

Dehydrated Hay Pellets Hailed By Haymakers

COZAD, Neb. (UPI) — They're really making hay these days in central Nebraska.

Dehydrated hay, that is.

Taking most of the water content out of alfalfa grown in lush fields of the Platte River Valley is a big business, a business that's getting bigger every year.

The thousands of tourists who annually drive along U.S. Highway 30, particularly in Dawson County from Lexington through Cozad and Gothenburg, can't miss it.

The "de-hy" plants — trucks streaming up to them, green dust spouting from the stocks, huge storage elevators and strings of hopper cars being loaded—are easy to spot.

And they're even easier to smell. The odor of the dehydration plants has a character all its own. It smells something like a pile of sun-decayed lawn clippings, mixed with burnt toast. Some folks like it. Others say it makes 'em sick.

Last year, America's processing centers turned out slightly more than one million tons of dehydrated alfalfa pellets—green pellets the diameter of a thick pencil and varying in length from one quarter to a full inch.

Nebraska topped the nation with a production of about 300,000 tons. Ohio was next, with Kansas right along in the running.

The process of fire-drying alfalfa so its nutritional values would be preserved longer was started at Leland, Miss., not long after World War I.

In the early 1920's, the pioneer plant was moved to the Kaw River Valley of Kansas. Word of its success spread north and Nebraska's first plant was constructed near Elm Creek, 35 miles east of Cozad, in the mid-1920's.

Nebraska now has slightly un-

der 100 plants—most of them in this area.

The Platte River Valley, according to Jack Dillard, owner and operator of the Nebraska Alfalfa Farms, Inc., at Darr, near Cozad, is particularly good for growing alfalfa because of its soil structure.

"We have a loam-type soil," Dillard explains in a voice still sweet with the drawl of his native Dixie, "that overlays a bed of gravel. The gravel is only five feet below the surface on the banks of the Platte, ranging up to 18 feet under up by the hills.

"This gives us a tremendous sub-irrigation system. Alfalfa roots sometimes go down as deep as 35 feet in their search for water. Here, they find plenty of it, most of the time."

The industry was started not only as a means of improving winter feed for livestock but as a

way of leveling off the alfalfa market, and finding a summertime use for natural gas brought through pipelines in huge quantities to combat Nebraska's severe winter cold.

Some of the processing plants are privately owned. Others are cooperatives. Some ship only pellets. A few re-grind it and sell a complete, mixed feed. The more integrated, progressive establishments have their own livestock, feeding cattle their own pellets.

Platte Valley farms yield four to five tons of hay, against a national average of two to two and one-half tons, an acre and always produce four, sometimes five cuttings of alfalfa a year. Favored variety of alfalfa in the region is "Ranger," developed by the University of Nebraska.

The annual crop is valued at 15-20 million dollars and is becoming more valuable every year.

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ALL IN FUN — Eleven-year-old Robert Dow Hamilton Jr. shows his lawyer father the fine points of a real western gallows he and some friends built in the back yard of his Columbus, Ohio, home. Hamilton Sr. explains that the boy is always building things—tree house, soapbox racers, etc.—so he gave the O.K. on this project.

Proclamation Started War

LONDON (UPI)—Here is the text of Adolf Hitler's "Proclamation to the German armed forces" of Sept. 1, 1939, that triggered World War II:

"The Polish state has rejected the peaceful settlement of our relations as neighbors, for which I have striven, and instead has appealed to arms.

"The Germans in Poland are being persecuted with bloody terror and driven from farm and home. A series of frontier violations, intolerable for a great power, proves that the Poles no longer are willing to respect the German Reich frontier. There remains for me no other means of putting an end to the madness but from now on to meet force with force.

"The German armed forces will wage with stern determination the struggle for the honor of the German people that once more has arisen.

"I expect that every soldier, mindful of the great tradition of eternal German soldierhood, will fulfill his duty to the last.

"Remember always and in all situations that you are representatives of National Socialist Greater Germany.

"Long live our people and our Reich."

More Beef Cattle Needed

MINNEAPOLIS (UPI) — "There is more room for expansion in beef cattle between now and 1975 than for any other class of livestock," according to Hal Routhie, University of Minnesota economist.

Routhie said that by 1975 Americans will need 50 per cent more beef annually than they are now eating because of the expected growth in population.

In actual numbers, he said, there will need to be about 108 million head of beef cattle on U.S. farms in 1965 and 127 million in 1975. Right now there are about 97 million.

Routhie noted that the nation also will need much more pork and dairy products in 1975, but he said improved technology can supply much of the increase without an addition in animal numbers. He said the same holds true for poultry.

The economist said farmers should keep this in mind when planning future operations.



TOP SECRET — There's chic mystery in Paris where hooded model Yolande Magny makes her way to a plane at Orly Airfield and a flight to Berlin. Her hairdo was to be unwrapped at the International Coiffure show.

Lawyers Have Own Survey

ST. LOUIS (UPI)—The average lawyer in Missouri has only about 21 hours a week to devote to his practice and, unless he's working for a salary, earns about \$18,000 a year before taxes.

These figures were determined by S. J. Capelin Associates, who have been hired by the Missouri Bar Association to conduct an "engineering" program designed to tell attorneys how they can improve their business.

The Capelin firm has already discovered that the average lawyer has about 1,100 hours to "sell" annually, when you deduct days off, holidays, charity work, politics and all the rest.

It also found that the average income of non-salaried lawyers in 1957 was \$18,000 with a net of \$11,834, that half of all lawyers made more than \$10,000 a year and that salaried attorneys averaged \$8,463.

The purpose of the Capelin study will help lawyers decide how much they should charge for such matters as divorces and title closings where there is no way of fixing a flat fee since each case involves so many different factors.

EPHRONS SIGNED UP

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Paramount Studios has signed the producer-writer team of Henry and Phoebe Ephron to a long-term contract. Among their writing credits are "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Daddy Long Legs," "Carousel" and "Desk Set."

GOOD WITH FISH

NEW YORK (UPI)—Fishermen will relish this side dish with their catch. Drain and chop one (1-pound) can of sauerkraut. Add one medium-sized green pepper, chopped, one cup of mayonnaise, ½ teaspoon of salt and ¼ teaspoon of pepper. Mix well and chill.