

'Back to Grass' Move Hailed As Revolution in Agriculture

New Development In Silage Combats Excessive Plow-Up

WNU Feature.

Hailed by agricultural leaders as a beneficial revolution destined to counterbalance the plow-up trend of recent years, a "back to grass" movement offering far-reaching possibilities for soil conservation is developing with increasing use of grass and legume silage.

In Wisconsin, the Carolinas, New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Texas and other states, dairymen in increasing numbers are utilizing grass for silage. Thousands of temporary silos have been built for storage. In still other areas King Corn, long regarded as the major crop for silage, soon may find its widespread use challenged by grass. Thus the way is opened for farmers to increase their acreage of soil-building legumes and to cut down soil-depleting row crops.

This revolution is being made possible by improved techniques in the dairy industry that has reduced the cost and increased production of the major grass silage preservative—dried whey powder. Use of grass silage has been retarded because the preservatives were either hard to apply, damaging to machinery and silos, too expensive or not available. With whey powder now in large supply and at a cost farmers can afford, expansion in use of grass silage is possible.

Putting in more legumes and grasses will mean a reversal of the plow-up trend of recent years. Such measures were necessary to produce food, fiber and other needed war materials and to feed hungry millions overseas in the postwar era.

The extent of that plow-up is shown in comparative crop acreages of today and forty years ago. In 1947 plantings of principal crops totaled 37,427,000 acres, according to the U. S. department of agriculture, compared with 31,827,000 acres in 1907. That is an increase of 25,000 acres.

Drain on Fertility.

Heavy war and postwar cropping has pulled fertility out of the soil. Farmsteads require that this fertility must be replaced. Many want to get back to a rotation that grows from soybeans, legumes such as alfalfa and clover. The legumes will help rebuild worn-down soil, maintain moisture and prevent erosion. They also make the soil a better storehouse for plant food and rain.

The need for more grass and legumes is emphasized by this year's crop drop. Production has been seriously hit by late spring planting, a result of rains and cold weather, and the damaged crops that followed. Even if recent department of agriculture estimates of 2,487,000, 000 bushels are realized, that will be 30,000,000 bushels short of last year's record crop. More grass will be required to maintain soil and meat production.

More grass farming has a three-fold advantage, points out Louis E. Boers, executive secretary of the Middle West Soil Improvement Commission.

1. It provides the low-cost, high protein feeding value of legumes and grasses.

2. It restores depleted organic matter supplies.

3. It furnishes a protective cover for the soil, slowing down erosion, saving moisture, topsoil and essential plant food elements.

Most grasses and legumes are perennial. That the cost of seed, land preparation and labor required to produce a ton of grass silage is considerably less than that required to produce a ton of corn forage.

Aid to Pocketbook.

Important to the farmer's pocketbook, too, is the fact that the cash market is provided right on the farm by grass silage combined with pasture and hay production.

Corn always has been the top silage crop. It is easy to preserve when cut at the right time. It needs no added preservative. Corn is high

SOMETHING NEW ON THE FARM . . . This green went to silage on a Wisconsin farm, but common sense says it would make a fine silage if covered with rubberized paper, keeps the silage in good condition.

In carbohydrates. When it is milled, enough sugar ferments to keep the silage indefinitely, if the silage is kept in a silo.

Grasses and legumes are high in proteins and low in carbohydrates. They contain only small amounts of fermentable sugar. To make grass silage keep, other preservatives are necessary. Such preservatives include molasses, dried whey powder, ground cereals such as corn, or acids.

With corn prices at present levels, too great a cash outlay is necessary for the use of 300 pounds of ground corn needed per ton of grass silage, farm experts insist.

Grass silage preserved with molasses or dried whey powder. The acid method was introduced by A. I. Viranen, a Finnish scientist, in the 1920's. The A.I.V. preserving method, which is named for him, requires the use of strong mineral acids. Reports show that these acids have been destructive of clothing and silos and have corroded silos and silo fillers. Special equipment is necessary to add the acids by the A.I.V. method. Phosphoric acid sometimes is used as a preservative. When it is used, the silo filler should be washed out after each day's run.

In past years, molasses has proved a good preservative, but supplies continue to be scarce.

Report on Experiments.

Increasing interest has centered on whey powder, which is plentiful and economical and is easier to apply than molasses. It may be fed into the silo filler or scattered on the silage material in the silo. The amount of whey powder to add depends on the type of silage. In a large amount on the type of silage or grasses to be ensiled, indicates G. Schindler of the agricultural experiment station at University of Wisconsin college of agriculture. With two other Wisconsin researchers, W. H. Peterson and F. W. Duffee, he has studied various grass silages and preservatives. In general about two-thirds as much whey powder as molasses is required, they learned.

For straight alfalfa and clover, the Wisconsin men suggest dried whey powder at the rate of 40 pounds per ton of silage, compared with 90 pounds of molasses. For grass and grass mixtures such as alfalfa and timothy, the proportion is 30 and 40 pounds, respectively, for grasses and cereals, such as timothy, alfalfa, grass, oats, and 30 pounds.

Success by University of Illinois researchers men show why whey powder has given excellent results. It contains about the same percentage of sugar as liquid molasses, and also contains 10 per cent protein, making it a valuable feed in itself.

The three Illinois researchers, W. K. Stevens, K. E. Harshbarger and K. A. Kinsman, report that grass or alfalfa silage is high in feeding value.

"Silage made with a grass or legume," they report, "is better food in some respect than corn silage. It has a higher protein content; hence less protein is required in the grain mixture. And it is higher in carotene. The carotene tends to increase the vitamin content and yellow color of milk. The vitamin A in milk from cows fed grass or legume silage may be nearly as high as that of milk from cows on pasture."

The researchers point out, however, that in areas with a very high corn yield per acre, such as Illinois,

the total feeding value of an acre of grass or legume harvested for silage is usually less than that of corn. This is because the average yield of digestible protein per acre from legumes is close to that of corn and larger than that of sorghum. In states where per acre corn yields are not as high a good stand of grasses will furnish as large or larger a supply of digestible material as corn. Cost of the grass silage will be considerably lower.

Dairymen in Wisconsin and other states who have used grass silage report good results with temporary silos. Such temporary silos are easy to put together. They can be constructed in a temporary silo can be made to last two or three years. The cost of one sufficient to hold 300 tons of silage would run from \$50 to \$60.

In view of late crop plantings and the possibility of early frosts, temporary silos have several immediate advantages. It may be one solution for the storage of the soft corn crop threatened this year. Dairymen may use grass silage and temporary silos as feed insurance. In case late grain crops fail to mature, pasture grasses and legumes may be ensiled in temporary silos, leaving permanent silos empty for corn silage in case frosts damage the crop.

A few precautions are recommended for successful grass silage: 1. Cut the grasses and legumes in the right stage before it is too mature. 2. Be sure the container is airtight. Air is the No. 1 enemy of silage whether in a temporary or permanent structure. 3. Stamp the grass down well. 4. Exclude air. 5. Keep the silage free of spoilage. The cap can be of paper or dirt. 6. Test permanent silos for pressure, because grass can move pressure and carries more weight.

The "back to grass" movement will pay farmers dividends in big way, pasture and silage yields and long-range soil conservation benefits. If good management methods are followed. Vital to such a program are good stands of legumes. The key to getting these legumes is timely, based on soil tests, and use of fertilizers containing phosphorus and potash. Important, too, is the return of barnyard manure and crop residues to the soil.

Horsemen Attempt To Span Continent

TACOMA, WASH.—From the Pacific to the Atlantic on horseback is the goal of two horse ranchers and a special deputy sheriff of Pierce county. The trio hopes to span the continent in less than six months, with October 31 set as the goal for arriving in New York.

Making the trip are Fred Kennedy, 31, of Tacoma, a deputy sheriff, and "Slim" Kennedy, horse rancher at Spicaway, near Tacoma. The party is using three saddles and two pack horses.

For those who want to make a comparison of the cost of cross-country trips by horse and car, Kennedy reports that oats for the horses and food for the three men are running about \$25 per week.

Home-Loving Soldier Spans Continent Daily

WASHINGTON—Home life must appeal to a young G.I. who crosses an entire continent twice a day to be with his wife. What's more he travels from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast and back by automobile.

The base at which the G.I. is stationed at Albrook field in the Canal Zone, which is within half a mile of the Pacific. His wife lives in Coco Solito (Love Comfort) Zone, a housing project less than half a mile from the Atlantic.

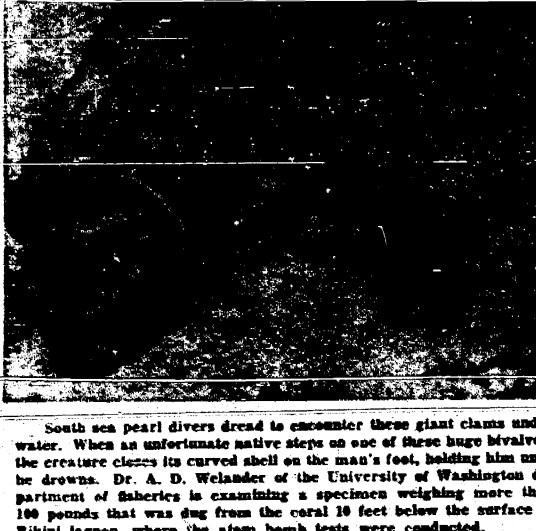
Every morning he gets up in time to drive the 50 miles to the base, and every evening after work he heads back home—across the continent.

TEEN-AGE TRIUMPHS By Steffie Allen



Monster Clam Survives Atom Bombing

South sea pearl divers dread to encounter these giant clams under water. When an unfortunate native diver on one of these huge bivalves, the creature clings to its curved shell on the mud's foot, holding him until he drowns. Dr. A. D. Wetlander of the University of Washington department of bacteriology is examining a specimen weighing more than 100 pounds that was dug from the coral 10 feet below the surface of Bikini lagoon, where the atom bomb tests were conducted.



WHY WE SAY By Collins and Slawson

WIN HANDS DOWN



This race track term describes the customary action of a jockey who has a safe lead. He eases up on the reins, letting his hands down somewhat.

TAKE MY WORD FOR IT!

By FRANK COLBY
Red Syndicate—WNU Feature.

QUESTION BOX

Question: The word "instantly"—what has become of it? It's good.

Answer: Not only good, but it is excellent Latin. It means "immediately, at once." Instantly is obsolete, however. The customary modern word is "instantly."

Question: We have a confection of two syllables of tubercles like the tuber?—F. B. W.

Answer: No. Accent the second and fourth syllables. Due to the tuber. —C. L. O.

Question: In a church announcement this phrase occurs: "Mrs. B. will conduct devotional services."—D. E. W.

Answer: It's a common misuse. The word devotional is an adjective, not a noun. Correct: "I will conduct devotional services."

Question: Village: We have a confection of two syllables of tubercles like the tuber?—F. B. W.

Answer: No. Accent the second and fourth syllables. Due to the tuber. —C. L. O.

"GAY GADGETS"

Associated Newspapers—WNU Feature.

By NANCY PEPPER

CENSORED MALES

You can't go around mentioning the men in your life by name. After all, who may be sitting in back of you at the movies or walking behind you in the hall between classes?

But why let caution damp your conversational style with your best friend, when you can create instant codes between you to identify the objects of your affection?

Put the Public—It's easy to name you and your chum agree behind names that stand for the different boys in your date book. He can be sitting right next to you at the soda fountain and never know you're talking about him, when you identify him simply as "Number Three" or "Mary." It's sure to mystify everyone, including yourselves, if you forget the combination.

Wonderly Idea—A pretty and isn't the only thing that's "dumb as a blindfold"—a smooth Joe is too long as your best friend knows which song reminds you of your boy, you only have to hum a tune to let him know who's on your mind at that particular time. Better than something else if she's lone desire.

Word-Parents have a way of objecting to these lengthy telephone conversations on your favorite subject (and who can blame them?). So, to let your pal on the other end of the wire know you're no longer alone, you have a warning word, such as "Geranium." Translated, it means, "The lady's around; let's change the subject."

Anyone listening from them on would think that your life depended on working out that geometry problem. Well, buy us a cake—your pal is truly hungry!

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Jenny Lind's Concert Tour Created Greatest Furor

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Its extent is indicated by a collection of Lindiana owned by the New York Historical society which contains, among its thousands of items, scores of the countless articles on which her name and portrait were used as a trademark or decoration, such as bonnets, beds, whistles, wallpapers and even men's fancy vest buttons.

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SNAP! CRACKLE! AND POP! SAY

