

FARM TOPICS

SWEETCLOVER THAT IS REALLY "SWEET"

Strain Under Observation of U. S. Specialists.

Supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture—WNU Service.

A sweetclover that is really "sweet" is under observation of storage specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. The common yellow blooming and white blooming sweetclovers in the United States both contain a bitter substance known as coumarin. It is believed this substance poisons live stock when they are fed improperly cured clover hay.

Two plant explorers of the department, W. J. Morse and P. H. Dorsett, seven years ago sent back a specimen of a new sweetclover from the Chihli province of China. It was an annual. Since then 27 sets, all biennials, have been obtained from central Europe, Russia and Mongolia. None of them are bitter.

Repeated tests with the new sweetclover have convinced the forage men it does not contain coumarin, reports Dr. E. A. Hollowell, clover specialist of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Preliminary work at the Wisconsin experiment station shows that live stock prefer the new sweetclover to the common varieties. Spoiled hay of the clover has been fed to rabbits and calves without ill effects.

The new clover is shorter than American varieties and produces fewer leaves. The forage specialists are trying to cross the non-bitter clover with domestic strains to lower the coumarin content of the domestic strains. Attempts thus far have been unsuccessful.

Appearance as Guide in Telling Age of Animals

General appearance is the best guide for age in hogs and poultry. With horses, cattle and sheep, their age may be told with a fair degree of accuracy by their teeth; however, this requires experience and various factors, states a writer in the Rural New-Yorker.

With horses the first pair, upper and lower, of their front teeth are up and in wear at from two and one-half to five years of age. The other two pairs of incisors come in one year later for each pair, so the horse is full mouthed at five years. The cups indicate the age from then on, starting with wear at six years for the lower, center incisors and advancing progressively one year for the others. General appearance, slope and shape of the surface are of importance also. The horse's teeth are egg-shaped, from side to side, when young; at nine the surface is about round, and then becomes elliptical from front to rear. After eleven years general appearance is the only guide.

Gizzardless Chickens

Chicken specialists in the Department of Agriculture seem to have settled the question as to just how useful a chicken gizzard is, at least to their own satisfaction. They operated on a number of chickens, removed their gizzards, and sewed them up again. Put through feeding tests with normal birds the gizzardless chickens have done well on finely ground feeds, but failed to digest coarse feeds efficiently. A hen operated on in 1934 is still laying eggs and a gizzardless rooster has lived happily since 1933. This is interesting but of no great practical importance. To our mind it would be much better to eliminate the vocal cords from a few old roosters we know.—Country Home Magazine.

6,000,000-A. Legume Gain

One of the major changes in American agriculture in the last five years is a 6,000,000-acre increase in annual legumes planted alone and a gain of nearly 3,000,000 acres of annual legumes planted with other crops, according to a federal analysis, says Capitol News.

Shrinkage of Stored Oats

Tests at the Ohio experiment station show that wheat and oats stored in bins in good condition and kept free from rodents shrank very little in storage. Over a five-year period, the average loss from shrinkage in wheat was seven-tenths of one per cent. Average shrinkage with oats was less than two-tenths of one per cent. The moisture content of the grain varied slightly from month to month, depending on the weather.

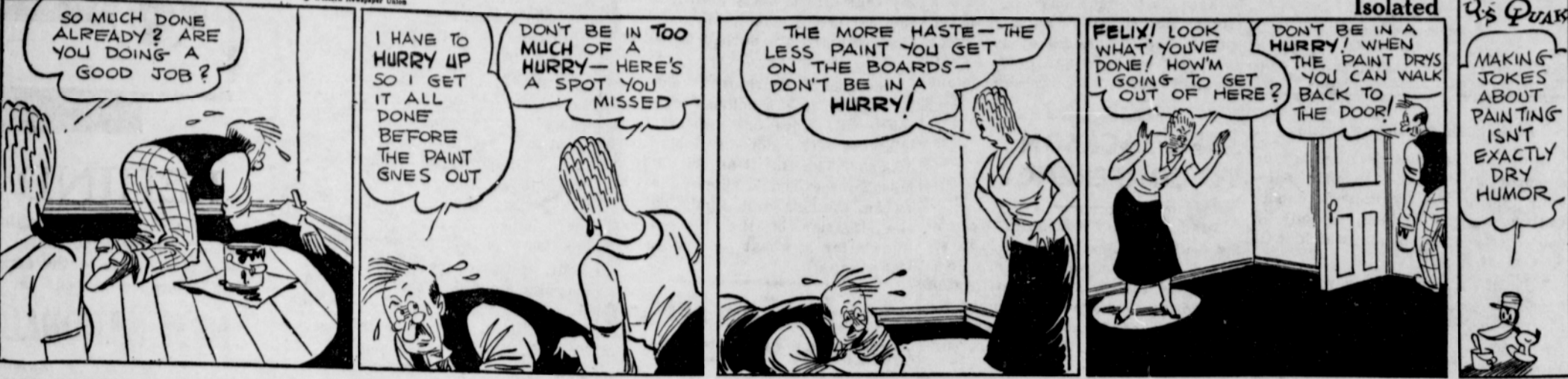
Brome-grass

Brome-grass, which is perhaps the most drought-resistant grass, according to a writer in the Prairie Farmer, should be seeded early in the spring when there is an abundance of moisture, or in late summer if sufficient moisture is present to give it a good start before winter. The rate of seeding is 20 to 25 pounds an acre. It may be seeded broadcast with red clover, alfalfa or sweet clover, but it tends to crowd out the legumes.

Fun for the Whole Family

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



'SMATTER POP—Ya Gotta Give Pop Reasons, Yes, Sir!

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

They Should Have Waited for Him



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin

High Time



BRONC PEELER—Face to Face With Red Boles

By FRED HARMAN



The Curse of Progress



Some Help

Two Yorkshire men bought a hen-coop. As they had a long way to carry it home a friend volunteered to help. The purchasers began their long trudge, complaining bitterly of its weight. Half-way home one of them suddenly remembered the helper.

"Where's Jim?" he cried. From the hen-coop came an answering shout: "Ah'm inside carryin' th' perches!"—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Excellent Copy

Author—May I have some further details about this magnificent estate you offer for sale?

Agent—Do you wish to buy it?

Author—No. But I think I can use your glowing description of it in my new novel.—Wall Street Journal.

Hole in One

The Golfer—They are all afraid to play me. What do you think my handicap is?

The Girl—Oh, I don't know. It may be your face.

RESTLESS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

