

Some bug species damage forage

SASKATOON, Sask. — A CDA researcher offers some advice on getting the "bugs" out of forage crops.

Although insect pests are not a major deterrent to production of forage crops for feed or seed, a few species do enough damage to warrant control measures, says entomologist C.H. Craig of the CDA Research Station here.

Cultural practices, which also pay off in disease control, and insecticides are the keys to an effective pest control program for forage crops, says the researcher.

Use of insecticides on these crops poses special problems, however. To prevent residues being carried into feed, meat and dairy products, it is important to follow strictly the recommendations governing type of chemical, dosage, and time and method of application.

The worst pest of hay and pasture is the grasshopper, which attacks alfalfa, grass-alfalfa mixtures and cereal greenfeed. Neither native nor cultivated pasture is immune to attack. Fields and roadsides should be kept under close observation from late May to July for signs of local outbreaks. Only non-persistent insecticides like dimethoate, carbaryl or malathion can be used for grasshopper control in forage crops.

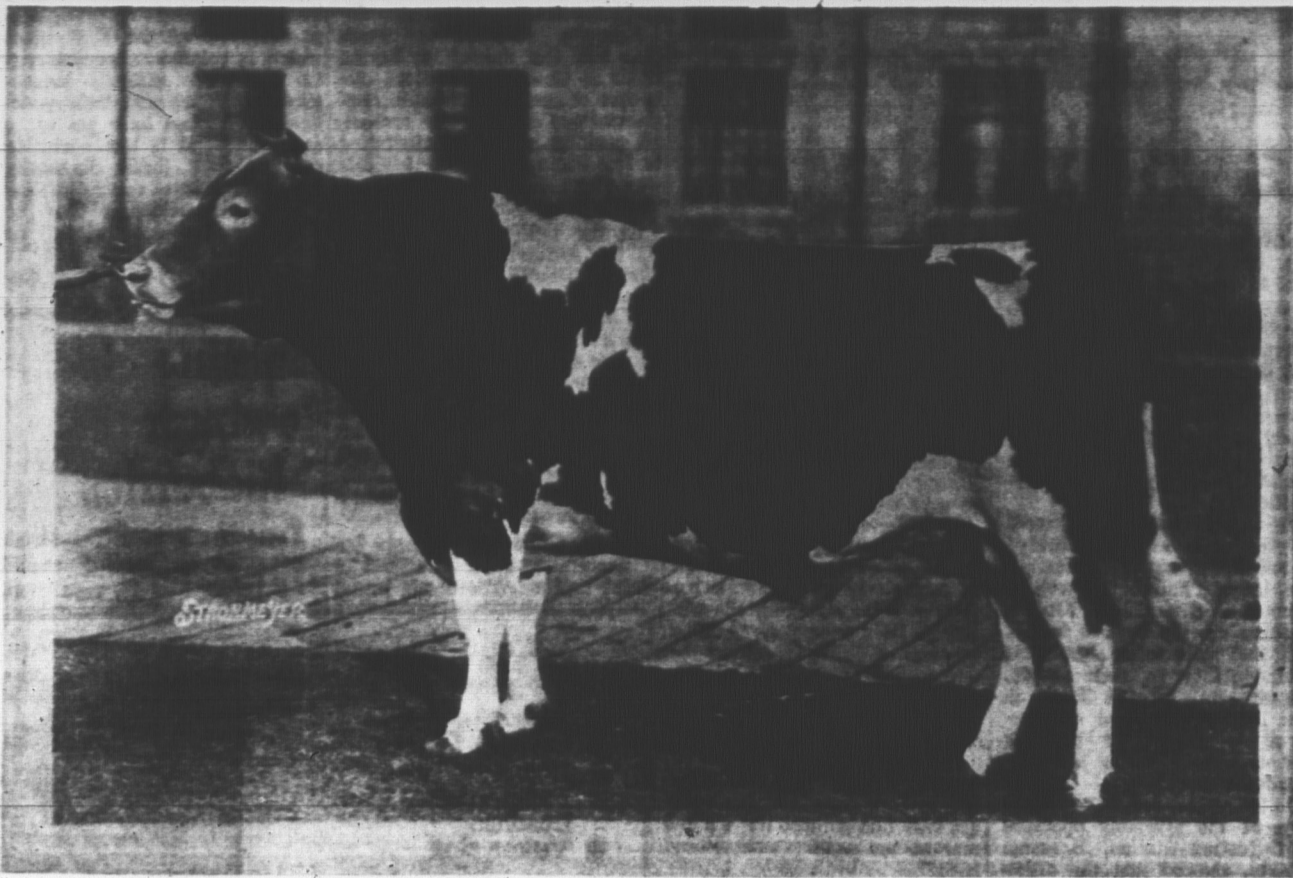
CLOVER AFFECTED
Yields of sweet clover may be affected to a large degree by a species of weevil. The pest—the sweet-clover weevil—attacks seedling plants, chewing the leaves and causing damage that may result in a stand that is very thin.

Weevils move from second-year clover to seedling stands. Because of this, new stands of clover should be sown as far as possible from the mature ones. The latter should be shallow cultivated as soon as the hay crop is removed.

At present there is no chemical recommended for controlling weevils in silage and hay crops, the researcher explains. Chemical control may be used on seedling stands of sweet clover provided that the crop is being grown for seed only and that it will not be pastured in the fall. Use of heptachlor granules, sown with the seed or applied by broadcast method, is recommended for weevil control in clover seed crops.

Plant bugs are the most serious pest problem for farmers growing alfalfa for seed. The bugs attack buds, flowers and young seed pods, reducing yields of seed. Burning the stubble and debris in early spring will control some but not all of the species of this pest. All species, however, can be controlled by an application of DDT, dieldrin or dimethoate. Whenever chemical is used, it should be applied when the alfalfa is in the early bud stage. Later application is not recommended because of the danger to pollinating insects.

BURNING HELPS
"Silvertop" is a condition that sometimes occurs in grass crops grown for seed and results in heads that are bleached out and empty. Although the cause of the trouble is not fully understood, burning of grass stubble and debris in the fall will reduce the incidence of silvertop. In Alberta, an application of DDT just before the head emerges from the leaf sheath is recommended in cases where stubble and debris have not been burned.



ISLAND'S MOST FAMOUS GUERNSEY SIRE

One of the most famous Guernsey sires ever brought to this province, so far as show ring performance is concerned, was Carter's Mixer King (above) that L. W. Roper, recently retired as Livestock Director here, selected in a barn in Brookfield, N.S., one night by the light of a smoky kerosene lantern, and the bull went on to win 33 grand championships including the Royal

Winter Fair grand ribbon which is the ultimate goal of all livestock breeders who show at the major fairs. Mixer King was purchased for a price that would approximate \$2,500 or more in today's currency, and he was sold for twice that amount several years later. A big animal, he weighed slightly more than a ton.

Milk production records surpass forecast levels

Cornell University predicted last year that by 1974 the top 10 per cent of New York's dairymen would have herds that averaged 20,000 pounds of milk, 700 pounds of butterfat, and income over feed costs of \$500 per cow. This is quite a goal since the average cow in New York in 1964 produced only 9,000 pounds of butterfat, and had an income over feed cost of only \$190, while cows in the top 10 per cent of New York's DHIA test herds average only 15,500 pounds of milk and 565 pounds of butterfat and had income over feed costs of only \$390.

But DHIA records showed that one New York dairyman had already attained the 1974 goal and three others were within striking distance of it. While the records are startling, a Farm Quarterly article details the fact that these four dairy farmers are using time honored practices, some of which are considered obsolete by many of today's dairymen. To obtain their production records, the men use a surprising number of practices in common. Each operates a family farm where the work is all accomplished by family help. Has a homegrown registered

Holstein herd that has been built up through exclusive use of artificial breeding. Raises all his own replacements. Grows his own roughage. Feeds both hay and silage during the barn season. Utilizes improved, frequently rotated pastures and augments the pasture with hay. Feeds grain, according to production, three to four times a day, but sets limits on even top producers. Looks upon each cow as an individual needing individual treatment. Treats his animals with TLC (tender loving care). Has a stanchion barn where animals are well bedded. Spends much more than the recommended time milking his herd and argues that this is one of the secrets of his success in getting top production. Each strips his cows. Uses conventional milking machines since neither pipeline nor milking parlor would permit him to check the production of individual cows. Utilizes modern research, capitalizing on it as it applies to his particular situation.

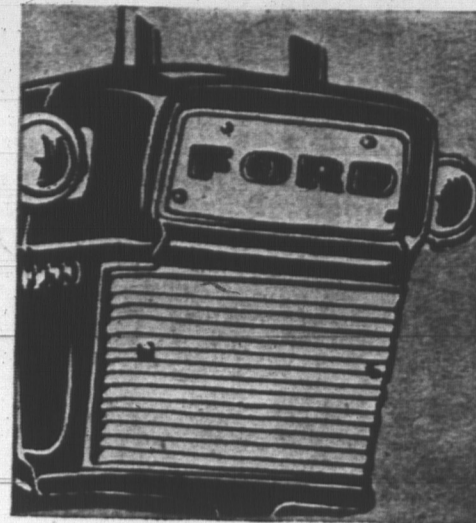
the soil, less stump speeches and more stump pulling. In other words, we cultivate too little and talk too much. Remember that one good man behind the plow is worth a dozen ahead of it. Our forefathers could grow ten pound potatoes, and if we are to become farmers par excellence we must be as progressive as they in all things. As ye all know, I've spent my best years in lumber camps. Yet at no time have I ever forgotten my native Island with its many charms. Some day I predict it will become, the happy wanderers paradise. So in closing, let me remind you fellows you are living in God's country and God expects you to keep it spic and span.

Bug causes 'Cattacing'

Canada Department of Agriculture scientists have tracked down the cause of the deformed "cat-faced" strawberries which have been unusually abundant in commercial plantings for the last few years. Many Ontario producers have suffered serious losses, some running to thousands of dollars.

The tarnished plant bug is much of the injury is caused by the effects may wear off before the culprit. Researchers A. Hikichi and H.W. Wagner of the Canada Department of Agriculture's Vineland (Ont.) research laboratory have discovered that although frost may deform some fruit, very first strawberry blossoms tarnished plant bugs are by far the major cause of cattacing. One spray of DDT or Thiodan, applied thoroughly just as the very first strawberry blossoms began to open, gave good control in Vineland test plots. But as the young bugs that hatch from eggs laid on the strawberry plant, the researchers are now testing non-residue materials that can safely be used in a second spray after the fruit has formed. DDT and Thiodan leave residues which rule out their use after the blossoms open.

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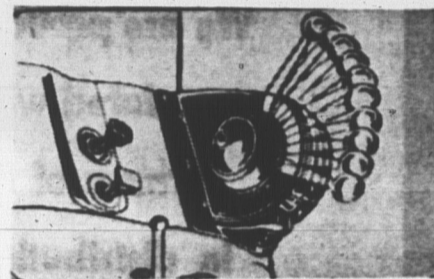


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Finnlayson delivers unique speech to Island farm group

The following speech was delivered to a group of farmers some 30 years ago by Nathan Finnlayson who for many years before his death worked in the lumber camps of Maine and New Brunswick.

Gentlemen of Lorne Valley: You are heirs to the choicest bit of real estate this side of heaven—Prince Edward Island. Here the sun shines on the just and the unjust and once in a while we have a little moonshine too. Unlike other parts of

the world, we are free from earthquakes, tornadoes, floods and famine.

I am proud to be a native of P.E.I. Proud still to have been born in Kings County where people dwell in security and peace. This is indeed a Utopia, or nearly a utopia.

However, you and me must do our best to make it another Garden of Eden. In order to bring about this desired goal, you farmers will have to do less fiddling and dancing and more mending of fences and tilling of



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