

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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Many Farmers Finding Rye Grass Instead Of Fescue In Pasture Plots

Evidence is mounting daily that local seed dealers, farmers and the Production Marketing Administration have been abused somewhere along the line between seed growers and the wholesale seed brokers. All over this part of the state reports are filtering in of pastures seeded to fescue turning up with practically nothing but rye grass.

At this time it is next to impossible to determine whether or not this abuse is the result of innocent mistake or a calculated bit of thievery. Investigations to determine which is true are being conducted by local seed merchants as well as by state officials.

This situation has several most unhappy facets. Firstly, fescue seed retail at the PMA fair price of 90 cents per pound and rye grass seed sell for only 14 cents per pound. It is obvious from these sharply contrasting prices how an unscrupulous processor or broker might benefit from this substitution.

Secondly, and from a long range point of view most important to those interested in the improved pasture program in North Carolina, is the great damage that has been and is being done to the program. The expensive and intensive education that has led such a big percentage of East Carolina farms in the direction of increased livestock production and profits can easily be set back many years if the farmer loses his pasture due to this situation.

Fortunately, until now, few farmers have reported finding rye grass instead of fescue on

look alike when they come through the ground and it is not possible to tell the difference until they head up. The picture with this story will make it possible to easily tell the difference.

Rye grass is much less desirable than fescue for several reasons. 1. It is not a perennial and will not reseed itself. It will not last through the hot summer months when shade is needed for the clover which makes up the greatest part of the pasture food value. Failure to reseed itself will throw the pasture out of ratio and perhaps the most important prerequisite of a successful improved pasture program is planting the right kind of seed in the right proportion.

Among those in Lenoir County who have been hit hardest by this innocent or calculated substitution of ryegrass for fescue are Jack Alexander, John F. Mewborne and the Kennedy Memorial Home.

Jack Tyndall of the Tyndall Seed Feed and Supply Co. says it is his opinion that some "sharp operator" has been guilty of deliberately committing this act. W. O. McLamb Jr. of the FCX store says that lot numbers on these "wrong" seed have been turned over to the state headquarters of his business and that everything is being done to get to the bottom of the situation. Ray West of West and Stanton said Friday that his company had not had any reports of such a situation. PMA Secretary Horace Mewborne says that several reports of this had reached his office and he had passed them on to State headquarters for further

Lenoir County Agent Bob Thompson says at present there is little the farmer can do with a situation like this more than aggravate the already aggravated seed merchant but he recommends in late September or early October that the pasture be gone over with a pea weeder or cultivator very lightly and some real fescue seed sown.

Rye Grass Planted for Fescue



This picture shows clearly the difference between rye grass and the much higher priced fescue. Many farmers in this part of the country have planted what they thought to be the perennial fescue at top and have found that the much less desirable rye grass at bottom is all they have on their improved pasture plots. If you have a permanent pasture plot use this picture to check and see which you have. Kinston merchants are doing everything they can to get to the bottom of this unhappy mistake. (Photo by Jack Rider)

Sparrow Named To Lenoir ABC Board

Casco Sparrow, Deep Run farmer, was named to a three year term on the Lenoir County Alcoholic Board of Control in a second ballot Monday in a joint meeting of the County board of health, schools and commissioners.

Seven applications had been received for the post including one from the incumbent, W. L.

Hardy. In the first ballot Sparrow received five votes, Harvey Rouse six votes, Wesley Jones one vote, J. G. Miles two votes, Joe May one vote and Hardy and J. H. Bland neither received a vote. On the second ballot Sparrow got ten votes and Rouse's vote dropped to five.

Other members of the board are Chairman Thomas Mewborne and J. C. Hooten. Mewborne's term expires in 1951 and Hooten's expires in 1952.

Close Inspection at 4-H Dress Revue



The winners of the annual 4-H Club Dress Revue in Lenoir County had a very detailed examination from the judges at Kinston, both as to their needlework and modelling. At left here, Nancy White of Contentment School, the junior winner, is being checked by Jane Gibbs, State Extension Service clothing specialist, as Mary

Elizabeth Womble, Greene County assistant home agent, looks on. At right, the senior winner, Peggy Loffin, of Southwood School, is being checked by the third judge, Mrs. Mary Helen Loffin, Jones County home demonstration agent. (Whitaker-Leffew Photo)

Growing Beef For Profit On Small Scale Is Goal Liddell's Leon Bariwck

A lot of things go into making a livestock program work. High priced herds such as Earl Bell and Dr. Paul Whitaker own in Jones County and Currin Howard, Jim Parrott, Ben Scarborough and Herbert Jones own in Lenoir County are greatly needed as a source for good blood lines. Continuing work among young farmers through 4-H and FFA clubs is necessary to not only create interest in the boys themselves but to interest their parents.

Almost on an equal footing with the above two and certainly ahead of them so far as the time element is concerned is an improved pasture program, because profit cannot be made by raising beef cattle on "store bought" foods.

Lenoir and Jones counties have their share of the things mentioned above, but in order to interest the average small farmer in raising beef for profit the single most important thing to find is **A SMALL FARMER WHO IS GROWING BEEF FOR PROFIT.**

Jim Parrott, Currin Howard and Dr. Paul Whitaker could not come close to breaking even if they sold their herd off for beef. Their animals are just too high priced for that.

Leon Barwick, who lives at Liddell, is one young farmer who is going about the business of beef production on a sound and profitable basis.

No high priced herd for Barwick. He has one pedigreed animal in his small herd, the bull. He is breeding this Hereford bull to milk cows and as the picture with this article illustrates it will not take but a very few generations for Barwick to acquire a "commercial herd" at a reasonable figure. His pasture program is adequate and sensible.

By using a good bull Barwick is able to produce grade beef type animals cheaply enough to realize a profit by selling them in the open market.

Preston Harper is another beef producer who has built up a high bred herd over a longer period in not exactly the same manner but in one that has many similarities. Today his herd is good enough to sell breeding stock from and many herd bulls

have gone out to build other herds from his pastures.

John F. Mewborn is just getting started in the direction of a profit making "commercial herd".

Many small farmers pick up the paper and read about someone buying a \$1,000 bull or heifer for beef production and they immediately get the notion that beef production is a rich man's toy. Far from that, it is a smart man's business and the sooner that the small farmer can see this in examples like those now being set by Leon Barwick, Preston Barwick, John F. Mewborne, F. A. Garner and many others, the sooner East Carolina will become a real beef producing area.

Last week The Great Eastern Livestock Commission Company had a sale of lightweight pasture type cattle, with the most running to Hereford blood. These were not slick, show animals but were golden opportunities for those farmers with a nice pasture getting deeper and deeper in clover. One of those light animals placed on a good pasture would make some farmer a nice profit between now and September and the only work needed would be a check every day or two to see that screw worms

July Eighth Is Set As Date For Vote On Hospital Issue

In the regular monthly meeting of the county board of commissioners Monday July 8th

will determine whether or not the county is to accept Memorial General Hospital and issue bonds up to \$465,000 for its renovation and expansion. Leo Harvey, R. A. Whitaker, Kersey Smith, George Skinner, George Jordon and P. A. Hooker appeared before the group in favor of the election and Dr. Rachel Davis, who emphasized that she was appearing for herself only, spoke briefly in opposition to the proposal.

had not gotten in cuts or bruises. Grass is all it takes to put weight on a decent beef type animal and with the rains of this spring grass is even growing through some of Governor Scott's highways.

The farmer who does not have a small piece of land big enough to carry three or four of these profit-makers is rare indeed and as the pinch gets tighter and tighter on that old tobacco dollar more and more of these are going to spend one day a year less at the corner filling station and take out time from their resting to seed that improved pasture and put a fence up so they can sit in the shade and watch the cattle make "T-bone steaks" out of themselves.

One Way to Beef Profits



This father and daughter scene on the farm of Leon Barwick shows clearly the direction Barwick is heading in his effort to make profit on beef production. The registered hereford bull at left bred to a dairy cow gave the heifer at right in one generation. Predominance of the hereford blood is clearly shown and in another generation it will take a livestock expert to tell Barwick's grass consumers from pedigreed herefords. (Photo by Jack Rider)