

E. L. Ward Finds Right Kind Grass To Improve Farm

Says New Method Is Far Ahead of Old Practices He Used

E. L. Ward of Edenton believes he's found the right grass and clover mixture to fit wet land on his Greenhall farm. It's Kentucky 31 Fescue and Ladino clover.

"They are so far ahead of my old native grass pasture that there is no comparison," Mr. Ward declared.

The Edenton farmer planted six acres of the big fescue and clover last September. He fertilized the land with 850 pounds of 2-12-12 and spread one ton of dolomitic limestone an acre.

"I only wish I had 100 acres of that kind of grazing," Mr. Ward said. And he backed up the wish by making arrangements to put in 40 more acres of ladino clover and Kentucky fescue.

Pasture building is only part of the complete farm soil and water conservation program Mr. Ward is carrying out.

Back in 1946, Mr. Ward got R. C. Jordan, soil conservationist, to help him work out the plan in cooperation with the Albemarle Soil Conservation District.

One of the Soil Conservation Service technicians made a conservation survey of the Greenhall farm. Most of the farm, it was learned from the survey is made up of what is called Class II-A and Class III-A lands. These are good lands that need drainage and the right kind of management, including soil improving crops. More than 180 of his cultivated acres and 50 acres of his pasture are nearly flat.

As another part of Mr. Ward's farm conservation plan, Mr. Jordan worked out details for improving farm drainage. Mr. Jordan recommended V-type ditches which Mr. Ward constructed with an old road grading machine. He liked the V-type ditches so well that he purchased a new Husky No. 33 grading machine to maintain his ditches. Today Mr. Ward is very enthusiastic about V-type ditches.

"Not only are they adequate," he said, "but they are most adaptable for use in fields where hog grazing is practiced. Also they are cheaper and easier to maintain and you do not have the trouble with brush as you do in the old straight-sided ditches."

To help get the surface water to the ditches he breaks his land to the center of the fields, with a disc tiller. This practice builds the soil higher in the center. You can see the elevation by looking across his fields.

He is keeping in cultivation most of his Class II-A land, which is the best on his farm.

The Class III-A land is better suited for grazing crops, and that's the way Mr. Ward is using it. He has 50 acres of temporary grazing crops for his hogs. "Small grain and lespedeza are excellent for this use," he said.

By the next spring he will have 46 acres of Kentucky 31 fescue and Ladino clover which Mr. Ward—and his 60 beef cattle—like so well.

This improved pasture is being put

on the Class III-A land which has been used for native permanent pasture and annual lespedeza.

"The native pastures with the lespedeza gave fair grazing through spring and summer, but my cattle had to eat spring, summer, fall and winter," Mr. Ward explained. "That's one reason I'm turning to fescue and clover for fall, winter, and spring grazing. And, of course, they grow well on my wet land."

Holton Speaker At Meeting Of Rotary

Tells Rotarians Something About Ports Authority

Rotarians at their meeting last week were told something about the operation of the State Ports Authority, the speaker for the occasion being David Holton, who was recently appointed a member of the Authority by Governor Kerr Scott.

Mr. Holton briefly referred to the purposes of the Authority, primarily to develop deep sea port, as well as feeder ports in an effort to keep shipping money in the State which is now going to other states where facilities are more conducive to do business.

Mr. Holton stated that education is of primary importance in the development of ports, pointing out that it is the purpose to try to get business concerns to locate near port terminals so that shipping will be done at a

nearer point, thus helping the state as well as the concern, both by convenience and financially.

In closing his remarks Holton stated that it is his belief that all towns on waterways should organize local Ports Authorities in order to be prepared to make any developments in the state program.

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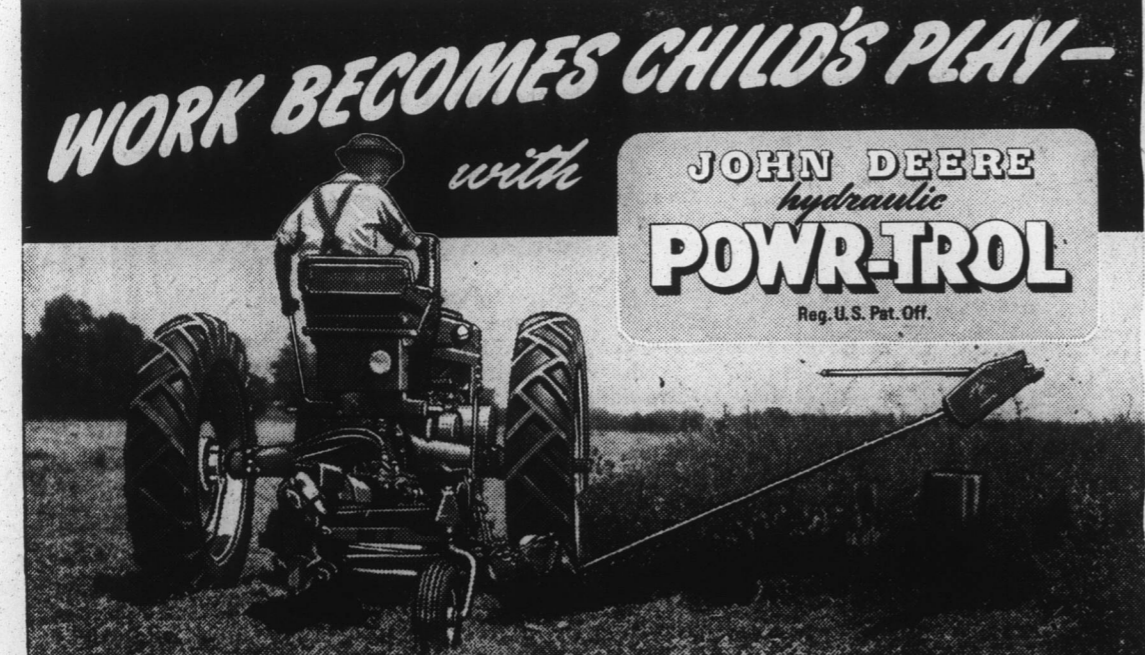
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