

McCoy Farmer Boasts Fine Herefords

Glen Martin Finds Time To Experiment in Grass On Modern Farm

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Statesman Farm Editor

A doctor's title in the way of capital letters may not be attached to the rear end of a farmer's name, and the farmer may not have attended a four-year dietitian's school, but if he is going to make a competitive success of his livestock, he has to do some tall studying and experimenting on his own. No longer can your cattle be raised on the plan of Topsy of Uncle Tom's Cabin fame. That is, if you intend to retain either the cattle or the farm.

At least, this is the opinion of Glen Martin, Hereford cattle breeder over near McCoy in Polk county.

For six years, Mr. Martin has been an advocate of alfalfa ensilage over corn ensilage. It, says he, has a greater percentage of the necessary protein, the cattle find it more palatable, and all round it has more food value.

Now, in more recent years, Mr. Martin has been experimenting with various grasses as pasture feed. Perhaps most interesting of these is his planting of creeping foxtail.

The creeping foxtail seed was obtained from the Eastern Oregon experimenting station, and the first seeding was made in September of 1942. That, however, was a dry fall, and seed germination was poor. Not until the spring of 1943, did the grass take a hold and begin creeping out. Of the 17 acres seeded at that time, the 10 are very good, but on the other seven there is a sparse stand. On the whole acreage, growth continued in a rather discouraged manner, Martin added, until ammonium sulphate was given to the fields, then the grass "snapped out of it."

Mr. Martin explains that the creeping foxtail is a wet-ground friend. In fact, the wetter the ground, the better. His grows on a swishy type of field. Where the soil remains damp the longest, there Martin has his best stand.

The grass resembles regular meadow foxtail, especially in seed as it was when we saw it. The seed is harvested by hand, Mr. Martin says. But he saw no reason other than his uneven ripening for this. Combines could catch it, only, he explained, it ripens so very unevenly. However, picking the grass seed by hand is a remunerative job, according to Martin. With this grass, as with other grasses, livestock is not interested in the seed heads. It should be pastured before seed time. Even if it has gone to seed, the lower blades stay green, and cattle will reach down and nibble these off.

Mr. Martin has also grown some hairy vetch for seed but says he has "laid off from much of this at present, because of weevil."

We also saw the 10-acre canary grass field, making good growth. From July until November these 10 acres furnish much pasture. In the winter months, this field is flooded over and it is not until mid-June that the water leaves the field.

Mr. Martin showed us his field peas, telling in passing that the autumn planted peas escaped aphids, but that those planted in the spring could be completely taken by them.

Five acres of Royal Anne cherries (not yet interesting) were also included in the crops of the 334-acre farm.

But Mr. Martin saved his real pride and joy in farming to the last. The grass, he reported, was only means to an end—Herefords being the end.

Three years ago he began with a few registered Herefords. Today, he invites anyone who does not believe that beef cattle can be raised profitably in the Willamette valley, to come look at his 45 fat, sleek looking animals.

While feeding may be done a little differently here than in the so-called range countries, Martin insisted it can be done as profitably when one gets the hang of it. His stock cattle has come chiefly from Mount Crest at Hill, California; Flounce Rock at Prospect, Oregon, and from Rankin's at Cambridge, Nebraska.

All Martin's young stuff gets grain until it is two years old. Little calves are fed creep-feed until weaned at six weeks. Then they are started with whole oats, ground-oats, and finally shifted to barley.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin and their two sons came to McCoy from Whiteson in 1937 and purchased the farm on which they now live. A large, attractive house is shaded by a grove of deciduous trees. The two sons, 12 and 14, give no indication of being members of the current youth-problem club whose theme is "nothing to do, no place to go." At the time we called, they were joyously riding tractor and hayload. And Mr. Martin grinned as he pointed to the vegetable garden.

"Look at those rows," he said, "I'll sure have to rib the boys about how straight they are."—But there was no mistaking: both he and the boys would enjoy the ribbing.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden



GLEN MARTIN He Likes His Herefords

Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

We found haying underway in all the counties, with considerable tonnage already housed, and many other haymakers looking from from sky to haycock with that "will-it-or-won't-it-rain" gleam in their eye.

Here and there, difficulty was experienced with vetch and oats, and even some clover, lodged by wind and rain of the week previous. Marion and Clackamas counties seem to have suffered the most from the forage crops being unable to stand on their own.

Over in Clackamas county, we also found a few last-minute corn plantings underway. Pheasants have been hungry this season, it would seem, from all reports.

J. J. Inskeep, county agent over there, directed us to the farm of T. H. Ridings and son at Molalla. Tom and his son "Red" prove what ground limestone can do in restoring worn-out soils. Ridings is one of the oldtimers in the Molalla country. He saw wonderful crops after the land was first cleared and a general decline in yields until, he says, "That bottom forty got so poor that we considered ten bushels of oats to the acre a good yield."

"Now look at it," he adds, "That Willamette vetch was high as the fence posts before the rain, and the crop is so heavy that we may have difficulty with the harvest. We applied two and a quarter tons of limestone per acre on that field last fall. The nodules on the roots are as big as peas and numerous as flies at a hog pen."

The 10,000 tons of limestone used annually in Clackamas county could easily be increased to 50,000 tons if limestone were available in quantity when needed and at a reasonable price, Inskeep told us.

In Linn county, we found sugar beets heading for seed, pastures excellent, and chief interest centering in strawberry and gooseberry picking.

Aphids were reported damaging vetch and field peas in Polk county, and potato growers were busy dusting for the flea beetle on potatoes.

Marion county might, this past week, be described as "picky." Everyone was busy picking and harvesting something or other. Picking gooseberries and strawberries on the floor ranches was well underway, with some slowing up noticed. Picking in the east hill farming sections was just getting underway. Lettuce was being harvested. Corn growers were shaking their heads over damage by pheasants, but were cultivating the remaining plants. Walnuts were found set. Green beans between Turner and Stayton are backward but growers thought they would have an average yield.

We found Henry Zorn, well-known Jersey breeder, putting up alfalfa and clover silage. He reported finding it necessary to reinforce his corn silos for clover silage, because of the solid heavy pack of the clover.

Garver & Graham over at Silvertown were boasting some new blood in their Hereford herd. The two had been at Montesano, Wash., where, although they claimed they were "small fry" when it came to paying such prices as the R. Jamison ranch paid for Purity Domino 4th (which sold at \$3100)

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Walter Smith Agriculture Head

Walter Smith of Aurora has been named county chairman of the George R. Hyslop agricultural research memorial and expects to be able to announce the complete list of committee members soon, he announced this week.

This is part of the state-wide movement of farmers and businessmen connected with agriculture to raise a substantial fund to serve as a perpetual working memorial to the late Professor Hyslop of Oregon State college, who devoted most of his life to the betterment of Oregon crops.

As soon as the committee is completed plans will be carried out to see that every farmer in Marion county knows about the memorial fund and has a chance to contribute to it any amount he may choose.

Only the income for the fund will be used to help finance experimental work in improvement of Oregon crops, thus continuing the work of Prof. Hyslop. The money will do double duty, says Smith, as graduate students will be obtained to do as much of the work as possible, hence they will be helped in getting an education in Oregon while they help solve Oregon problems in the farm crops field, said Smith.

Summer School on Casualty List

One more war casualty this summer is the Oregon 4-H club summer school. War-time shortages in housing and lack of help on the state college campus made it necessary to cancel the plans for the 30th annual club event, according to H. C. Seymour, state club leader.

Feed Supplies Inadequate For Livestock

The state-wide program for reduction of livestock numbers on Oregon farms in view of prospective feed supplies supplemented recently by war food administrator Marvin Jones, according to Marion county agent, W. G. Nibler.

"Despite the greatly increased feed production and the imports of all feed to supply the number of livestock we now have," says Jones, "it will be necessary to adjust our livestock and poultry and feed supplies will be in the real interest of the livestock producers themselves. They are the only ones who can accomplish it."

This year's food production objectives for Oregon suggests the greatest reduction in beef cattle. For three successive years, Oregon farmers have increased the numbers of beef cattle, dairy cattle and hogs, Nibler says, and current feed supplies are not adequate to insure a sound feeding program.

Few New Trucks To Be Released

Organization will have to be substituted largely for equipment insofar as new trucks are concerned, it is being pointed out by the OSC extension service specialists and government officials. Not more than 85,000 new trucks will be released this year, compared with 600,000 in normal years. Last year only 22 percent of all the new trucks available went to agricultural uses. Careful organization for maximum use of trucks during the heavy hauling seasons will be necessary to avoid loss of crops and livestock.

Now's Time to Plant Late Carrots

Carl Joehnk, the Clackamas gardener, says now is a good time to plant late carrots and beets, which will mature about September 15. Chanteney or Nantes carrots and Detroit dark red beets are good varieties.

Beets can be planted rather thick in rows and then thinned out for greens.

Carrots should be grown in abundance so as to have some to store for winter.

The girl with the HOE says—

You'd better be watching that blackspot on the roses. Dust with dusting sulphur, spray with Bordeaux or use one of the trade cure-alls, being careful to buy only from firms which carry reliable products. Some cure-alls prove to be cure-nothings.

Aphids are finding their way beneath ornamental tree foliage, and on tips of other growing things. Use a contact spray such as Black-leaf 40 and then be sure that it actually contacts. Spraying it on the top side of the foliage when it happens that the aphids are on the underside side isn't much use. You may be sure that the aphids are not going to crawl about snooping for the poison.

If you haven't applied the cover spray of two ounces of lead arsenate to four gallons of water to your stray apple or pear tree better get at it at once. Your commercial growers did it a week ago.

Those slugs are sure leaving a slimy trail. Keep baiting them. Eventually you'll conquer. A bait with metaldehyde does the trick. Slugs actually will rush around after your poison if it contains this.

Watch the beans for signs of beetles. Calcium arsenate and $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent rotenone mixed with dolomite on the potatoes. Cryolite may also be used. And watch that tomato plant. The beetles are just as fond of the plant foliage as you are of the fruit.

Cut off the seed pods from the lilac now. You'll have more and better blooms, next season.

Strong Upward Onion Trend

Onions are being pushed now nationally as a food expected to be produced in unusual abundance in the early summer, according to an announcement by the war food administration received by the OSC extension service. Both the Texas and California crops of early type onions are unusually large this year. The Texas crop is expected to exceed 1,100,000 hundred-pound sacks, compared with 880,000 sacks last year.

Nibler Tells About Mexican Labor

Mexican labor may be available for heavy field work from July 15 to August 20 from the Salem labor camp, according to W. G. Nibler, county agent, if present plans can be carried out. It should be understood, said Nibler, that this is dependent upon the planned schedule for importation of Mexicans which may be changed. Mexicans assisting in cherry picking will complete this work about July 15 and it is hoped they can be retained at the Salem camp to be used by farmers in the hay, grain, seed and flax harvests from July 15 to August 20.

These workers can assist in relieving the great shortage of man labor for the heavier type of work. Farmers interested in this labor should place their orders immediately at the farm labor employment office, 361 Chemeketa street, since only the number needed will be retained in the camp. These workers could be used in the harvest of hay, grain, seed crops, flax and other crops where able-bodied men are needed.

Following August 20 the Mexicans will again be employed in harvest of seasonal crops such as hops, onions and vegetables. These Mexican workers will in no way relieve the great need for local people in harvest of the Marion county bean crop, since it is not expected they will be used in the harvest of this crop.

Borax Application Increases Yield Of Alfalfa Hay

Application of borax or boric acid to alfalfa fields where yellowtop has become noticeable following dry weather, may be made immediately after removing the first crop, says Dr. W. L. Powers, head of the soils department at Oregon State college. Application of granular borax can be made with a cyclone seeder.

In four-year trials, the average increase from an application of 40 pounds an acre of borax has been 1 1/2 tons more alfalfa hay a year, Powers reports. Use of up to 60 pounds an acre in experience has been profitable where it was evenly spread. If desired, 50 pounds of borax may be mixed with an equal amount of gypsum and then applied with a landplaster spreader.

The use of borax in areas where it is needed not only increases yield but also increases chlorophyll and vitamin A content of the hay and promotes branching and longevity of alfalfa.

Aim and Equal Wheat Planting Again This Year

The national wheat goal for 1945 will be approximately the same as the acreage planted this year, according to R. B. Taylor, chairman of the Oregon AAA committee.

The department of agriculture said the goal is based on the estimated requirements for use for the 1945-46 year and on preliminary estimates from all wheat-producing states as to their wartime capacity for wheat production.

The national wheat goal is now being submitted to the states, along with suggestions for establishing individual state goals according to local determination of capacity and crop balance. The final state goals will not be determined for about a month, Taylor estimates.

New Diseases of Suckling Calves

A hitherto unidentified disease of suckling calves which causes lesions which resemble those in lambs suffering from pulpy kidney disease has been causing losses in several Oregon counties, reports O. H. Muth, associate veterinarian of the college experiment station.

Dr. Muth has been investigating the disease, which has appeared mostly in beef herds. The disease strikes suddenly in calves from two to six weeks old. Death occurs after only a short illness, sometimes a few hours. Principal symptoms are that animals fail to follow mothers and will not nurse, rate of breathing is increased, and the calves go down, struggle on the ground, and die.

Some Red Tape Being Cut

Buying nitrate fertilizers and sodium chloride for killing weeds has been simplified through the issuance by the bureau of mines of a "general purchaser's order" which exempts farmers from liability under the federal explosives act in connection with purchase or use of these materials.

Art King, extension soils specialist, says the new order will straighten out confusion in some counties where dealers had refused to handle these materials because of the red tape involved. Farm customers need not obtain licenses, but dealers must still have a license and keep record of quantities sold.

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