

"Incubators" Provide Spring Grass The Year Around

"They said it couldn't be done!"
Grow crops of grass without soil?
Edible!

The Humphrey brothers—David, Donald, and James—of the Shannon community have proved it can be done, and done on a big scale to provide adequate green feed for a milking herd of 60 hungry Holsteins.

Electrically-controlled weather is the newest "wrinkle" that has helped keep the Humphrey dairy abreast with a competitive field.

In April the Humphreys put into operation a unique grass-growing installation that has helped satisfy the voracious appetites of their dairy cows for the "green stuff."

Since the first week of its operation, the grass incubator has turned out a crop of luscious green oats every six days—without using an ounce of soil.

The accomplishment comes about this way: the oats are soaked, fertilized, spread, sprouted and brought to eight inches of verdant growth in a week's time. Two well-insulated metal buildings are equipped for automatic control of light, temperature and moisture day in and day out. In each are heat pumps, unique window-type units which use electricity and air to heat or cool the building as the outside temperature changes. The interior is kept at a constant 68 to 70 degrees. Fluorescent lights mounted on the walls operate 24 hours a day, and water is fed to the seeds 30 minutes every day, automatically.

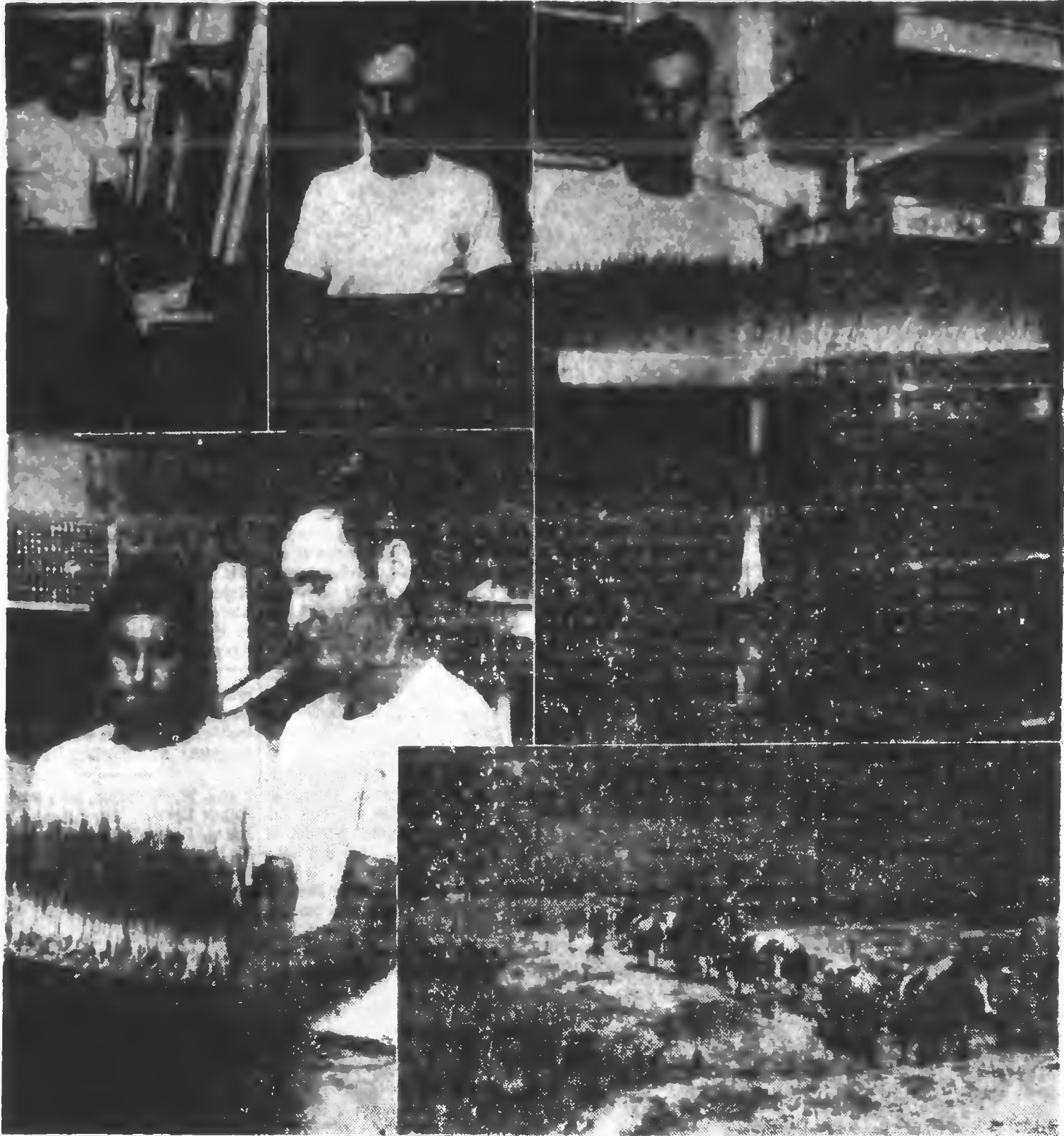
The oats are first soaked in small containers for four hours and drained for 48 hours. Mixed with them are special nutrient feeds which act as fertilizer. After the 48-hour soaking period, the grain is spread in two-inch deep, open trays.

At the end of the first two days sprouts appear. By the third and fourth days they have grown to four or five inches. By the end of the sixth day they are seven to eight inches tall.

This is feeding time! Out comes the green growth. Grass, sprouts, roots, seed and all are fed to the Humphrey herd. Each cow gets about two pounds per day.

"They love it," David Humphrey remarks, "the only difficulty we have is in keeping one cow from eating the other's share." The crops are staggered so there's always a new batch ready to feed. Any dairyman knows the value of spring grass. The Humphrey outfit makes "spring grass" available the year around. As a supplement to the regular diet of grain and corn silage, the sprouted, no-soil oats are a boon to the operation. Each 2 1/2 square feet of growing space yields up to a ton of grass per year. The yield is approximately twice the original weight of the grain; so for the Humphrey herd this means about 95,000 pounds of additional green feed per year.

Labor, Time Savers
This is just one of the many modern farm practices carried out by the Humphrey brothers. They use artificial insemination to maintain a high quality herd.



GRASS CROP WITHOUT SOIL.—The Humphrey farm of the Shannon community near Red Springs turns out a crop of green grass every six days with its electrically-operated grass "incubator." Top left photo shows David Humphrey removing a container of oat seeds that have soaked and drained for 48 hours. (Note window-type electric heat pump in the background.) At top center he spreads the seeds in an open metal tray—no soil needed. At top right are shelves of grass at various stages of growth. At bottom left James and David Humphrey hold a tray of grass, seed and sprouts that will be fed to the Humphrey herd. At lower right is part of the herd of 60 Holsteins coming in from pasture. The Humphrey "incubator" will turn out close to 50 tons of green feed annually by electrically-controlled temperature, light and moisture the year around.

Corn, millet and other silage crops fill their two 205-ton upright silos and massive trench silos nearby. (They're still feeding last year's silage.)
The Humphreys sell their milk to Cumberland Dairies in Fayetteville. Their yield is 500,000 to 600,000 pounds of milk annually. The milking process is almost completely automatic for them; they have electric milkers and have recently installed a 1,000-gallon bulk cooling tank.
In virtually all of their operations the Humphreys have used electricity as a time and labor saver. Carolina Power & Light Co. has served the farm for the past 20 years.
The Humphreys have been full-time dairymen since 1954. They share crop their tobacco acreage on the homeplace which straddles

the Hoke-Robeson county line. (Cows are milked in Robeson and often graze in Hoke.)
The young men are graduates of Red Springs High, and Donald and James have degrees from N. C. State College. James majored in field crops and worked a couple of years with the Soil Conservation Service before returning to the farm. David "kept the home fires" while his brothers were away at college. Their father, J. H. Humphrey, lives on the farm with them.
Perhaps the most deserved compliment the family could get is proffered by a neighbor: "They're the hardest working folks I've ever seen!"

The correct title of the McClellan Committee is "Senate Select Committee to Investigate Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field."
We have investigated a pattern of violence in labor-management disputes in Wisconsin and Indiana. The hearings on the Henderson strike will be for the purpose of determining what, if any, recommendations should be made to the Senate on the subject of bringing about effective bargaining or preventing violence in industrial controversies.
How does the committee function once a decision is made to conduct an investigation. The selection of witnesses is left to the staff of the committee without interference from its members. The chief counsel of the committee interrogates the witness and the witness and the committee members ask questions for the purpose of securing information.
Let me reassert that the committee does not function to settle strikes nor does it attempt this mission which is outside of its purpose as a legislative committee. As a member of the committee I will hear the evidence on the Henderson strike solely for the purpose of determining whether the committee should recommend additional Federal laws.

the people of the country expect action to curb corruption uncovered by the McClellan Committee. To further delay reform measures by a "whole hog or none" approach on the part of labor and management will be a sad day for this nation and may well signal the death of reform legislation for a long time.
Civil Rights
After completing hearings on pending bills, the Committee on the Judiciary which handles these matters will now begin consideration of the so-called civil rights measures. As a member of this committee I expect to continue my efforts to prevent the passage of any harsh legislation in this area, legislation that is not needed, a statement which the hearing record sustains.



Washington — There seems to be some misunderstanding as to the function of the Senate Rackets Committee on which I serve.

Rackets Committee Function
The purpose of the committee is to conduct investigations to determine whether or not any new Federal law is necessary and not to determine who is right or wrong in industrial disputes. This purpose and function will be followed in the Henderson strike matter. The determination of whether new laws are needed is based on what we find in many areas of activity in the labor and management field.

Action Needed Now
Action is needed now on labor reform legislation, despite the pressures from some organized labor and some management organizations who feel that the Senate-passed labor reform measure does not provide precisely what they want. If my judgment is correct—and I believe it is sound—

SENATOR JORDAN REPORTS



From WASHINGTON

Washington — The tobacco price stabilization bill has finally passed both the House and Senate after many months of bickering and wrangling that at times put the future of the entire tobacco program in jeopardy.

The bill has been sent to the White House, and I see no reason why the President should not sign it.

The opposition to the bill, which stabilizes prices at the 1956 level until further pronounced increases in production costs take place, came mainly from those who want to destroy all price supports and acreage controls. It goes without saying that removing price supports would virtually ruin North Carolina's farm economy.

Now that the proposal has weathered its biggest storms, I think all of those interested in agriculture should take a long hard look at the future, and the prospects it holds for tobacco.

There is no doubt that the legislation will help increase tobacco exports. It serves notice to manufacturers all over the world that United States tobacco intends to hold its own in expanding world markets.

The importance of the legislation was dramatically illustrated last week during a visit of Italian tobacco officials in the United States. They made clear that it is extremely important for them to plan the purchase of American tobacco on a long-range basis, not a year-to-year, piecemeal basis. This, plus maintaining high quality, seem to be the controlling factors. I am sure if this is the case in Italy, which has been using increasing volumes of American tobacco in recent years, it is true in many other foreign markets.

It must be remembered that the price stabilization bill will not solve all of tobacco's problems. Tobacco has a great many prob-

lems, and solutions to them are becoming more difficult to find as more and more anti-farm sentiment is stirred up by those who are trying to break down the farm program.

The future of tobacco, to a very great extent, then, depends on the degree of unity with which growers, warehousemen, exporters, manufacturers, and others in the industry, work together. All segments of the industry were completely unified on the price stabilization bill, and I am certain that this unity, demonstrated time and again under extremely difficult circumstances, made the difference between success and failure.

USDA figures show that the average factory worker could buy 10.4 pints of milk with an hour's pay in 1939. Today, he can buy 16.8 pints.

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