

Double cropping forages offers high quality emergency feed

ST. PAUL, Min. — Double cropping of forages offers livestock producers in the upper Midwest and Northeast a promising system to produce high quality feed and more fully utilize land and facilities.

A combination of barley grown and harvested early as silage followed by another forage for fall grazing has provided high yields of good quality forage in research here by agronomist Gordon C. Marten, USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The system would fit well, Marten says, where dairy and beef cattle producers have year-around silage storage facilities. It offers an excellent way to meet emergency forage needs following winter kill of such perennial forages as alfalfa or in a cropping system where a perennial may be inappropriate, he says.

The early harvest of a small grain crop as silage also greatly

reduces the risk of crop loss because of wind, rain and hail, he says, and enables livestock producers to more fully utilize labor, equipment, and storage before harvesting corn as silage later in the season.

Marten compared yields and quality of small grain crops grown and harvested as forage. Assisted by graduate student J.H. Cherney, he found that barley usually yields more forage dry matter, digestible dry matter, and crude protein than do oats, wheat, or triticale. This led to a close examination of barley as a first crop in a double cropping annual system. It also led to a study, now in progress, to find out how good a companion crop barley may be compared to oats.

In double cropping forage, Marten says barley must be planted as early as possible in the spring and harvested for silage at least by June 20 under Minnesota conditions. Barley will then be in

the boot or early heading stages depending on the year. A second crop is then planted immediately.

Besides Sudangrass and annual ryegrass, Marten and R.M. Jordan, University of Minnesota ruminant nutritionist, are studying soybeans, cowpeas, turnips, forage rape and the common weed kochia as potential second crops for grazing in August through October

Marten equates the feed value of barley silage harvested at the boot stage with that of top grade alfalfa, whereas that harvested at dough stage is considerably lower — equal to third or fourth-grade alfalfa. This quality loss is caused by increased lignification of stem tissue between boot to dough stages.

"The leaf doesn't change that

much with maturity," he says, "but the stem changes very dramatically as it accumulates lignin. Lignin ties up the cellulose and hemicellulose in the stem and is itself indigestible. This makes lignin the primary culprit that causes overall loss of quality as the plant matures, even though grain is accumulating at the same time."

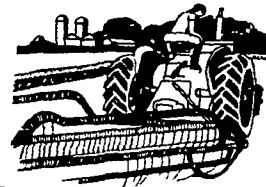
Nat'l Broiler Council president addresses DPI

GEORGETOWN, Del. — George B. Watts, president of the National Broiler Council, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. on Tuesday, Oct. 12. The meeting is to be held at the Delmarva Power and Light Company auditorium in Salisbury at 7:30 p.m.

Watts will discuss "The National Broiler Council and Issues Facing the U.S. Broiler Industry." Watts, a native of Georgia, spent seven years as a legislative assistant for Georgia Congressmen in Washington assisting with their work on the House Agriculture Committee. Since 1972, he has been

president of the National Broiler Council in Washington.

Other business to come before the annual DPI meeting will be the election of officers and directors of the association for 1983. All DPI members and other interested persons are invited to attend.



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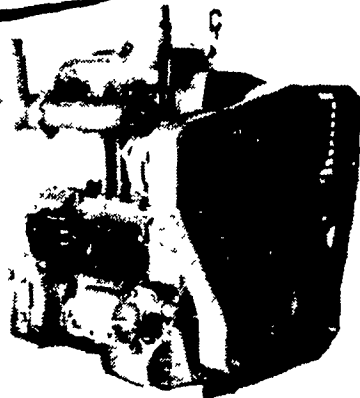
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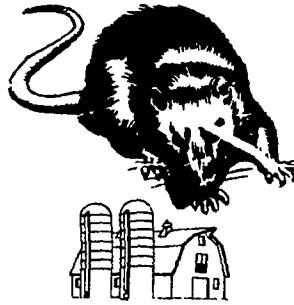
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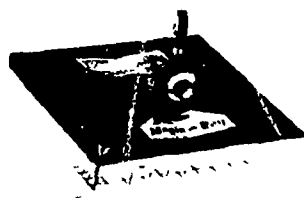
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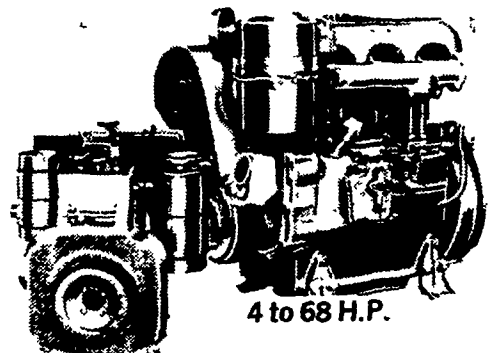
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