

**Family Questions On Farm Answered**

Question: My chickens are six months old. Should they be vaccinated for chicken pox?

Answer: At this age, leghorn pullets are about to come into production and vaccinating with chicken pox virus will set them back. It is best, therefore, to use pigeon pox virus when birds are to be vaccinated at this age. This virus does not produce as lasting immunity as the regular chicken pox virus but neither does it have so severe a reaction on the birds.

Best results will be secured when the vaccinating is done at the age of 10 to 12 weeks.

Question: How much silage should be stored to carry a dairy cow through the winter?

Answer: This, of course, depends upon how long you want to feed the animal but the usual way is to figure three pounds of silage a day for each 100 pounds of live weight. A dairy cow weighing one thousand pounds will consume about thirty pounds of silage a day in addition to the hay and grain feed. This is a most economical feed and should be used liberally during the winter months.

Question: When should the crops grown for winter hay be planted?

Answer: The best time for planting barley, rye, vetch, Austrian winter peas, and crimson clover, when planted as hay crops, is between September 15 and October 15. This will allow for harvesting the next spring so as not to interfere with the principal summer crops. Oats should be sown between October 1 and November 1 with wheat being put in just fifteen days later. Extension Circular No. 187, the seeding rates of the various crops together with date of maturity and copies of this circular will be sent free upon request to the Agricultural Editor at State College, Raleigh.

Question: If I cut my lespedeza by September first, will it make sufficient growth to produce seed?

Answer: Yes, the common Kobe and Tennessee 76 varieties will. August 15 is about the last date for cutting Korean for hay if you expect the crop to reseed itself. Leave a stubble about three to four inches high.

Question: I have some pullets hatched out in April that are beginning to lay. Should I change these from the developing mash to a laying mash, or should this be done later?

Answer: These pullets were hatched rather late and it would be best to continue them on the developing mash until at least 25 percent production is reached. The higher protein content of the laying mash would force the birds and, at this time, a large percentage of your pullets have not attained full body weight. Forcing such early matured birds without full body weight would probably lead to a severe neck moult in the late autumn and this condition should be avoided if possible.

Question: I am thinking of buying some purebred beef cattle this fall and starting a beef herd on my farm. I have a good pasture. Who can advise me about this?

Answer: Take up your problem with your county farm agent and if he is busy with the cotton and tobacco program write directly to L. I. Case, livestock specialist at State College, Raleigh. Mr. Case is an experienced beef cattle and sheep man and will be glad to advise with you.

**Plant Austrian Peas Advises Agronomist**

Austrian winter peas make an excellent fall legume for improving almost any North Carolina soil, says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College.

The peas are equal to crimson clover or vetch in soil building qualities and the seed is comparatively cheaper to sow although more seed is required, the planting rate being 30 pounds to the acre.

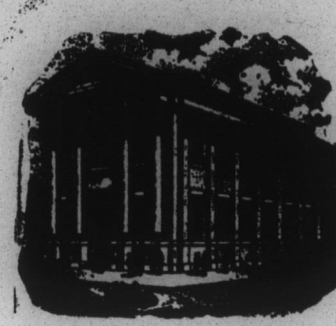
The best time for sowing is in September, preferably before the 15th, Blair said. The Austrian winter pea seed may be obtained from almost any seed dealer.

The seed may be broadcast in standing corn, cotton, or tobacco and covered with an ordinary walking cultivator. To avoid loss of cotton, the sowing should be just before the bolls open or right after the first picking.

Another way of seeding is to prepare the seed bed by shallow plowing or disking, then sow the seed and cover with a section harrow, Blair recommended.

The peas should not be sown with rye, as the two crops will not be ready to turn under at the same time. But they may be mixed with vetch or crimson clover to get good results.

Sown by themselves, the peas may be turned under earlier in the spring than either vetch or crimson clover. Blair said that although this legume is new to this section of the country, it has proved to be an excellent legume and will probably increase in popularity as more farmers learn of its merits.



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