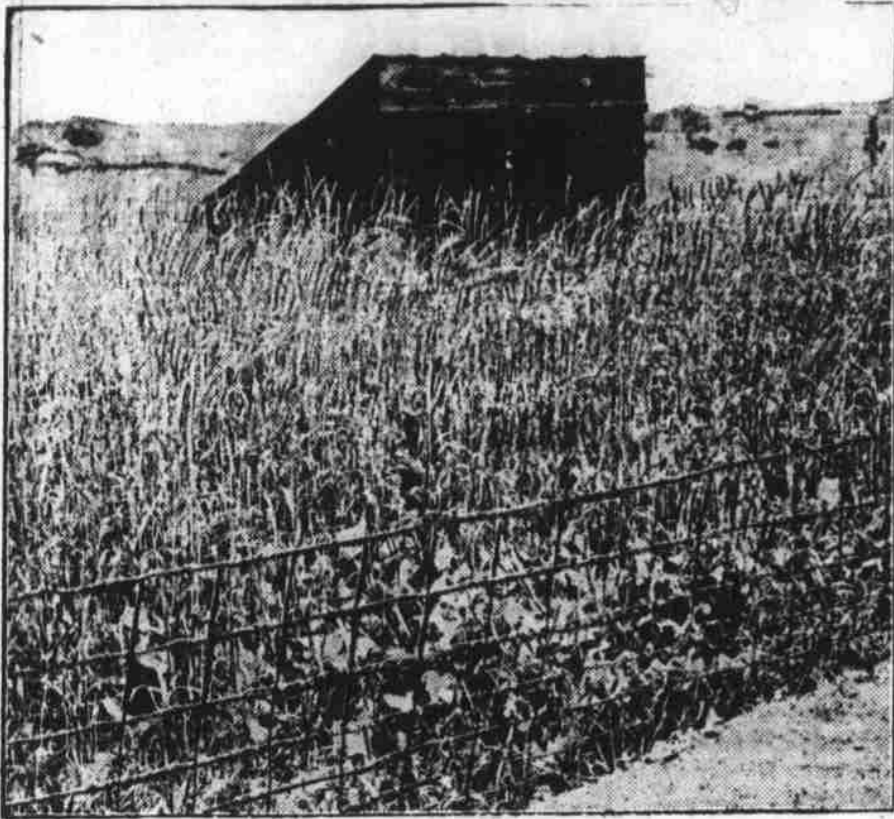


RAPE MAKES EXCELLENT PASTURE FOR HOGS



AN ACRE OF RAPE AND RYE.

When sown in September, or earlier, an acre of this kind of pasture affords, on the average, grazing for six 100-pound fattening pigs from the middle of October to May, provided a half ration of grain is used as a supplement.

By C. B. WILLIAMS, Chief, Division of Agronomy, N. C. Experiment Station, West Raleigh.

The rape plant closely resembles the ruta-baga during its early stages of growth; in fact, so close is this resemblance that often an experienced grower cannot distinguish between them. Its root system, however, is more like that of the cabbage. It likes cool weather and will grow during any portion of the year after severe freezing weather is passed. It will endure pretty severe cold weather in the fall and winter without being materially injured; in fact, it may be used for pasturage after being frozen, provided stock are kept off while it is frozen. It does not make much growth during the hot, dry months of mid-summer. Under ordinary conditions the plants will attain a height of 18 inches to 2 feet or more. The Dwarf Essex variety of the crop is best suited for us under Southern conditions.

Possibilities of the Crop.

Farmers are becoming more and more interested in the production of green crops for fall, winter and early spring grazing. Especially is this true of those who are engaged in the raising of hogs and poultry. For winter pasturage an acre or two of this crop will supply many tons of nutritious feed at the time of the year when green feeds are scarce. It has been fully demonstrated by repeated trials that an acre of rape properly seeded on good rich land will produce as much pork when used as a hog pasture as the same acre of land cultivated in corn. The rape can be grown much cheaper than the corn, as it will not require any cultivation, and the preparation of the seed-bed and seeding will be about the same for both. The hogs will harvest the rape crop, while the corn must be harvested by the farmer himself. It should be remembered, however, that the acreage of rape that can be profitably utilized for pasturage on the average farm is limited, it usually not being more than two or three acres.

In feeding experiments at the Alabama Station running for 147 days (November 9-April 5) with pigs weighing approximately 45 pounds each at the beginning of the experiment, it was found that the two lots of pigs fed on a ration of two parts of corn and one part of wheat shorts and allowed the use of a rape pasture during the period, produced pork on an average of 34.4 per cent less cost per pound, counting the cost of providing the rape pasture, than did another lot fed on the same ration and confined in dry lots. In other words, the lots fattened on rape pasture, supplemented with the necessary amount of the ration of corn and wheat shorts, made very satisfactory profit, while the lot fattened on the ration of corn and wheat shorts alone in dry lots afforded little or no profit.

Soil and Its Preparation.

Rape is best adapted for growth on a deep, rich, mellow, loamy soil that is fairly well stored with humus. It does not do well on the very light sandy or stiff clay soils because they are deficient in organic matter. Any soil that will produce wheat and corn well will be found suited for the growth of rape. In preparing the land it should be well broken, then thoroughly harrowed into a fine, clean seed bed, as is usually done for turnips or ruta-bagas. If the land has a liberal application of manure the previous year, so much the better. On average land it will be well to apply broadcast over the land, just after breaking and before harrowing, about 300 to 500 pounds per acre of a fertilizer containing 8 to 10 per cent available phosphoric acid, 4 to 6 per cent potash, and 3 to 4 per cent nitrogen.

Seeding.

For the Coastal Plain and Piedmont sections, the spring seeding may be made during March or early in April, and the fall seeding any time between August 20 and October 15. In the mountain section the spring seeding will have to be made in April and the fall seeding during the latter part of July or early in August in order to get best results. The rape seed are

sown broadcast alone or with other crops like small grains and crimson clover. In sowing with small grains the rye, oats, or wheat seed should first be drilled in or sown broadcast and covered an inch deep and then the rape seed sown broadcast and lightly covered by means of a light smoothing harrow or brush. Where the rape is used alone, 4 or 5 pounds of seed per acre will be sufficient. A good seeding, when sown with oats, would be 1½ bushels of Red Rust Proof or Appler oats with about 2 to 3 pounds of Dwarf Essex rape seed. Rye at the rate of 2 pecks or wheat at the rate of 4 pecks per acre may be substituted for the oats if found desirable to make the substitution. Another mixture that has been found to give good results in supplying pasturage for hogs consists of a seeding made up of 2 to 3 pecks of rye, 5 to 6 pounds of crimson clover, and 2 pounds of Dwarf Essex rape seed. This latter mixture has proven particularly valuable for the mountain section for elevation less than 2,800 feet above sea-level. Usually with rape alone or seeded in the mixtures indicated above the grazing may be started usually within thirty to sixty days after seeding. Frequently during a favorable season the rape may be lightly grazed by pigs three to four weeks after seeding.

Precautions in Grazing.

In pasturing rape the hogs should not be allowed on it until the plants are at least 10 to 12 inches high, for if pastured before this time the young plants will be likely to be pulled up and killed. Care should be exercised, too, that the number of hogs on the pasture is not so large as to keep the rape too closely grazed, for such would prove fatal to the plants and the life of the pasture would thereby be materially shortened. After being grazed, the plants should be given an opportunity to get well started into growth before being grazed again. By dividing the field into lots these may be pastured in succession. If sown on good land and properly handled one acre of rape will provide grazing for ten or twelve hogs for something like two or three months or more.

PREPARING FOR A LARGER CROP OF WHEAT THIS YEAR

FLOUR WILL BE HIGH NEXT YEAR AND FARMERS SHOULD INCREASE THEIR CROP.

By C. B. Williams, Chief Division of Agronomy, N. C. Extension Service, West Raleigh, N. C.

Indications are that the price of wheat, and hence, of flour, is to be high during the next year. This will naturally cause a planting of an increased acreage of this crop. Under normal conditions this would not be a promising situation under which to advise the growing of more wheat; but since Congress will in all probability fix a minimum price for standard grade wheat at primary markets of \$2.00 per bushel it certainly seems to be advisable this year.

In the Piedmont and mountain sections of the State, wheat growers should increase their acreage to some extent at least. Those who have not grown this crop previously in this portion of the State might do so with safety, and in all probability put in a few acres to good advantage to provide for the needs of the family. On some of the more compact eastern soils, also wheat might be grown during the present high prices with fairly satisfactory results. Ordinarily we would not recommend the growing of this crop but very little, if any, in the Coastal Plain Section of the State because this portion of the State is not nearly so well adapted generally to it as the Western half. It is highly important that good seed shall be secured for planting purposes. Of the varieties that are commonly grown Leaps Prolific, Dietz Mediterranean, Fultz, Purple Straw, and Fulcaster have shown up in our tests to be the leading yielders.

MOST URGENT NEED IN NORTH CAROLINA

CITIZENS MUST SEE THAT PREVENTABLE FIRES ARE REDUCED TO MINIMUM.

ABUNDANT HARVEST READY

Every Farmer, Farm Wife, Girl, Boy, and Employee on Farm Must See That No Food Crops Are Destroyed By Fire.

Recent reports from sections of North Carolina telling of alleged uprisings against the selective draft, when sifted down proved to be purely unproven rumors or cases of protest made by persons thoroughly ignorant of the law providing for the selective draft. It is unfortunate that the report should have gone out to newspapers throughout the nation leaving the impression that there might be an organized protest or a protest of any proportion from North Carolina against a condition such as the country now faces. North Carolina is fortunate in being more than 99 per cent American. Recent war census figures show that less than one per cent of the population of the state is foreign born. The people of North Carolina will be found always ready to support the powers that have charge of the conduct of the war that has been thrust upon America.

In some parts of the country serious complications have arisen with industrial socialistic organizations. State and county officials and in some instances troops have had to be called to cope with the situation. In the Dakotas army officers have been warned of an organized plot to destroy great crops of grain as it is harvested and stored. Throughout various parts of the country have come reports of arrests of supposed German spies or pro-German agitators. But none of this sort of activity has been reported in North Carolina so far.

There remains but one enemy of the people of North Carolina and that enemy by proper effort is the easiest of them all to cope with. It is carelessness. Abundant crops are now ready to harvest or have already been harvested. The urgent need in North Carolina is what may be termed a burning need. It is that every farmer, every farm wife, every farm employee, every boy and every girl on every farm in the state should use every care to see that these food crops and this cotton is protected against the danger of destruction by fire.

North Carolinians have little to fear from alien enemies or their sympathizers because there are few if any here. Incendiary fires are few and those that occur are the outgrowth of personal enmity and not the acts of enemy agents. It is incumbent upon every citizen to see that preventable fires are reduced to a minimum. Every ounce of food destroyed or unnecessarily consumed is an ounce of treason ignorantly or intentionally committed.

The fact that insurance is carried and that the value of the burned foodstuffs may be collected in money does not even tend to mitigate the loss. When foodstuffs burn in a time like this money will not replace it. Every ounce of foodstuffs produced is needed somewhere while thousands are suffering from the lack of sufficient food. The duty which so plainly faces North Carolina is the duty to guard against themselves. A little care and the practice of ordinary precaution against the destruction by fire of crops in barns and warehouses will conserve the foodstuffs that the promised bountiful crops will yield. It is the duty of each to see that carelessness does not permit their destruction. If North Carolina crops are destroyed in barns or in storage it will not be by the hand of an alien enemy or an erratic pacifist for there are none of this class roaming this section. Nor will it be "an act of Providence," but the inevitable result of purely human negligence.

IN THE WAR AGAINST WASTE.

Joining other numerous forces throughout the nation in the war against waste as a helping hand to the country's struggle to "Make the World Safe For Democracy," one of the large insurance companies has issued a bulletin which, it announces, has as its object the promoting of patriotism, good citizenship and the physical betterment of the people. Some very timely suggestions are herewith presented from this valuable paper:

"Give no time or money to selfish pleasure which can be given in selfish service to the nation."
 "In the name of common humanity and of common sense, let us at once adapt ourselves to the extraordinary war conditions which have come upon us."
 "Unless extravagance is checked, the nation will be injured—people will go hungry and the war will be prolonged."
 "What a blessing rational economy would bring to war worn humanity in the present food crisis."
 "But economy is not enough. We must produce more, conserve more and every one enlist in the war against waste."

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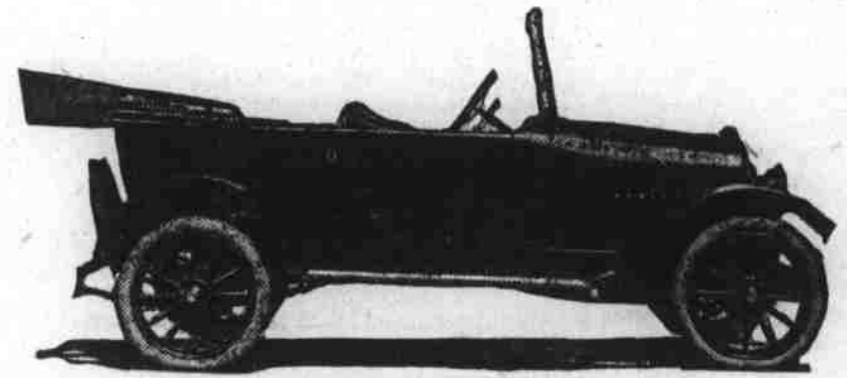
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