

## USDA Seeking Methods to Cut Pasture Establishment Costs

Agricultural engineers, crops specialists, and soil management researchers of the U S Department of Agriculture have begun a three-pronged attack on the high cost of pasture establishment:

This research project is being carried on by USDA's Agricultural Research Service, in cooperation with experiment stations in several States, in an effort to reduce the high costs of pasture land preparation, fertilizing, and seeding, and to learn the cause of the numerous failures of pasture seedings.

Preliminary tests during the past six years—principally in the South—indicate that farmers may be able to establish hay and pasture crops for less than the currently estimated annual figure of \$300 million for legume and grass seeds and fertilizer.

These experiments show that it is possible to establish good stands with one half the seed and one-third the fertilizer commonly regarded as necessary with conventional seeding methods. Fertilizing at a lower rate, with proper placement, helped to hold back weeds, which are a major problem in pasture establishment.

This research is especially important to farmers participating in the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank Program. Under the new law, farmers receive payments amounting to about 80 per cent of the cost of establishing a cover the first year and land rental payments each succeeding year their contracts are in effect, providing they agree not to graze the land or harvest a hay crop from it. However, should their first seeding attempt fail they must stand the full cost of establishing the pasture crops in subsequent years. It now takes, on the average, two years to establish a seeding.

Additional research on pasture

establishment is necessary, not only in the South, but also in other areas of the country, Department scientists say. They have found that a number of factors influence the success of pasture seedings, including the preparation and firmness of the seedbed, depth of seed planting, precision placement of seed and fertilizer, firmness of the soil around the seed, the final condition and form of the surface soil, and row spacing of drilled seed.

Special equipment was designed and constructed at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., to meet the planting and fertilizing requirements of the various experiments. Two combination drill-fertilizer machines were used in tests at Clemson, S C, Auburn, Ala., and Tifton, Ga., in 1951 and 1952.

Four other improved models of these machines have been developed and put into operation in the field. These machines have been altered in most cases to meet local conditions.

In the Midwest, studies are underway at East Lansing, Mich., comparing stands of winter grain with and without legumes, and researchers in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa are testing inter-seeding of row crops, mainly corn.

On the Eastern seaboard, in the Pacific Northwest, and in the Southeast work is determine precision planting and fertilizing methods that will net the best stands. Work is just getting started in the Southwest where heat and wind necessitate mulch planting of grasses and legumes. A number of other States have indicated their interest in conducting similar experiments.

The incidence of herniated discs in the spine of a dog is most likely to occur between the ages of 3 to 8 years, veterinary authorities say.

## Crop Production Decline Sharply In Last Month

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania crop production estimates took a sharp decline for the month ended August 1, the State Department of Agriculture announced Friday.

The severe drought in the southeastern part of the state was said responsible for holding statewide production below normal.

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service pointed out that pastures were the most severely hit in the state and were 61 per cent of normal on August 1. This compares with 92 per cent of normal on the same day last year and a 10-year average of 74 per cent of normal.

Of the nine principal field crops grown in Pennsylvania, only oats, rye and alfalfa production estimates are forecast higher this year than they were for 1956. Yields per acre are expected to be higher for oats, barley and rye. The survey showed Production of all hay is indicated lower than last year.

Yields for tobacco are estimated at 1,550 pounds compared with 1,625 for July 1 and 1,700 pounds for last year's crop. Estimated total production of 46,500,000 pounds is 5 per cent below the July estimate of 48,750,000 pounds of tobacco.

First 1957 estimates on Pennsylvania production of late potatoes give a total crop of 7,052,000 hundredweight compared with 7,706,000 hundredweight last year, a drop of eight per cent. This year's acreage is 45,500 acres, down 1,200 from 1956 and the smallest ever known for the state. Early potatoes now total 585,000 hundredweight compared with 630,000 estimated on July 1 and 731,000 last year.

A revised estimate for peaches shows a Pennsylvania crop of 2,450,000 bushels, down five per cent from the July 1 estimate. However, this exceeds 1956 production by five per cent.

Apples are estimated at 6 million bushels, the same as on July 1, but sizing has been affected because of drought conditions in the large apple growing areas.

## Million Dollar Promotion Fund Urged by Neppco

TRENTON, N J — A united effort by the poultry industry to raise a million dollar "war chest" for the promotion of eggs and poultry meat was recommended here this week by a division of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council (NEPPCO).

The Council's Division of Cooperatives, made up of poultry products marketing groups throughout the Northeast, recommended this amount as an initial project, then went on to propose an annual goal of two to three million dollars, to be achieved within the next five years.

"Poultry plays an increasingly role in his nation's agricultural economy," declared Dr. Alfred Van Wagenen, the group's secretary. "There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the poultry industry must do a more aggressive selling job if its products are to have a top rating with U. S. consumers."

Funds would be channelled into the Poultry and Egg National Board—official advertising and promotion arm of the nation's poultry producers.

The NEPPCO Division of Cooperatives proposed a 12-point program for PENB, including such projects as the development of merchandising and point-of-sale aids for retailers, a program of paid advertising in newspapers and magazines, a better flow of information between it and the poultry industry who provide it with working capital.

PENB was urged to organize a special fund-raising staff, completely separate from its present promotion personnel.

## 12 Herds Topped 35 lb. Fat Average In Progressive DHIA During June

The Progressive Dairy Herd Improvement Association reports for the month of June that there were 3399 cows in the 102 herds of the Association. There were 12 herds over 35 lb of butterfat, with the leading cow belonging to Earl Weir.

Earl Weir	1079	41.3
T. Barnard Walter	865	40.7
Robert C. Burkins	884	40.7
Harry Hostetter	1096	39.5
Francis Perkins	964	39.4
Robert Counts	1018	38.7
Lloyd Kreider	1037	36.5
Freeman & Rhodes	907	36.4
John S. Stoner	883	36.2
Vernon Mable	969	36.0
Leary Prange	973	35.9
Leon Wilkinson	729	35.5

There were 21 cows over 70 lb. butterfat with the leading cow belonging to Lloyd Kreider. This cow a Registered Holstein, produced 2283 lbs of milk and 868 lbs of butter fat with a 3.8% test.

Lloyd Kreider	2283	86.8
Leon Wilkinson	1788	78.7
Leon Wilkinson	1332	78.6
John S. Stoner	1636	78.5
Mason Bros	1713	77.1
James Vincent	2139	77.0
Horace Prange	2016	76.6
M. McDowell & Son	1911	76.4
Robert C. Burkins	1002	76.2
Paul White	1611	75.7
Harold Mable	2031	75.1
W. Paul &		
Robert S. Ankrum	1638	73.8
Robert C. Burkins	1188	73.7
S & Allen Kreider	1848	72.1
Frank Herr & Son	1404	71.6
Robert Counts	1590	71.6
Hertzberg & Smith	1833	71.5
Lloyd Kreider	1866	70.9
Robert Counts	1908	70.6
Glen Phipps	1299	70.2
Freeman & Rhodes	1845	70.1

These herds were tested by David Sweigart, Harold J. Lindcamp, Robert L. Janney and Robert P. Farmer.

## Dislocated Hips Can Be Repaired

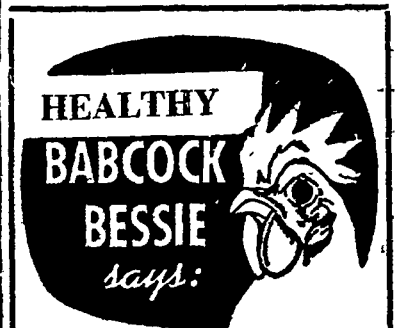
A preliminary report in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association indicates that certain injuries to the hip joint in cattle can be repaired surgically. The expense of the operation would limit its use to valuable animals. Many of these can be kept in service for breed betterment by the operation.

A high percentage of these dislocations in cows are the result of incoordination which occurs after calving due to pressure on the nerves during delivery, or due to milk fever. The ligament which normally holds the bones in place becomes torn and the lips of the bony socket may be broken.

Falling or slipping during service is the most frequent cause of such injuries to bulls.

A shuttle pin method for repair of similar fractures or misplacement in dogs preceded the method now being adapted for cattle, the report said.

Seven of ten cattle treated by the new surgical method were restored to usefulness in experiments with injured animals, according to the Journal article.



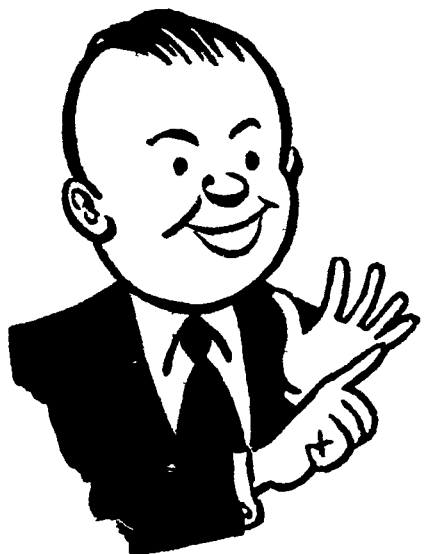
Too Much Treatment for Coccidiosis Can Be Dangerous. We find many poultrymen overtreating for coccidiosis. Many are feeding a mash containing a coccidiosis preventive from day-old until maturity. When the birds reach maturity and have to be taken off the coccidiosis medicine they sometimes come down with a bad dose of coccidiosis. They evidently haven't developed any resistance to the disease. The birds become thin. They do not lay well and some birds may die.

We at Babcock Poultry Farm suggest that you think twice before using a coccidiosis preventive for birds to be used for layers. (Perhaps it's O.K. for birds being raised for broilers.) We prevent coccidiosis by good management. For you, if coccidiosis strikes it might be well treated with a sulfa drug for several days as recommended by the manufacturer and then discontinue the treatment. On this basis your birds will probably develop a natural immunity to coccidiosis and will probably be much better layers for you. If at all possible, use sanitation and good rearing and lots of room to prevent coccidiosis. Also the earlier you get your pullets to roosting to less likely they are to have trouble with this disease.

How to rear your chicks is fully described in Babcock's 1957 literature. It tells all about how Babcock Bessies are to give you the greatest profits.

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