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## PROVIDE AMPLE FEED FOR THE LIVESTOCK



LAMBS ON A FINE FIELD OF RAPE

**T**HE average Southern livestock man is a notoriously poor feeder, chiefly because he does not grow the feed and cannot afford to buy it.

April is the month that will largely decide whether or not our livestock are to be provided an ample feed supply. The amount of cotton planted will have much influence on the acreage and interest devoted to feed crops. If an excessive acreage of cotton is put in, it will dominate the attention of the farmer and when he has attended to its needs there will be neither time nor inclination left to plant sufficient feed crops to properly take care of the farm livestock.

In planning for plenty of feeds, a permanent pasture should be given first consideration. The economical handling of beef cattle, dairy cattle and sheep is largely a question of having good permanent pastures over a considerable portion of the year. Even with hogs a permanent pasture is nigh indispensable, for although in the lower South it is possible to have a rotation of temporary grazing crops of rape, oats, rye, velvet beans, soy beans, peanuts, etc., that will carry the animals through most of the year, there will, on the average farm, be intervals between these crops when permanent pastures may be utilized to advantage. Over most of the South Bermuda and lespedeza should be made the pasture foundation, but these plants should be supplemented with white and bur clovers in most cases, although in some instances other grasses and legumes particularly adapted to local conditions may be preferable.

In addition to permanent pastures roughage should be provided for winter feeding and to supplement pasture shortages during the grazing season. Cowpeas, soy beans and velvet beans are the summer legumes that we must depend upon to supply our needs for rough feed.

Silage is another feed that should not be overlooked. The average Southern dairy cow should generally be fed on silage and legume hay as her production does not entitle her to a concentrate ration. Only the good cows should be fed grain, and then only such an amount as they will pay a profit on. Beef cattle feeding in the South has been found most profitable when silage is the chief roughage and cottonseed meal the only concentrate used. For silage the best grain-producing variety of corn should be used on fertile lands, while the large growing sorghums such as Japanese Seeded Ribbon cane or Honey sorghum and Texas Seeded Ribbon cane or Goose-neck sorghum will be found most profitable on lands deficient in either plant food or moisture.

Corn will be needed particularly for the work animals and for finishing the hogs for market. However, the South already plants enough corn to supply her needs if she made a yield equal to that of the United States as a whole. Since our average corn yield is unprofitably low, it will often pay us well to grow velvet beans, soy beans or cowpeas with the corn. This is certainly true where it is necessary to put the corn on poor land.