

Good Pastures Can Benefit Most Tar Heel Dairymen

Many questions are being asked by North Carolina dairymen about the place of pastures and forages in their feed program. In answering these questions, dairy extension specialists at State college say the following points should be considered in developing a forage system:

Historically, forages have been considered the cheapest source of nutrients for dairy cattle; and, feed constitutes a high percentage of the total cost of producing milk. Today dairying has become a competitive business requiring enormous investments. There are many other major items of expense, such as labor, interest on investment and utilities which go on regardless of the level of production. This means that a constant, continuous supply of high quality nutrients has become a must.

Over 85 percent of the dairying in North Carolina is in the Piedmont and Mountain parts of the state. Most of the land has some physical limitations. It is gently rolling to steep, most of the soils are clay with over half of the topsoil gone, the fields are generally small and irregular in shape, and the summer rainfall is heavy, coming in thundershowers, causing erosion on cultivated fields. These factors limit the choice of crops and the cropping system.

Because of the great differences in climatic conditions, size of farm

and herd, possible alternative uses of the land, soil type and slope, and for numerous other reasons there is no one right and only forage program for all dairymen of the state. Rather, it must be tailored to the individual farm. Each dairyman must weigh these factors and make the choice for his farm.

In planning a feeding program, the specialists say, it is not a question of silage versus pasture, or grass silage versus corn silage or hay versus silage. These crops should not be considered to be in competition with each other. Instead, they supplement one another.

"Seldom do we build a feeding program around one crop or one single system," the specialists emphasize. "Rather, we must fit the parts together into a complete and satisfactory program. We must use our advantages of a relatively long growing season and overcome our disadvantages if we are to compete with other areas of the nation."

Because of the fact that much land in North Carolina, especially in the Piedmont and Mountains, is best adapted for pasture use, pastures and other perennial sod crops will continue to play a vital part in our dairy forage program. Just any old pasture will not do, however. If pastures are to compete they must be treated as a crop! They must be kept productive and high quality must be maintained. They must be limed, fertilized, seeded, topdressed, managed, rotated and renovated.

Above 100 cows, maximum use

of grazing for the milking herd may be almost impossible due to the distance involved. However, use of high quality grazing can be expected to increase milk production. On these farms pastures will continue to furnish a high percentage of the forage requirements for heifers and dry cows.

Mirror Mirth

Love is the feeling that makes a woman make a man make a fool of himself.

A girl admires the tone of a bachelor's voice when there's a ring in it.

Blessed are the pure, for they shall inherit the earth.

The pessimist thinks he is taking a chance, but the optimist thinks he is grasping an opportunity.

Masonic Starting Sunday



Sue Lyon and James Mason in a scene from "Lolita." Miss Lyon, sensational new teenage discovery, plays the title role, with Mason cast as Humbert Humbert. Also starred are Shelley Winters, as Charlotte, and Peter Sellers, as Quilty. Produced by James B. Harris and directed by Stanley Kubrick, "Lolita" is presented by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in association with Seven Arts Productions.

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\$60,000 in Premiums To Be Awarded at N. C. State Fair

Total premium money amounting to \$60,000 is offered competing exhibitors in the new 1962 Premium List just being issued by the North Carolina State Fair.

L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture and acting manager of the Fair, states that this offering is nearly five thousand dollars higher than in any previous year of the 110-year history of the oldest and biggest annual fair of the Southeastern states.

\$2650 of the additional premium money will be awarded in the new Market Steer show in which some 150 head of choice or better slaughter steers will be competing.

The Steer show will be an event of Monday, October 15, opening day of the six-day fair. Scheduled for 12:30 p.m. in the J. K. Dorton arena, the show will be followed at 6:30 p.m. with a sale of the market steers. This will be the first livestock sale in connection with the fair in history of the annual exposition.

Final dates for filing entries must be observed by exhibitors. They are set as follows:

Saturday, September 1: market steer show and sale.

Monday, October 1: all other livestock shows, including dairy and beef cattle, swine, sheep and ponies.

Saturday, October 6: poultry, pigeons and rabbits.

Wednesday, October 10: arts,

photography, crafts, hobbies and dressed turkeys.

Friday, October 12: field crops, horticulture (except cut flowers); bees and honey, culinary, clothing and house furnishings.

Saturday, October 13: cured hams.

Sunday, October 14: senior, 4-H and FFA-FHA egg shows.

Monday, October 15: 11 a.m. cut flowers.

Persons desiring to obtain a copy of the premium list and entry blanks should write to: Premium List, P. O. Box 5565, Raleigh, N. C.

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