

## University Research Proves That Silage On Farm Can Pay Off Big

Silage makes sense.

This is the consensus of researchers at two universities, according to New Holland Machine Company's "Grassland News."

This "packaged pasture" comes in mighty handy when regular pastures get short, say specialists at the University of Maryland and Pennsylvania State University.

If the summer ahead should be unusually dry, grass silage can be a real lifesaver, these experts point out.

And, even if farmers don't need grass silage for summer feeding, it can be stored for next fall and winter.

Extension dairyman John Dietrich of Maryland reports that properly preserved grass silage is almost as good as pasture itself. "And cows really love it," he adds.

In addition, grass silage is economical.

Tests show that grass keeps better if it's cut early at the most nutritious stage.

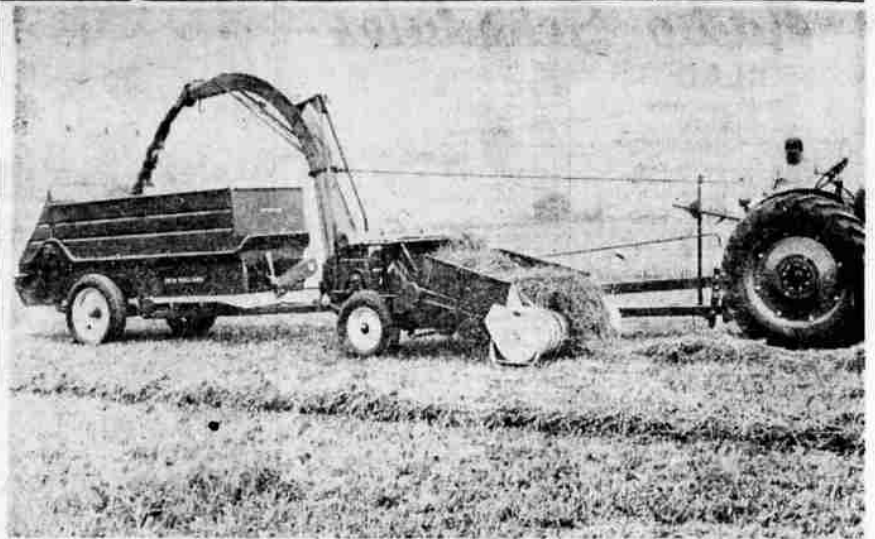
If farmers are saving their upright silo for corn silage later on, Dietrich maintains that it will pay to build a horizontal or trench type silo for grass silage.

In a few hours, a bulldozer can scoop out a 100-ton trench silo that will cost less than \$100, he says.

If wet ground is a problem, a horizontal silo can be built on top of the ground by pushing up two parallel banks of dirt to form the sides, Dietrich suggests.

Penn State tests show grass silage made in trench silos has just as good quality and feed value as that made in upright silos when proper precautions are taken.

In the Penn State experiments, grass was harvested early and put up with a preservative (sodium metabisulfite). It was packed well and good drainage was provided. Then the silo was sealed with an air-tight cover. These new plastic covers make horizontal silos more practical than ever, research shows.



**EARLY-CUT GRASS** makes the best silage. This farmer is chopping semi-cured grass with his New Holland forage harvester with windrow unit.

## Predator Control To Be Tightened

Plans for a stepped up program on coyote control in at least three Oregon counties — Malheur, Lake and Harney—came out of a recent conference in Salem to outline the predatory animal and rodent operations for the year beginning July 1.

Sheepmen in these three counties have been suffering increased losses due to marauding coyotes, says Fred Pope, animal division chief for the state department of agriculture.

The department, under 1959 legislation, assumes the rodent control work along with predatory operations. It will work in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on both controls and the State Game Commission will participate in the predatory program.

Officials reported that the jack rabbit population is at a minimum, and the mouse infestation is practically over for this cycle.

Starling control was added to the predatory program under the 1959 legislation, with \$20,000 earmarked for this operation in the next two years.

Operations this year on starlings will be conducted as a pilot program beginning at roosting time, probably in October. The pilot work will be carried on only by trained personnel of the official agencies and will be closely controlled, at least in the initial stages, Pope said following the conference.

Starlings as an Oregon pest came to the fore last fall when these birds inflicted considerable damage to holly orchards in the Willamette Valley.

Melvin Smith, district agent for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, John McKean of the Game Commission, and Ralph Beck of the Oregon Extension Service also participated in the conference. Beck sat in an advisory capacity on rodent control, which the extension service has conducted until now.

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