

Research Produces New Kind Of Grass And Legume Silage

Mooseheart, Ill. — A new method of treating grass and legume silage is being offered to help solve many soil and food problems.

More livestock fed at less cost, increased butterfat production for dairy cattle, and heavier weight gains for beef cattle are claimed for the method after lengthy tests in actual herd use.

Fred Fech, chief chemist for Arcady Farms Milling Co., a producer of livestock feeds, led the company's laboratory research to produce the new type of silage. "Farm experts have worried for decades about soil erosion and depletion," Fech said. "Now farmers are faced with severe crop surpluses. And many agree there is not enough meat being produced for the growing United States population. These are major farm problems today.

Could Save Soil
"On the other hand, many farm people realize more production of grass and legumes, such as alfalfa, clover and cowpeas, would save soil. It also could cut down surplus crop acreages and permit increased production of livestock. "But the question has been

what to do with the grass and legumes after they are produced." During warm months, the chemist said, livestock can forage on the fields and pastures, but not during the winter in northern states.

Making dry hay from these crops, he added, has resulted in losses in Vitamin A reaching as high as 60 to 70 percent, a poor investment for dairy herds where the vitamin content of butter and milk is of prime importance.

Molasses Best Preservative
"It has been proved molasses is perhaps the best preservative for grass and legume silage," Fech said, "but in its liquid form it is inconvenient to use and has required supplemental proteins in the total cattle diet.

"That is why we wanted to find some way of making a mix which could be used dry with grass and legumes, and would carry both vitamins and proteins in the silage to the livestock."

The new dry mix contains 45 per cent pure cane molasses and 9 per cent balanced protein. It is added as the silage is made. Vitamin A loss in this method amounts to about 10 to 30 per cent, Fech estimated.

Testing of the silage took place at the 950-acre farm of Mooseheart, Ill., the children's home owned and operated by the Loyal Order of Moose.

Milk Output Increased
Merle Howard, the farm's dairy superintendent, said its herd of 150 dairy cattle increased its milk production an average of one-half to one pound of milk a day using the new silage.

The herd of 75 beef cattle averaged weight gains of 2.15 pounds a day on grass silage. On corn silage the gain averaged 2.18 pounds daily. The grass silage cost 19 per cent less than the corn kind, Howard declared.

The grass silage with mix resulted in about two and a half times as much digestible protein feed an acre as corn silage, he added. An acre of ensiled corn produced 192 pounds of digestible protein, while an acre of alfalfa silage in three crops gave 477 pounds. Savings amounted to about a bag of grain a head of cattle each year, it was noted.

Would Cut Grain Use
"With some 26,000,000 dairy cattle in the country," Howard said, "the national savings would cut grain consumption so the excess corn land could go into grass. This would conserve soil and at the same time increase beef and dairy production."

He cited estimates that meat and dairy products could be increased by more than 9 per cent if excess acres now producing corn, wheat and cotton could be turned into pasture and into grass and legume silage. This also would reduce government support of farm surpluses in corn, wheat and cotton, Howard added.



LIKES GERMANY . . . Joan Goetz, deported from Germany by U.S. officials for illegal visit to Soviet zone, says she will renounce her American citizenship, if necessary, to return to Germany. She is cousin of Gen. Hodges who ordered her sent from Germany.

Dorton To Head State Fair Again This Year

Raleigh.—The Board of Agriculture last week reemployed Dr. J. S. Dorton as manager of the State Fair for another year. Dorton has directed the spectacle since 1937.

Last year's fair, the board was told, earned a record-breaking profit of \$63,161.18 and had an attendance of 400,000.

A report prepared by the state auditor's office and submitted by Dorton showed operating revenues last year of \$233,523.22, including \$80,729.59 for general admissions and \$42,211.86 for the grandstand box office.

Expenses were listed at \$170,362.04, of which the largest items were premiums, \$28,550; Federal admission taxes, \$25,987.15; and maintenance and improvement of grounds, \$25,635.77.

The 1949 profit figure compared with \$38,778.13 in 1948 and \$22,421.13 in 1947.

FEDERAL JOBS

Federal employment has dropped to the lowest point since early in World War II, according to the Civil Service Commission. The 1,948,900 persons working for the Government's executive branch here and abroad at the beginning of February was 30,000 below the January 1, 1950 figure and the lowest since March, 1942.

BUILDING CONTRACTS

Engineering construction contracts awarded for the first nine weeks of 1950 totaled \$1,735,144,000, or 39 per cent ahead of the like period of 1949.

SURPRISED HER

Sydney, Australia — A local woman, aged 42, recently gave birth to her eleventh baby without being aware, until two minutes before that, that she was pregnant.

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Dried Foods Are Offered Free by U.S.

Government-held stocks of two more commodities—dried eggs and non-fat dry milk solids—are now available free to North Carolina school lunchrooms, welfare agencies and eleemosynary institutions that will pay transportation charges from the point of storage, it has been announced.

In announcing the offer, G. T. Scott, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration committee, said the dried eggs and dry milk, now held by the Commodity Credit Corporation, were bought by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as a price supporting measure. Present available stocks include about 73 million pounds of dried eggs and 169 million pounds of non-fat dry milk. Considerable quantities of the dry milk, he said, are stored in nearby states.

Local welfare agencies, Scott said, should direct requests for these commodities to their own state welfare agency. Actual distribution will be handled by Jay P. Davis of the State Department of Agriculture.

STRIKES

Strikes, involving 280,000 workers, cost the country 2,600,000 man-days of production in January, a sharp increase over December, according to the Department of Labor. The Chrysler strike and sporadic stoppages in the soft-coal fields accounted for two-thirds of the workers involved in the 225 shutdowns.

IN A CIRCLE
Buffalo, N. Y.—Workers built a fire under a gondola, full of coal, to thaw the frozen shipment of coal so they could unload it. The fire ignited the coal and the workers threw water on the burning coal to put out the fire. The water re-froze the coal.

"Easy Does It"

When baking pies and cakes at the same time, scatter them so the oven heat will circulate freely, thus speeding baking time and reducing the amount of heat necessary.

When cooking on top of the stove, use pans made with straight sides as they utilize heat more efficiently than those with rounded or bulging sides.

Dull-finish baking pans and caseroles are more efficient to use in the oven than the shiny ones. Polished surfaces, as found on shiny pans, reflect heat, thus wasting it.

When you are baking, avoid peeking into the oven "to see how things are coming along." Everytime you open the door, you'll let heat escape.

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RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Frozen Fruit Salad (Serves 4-6)

2 cups orange sections
1-2 cup white corn syrup
1 tablespoon flour
1-3 cup lemon juice
2 egg yolks beaten
1-2 cup heavy cream, whipped

Place syrup in double boiler, add flour gradually, stirring to blend. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Gradually add lemon juice and beaten egg yolks and cook five minutes longer, stirring constantly. Remove from range, cool and add orange sections. Fold in whipped cream and place in freezing tray of refrigerator. Freeze until firm. Slice or cut into squares and serve on salad greens.

Clean ovens are efficient ones.

When food spills, cover with soap, let dry and then scrape off. Wash with soap and water and steel wool, if necessary.

Broiled foods give variety to the menu and provide nourishing food values. Plan to broil potatoes, fruit and meat at the same time for the sake of economy.

Cast iron burners are best cleaned with soap, water and an abrasive. Be certain they are thoroughly rinsed and dried so they will not rust.

Ranges with porcelain enameled surfaces should be allowed to cool before cleaning so they will not crack or craze.

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