

Six Tons of Alfalfa Per Acre Now Reality

Good management is helping Northeastern U.S. farmers to produce six tons or more of alfalfa hay per acre, something unheard of five years ago, an American crop scientist reported recently at the 11th International Grassland Congress held in Australia.

Dr. John B. Washko, of Pennsylvania State University, said the first of three requirements is to use alfalfa varieties resistant to bacterial wilt disease.

The other factors are to apply adequate amounts of potassium and to allow 35 days between cuttings for the plants to recover from the last harvest.

This schedule of harvesting alfalfa 35 days apart seems to offer the best compromise between yield and nutritive value. Forty days between cuttings will give more tonnage but the plants will be lower in feeding quality," he affirmed.

The most productive variety among the popular Flemish and North American types of alfalfa proved to be Satanac. This

held true for alfalfa grown for hay as well as for dehydrated pellets and meal. Dr. Washko works with forage crop research for the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

Of all fertilizers used, potassium was the most vital. The experiments compared plots fertilized with 120 pounds and 240 pounds of potassium per acre.

In the first harvest year, plots fertilized with 240 pounds per acre produced 800 pounds more forage than plots given 120 pounds per acre.

The second year yielded 1800 more pounds of alfalfa at the higher fertilizer rate.

High potassium rates in the third year yielded 2200 tons more alfalfa than those fertilized with 120 pounds per acre.

Doubling the 240 pound rate, however, did not increase yields.

State Gets Back \$1.8 Million Welfare Cost

A total of \$1,858,650 in public assistance money was recovered by Pennsylvania in reimbursement and restitution from January through March this year.

"I recently announced a policy of prosecuting all fraud cases to preserve the integrity of the Public Assistance program and I intend to see that those who deliberately seek to cheat the State through false information are properly dealt with," Secretary of Public Welfare Stanley A. Miller said.

"The department is making a concentrated effort to assure that public assistance money goes only to those who are eligible. In addition to carefully guarding against incorrect payments, follow-up investigation is made and appropriate steps are taken to recover payments made on the basis of misinformation," he said.

Egg-Type Chick Hatch Continues at High Pace

Pennsylvania hatcheries produced 3.1 million egg-type chicks in April, 11 per cent more than a year earlier, and the highest since May, 1967. Production for the first four months of 1970 is 17 per cent above the year earlier period.

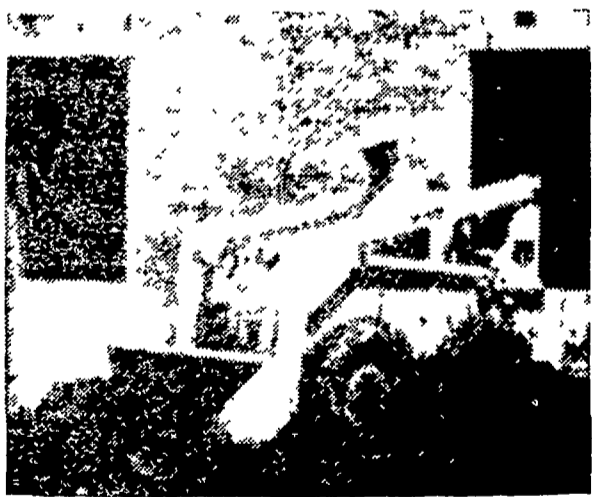
In the entire U.S. the hatch of egg-type chicks during April was 69 million, 15 per cent above a year earlier.

Increases by regions were: South Atlantic, 29 per cent; South Central, 25 per cent; Western, 13 per cent; East and West North Central, each 9 per cent; and North Atlantic, 6 per cent.

Egg-type eggs in incubators on May 1 were 9 per cent above a year earlier.



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• Have You Heard? (Continued from Page 21)

fresh vegetables, give it a test run to see that it operates properly. Pour water in the canner and bring the water to a boil in the usual way. Watch for steam leaks. If steam escapes around the cover, examine the sealing edges of the canner and cover. The edges may not be clean or you may need to replace the gasket.

The pressure gauge is essential to control pressure which determines the temperature inside the canner. If you have any question about the accuracy of the gauge on the canner, have it checked.

If you do not have a copy of our Circular 473, Canning Fruits and Vegetables, and Circular 534, Preparing Food for Your Freezer, call or drop us a card and we will be happy to send you copies free of charge.

Animal Bite Can Become a 'Mess'

It is a known fact that animal bites are grossly underreported to health officials. Many victims never see a doctor and doctors and staffs of emergency rooms often skip reporting bite cases.

Even so, during 1969 some 19,410 animal bites were reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, according to Ernest J. Witte, chief of the department's Veterinary Public Health Section.

Fortunately, he said, most patients recover without complications for some, however, it is necessary to administer anti-rabies biologics. Sensitive patients may have reactions. In addition, wounds may become infected with organisms that are antibiotic-resistant.

Dr. Witte reported recently in the Pennsylvania Veterinarian that "one of the most horrendous complications of an animal bite within our memory oc-

curred during 1969. A young lad riding a bicycle in Lancaster County was bitten on the ankle by a German shepherd.

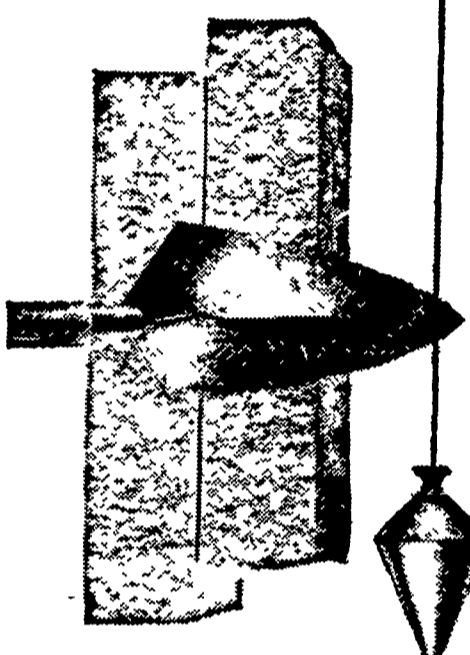
"Although he received prompt treatment, he suffered a progressive necrosis of the foot and lower leg.

"Even after amputation of the lower limb, he continued downhill despite advice from excellent consultants over the country.

"Although no organism was ever isolated, it was thought that he was suffering from an anaerobic infection. Daily treatments in a hyperbaric chamber saved his life.

"We must also remember that disfigurement, plastic surgery, psychological trauma and lawsuits are additional complications that frequently enter these cases.

"Just a bit often becomes a mess."



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