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Back to my trials. My curiosity on clovers and legumes gave me the incentive to add a twist to the test plots. You see, I wanted to evaluate particular varieties of ladino and red clover, as well as birdsfoot trefoil. Also, I wanted to learn how they would boost the ryegrasses as compared to applying commercial fertilizer. So around the first of March, I took the same area and cross-seeded as shown in Diagram 3, with a grand finale of a diagonal strip of fertilizer to cross all plots.

Cost? Oh, another few small bags of seed. Benefits? Same as the above three with additional answers to these questions (actually, many more than the ones listed, but maybe that's because I like to ask lots of questions!):

- Which will come up fastest; birdsfoot, ladino, or red clover?
- Will the mixtures be complimentary?
- Animal preference?
- Seasonal preference?

- Nitrogen benefit difference?
- Affect on the annual compared to the perennial?
- Did the fertilizer benefit the clovers significantly?

I have studied more trial data than you would care to know. But the reality is, I cannot know exactly how trial data relates to me and my operation until I apply it under my own management. (More than likely, I am going to do a poorer job than the universities, so I need better varieties!)

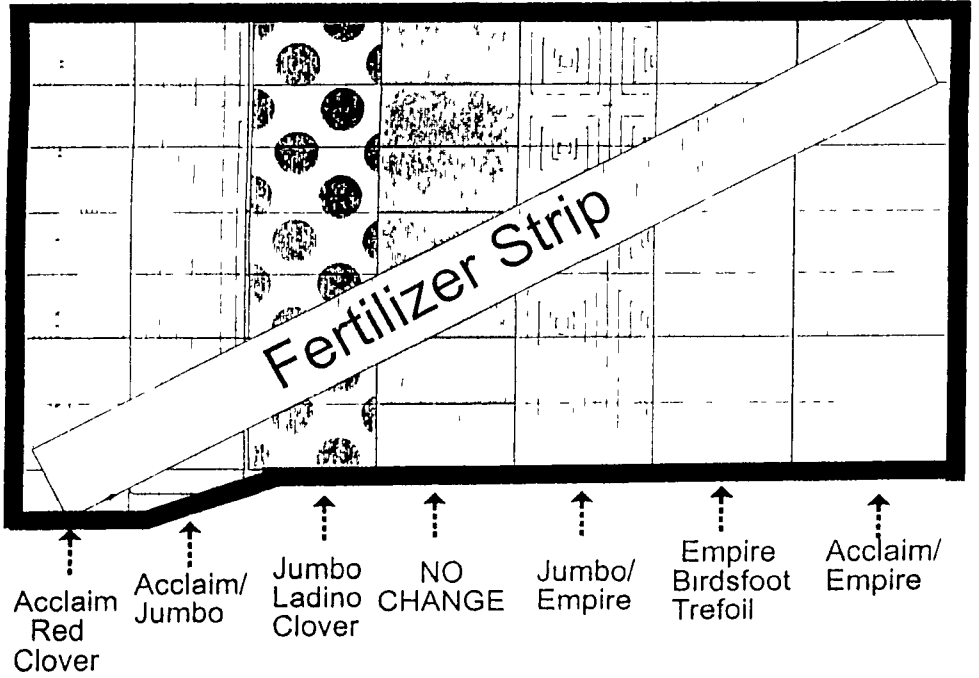
Chuck Cavaleres' Dekalb County Sheep Operation

I met Chuck at the Great Lakes Grazing Conference this year. Chuck told me he was working on a project to determine the feasibility of raising sheep in a part of the world that revolves around corn and soybeans (northern Illinois).

Taking corn 'n bean ground and putting sheep on it? Sound like something out of a fairy tale!

Anyway, as part of Chuck's project, he was going to overseed a 2-year-old stand of alfalfa with orchardgrass. He

DIAGRAM 3 - RUPERT RANCH



also had four acres to overseed with red clover. He wanted to know if our company could supply him the orchardgrass and red clover.

Fortunately, Chuck and I hit it off

real quick. I talked to him about considering evaluating more than just one clover and one orchardgrass. And after a few discussions, Chuck's plans

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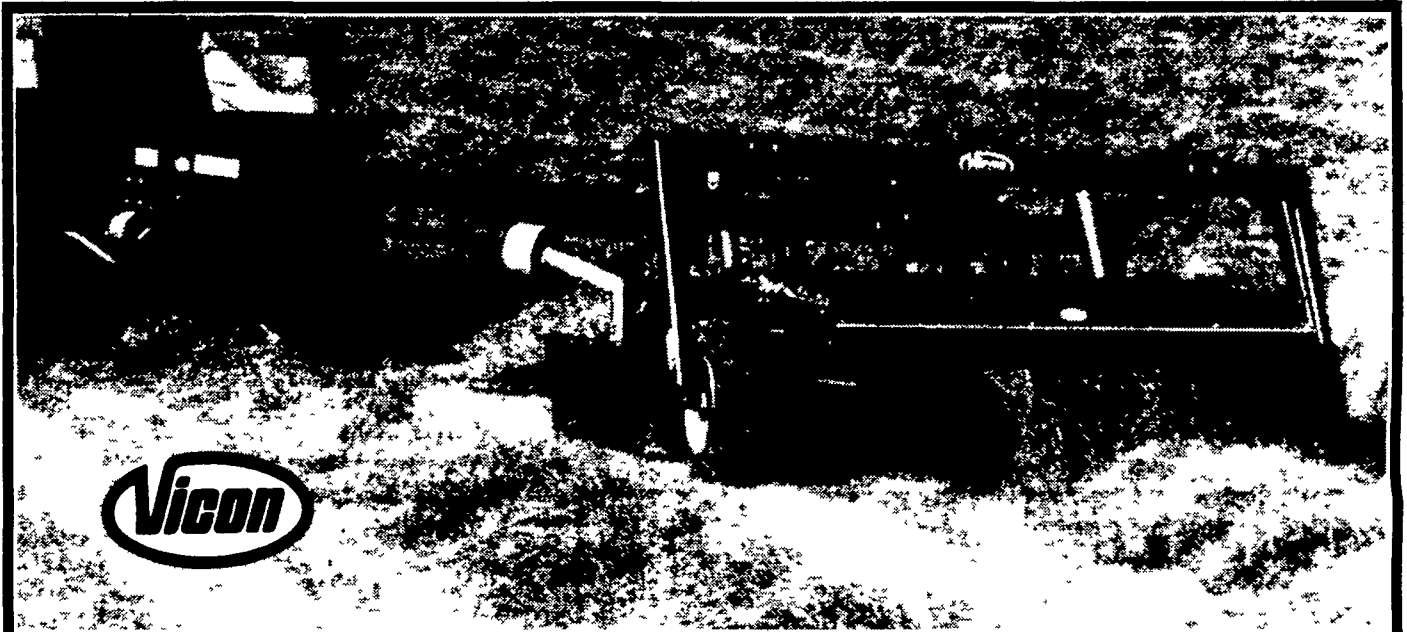
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