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Timely Farm Suggestions

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The Farmer's Part in the Great War

IF WE are in a war which will tax to the limit all the energies of this country, then every line of business should be put on a war basis as quickly as possible. That does not mean that we should entirely neglect other essential lines of business for either food production or the making of munitions; but it does mean that the conduct of every business and every individual should be put on a war basis, or should be conducted for the next year or two, at least, with a view to making the Nation the most forceful and efficient in the great war in which we are engaged. Unfortunately too many have not yet awakened to the magnitude of our task or the seriousness of our situation.

This is a powerful nation in war only when her resources in men, food production and manufacture are effectively mobilized and efficiently exerted to this one single national purpose. The Nation needs the best service of every citizen—man, woman and child. Men and munitions are important parts of our war equipment which will be directed and controlled by governmental force and authority. Food supplies and the spirit of the Nation, which alone can make us invincible, must largely be left to the men and women on our farms. When they are sufficiently impressed with the seriousness of our food shortage and the dire need of the Nation for the best efforts of every individual, they will respond; but the pity of it is that so many are so slow to become aroused to their full duty. Every effort which each individual fails to exert and every day we delay the full performance of every possible effort, just so much longer is the war prolonged, and the misery and loss of life are increased.

The duty of those who remain on the farm is plainly the production of the largest possible food supply—the best and most needed sinew of war, now and for the future.

Corn and Velvet Beans

A READER has five acres of corn planted in three-foot eight-inch rows and three feet apart in the rows. When the corn was waist-high he planted two velvet beans between the hills, making two velvet beans three feet apart in three-foot eight-inch rows. He says he intended planting more velvet beans, but is told by a neighbor that the beans "will ruin the corn and if his cows eat any of the beans early in the morning in the fall they will kill the cows."

This absurd statement is given merely as an example of the sort of nonsense which is being circulated by some of those who give agricultural advice. It is popular these days to give out information on all sorts of agricultural subjects, and the number who are indulging in the practice is large. This is a good sign, in that it shows an increasing interest in matters agricultural, but some of the advice given out is fearfully and wonderfully conceived. Everybody should know something about agriculture, for everybody is interested in agricultural production, but it is unfortunate that so many are willing to give advice which is not reliable.

As this reader is in the northern

third of the Cotton Belt and his corn was waist-high when the velvet beans were planted, and as the beans are probably of a small growing, early maturing variety, it is not likely that they will do his corn any serious harm. Under other conditions they might run over the corn and break some down, for the planting is pretty thick; but with the corn getting the start indicated and early maturing velvet beans being used, there will probably be no material injury to the corn.

Of course the statement that the beans will kill the cows is purely a "fairy tale." On the other hand, after frost, when the other pastures are dry and short and the corn has been gathered, this corn field with the velvet beans will make an excellent pasture for cows and hogs.

If the velvet beans make a large growth they may add slightly to the cost of gathering the corn.

It would be a grand thing for the

analysis of a ration made up of 11 pounds of corn and 2 pounds of cottonseed meal as compared with 15 pounds of oats. These amounts of grain would be required for a 1,000-pound horse doing full work.

	15 lbs. Oats	11 lbs. Corn 2 lbs. Cottonseed Meal
Ash	325 lbs.	168
Protein	1,860 lbs.	1,711
Fiber	2,638 lbs.	296-1,967 lbs.
Nitrogen-free extract	8,840 lbs.	7,799
Fat	660 lbs.	556-8,347 lbs.
		166-718 lbs.

It will be noticed that the 15 pounds of oats contain a little more ash and nitrogen-free extract and considerably more fiber than the 11 pounds of corn and 2 pounds of cottonseed meal; but less protein and fat.

Now let us compare the digestible nutrients, which are the true index of the value of a ration:

	DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS		
	Protein	Carbohydrates	Fats
15 lbs. oats	1,455 lbs.	7,815 lbs.	570 lbs.
11 lbs. corn	825 lbs.	7,458 lbs.	506 lbs.
2 lbs. Cot's'd meal	968 lbs.	886 lbs.	158 lbs.
Total	1,493 lbs.	7,944 lbs.	684 lbs.

In comparing these two tables it

But if we use the more common prices of these feeds in the South, about 50 cents a bushel for oats and 75 cents a bushel for corn, the cost shows much more to the advantage of the corn and cottonseed meal ration, as follows:

15 lbs. oats at 50c a bushel.....	23.44 cents
11 lbs. corn at 75c a bushel.....	14.75
2 lbs. cottonseed meal at \$40 a ton.....	4.00
	18.75 cents
	4.71 cents

PASTURE PROBLEMS

A Discussion of the Essential Factors in Getting and Keeping Good Pastures

A READER says: "You advise an Alabama farmer to plant lespedeza on his white clover pasture. The clover will smother the lespedeza."

That largely depends on where they are growing. In Louisiana, some parts of it, at least, the white clover may smother the lespedeza, but it will not do so on most lands of the South. In fact, when the lespedeza does its best growing the white clover is growing very little and instead of the white clover smothering the lespedeza, they usually on most lands in the South, do well together. When the lespedeza does its best it may smother the white clover, while on the lime soils where white clover does its best it may run out or crowd out, rather than smother the lespedeza. Where either does, so well as to smother the other, the other may not be seriously needed to make a good pasture.

* * *

Two readers have expressed the opinion that pasturing a lespedeza meadow during the early part of the summer will keep down the weeds and do away with the necessity of mowing in order to secure a good quality of lespedeza hay free from weeds and other plants.

Since weeds grow abundantly in Southern pastures, we cannot help doubting the value of grazing as a means of suppressing weeds. There is so little grass or other pasturage in many Southern pastures that one would think the stock would eat the weeds if they could by any means be induced to do so. Since the cattle do not eat the weeds in the pastures where there is little else to eat, we do not believe they will do so in lespedeza meadows.

It is quite possible that goats, or even sheep, might prove valuable in suppressing the native grasses and weeds in lespedeza meadows early in the season before the lespedeza begins to grow; but we don't believe cattle or horses will do so.

The only means which we know for keeping down the weeds and other objectionable plants in a lespedeza meadow, which is effective and practicable, is to mow twice—once, close to the ground, before the lespedeza has grown sufficiently to be cut, and once later, with the cutterbar of the mower high enough to cut little of the lespedeza.

It is a fact, however, that considerable grazing can be obtained on the lespedeza meadows early in the season, and if the stock is taken off by June 1, or even later, a good crop of lespedeza may still be obtained. Or considerable fall grazing may be obtained after cutting the hay a little early.

* * *

The best grazing plant for the South for March, April and May of which we have any knowledge is crimson clover. Last year's winter-killing and the high price of seed will reduce the acreage this fall, but it should not.

TEN THINGS THAT WILL INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF YOUR SCHOOL

FIRST. Pay the teacher for the time used in visiting patrons for a week before school opens, getting acquainted and getting the pupils ready for work.

2. Require retiring teachers to leave a list of promotions to aid the next teacher in the work of grading.

3. Have the teacher grade pupils by the register prior to the opening of the school.

4. Have individual desks.

5. Have strenuous play at recess in order that surplus energy may be worked off.

6. Make the recess periods frequent in order to avoid restlessness.

7. Arrange to have some written work for idle classes.

8. Develop a spirit of friendly rivalry among pupils by giving prizes.

9. Have pupils prepare lessons at home and give more time to recitations and exercises.

10. Relieve the teacher of the necessity of working out the commencement program by having your county superintendent prepare one suitable for the whole county.

South if every corn field could have been planted in velvet beans, both because of the increase in feed for the livestock this fall and winter and for the increase in the crops grown on the land next year.

Oats Versus Corn and Cottonseed Meal

A READER asks us to "make a ration for a horse, from corn and cottonseed meal, that will be equivalent in nutrients to oats."

A ration can be made up of corn and cottonseed meal fully equal to oats in the digestible nutrients: protein, carbohydrates and fat. It will not contain as much fiber as the oat ration, but since a large amount of fiber is not a desirable quality for a horse ration, that will be to the advantage of the corn and cottonseed meal. Moreover the hay will supply all the fiber needed. The corn and cottonseed meal ration will also lack in ash or mineral matter. If it is thought necessary to supply the amount of ash in the oat ration, this can be done admirably by the use of a very small amount of calcium phosphate (ground phosphate rock or acid phosphate), for experiments at the Wisconsin Experiment Station show that animals can obtain their phosphorus and calcium as well from these mineral substances as from the ash of feeding stuffs.

It will be interesting to show the

must be remembered that the digestible nutrient, carbohydrates, includes the digestible portions of both the fiber and nitrogen-free extract of the table showing the analysis. It will be observed that the 11 pounds of corn and 2 pounds of cottonseed meal contain more of all the digestible nutrients than 15 pounds of oats.

A ration made of 12 pounds of corn and cob meal and 2 pounds of cottonseed meal is also very similar to 15 pounds of oats, containing only a very little less digestible protein and a little more digestible carbohydrates and fats. The only points still remaining are, will the animals do as well on the corn and cottonseed meal as on the oats, and the cost?

The first question has been answered many times over by the horses and mules. The prejudice of man, or the feeder, is still against the feeding of the corn and the cottonseed meal, but the horses and mules have said repeatedly that they can do fully as well on it. Moreover, trials or experience have about exploded the old idea that there is some "stimulant" in oats that gives the horse more "life" or spirit. There is nothing in this idea.

As to cost, let us assume a price of \$1.75 a bushel for corn and 85 cents a bushel for oats, with cottonseed meal at \$40 a ton.

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