

TWICE YEARLY YIELDS

Forage crops require proper fertilization

By L. B. MacLEOD
Research Officer
Experimental Farm, Ch'town

Cutting forage crops twice a year, instead of once as is done mostly now, application of adequate amounts of fertilizer, lime manure, etc., and the proper management of the forage stands, are among the factors emphasized by Dr. L. B. MacLeod, research officer at the Experimental Farm Charlottetown.

Dr. MacLeod, a specialist in forage crop nutrition, has made this material available for this paper's farm edition.

A well established forage crop is a valuable asset to any livestock farmer. It may cost from \$35 to \$75 per acre for establishment—considering cost of lime, fertilizer, seed, labor, machinery depreciation, fuel, etc. This is a big investment but it is a valuable crop and has a high potential for producing quality forage for several years if properly fertilized and managed.

system, he has made his first important move towards higher forage yields. If he combines this two-cut system with adequate fertilization he is well on his way to high yields of quality forage.

In my opinion he had it made in his forage program. With fertilization and early cutting, followed by fertilization for the second cut the hay he feeds next winter will be so much higher in quality that his cows will consume more through the increased milk production, decreased grain requirement or more dollars in your pocket whichever way you want to look at it.

Now that we are talking about cows let me ask the question, would you as farmers skimp on your feed and expect high milk production? Would you milk your cow all through her lactation, and not bother to get her in shape for the next calf and lactation? Of course you wouldn't. Any good dairyman wouldn't. If you want high production you will feed your cows accordingly.

Now, let me ask, would you put only a couple of hundred pounds of fertilizer on your forage crops and expect high production throughout the year? You can expect it but won't get it. A plant can no more produce a good hay crop if it is not fed, than a cow can produce a lot of milk without feed.

These reserves will be used next spring to produce the new plants. A well-fertilized plant in the fall will produce a vigorous, healthy plant next spring. This means early pasture and good early cut hay.

PLANTS NEED FEED
Plants must be fed nutrients as fertilizer, manure, lime, etc. If you want high yielding crops. There is no other way. If you have invested money to start a good forage seeding, you cannot afford to let it deteriorate for lack of fertilizer and care in management.

Management is very important. Take alfalfa for example. The second cut should be taken off no later than August 31st and the sward should be left alone all fall. Do not graze it or cut it until late fall when growth is completed for the year. Many farmers will need it for pasture on greenchop in mid October. This is not as serious since the plant has been given a chance to prepare itself for the winter.

The same principles will also apply to red clover, brome grass, timothy, etc.

SOIL TEST NEEDED
A good forage stand is a real asset to a farmer and a good farmer takes care of his forage

fields. What about fertilizer? Get a soil test and follow recommendations.

With a legume or legume-grass mixture our research has shown that you should use at least 400 lb.-acre of 0-20-20 fertilizer in the spring followed by: muriate of potash at 100 or 200 lbs. after the first cut. If only 100 lbs. is used, an additional 100 lbs. may be necessary in the fall. In Nova Scotia we recommended 400 to 600 lbs. of a 5-10-30 fertilizer in the spring plus 100 to 200 lbs. of muriate of potash after the first cut. This provides a small amount of nitrogen in the early spring when the soil is cold and the alfalfa or clover plants are not fixing their own nitrogen. It will carry them into June when the legume fixes its own N and the soil is providing some P.

With predominantly grass hay use 10-10-10 or 6-12-12 in the spring followed by ammonium nitrate and muriate of potash after the first cut. In Nova Scotia we recommended 10-10-10 fertilizer in the spring followed by 15-5-15 for second hay crop.

Some people may say that the recommended rates are too high. If anything they are low when we are aiming for high production.

Invest in fertilizer and prosper through better forage yields. Remember fertilizer, cut early and refertilize, remove the second cut in late August and prepare the forage stand to survive the winter.

Detailed food picture for consumers in '66

How does the food picture look for consumers in 1966?

MEAT
Canadians will be eating more beef and less pork this year if present trends continue. Retail prices for both meats are expected to be above those of last year with seasonally lower prices in the late fall. Smaller meat supplies in the United States and a stronger demand for exports, as well as a strong consumer demand in Canada resulted in the higher retail prices for both beef and pork last year.

POULTRY
Production of Canadian lamb is expected to decrease so that retail prices may be slightly higher than last year.

EGGS
There should be a seasonal decline in egg prices in January. Because of lower egg production, egg prices will probably remain above those of last year for the greater part of the year.

DAIRY PRODUCTS
It is expected that there will be an increase in fluid milk consumption due to the population growth and the increased sale of "two per cent" milk.

CHEESE
Cheddar cheese production is expected to continue to rise with a continuing good consumer demand.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

APPLES
The 1965 apple crop is estimated at 22.1 million bushels—the second largest crop ever produced in Canada. There was a record crop in Quebec. More than one-third of the crop will go into processed apple products, particularly solid pack apples and apple juice. There has been increased consumer demand for apple juice.

POTATOES
Potato production was less than last year despite an increase in the total acreage. However, because of a larger crop in the United States, more will be available on the Canadian market. This should result in considerably lower prices than last year.

ONIONS
With the large onion crop in Ontario, there will be plentiful supplies on the domestic market as well as for export. Prices are expected to be lower than a year ago.

PROCESSED FRUIT
Less processed fruit was packed this year than last. In British Columbia there was no commercial production of peaches owing to winter frost that severely damaged the trees.

HONEY
There was a record crop of Canadian honey of over 47 million pounds in 1965.



ALTON RODD, WINSLOE GETS PASTURE AWARD

Grow alfalfa in the province

By D.K. SMITH

Alfalfa is considered as one of the most valuable legume crops. It is capable of very high yields; it can survive dry soil conditions and with proper management it will stay in a stand for four or five years.

Alfalfa is much more suited for hay production rather than for pasture. However, it can be used in pasture if the grazing is controlled. It should never be grazed close enough to expose and injure the crown.

As with any other crop there are several things which have to be done when establishing alfalfa. First of all, a field with good drainage has to be chosen. This is a must if we expect to grow alfalfa successfully. Fields which have been under cultivated row crops are a good choice as they are likely to be well supplied with moisture and relatively free from weeds.

SOIL SAMPLE
The next job is to take a soil sample of the field; the pH is most important and generally soils with a pH of less than six are too acid and require lime to produce alfalfa. The lime should be applied as early as possible in the spring before the field is

seeded and for another year I would suggest putting it on in the fall, it should be worked into the surface soil.

A soil test will not only tell how much lime to apply but also the amount of fertilizer which should be used. A complete fertilizer is usually recommended when establishing alfalfa. It is a good idea when ordering the fertilizer to have some commercial boron added. About 15-25 lbs. of boron should be applied per acre when establishing alfalfa.

When purchasing seed buy only certified No. 1. The recommended alfalfa varieties are Vernal and Nargansett. The seed should be well inoculated. This inoculant can be purchased at most seed stores and the cost is about 50 cents per acre.

Alfalfa should be seeded in the spring as early as the land is ready. The rate of seeding will vary according to the method of seeding, the seed bed preparation, quality of seed, fertility and the moisture supply. When seeding alfalfa alone, about 12 pounds of seed should be planted. When mixing the alfalfa with grasses use about four pounds of timothy and five pounds of alfalfa. When seeding brome and five pounds of alfalfa. Care should be taken to avoid deep seeding. It should not be seeded any deeper than one-half inch.

If a companion crop is seeded, it should be removed from the field as early as possible to allow the young alfalfa plants to mature. It is also very important to seed the companion crop at about one-half or less the usual rate for the crop.

It is very important to supply the proper type and amounts of fertilizer to the established stand. It will increase the yield and also help the plants to survive the winter.

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Deficiency payments for wool

OTTAWA — A deficiency payment of 16.3 cents per pound for wool was announced today by Agriculture Minister J. J. Greene.

The payment applies to eligible grades of wool marketed by producers in the 1965-66 support year ending today.

Volume of wool graded and eligible for the payment in the 12-month period is estimated at slightly more than four million pounds. Payments to some 24,000 producers will amount to approximately \$655,000.

The deficiency payment represents the amount by which the average return to producers fell short of the support, or floor price of 60 cents. Calculation of the average return is based on prices for a representative number of grades.

In 1964-65, a payment of 12.8 cents per pound was made on 4.5 million pounds of wool.

There are two main points I want to emphasize with regard to caring for established forage stands. By caring for a stand I don't mean coddling it, I mean producing optimum yields with it and keeping it alive and active to produce forage next year.

The two things that will have the greatest influence on longevity productivity are:

1. Fertility
2. Cutting management

MAIN REQUISITES
These two must go hand in hand. Fertilizer is required to get the forage off to an early start in the spring. Early cutting say late June, is necessary along with fertilization to produce two cuts of high quality hay each year.

When a farmer decides to throw out the old one-cut hay system, and starts to cut early enough to get onto the two-cut

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION "OLD HOME WEEK"

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We anticipate the greatest racing year ever . . . The main Old Home Week feature racing being the Gold Cup and Saucer event to take place on Friday, August 20. Final leg of Maritime Circuit Free For All raced on Monday August 15th. During Old Home Week a Free For All Trot will be held along with the two Invitation Junior Free For All Paces, rounding out one of the greatest race cards ever to be presented to race fans, making eleven race meets in one week. Approximately \$32,000 in purses for this great week of racing.

The Charlottetown Park and Provincial Exhibition held their first show on October 30, 1889, with a total of \$2474.00 for prize money. Since then this amount has grown up to its all time high in 1966. This shows 77 years Progress . . . this progress was made by the co-operation we receive each year by the people of Prince Edward Island and their fine exhibits.

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