

# Weed

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forage legumes are most limited. But there are various cultural means of weed control that aren't being used to their fullest potential by today's forage producer. Since a vigorous stand of forage legume is a most competitive crop, the

presence of a significant quantity of weeds in a forage stand is almost invariably a clue to some deficiency in the management of the forage crop.

For example, a grower will request a recommendation for the control of a specific weed problem which appears in his forage field in significant quantity. Removal of the weed infestation may be possible by chemical means. But the

forage crop generally won't spread rapidly enough to fill in the voids created by controlling the problem weed. Consequently, new weed growth moves into the voids and the grower has merely traded one weed problem for another. The cause of the weed problem is a less than adequate stand of forage legume. But the grower, in his haste to control the weed problem, attacked the effect rather than the cause.

Total weed control must be based on attacking the cause of weed problems as a more permanent measure of weed control.

### Pastures Need Weed Control

Pastures are probably the most neglected acreage on most livestock farms. And it's probably because we harvest them only indirectly. They do provide livestock grazing but the actual yield isn't measured in tons, bushels, or pounds. Consequently, many livestock producers are satisfied to take what they can get "for free" from their pastures without additional investment in weed control, fertilization, and management practices.

And trying to take everything "for free" frequently leads to overgrazing followed by even more serious weed invasion! Many research studies weed invasion! Many research studies have shown that livestock producers can increase returns from their pastures five to ten fold with proper management.

The appropriate use of herbicides like Banvel, 2, 4-D, MCPA and 2, 4, 5-T can convert weed and brush-infested livestock "loafing

areas" into productive pastures. Corrective fertilization, reestablishment of desirable forage species, and sound grazing management are also important.

Just as in the case of weed control in legume forages, weeds in a grass pasture are most likely the effect. The cause of the problem, namely poor soil fertility, lack of sufficient grass cover, and/or poor pasture management must be considered in a total weed control program.

A farmer should not miss any chance to control weeds and emphasis on non-cropland is particularly important. After all, how much long-term benefit is gained by controlling thistles in corn and small grain while maintaining a virtual thistle nursery in a pasture or fencerow. And it won't do one farmer much good to practice total farm weed control if his neighbors don't also go along with the idea. Weed populations have most effective means of spreading. They've had centuries of practice. Too often we worry, argue, and fret about whose responsibility it is to control a weed infestation in non-cropland while it matures and produces enough seed to maintain itself as a threat for many years to come.

We have the tools available today to practice total farm weed control like never before. And in the long run, it will reduce perennial weed infestations as well as the soil's supply of all types of weed seeds and result in decreased weed control costs to the farmer.

Total farm weed control isn't an easy task. About the time you think you've got all

## Ore Valley 4-H

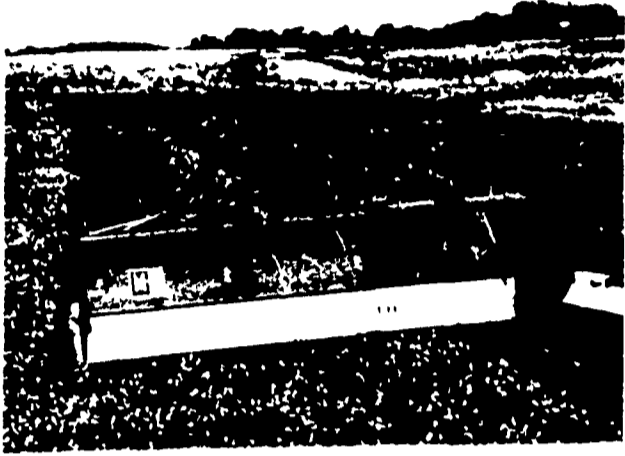
The Ore Valley 4-H Club (York County) met at the Red Lion Grange recently.

Steve Trostle gave a demonstration on photography with a demonstration on Marshall Arts given by Mr. Holland and Mr. Hoiser.

The business meeting was conducted by the officers with games and songs being led by the respective officers.

The next meeting will be held at the Red Lion Grange on May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

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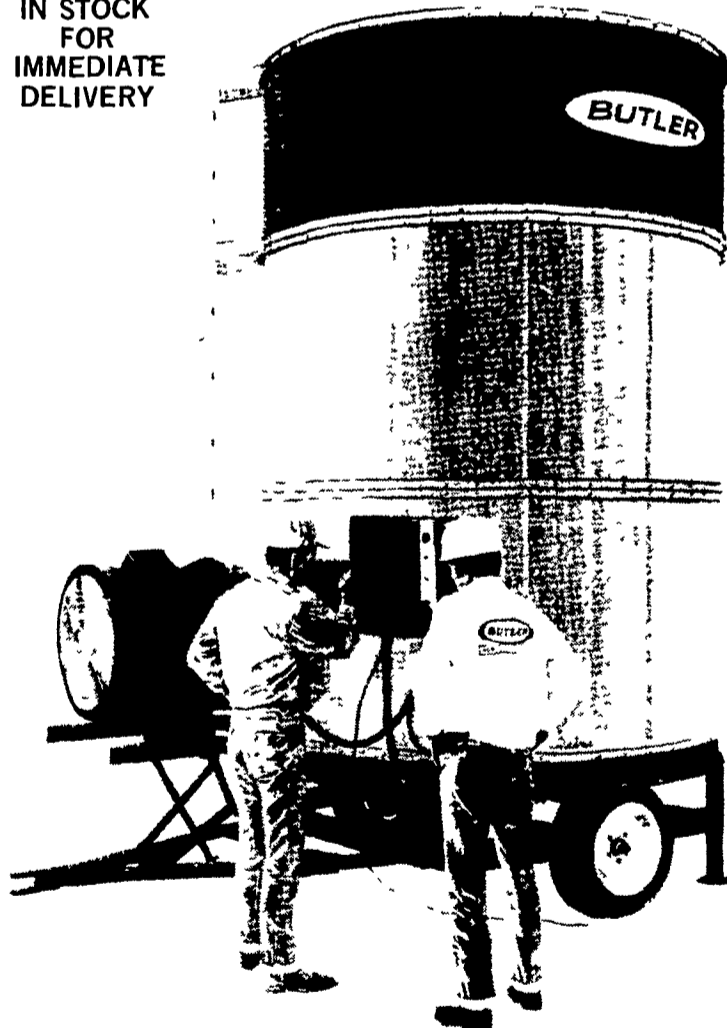
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