

Good Pastures Necessary For Profitable Operation Of Dairy, Says J. A. Arey

There is such a close relation between low-cost milk production and good pasture that no dairyman can afford to neglect his pastures, says J. A. Arey, in charge of dairy extension at State College.

The prevailing shortage and high production cost of milk in North Carolina and other southern states in the past has been due largely to a shortage of roughage of which good pasture is a very important part.

Good pasture not only provides one of the cheapest sources of feed nutrients for dairy cows, but it is also a good source of minerals and vitamins which are in a form readily assimilated by the cow's body.

Studies made by the Bureau of Dairy Industry at the Montana Experiment Station showed that when all costs were included, good pasture produced feed nutrients at a lower cost than alfalfa hay, corn silage or grain crops such as oats and barley. In this study the cost of producing 100 pounds of digestible nutrients from the different crops was found to be as follows: good pasture yields in parenthesis.

Pasture, 250 grazing days, 29 cents; alfalfa hay, 47 tons, 49 cents; corn silage, 33.7 tons, 91 cents; oats and other grain, 660 bushels, \$1.19; barley and other grain, 40 bushels, \$1.40.

While this study was made in Montana, each of the crops used is well adapted to this area and about the same yields per acre can be obtained.

At the Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Willard, during 1947 L. d. clover pasture provided 206 days of grazing which contained 3-236 pounds of TDN (total digestible nutrients) per acre at a cost of 58 cents per 100 pounds. The cost of TDN in corn silage at the same station and year with a yield of 14.4 tons per acre containing 3,333 pounds of TDN was \$1.79 per 100 pounds.

In a bluegrass pasture fertilization test made by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station at Blacksburg in which lime, phosphorus and potash were used, feed nutrients or TDN were produced at \$1.7 cents per 100 pounds or at the same cost as would be obtained in

alfalfa hay at \$5.17 per ton, corn silage at \$1.80 per ton and a mixed dairy grain ration at \$7.83 per ton.

The Maine Experiment Station reports a yield of 5,000 pounds of 4 per cent milk per acre from L. d. clover pasture on good soil. Results secured in New Jersey showed that dairymen who had a good pasture and roughage program secured 72 per cent of their feed requirements from pasture and roughage and produced 100 pounds of milk at 40 cents less than other dairy roughage.

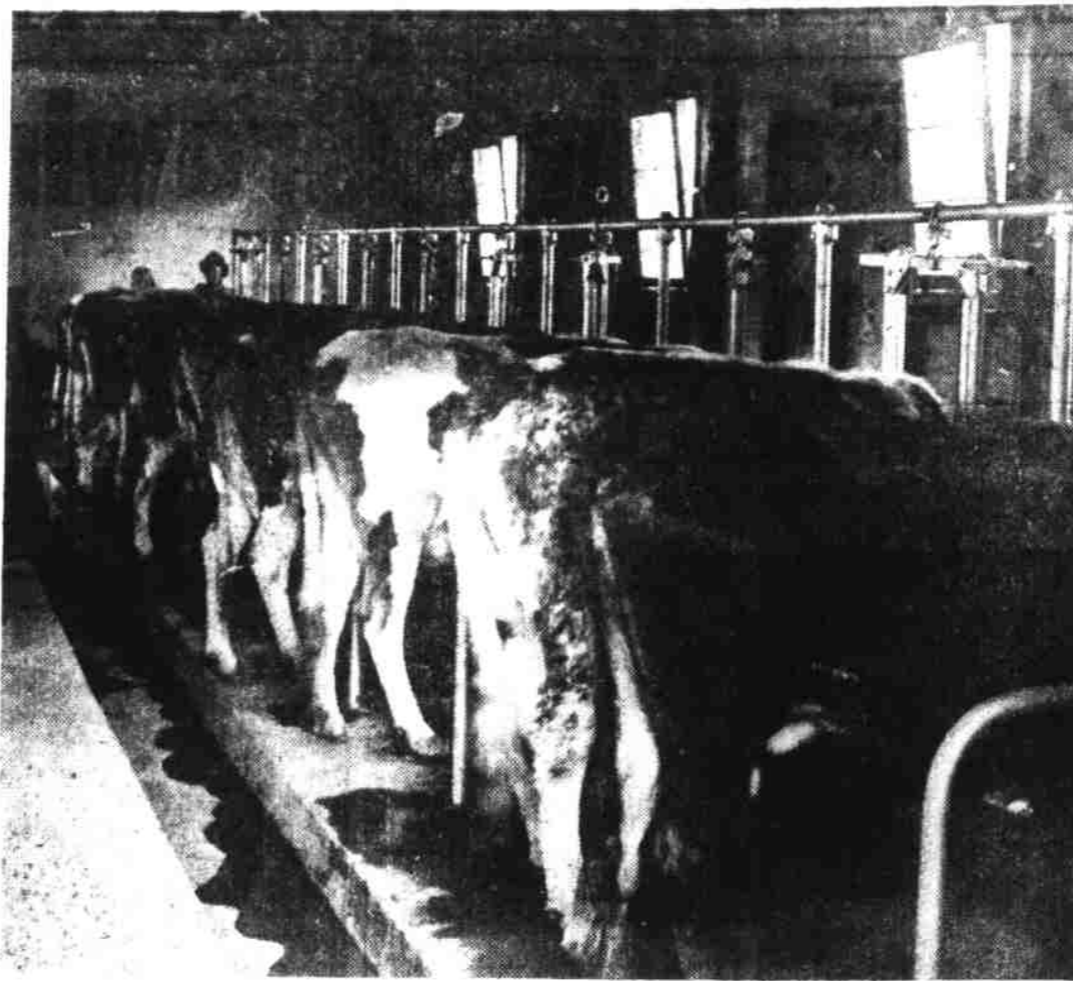
The results secured from these experiments show pasture to be a good low-cost milk producing feed. Its value would warrant the seeding of pasture on good fertile soil and giving it proper management so that good grazing may be obtained for the longest possible period during the year. Arey believes.

According to studies made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, pasture now supplies about one-third of the total nutrients consumed by dairy cows, but at a cost of only one-seventh of their total annual feed bill. This contribution of pasture to the total feed supply can and should be materially increased in the southern states where a long grazing period is possible. An increased acreage of improved pasture in this area supplemented with good pasture management should make it possible in many sections of the South for pasture to supply 50 per cent or more of the total feed nutrients needed for dairy cows.

While it is possible in North Carolina to secure a much greater portion of the dairy cows' annual feed supply from pasture crops than is done at present, the acreage of improved pasture in the State must be materially increased before that very desirable and profitable change can take place.

While much progress has been made in North Carolina during recent years in developing good pastures, such as that provided by L. d. clover and orchard grass, many of the pastures still in use are unproductive, requiring around three acres to provide sufficient

A Typical Dairy Barn In Haywood County



This is a typical modern Haywood County dairy barn. This barn accommodates about 30 cows.

Egg Production Down

The rate of egg production during February was 131 eggs per layer, compared with 124 in February and the average of 109 eggs the rate was a new high in all areas except the West North Central and Western States.

Haywood has been cited many times as being the ideal county for profitable dairying, in that there is ample pure water supply, cool nights which means tender grass, and the hills that are not suitable for crops, are ideal for pastures for all size herds.

Veterinarian Says New Method Of Breeding Is Big Value In Haywood

DR. A. R. RIEGG
Veterinarian

One of the outstanding steps taken here in Haywood County in recent years for the advancement of the quality of dairy cattle has been the innovation of artificial insemination.

The most outstanding advantage derived by the dairyman, especially the dairyman with less than 20 cows, and the man with the family cow is that he is assured the service of an outstanding bull without the large expense connected with his ownership. The dairyman can hardly afford the price necessary for the purchase of the caliber bull from which his cows can be sired through this artificial insemination program. It goes without saying that the owner of the individual cow is aided immeasurably by such a program.

This service has been made available to the owners of dairy cattle in Haywood County by the recent formation of the Haywood Cooperative Breeders Association. John Carver, a graduate of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture has been appointed official inseminator for Haywood County. The fees of the organization are held at a minimum. Life membership into the organization is \$2.00 which fee shall include any number of animals the owner may possess now or in the future. The insemination fee is \$5.50 per cow which fee includes three services if conception does not occur in the first two inseminations. Mr. Carver asks that persons desiring that their cow be inseminated on one particular day call him at Waynesville, N. C. before 11 a. m. so that he can make a continuous trip throughout the afternoon from place to place.

The three dairy breeds which are now available for insemination are Guernsey, Jersey, and Holstein. In the future as interest increases, Ayrshire and Brown Swiss cattle will be added. The bulls used are all purebred and have been proven, which means that they must comply to a high standard of transmitting milk and butterfat production to their progeny. All bulls have a high index value. Since these bulls have all previously been used for breeding and a record of milk and butterfat production has

State Imports Fourth Of Milk Used, Says Report

RALEIGH—AP—North Carolina imported nearly one-fourth of its fluid milk supply from other states last year.

C. W. Pegram, director of the dairy division of the State Department of Agriculture said the milk cost approximately \$5,500,000. A report issued by Pegram based on information from creameries and distributors under the milk audit law showed that wholesale milk purchases from other states totaled 73,799,151 pounds in 1948 or 14,918,500 pounds more than 1947 imports of 63,880,651 pounds.

The percentage of out-of-state purchases to the total fluid milk supply was 25.5 per cent last year compared with 22.8 per cent the year before.

Purchases of Grade A milk from North Carolina producers also increased last year, the report showed, while the quantity of ungraded or "manufacturing" milk, used for conversion into other dairy products, declined.

Pegram interpreted this as indicating that more and more North Carolina milk producers are realizing the wisdom of improving their facilities so as to meet the State's standards for Grade A milk.

It will not take long under such a program to continuously improve the value of the dairy breeds in this county. Always keep in mind that it costs just as much to keep a scrub cow as it does a high producer.

Many owners have already stepped up for this service. It is the best way possible that they can hope to increase the values of offspring over the cows which they now already own.

A Milking Scene In Haywood



4-H Club members take an active part in the operation of dairies in Haywood. Shown here are David and Peggy Noland during milking time at their dairy in Hatcliffe Cove.

New Dairy Barns, Homes Being Built In Lower Crabtree

Lower Crabtree's Community Development Program continues forward with two new Grade A dairy barns ready for inspection and plans for others ready for the contractors.

Noland and Lowry Ferguson. Some of the other citizens have plans drawn up and ready to have the building materials for construction ready at their local stores.

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