

County Agent's Office

Organic Matter in Soil Requires Extra Nitrogen

By N. C. ANDERSON

We often hear the old saying "Experience is the best teacher." Unfortunately, though, experience doesn't always tell the whole story and may leave us with the wrong impression.

Such a misunderstanding has caused many farmers to believe that it is better to destroy organic matter such as stalks, tops and other plant material than to plow it back into the soil. They tried plowing under plant matter, came up with lower yields the following year, and decided it was not a good practice. The explanation is really quite simple.

In accumulating large amounts of organic matter in his soil, the grower should be aware of the need for extra quantities of nitrogen.

Organic matter contains some nitrogen, but by far the greatest percentage is carbon, the nitrogen contents running from one-tenth to one-eighth that of the carbon.

When this organic matter is returned to the soil, bacteria begins to work on it, causing it to decay. During this process of breaking down the vegetable matter, the bacteria block the loss of nitrogen from the decaying matter and prevent its use by the growing crops.

In order to maintain soil fertility then, the nitrogen supply should be kept high enough in such soil to supply both the growing crop and the decomposition going on in the soil.

Actually, this organic material is very valuable to the soil and helps to build it up, so long as it is compensated for with extra nitrogen. About 1% ratio, or 20 pounds of actual nitrogen per ton of residue should be added to the soil along with the organic matter.

Sheila Luciani, Butter Creek Junction 4-H livestock club member, is the new owner of a Hereford heifer. The heifer purchased this past week from the Frank Anderson herd carries Tex Royal and Commander breeding. It will carry the service of Zato heir bull. This excellent type heifer will give Sheila a good start on a beef breeding project.

Farm people who are concerned with radio-active fallout and preparation in case of an attack should read the December, 1961 Farm Journal item entitled, "Why Farmers Don't Need to Fear Fallout." Briefly the item points out that fallout should be respected but it's a hazard you can plan against. By taking the simple steps outlined in this article you could probably be back doing chores the day after a massive attack. There are a lot of "ifs" but the item is definitely worth reading.

A public hearing to consider

Future of Sheep Industry Studied

DENVER—What's the future of the sheep industry? That may be decided by a study being made of the industry by McKinsey and Company, one of the top-ranking management consultant firms.

McKinsey was hired by the American Sheep Producers Council—the industry's promotion organization—to study all facets of the sheep business and give concrete recommendations on how it can best succeed.

Don Clyde of Heber City, Utah, president of the American Sheep Producers Council, said the study by McKinsey offers the sheep industry a new note of optimism. Here, for the first time, he said, an unbiased, authoritative source will give the sheepmen specific recommendations on what it will take to bring a greater return to the sheep industry.

"We have been discussing the problems of the sheep business for half a century," Clyde declared, "but now is the time for action."

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Brand Inspection Of Pre-Branded Cattle Proposed

Should branded cattle be brand-inspected when a new brand is applied? This is the question which will come before cattle owners at a public hearing Tuesday morning, December 12, at the State Department of Agriculture building in Salem.

Members of the state livestock advisory board, which counsels the department on brand inspection activities, will be on hand to participate in the hearing. The department urges all interested cattlemen to attend or to present their views in writing in advance of the hearing.

The brand inspection of pre-branded cattle at the time a new brand is applied is one proposal which has come to the fore in an effort to tighten loopholes in the state's program to prevent livestock theft. The proposed regulation stems from 1961 legislation establishing a period within which the industry may develop an added program to meet its needs.

Americans spent 20% of their disposable income for food in 1960, Japanese 42%, West Germans 45% and Russians 56%.

How long since your buildings have been re-evaluated for insurance? Construction costs have gone up and a fire loss may find you with only a fraction of the building replacement protection. Insurance is one safeguard against financial ruin in event of a tragic loss. For an ounce of prevention, also fire extinguishers distributed around the farm buildings may prevent a costly fire.

The proposed regulation would provide: "No person shall use, cause to be used, or permit to be used any livestock brand upon a bovine animal (cattle) which has previously been branded, or is branded, without first: 1. having such animal inspected by a brand inspector, and 2. securing a brand inspection certificate for such animal."

Harold Cohn Heads State Wool Growers

Harold Cohn, Heppner, was elected president of the Oregon Wool Growers November 21 at the group's 66th annual convention in Portland.

Cohn, with his son Phillip, operates Cohn Livestock Inc.

Other officers chosen were Kent Magruder, Clatskanie, first vice president, and Marion Krebs, Roseburg, second vice president.

Salt Blocks Lure Game Outside Season

Morrow county sportsmen can work now to improve their luck in 1962.

"Experience has shown that deer and other large game carry through the winter season in better condition and reproduce better when they have had access to an adequate supply of salt," A. W. Werry, technical director for the Leslie Salt Co., said recently.

"There is nothing unsportsmanlike in giving these animals a nutritional boost over the winter months," he added. "Of course, no real sportsman would continue the practice into the hunting season. In fact, most hunting laws specifically forbid using salt as lures for game. However, these regulations do not apply after the season is closed."

In areas where deer are being destructive, salt blocks far from shrubs and gardens may keep deer from doing their usual damage, he added.

Company Studies Chaff Conversion

The possibilities for converting wheat chaff into pelleted livestock feed and increasing regional feed supplies are under investigation in Oregon, it is reported by a Pacific Power & Light Company agricultural specialist.

"Pelleting of chaff of wheat as well as other grains could stimulate the expansion of meat production by providing a new source of feed for wintering cattle at lower cost or for increasing the size of the region's livestock herds," reports Willard Salmon, agricultural development engineer for the company.

An estimated 1,500,000 tons of wheat chaff are wasted annually in the three west coast states, the PP&L representative said.

Salmon reported the interest in the profit possibilities of pelleting wheat chaff is an outgrowth of company-sponsored research on the economics of mechanically feeding pelleted roughage. A report on the subject was published recently.

Initial investigations into pelleting wheat chaff are being made by a Sherman county wheat rancher, Salmon said.

"Only a small portion of chaff is now utilized in loose form for livestock feeding, but the savings have proved worthwhile," Salmon reported in emphasizing the potential.

Oregon wheat lands alone could provide an estimated 407,000 tons of chaff. Washington state about 1,047,000 tons, and California perhaps 125,000 tons, the PP&L specialist said. In addition, the chaff from barley and oats also could be utilized.

"The chaff could be used to increase basic roughage feed supplies in the region, and also can be used, with supplements, along with the basic high energy livestock feeds," Salmon explained.

The PP&L representative reported that chaff can be separated from the straw during harvesting by the use of equipment manufactured by Foster Mfg. Co., Madras. The units attach to the combine and blow the chaff into a special trailer.

Cooking Club Gets Activities Underway

The Kool Kooks completed some of the plans for the year at the November 27 meeting. Some of the activities are a tea for mothers and friends in May; a party for little friends in Child Care project for June; a tour in Pendleton for spring; also selecting games and toys suitable for pre-school children.

The next meeting will be at Kitti O'Hara's on December 11, at 3:45 p. m. Freezing equipment will be the main item of discussion. Each member will want to have her pre-school friend selected and a paragraph written about him. A recreation period is planned with each member leading one game in song.

Kitti O'Hara, Acting reporter

Terryl Greenup Wins First In Livestock 4-H Judging Contest

The first 4-H Livestock Judging day of the new club year was a big success with Terryl Greenup, Heppner, as the high scoring livestock judge. The judging day, held on Saturday, November 18, was attended by 38 4-H livestock members and parents. The group assembled at the Herb Ekstrom ranch, lone, for judging of beef cattle and toured to the Kenneth Smouse ranch for judging of hogs and sheep.

This is the sixth year as a 4-H livestock club member for Terryl Greenup. In September she went to Salem as a member of the state fair livestock team from Morrow county. In the recent judging day, she scored 460 points out of a possible 500. Other high scoring judges were Larry Pettyjohn, 2nd; Sheridan Wyman, 3rd; Dale Van Blokland, 4th; Thomas Rawlins, 5th; Douglas Anderson, 6th; Kit Anderson, 7th; Sue Greenup, 8th; Kenneth Wright, 9th; and David Anderson, 10th.

The judging day was the first in a series of four judging events which will be used to select 4-H members for the State Fair and Pacific International 4-H Livestock show sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League in The Dalles, with the fourth event being the 4-H livestock judging contest at the Morrow County Fair in August. "We hope that all of the judging events will be as well attended as this one," Hay said.



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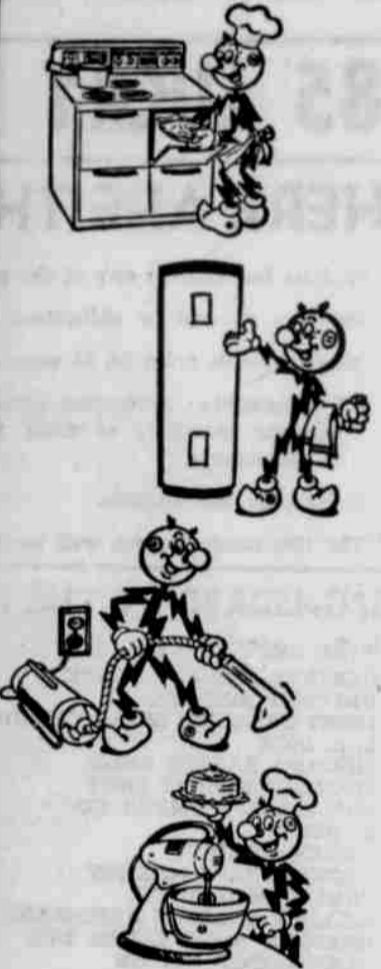
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