is showing up remarkably well on some of our heavier soils.

The future place for granger lotus in Clackamas county is unknown at this time.

Alfalfa Looks Better
Our feeling is that none of the lotus varieties will produce anything like as much tonnage as alfalfa on soil types which grow alfalfa successfully. Joe Sollie has a narrow strip of granger lotus on his farm a mile east of Canby. This year old planting adjoins good alfalfa. It looks real good but not nearly so good as the alfalfa. That is, from appearance granger will not produce as much tonnage as alfalfa under this, which is ideal alfalfa soil.

However, Dan Yoder's planting looks beautiful growing on soil entirely too heavy and wet for alfalfa to survive. It begins to look as if granger will do well on heavier soils.

Lotus major has its peculiarities, but it is a very successful perennial hay and crop on many farms of heavier soils. On others, lotus stands seem difficult to obtain even though soil conditions are apparently identical. In the north portion of the county, there are many good stands on soils of good drainage.

Last week we dropped by Albert Barth's place at Marquam. We wondered what effect the 1951 drought had on his lotus major stand. As we remember it, this is a five year old planting and except for one thing, it couldn't look better.

Velvet Grass Invasion
That "one thing" is invasion of the field by mesquite or velvet grass which matures a little too early in comparison with the lotus. Our suggestion for future plantings is that Cornell timothy be included at planting time. This particular timothy variety blooms a month or so later than our other commonly grown grasses and should make an excellent companion crop with lotus major. A good stand of timothy at planting time should help to prevent invasion of less desirable grasses in future years.

The office has been deluged with calls relative to weeds in new pasture seedings following the June rains. These are calls

we like to have for we know that if the weeds are growing, grasses and clovers are growing also. "Shall we spray these weeds, clip them, or leave them alone?" That is the question.

Set Cutter Bar High
Our suggestion is to clip, setting the cutter bar as high as possible. Clipping may be delayed until the time it appears weeds will suffer the most damage, just prior to seeding. Where weeds are not too numerous, it might be just as well to stay out with the mowing machine.

Sheep are good clippers, where sheep are available. Sheep will clean a new pasture seeding of most weeds but should be watched from day to day and turned out when they begin to damage seedling grasses and clovers.

Spraying is not advised during the first summer, 2,4-D sprays are very damaging to young clover plants and even to young grass plants.

Purebreds Sold
Two carloads of fine Clackamas county purebred Jersey cattle have lately gone to Shelley, Idaho. Early in May Mr. and Mrs. Anton Malar, Sandy, sold 19 head to Johnson Brothers who live near Shelley. There were 13 cows and six heifers in this shipment. But Anton reports, "There were 20 when they arrived. A calf was born during the journey."

The Johnsons must have been pleased, for shortly after they returned and purchased 18 from Mr. and Mrs. Cap Malar, Boring.

Phosphorus Used
On June 26, during the livestock tour, visitors inspected a little home conducted fertilizer experiment on Walter Fisher's Carus farm. The crop in question was a seed planting of chewing fescue. One portion of the field had applications of barnyard manure and superphosphate, another phosphate alone and one strip was unfertilized. Few of us have seen beneficial effects from phosphorus used on grass alone. Well, it showed up here and without any doubt.

And here are a few over-the-fence observations made in Clackamas county last week.

Some are yet relying on brick salt to furnish salt requirements of their herds and flocks. Experts in animal nutrition tell us that it is almost impossible for farm animals to obtain their daily requirements from brick salt.

Extension Agent Don Walrod recommends providing all the loose stock which animals will consume, in addition to brick salt. Common "dairy salt" is adequate for this purpose, he says.

Loose Salt Essential
Salt-starved animals might be provided limited amounts of loose salt at first so as to prevent overeating. But after this craving is allayed, animals should have loose salt before them at all times.

In one instance we saw beef steers which had made good gains on native pasture composed of mesquite, ryegrass, rattail fescue, and hop clover until this pasture passed its peak of palatability. Then the animals in question began to lose weight.

We observed these same animals when they were turned into a good alta fescue and sub clover field. They first ate generously on alta fescue heads, later fed on sub clover and a clipped field of alta.

Exact Cause Unknown
One of our excellent national farm magazines recently ran

quite an article relative to bloating of sheep and cattle. The exact cause of bloat, it appears, is not too well known. But here, in part, is what the author has to say about bloat prevention which is almost exactly what our pasture management has to say on the subject. (Hope we don't get jacked up for quoting.)

"The Best Nonbloating Pasture." In outstanding field work at the Delta Branch Station of the Mississippi State College, Dr. Ben F. Barrentine ran 59 steers on a dozen pastures ranging from pure grass to pure clover, and differing mixtures of both. Barrentine came up with this result:

"At least 50% by weight of grass is necessary for reasonable protection in a grass-clover pasture. This is the practical answer to bloat."

"Hand feeding ladino to steers, Barrentine found that sometimes as little as 12 pounds bloated the animals. In a pasture made by broadcasting 60% grass (fescue) and 40% ladino, there was no bloat even when grazed by animals that bloated readily."

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Brightwood Folks Vacation In Canada
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Schwartz and daughter, Claudie of Brightwood, returned last week from a week's vacation trip to Washington and Canada. Their son, Dean, stayed with Mrs. Schwartz's sister at Molalla during the absence of his parents.

The Schwartz family held a picnic supper at their home Thursday evening, July 10. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Haas of San Francisco, Dr. Lawrence Remus and Kenneth Ackman of Portland, Mrs. Ackman and daughter, Jerry, of Chicago, and Mr. and Mrs. Suckow and Anna Schwartz of Sandy.

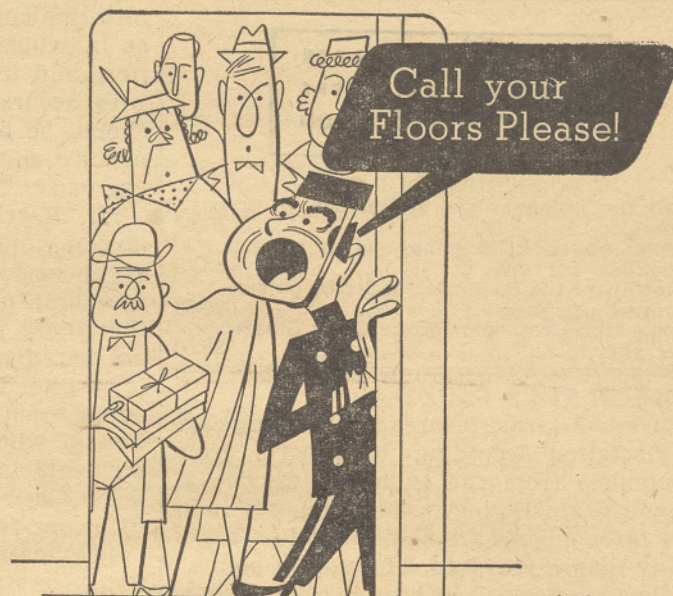
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