

REA Makes Record Phone Loan To Improve Brookville Service

The largest telephone loan ever made by the Rural Electrification Administration in Pennsylvania has been granted to the Brookville Telephone Co., Export, Pa.

The loan is for \$2,460,000 to improve and extend telephone service in Armstrong, Clarion, Elk, Forest and Jefferson Counties.

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone Utilities of Pennsylvania. It expects to use the funds to provide phone service for the first time to 1,425 prospective subscribers and to improve service for 4,223 existing subscribers in its operating territory.

At the same time, loans were made by the government to three other companies in Iowa, Tennessee and Texas for a total of \$3,839,000.

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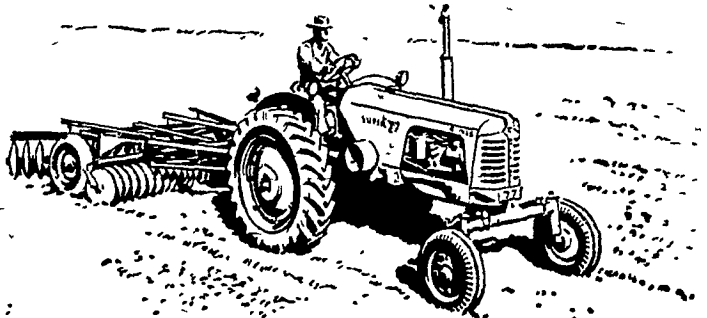
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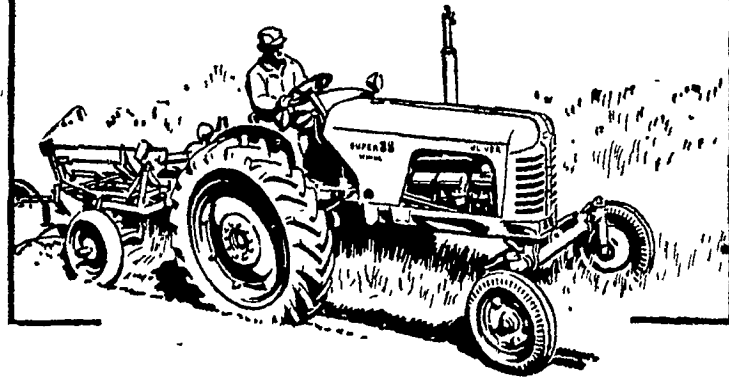
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Band Seeding Proves Best Pasture Establishing Method at Beltsville

Placement of fertilizer and forage seeds in separate "bands" within the seedbed may prove to be the farmer's trump card in establishing a good pasture, say forage-crop specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Results of experiments conducted since 1952 at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., indicate that the most effective method of forage-plant establishment was a combination of drilling fertilizer 1/4 inches deep and seed 1/4 inch deep.

Several advantages of this new concept were revealed in comparative tests between broadcast and band-seeded plots of spring-planted orchardgrass with Sericea lespedeza, and fall-planted tall fescue with Ladino clover.

Increased yields of up to 130 per cent at low seeding and fertilization rates was the most spectacular selling point reported, but another recently discovered advantage may be of even more economic importance to the farmer. Latest experiments with Sericea lespedeza and orchardgrass in band-seeded and broadcast plots show that band seeding will give good stands, even when planting is done considerably earlier or later than is usually recommended. By comparison, broadcast plots seeded much earlier or later than usual had a very low survival rate and gave poor yields.

In fall planting of a mixture of tall fescue and Ladino clover, better establishment was noted in three out of four years as a result of drilling fertilizer below drilled seed. Establishment was measured by emergence, development of seedlings, and first-year yields.

In these plantings, poor moisture conditions in most cases reduce stands materially in broadcast treatments three out of the four years (1952-1955). However, excellent moisture conditions prevailed in the fall of 1955, and USDA agronomists noted little difference in emergence, although band-seeded plots still showed more vigorous seedling growth.

The researchers found that in no instance were fall stands of broadcast treatments superior to drilled treatments within the same groups of fertilizer and seed rates.

On spring-planted plots of orchardgrass with Sericea lespedeza drilling fertilizer below drilled seed has a depressing effect on establishment in two out of three years, except in the case of phosphate fertilizer alone.

Phosphoric acid and complete fertilizer stimulated early growth, but recent results seem to indicate that applications of nitrogen or potash, alone or in combination, are apparently detrimental to germinating seeds and seedlings.

Commercial band-seeding equipment—embodying the principles of machines designed by USDA engineers and agronomists for experimental purposes—may be purchased from several farm implement companies.

Converted grain drills may also be used for band seeding. Three boxes are essential, and a combination fertilizer-grain drill equipped with a legume box makes a good piece of machinery for planting legumes, timothy, and other small pasture seeds.

USDA researchers point out that considerable work remains to be done on fertilizer ratio, fertilizer placement, degree of precision necessary, and type of band-seeding machinery that gives best results. Further study is also required to determine the species and practices best adapted to soil and weather conditions of particular areas.

Research is underway to determine the advantages and disadvantages of seeding forage grass and legume plants between the

rows of a companion crop, and the fertilizer placement that will give adequate yields of the com-

panion crop with minimum competition to the forage seedlings.

Research is also being done in cooperation with State experiment stations on various aspects of band seeding and to determine ways of overcoming the crowding-out effect of established plants on areas being renovated.



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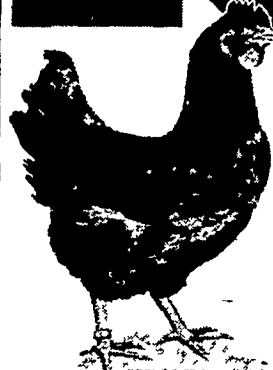
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