

Sterling Farm Proves Merit Of Grass Ensilage Feeding

Soil Conservation Most Important Reason For Feeding Grass A. J. Sordoni Believes

Largest all-grass feeding farm in Pennsylvania is A. J. Sordoni's Sterling Farm at Harvey's Lake. Experiments conducted this year with grass silage for dairy feeding have proved its value as an unexcelled milk-producer. Of equal value is soil conservation. Grass saves the top soil, while corn and other crops used for dairy feeding allow the top soil to wash away during heavy rains. Observations of A. J. Sordoni concerning the experiment are here put forth in a letter to James Hutchison of Luzerne County Agricultural extension Association who was instrumental in encouraging Mr. Sordoni to take up grass feeding. Further proof of its success was evidenced this week when the Sordoni herd of Guernseys stood highest in milk production in three counties. This was accomplished on a grass silage diet.

November 23, 1940

Mr. James Hutchison
Post Office Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Jim:

This is a report on our Grass Silage program which we began talking about in 1938. As you know, the matter was discussed pro and con many times without reaching a decision; first we decided that we would turn to Grass Silage, then we decided that we would not. After talking to you we contacted every one that we could find who knew anything about it. Some said it was wonderful, some said, "not so good," and others said they would not feed it to an alley goat.

However, since you said it was worth a trial, we decided to change our program from 100 acres of corn to Alfalfa, seeded with oats as a nurse crop, the green oats to be used as grass ensilage to fill the silos with the first year, 1939. But in the Spring of 1939 I made an inspection of the fields in which we were going to sow Alfalfa and oats, and got the "shivers" when I thought of the stones that we might gather with the green oats. I feared we would break our ensilage cutter knives faster than we could afford to replace them, so I told the boys that we would put the Grass Silage matter off until some time later, hoping that we could buy a machine that would cut and load the grass without grass touching the ground after it was cut.

This, of course, did not stop us from thinking about the matter and hoping that soon we could go through with the Grass Silage program, as you know by the number of times we contacted you regarding it. We put it off until 1940, and believe me, Jim, it was to our sorrow, because the washing and erosion was just as bad in 1939 as it ever was, at which time I said to the boys, "Stones, or no stones, we are going to fill our silos with grass in 1940."

I felt that this was the thing to do, especially after attending that meeting with you at the New Jersey Experiment Station, where they showed us how easy it was to make Grass Silage, the money it saved, and the top soil it saved by the land being covered with sod instead of being bare, as it is most of the time when raising corn. I was pleased to hear them say that the cows liked it as well as corn silage and that the milk production was just as good. I remember your saying, when you looked at some of their grass silage, that it would be almost as good as pasture for the cows.

Starts Experiment

Upon my return from the New Jersey meeting, I told the boys that we were Grass Silage bound, and instructed them to have everything we would need ready by June 1, 1940. This consisted of having the silos reinforced by putting on the extra hoops necessary to care for the increased pressure, which is about 25% more with Grass Silage than with corn silage, windrower attachments for our mowing machines, tractor and horse-drawn (they both worked splendidly), green crop hay loaders, which I think are necessary as the dry hay loaders must be rebuilt to handle green grass because of the extra weight.

We used 1½ ton dump trucks with bodies that have drop sides. This type, with sides dropped, makes the body about 2 feet 6 inches wider, hauling from 1½ to 2 tons grass. We used a man on the load to place the grass. Loading can be done without using an extra man, but I don't think it pays, especially on short hauls. With a man loading, you get about twice as much on each truck. We changed our ensilage cutter from ½ inch to cut ¾ inch cut the second day, as we found the grass didn't pack good when cut ½ inch long.

Also, we installed a 15-gallon tank and hose on the cutter to run molasses to the bottom of the blower casing, which seems to be the best place to apply the molasses to the grass. This outfit has a valve on it which is automatically controlled by the feed rolls of the cutter. Thus applying molasses as soon as the grass starts through the cutter and, of course, stopping the flow of molasses when the grass stops. This line also has a valve which is manually controlled. Some trouble was experienced with the blower pipe becoming blocked when starting the grass through the cutter, which we

found was being done by the molasses. So we tried putting the first forkful through without molasses, then turning the molasses on. We also shut the molasses off before the last forkful went through and this worked well. That is where the manual valve comes in very handy.

We also had some trouble getting molasses from the barrels to the 15-gallon container on the ensilage cutter. At first we tried drawing it from the ¾ inch opening at end of barrel into a pail, but this did not permit it to flow fast enough, so we rolled the barrels up on skids, under which we placed a second-hand bathtub, and used the 2 inch opening at side of barrels, which gave the required flow of molasses. The tub answered our purpose well, and as it held more than a barrel, there was no danger of it overflowing.

Wash Getzman Helps

The second day we made Grass Silage, I was at the cutter, watching the men clean out the pipe, which takes one-half hour every time it becomes blocked. The man who handles the end of the blower pipe came out of the silo and said to me, "If the boys would stop the cutter when I call to them, it would only take a few minutes to clean the pipe." This man happens to be Wash Getzman, and he is a real crank on efficiency. He told me that we would have to do something about this as every time the pipe blocked, we lost a half-hour. So I had the electrician make a signal system so Wash could ring the man at the cutter when he wanted them to stop. When I saw him the next day, he said, "Now you have done something." Believe me, Jim, that signal system paid for itself the first day. All that is needed is a hot-shot battery, a bell, a push button, and enough duplex wire to reach from the cutter to the end of the distributor pipe.

As I write about Wash, I want to tell you more about him. He is 82 years young, and I'm not fooling when I say young. He works every day, and we consider him as good a man as we have on the farm. The most interesting thing about him to me is that over 50 years ago he helped log off the virgin timber in this section. He was foreman for the Albert Lewis Company when they built the railroad from Luzerne to Harvey's Lake, Pa. Later he helped clear the land which is now part of my farm. By the way, Jim, Wash's favorite dessert is pumpkin pie! He works from choice not from necessity. He has a splendid son, and he also has enough of the world's goods to keep him from ever being in want, but he is just an ambitious man who loves work.

Molasses Applied

Now, to get back to the Grass Silage. We applied from 80 lbs. to 100 lbs. molasses to the ton of grass. We started June 9th, and worked every day, except when it rained, until we finished, June 20th. That is the nice part of making Grass Silage, it can rain ever so hard in the morning and as soon as it clears, filling can be started again. Some might say that you cannot make Grass Silage and hay at the same time, but we were through filling our silos when it was time to make hay. Another nice thing about it is that the first cutting of clover and Alfalfa, which makes excellent silage, never makes No. 1 hay.

Regarding silos leaking, our silos didn't leak any more with grass than they did when filled with corn. There is a stronger odor from the grass and molasses than from corn, but we concentrated all the juice that leaked out to a drain which we connected to the sewer line. This took care of the odor about the barn. We also washed the silo chute and doors when the juices which leaked out became rancid. When we had the silo almost filled, we covered the grass with cheap roofing paper, and then blew about 3 or 4 loads of poor grass and weeds from hedge rows, on top of the paper. When we opened the first silo, we found about the same amount of waste you would have in a silo filled with corn.

The cows like it very much. We are feeding the same amount of Grass Silage as we did corn silage last year. The milk production is just about the same, or if anything, a little higher.

Excellent Milk Color

It will be a splendid thing to hold the same color in the milk the year around, due to the carotin being preserved in the grass. The influence on color being practically the same with Grass Silage as with pasture. What a satisfaction it will be to see all of our fields covered with a good heavy sod during the Winter and Spring months, instead of looking at ditches washed through them, and thousands of tons of top soil carried down the Susquehanna River—where many a good farm has gone because of lying unprotected

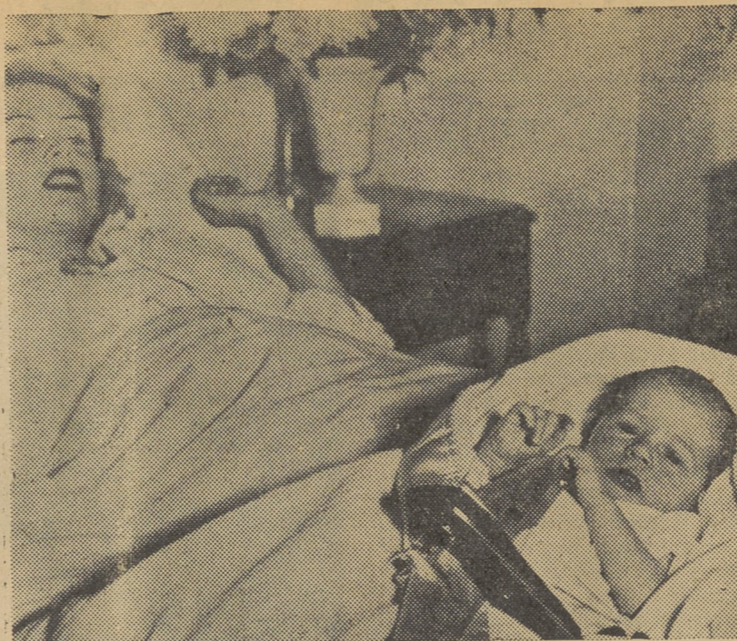
Hostess To Ladies

Mrs. Oscar Dymond was hostess to the members of the Glenview P. M. Ladies' Aid at her home in Shavertown on Friday evening. Reports were made by the various chairmen. The next meeting will be a Christmas party at the home of Miss Vera Lamoreaux. Refreshments were served to Mrs. Eva Monroe, Miss Charlotte Mintzer, Mrs. Verna Lamoreaux, Mrs. Lewis Stritzinger, Mrs. Earl Layaou, Annjane and Esther Layaou.

through the Winter season. By the way, Jim, we have seeded 85 acres, sowing to each acre, Alfalfa—15 lbs., timothy, 5 lbs., med. red clover—5 lbs., and Ladino clover—3 lbs., and every acre of it is in fine shape for the Winter. Will we make Grass Silage next year, and how!

Now, this may seem like a lot of detail to you but the reason that I have gone into the matter so fully is because a number of my neighboring farmers have said they were anxious to learn how Grass Silage would be, and if it turned out all right for us, they, too, would start making it. So, since the farmers are interested, I felt the best way to convey the information to them would be by giving it to you, as I knew that you would do the rest. I am so enthused about Grass Silage that I could go on and on, but I think I have given you the high

ON DAD'S SKY TRAIL ALREADY



The young man with a model plane is Richard Merrill, recently-born son of famed aviator Dick Merrill, pictured in St. Francis Hospital, Miami Beach, Fla. The proud mother is the former Toby Wing, movie star and kin of the English dramatist, Sir Arthur Wing Pinero. The Merrill's first baby died about a year ago.

lights of our experience, and I hope it will help to make more farmers Grass Silage minded, as it is the sure way to save the top soil. Thank you very kindly, Jim, for

the fine cooperation in the past regarding Grass Silage, as well as everything else about my farms. Sincerely yours, ANDREW J. SORDONI

Township Grade Pupils Will Present Operetta

"The Kidnapping of Santa Claus", an operetta, will be presented by the students of the first six grades of Dallas Township school in the school auditorium December 19 at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Miss Lena VanTuy, general chairman of the performance, is being assisted by the following: Misses Evelyn Everard, Emily Goldsmith, Ruth Carbaugh, Martha Zehner, Mary Jackson, Iona Evans, Arline Hazel, Dorothy Williams, Mrs. Ruth Hazel Wyrsoch.

Rotary Club Admits Three New Members

Motion pictures showing the complicated processes involved in the production of Ford automobiles were shown by a Ford Motor company representative at the dinner meeting of Dallas Rotary Club last night at Irem Temple Country Club when three new men were admitted to membership.

Dallas Rotary now has an enrollment of twenty-four. Those admitted last night were: Paul Warriner, mining engineer, DeMunds; M. J. "Dyke" Brown, contract trucker, Dallas, and Harold Catlin, aeronautical engineer, Goss Manor.

Intruders Leave Tenants Cold

Iron Bar Saves Bar At Hayden's

Tenants of the Sullivan Building on Main Street were inconvenienced during the cold snap on Wednesday morning by frozen water pipes and absence of heat after unknown persons attempted to force an entrance to Hayden's Cafe sometime after midnight Tuesday.

Thwarted in their attempt to force a heavy iron bar that locked doors to the cafe, the intruders turned their attention to the cellar of the building where they ripped out electrical wiring on the heating system allowing the fires to go out with resultant frozen water pipes.

Dallas Sunday School Will Conduct Social

Sunday School of Dallas Methodist Church will conduct a social in the church basement at 7:30 this evening. Each class will have charge of a booth where it will display and sell its wares. A program will be presented by the Sunday School Class members. Mr. Louis LeGrand, superintendent, is in charge.

Come To

TOYLAND

Opening




DOLLS Never have we carried so fine a line of beautiful dolls as this year. We are featuring the nationally famous Horsman Dolls. You can buy them on a convenient lay-away plan. The little fellows illustrated above are Heart Breakers. Priced at 25c, 50c and \$1.00.

What could be more useful than a lamp for Christmas.

This is the new Dallas 5c, 10c to \$1.00 store... a grand place to do your Christmas gift shopping... it's so easy and pleasant to select from fresh new stocks in this larger, more convenient store. You'll be surprised, too, at the many new lines you'll find here... and priced so moderately.

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO TOYLAND TODAY!

PIN-UP LAMPS \$1.00

TABLE LAMPS \$1.59

Maple Lamps and a beautiful selection of lamp shades to make old lamps look like new.







GIFT HANDKERCHIEFS
Lace-edged, Appliqued, Appenzell, Bordered, Monograms, and Madiera. All the heart could wish in lovely gifts.

Warm Colorful Glove Sets, ranging in prices, 15c, 25c, 39c and 69c.

Bedroom Slippers, soft leather soles with leather heels. Many colors, 59c.

Dainty Panties make appreciated gifts. Wide selections—25c and 50c.

Electric Clock is a gift the whole family will enjoy. Very low price, \$2.25.

Bath Perfume Sets delight feminine hearts. Prices range 10c, 25c and 50c.

CHRISTMAS CANDY



FAVORITES
Our hard Christmas candies are famous for flavor and freshness. All are especially low priced. Clear toys, hard mixed, peanut clusters, filled candies in a wide assortment arriving fresh weekly.

TREE ORNAMENTS



American made. Many new and novel numbers. Christmas wreaths, lights, tinsel and cellophane ornaments.

Drum 50c
Big and colorful with plenty of rhythm.

HERE COMES THAT MAN AGAIN... TO INVITE YOU TO HIS TOY SHOP!

FREE! and what is more he's got a Big 36-Page Picture Book, "Santa Claus at the Toy Town Circus" Free for every boy and girl who visits Toytown accompanied by mother or dad. It's full of pictures and clever rhymes! You'll love it. Quantities limited... come early!

Truck With Steam Shovel



Big beautiful heavy duty truck loaded with a steam shovel that operates by itself. Here's two pieces of \$1 equipment two boys can play with at the same time.

Wonderful Wind-up Trains



Modeled after the famous New York train, "Commodore Vanderbilt," streamlined whizzers. Five cars, 10 sections shining track. Shoot real \$1 (harmless) sparks from engine. Strong \$1 wind-up motors.

Lincoln Logs



Authentic Lincoln logs—Build log cabins or an entire frontier village. Large sets 25c. Smaller sets 50c.

Darts



Darts is a swell game everybody likes. 16-inch square, heavy Masonite Board. Two darts to set. 50c

Bingo



Bingo for fun for everybody. Plenty of cards and markers for a big party. Three sizes of sets, 50c 25c 10c and 10c

DALLAS 5c, 10c & \$1.00

E. WILLIAMS, Manager