

Clover Winning Popular Favor

Unexcelled as Cover Crop for Plowing Under to Improve Soils.

As a pasture and soil improving crop, sweet clover is winning a popular place for itself among many farmers.

As a cover crop for plowing under in the general field, in the orchard, or pasture, it is said to be unexcelled. Recent tests in Illinois show an accumulation of nitrogen in the tops and roots of around 250 pounds per acre from clover planted one spring and tested in May of the following year. This is as much nitrogen as is contained in 25 tons of average farm manure or in over 1,000 pounds of nitrate of soda.

Success with the crop, say those who have grown it, depends on a good seed bed, well limed. At least one to two tons of finely ground limestone must be used to each acre. Inoculation of the seed is also important. In many instances farmers have not obtained a good stand with the first trial even under the best of conditions and treatment; but, once a good stand is secured in a field, sweet clover will be found one of the most valuable crops on the farm.

A recent bulletin from Kentucky says, "Sweet clover is perhaps the most valuable of all legumes for pasture and soil improvement on Kentucky farms. Properly managed, sweet clover pastures will support at least one steer or dairy cow per acre from early spring until late fall, which is two or three times the capacity of Kentucky pastures at the present time. The growth of grasses is greatly stimulated by sweet clover when it is included in the pasture mixture."

Select Seed Potatoes

From Healthy Plants

Tubers intended for next year's "seed" should be selected from healthy plants alone, and should be lifted while the foliage is green. The persistence of the seed tuber, with the resulting poorer growth, is accounted for by the overdevelopment of the seed potato. The seed potato ought to decay.

Tubers for seed are better of the size of a fowl's egg. The skin must be "set," which is evidence that the potato is ripe, for the crop to keep surely until the spring. The skin is set when it does not rub off easily with the thumb, and tubers for seed must be ripened in many hours of sunshine. This greens them, which is further evidence that they are ripe. The seed crop must be kept in the light all the winter, although not necessarily boxed for spring planting. Protect it with coverings of straw during a winter spell of weather.

Feeding Soy Beans to Hogs Is Favored Plan

Soy beans may be fed to hogs quite successfully provided a good mineral mixture is also fed, as soy beans are lacking to a large extent in mineral matter.

Good success has been had with soy beans, mixing them with tankage—one part beans, two parts tankage. Soy beans may also be fed to pigs in the bundle and let them do their own threshing.

Soy beans may be fed in the place of tankage when the price of soy beans is two-thirds of the price of tankage per ton. Of course, if you have your own beans and do not have a ready market for them they may be worth more than that rather than make a cash outlay for tankage.

Agricultural Hints

Paint will help the looks of the farm buildings.

A hen's first laying season is her most profitable.

Building costs are high, so we must take better care of the buildings.

Don't expect high-priced feeds to provide shelter for animals. The owner must look after the shelter himself.

Lambing tools can be reduced and the loss of many of the fattest ewes by paralysis prevented by proper cold weather management.

Erosion, gullying and sheet erosion take an annual toll of \$200,000,000 from farmers of the United States. The loss is in their basic resource, the soil.

Although dairy herds of low butterfat-producing cows require less feed and less man labor, the cost per pound of the butterfat is greater than for herds of high-producing cows.

Pullets that are nearly grown require much more space than they did when two or three months old. Be sure to have sufficient roost space so that each pullet may sit on the roost without being crowded.

As lambing time approaches the loose wool should be trimmed from the flanks and under as this gives the young lamb a better chance to secure nourishment, and lessen possibility of wool balls in lambs' stomachs.

Farm Woodlots Yield \$5.83 an Acre, Cash

From This Must Be Deducted Taxes and Interest.

Few owners of farm woodlots have any idea how much return they may reasonably expect from woodlands protected from grazing live stock, and from which only the "ripe" trees are harvested at regular intervals. But F. W. Dean, extension forester at Wooster, Ohio, recently met such an owner, who has protected his woods and kept a record of the income from them. This owner lives in Richland county and his woodland tract of 25 acres has paid him, during the past 24 years, a cash income of \$5.83 per acre for the standing income. From this must be deducted interest and taxes.

In 1903, the bulk of the large timber was sold from the land for \$3,000. But there was left a large quantity of thrifty growing tulip poplar, white ash, white and red oak, sugar maple, basswood and chestnut. Since 1903 four crops of logs have been sold. Once in about every six years the owner has gone through the woods, selected a ripe tree here and there, and marketed the logs. He has received in the 24 years, \$3,500 for the timber sold, giving the annual return of \$5.83 per acre.

"Every farm woods that is now grazed can be converted into a paying woodlot if fenced off," Dean says, "but in its present condition it faces a hopeless future so far as producing a future timber crop."

Pullets Should Now Be in Houses for Winter

Pullets should be placed in the permanent winter quarters before they commence laying. There should be plenty of ventilation in their building, but no direct drafts, and by no means should they be crowded. A crowded house will cause endless trouble. A building 16 by 20 will house from ninety to one hundred pullets comfortably, allowing three to three and one-half square feet of floor space for each.

Cull out all weak, runty, slow maturing pullets. They will not pay for their feed. Their eggs will be few and far between and they will be the early molters next summer. Utilize the space and feed that they would need for profitable pullets.

Whether pullets appear to be lousy or not, they should be treated with sodium fluoride, powdered but not dipped. Simply put about six to ten inches of the powder in the feathers next to the skin, being careful to watch the tail feathers and stuff and each wing.

Supply plenty of mash in hoppers and give liberal feeds of scratch grain in the evening. Variety is important. Green feed should be supplied in abundance. Oyster shell and charcoal are necessary. An occasional moist mash is a factor in good management.

Ground Alfalfa Hay Is Very Economical Feed

Alfalfa hay ground and fed in a mash makes a very economical feed for poultry. In tests carried on by the poultry department of South Dakota State college comparing ground alfalfa with middlings and bran as a protein feed in the same basal ration, the alfalfa gave the lowest feed cost per dozen eggs even at the high price paid for commercial ground alfalfa.

If the alfalfa had been ground on the farm, it would have made a very low cost feed.

Results obtained thus far indicate that the most desirable amount of alfalfa in the ration lies between 10 and 20 per cent. A 20 per cent alfalfa meal mash gave a feed cost of 17.2 cents per dozen eggs. A 40 per cent mixture was unsatisfactory as egg production could not be maintained.—C. D. Byrne, South Dakota Agricultural college.

"Bottled Sunshine" Is Title Now Given Eggs

Eggs have been called "bottled sunshine" because they contain vitamin D, the vitamin for which cod liver oil is gaining in new reputation. Because eggs produced under favorable conditions do contain this vitamin, the value of eggs as a food has risen.

Miss Cora Cooke, poultry specialist of the extension division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, says, however, that if hens are to store up sunshine, or the mysterious vitamin D, in their eggs, they must live under generally healthful conditions and must themselves spend much of the time in the sun. For this reason she suggests that poultry raisers see to it that their laying flocks have ample range and that such range should be kept sanitary at all times. Hens kept under such conditions do store up vitamin D, and do produce bottled sunshine.

Growing Soy Beans

In recent years soy beans have been grown to a large extent as a grain crop because there has been an increasing demand for the beans for seed purposes. As the acreage of soy beans increases, the demand for seed will diminish, but even then it will be profitable to grow them as a grain crop because they have a very high value as a supplement to the ordinary farm grains as has been demonstrated at a number of our experiment stations.

Trees and Prosperity of Nation Are Linked

The economic structure upon which our nation is built is made of forest products, writes Charles Lathrop Pack in the Military Engineer. Just as wooden railroad ties marked the westward advance of civilization, so other products of the forests have kept pace with national growth, and made it possible. When we had to have more houses, down came the trees. We had to have more barns, schools and churches, down came the trees. We had to have farm implements, and wood for fuel, down came more trees. Coal was found and strange as it may seem, there was a great demand for wood because it must be used in mining coal.

The annals of our country have been written across the pages of history because of trees, and the time has come to give thought to what the historian of the day will write about it 100 years from now. Every step of our onward march has been made possible because, and by means, of trees.

Most Important of All.

Billy Wood submits the following famous rocks:

— bottom; — pile; — a-bye baby; — the boat; — of Ages; — of Gibraltar; — and rye.

But, Billy, why overlook those famous rocks that make your way through life less rocky?

Oo, are you like us—not familiar enough with 'em to remember there are any such?—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Dangerous Attributes.

Fools and sensible men are equally innocuous. It is in the half fools and half wise that the greatest danger lies.—Goethe.

Supply.

"See here, landlord, I'm not getting any heat."

"Tune in on the Congo."

Exactly.

"Some are born great; others make themselves great." But the majority grate upon their fellows.

Tanned Her.

"How did Muriel get tanned so?"

"She was out in a spanking breeze."

The Maya race of old Mexico knew how to use gold and bronze, but reserved them chiefly for ornaments and used stone tools.

This is the age when readers don't read beyond the third chapter if they don't like the novel.

Any man who thinks he is courting an angel may live to think again.

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