

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

TATTOOING HOGS

Tattooing hogs is a practical means of marking them so they can be identified after slaughter, according to the United States department of agriculture, and the practice is useful in numerous ways. It is particularly valuable in identifying the ownership of hogs in mixed shipments and in tracing any disease to the farm or other place of origin.

Miscellaneous Circular 57-M, The Tattoo Method of Marking Hogs and Its Use, recently issued in a revised form by the United States department of agriculture, describes the tattooing instrument, tells how to use it, and discusses its numerous possible applications. The tattoo method of marking hogs, inexpensive and easily used. A tattoo mark properly applied is as permanent as the skin itself.

In the field of co-operative marketing, where a number of farmers ship their hogs in one lot, the tattoo mark is particularly useful because of its conclusive evidence of the hog's origin. Such information is highly desirable as a basis for payment when diseased conditions appear at the time of slaughter. From the standpoint of livestock health officials, such identification of diseased hogs is useful also. Hogs found to be tuberculous can be traced to their source, and other animals on the farm may be tested, leading to the eradication of the disease. The manner in which the tattooing of hogs led to the discovery of tuberculosis in a poultry flock is of practical interest. In the course of investigational work a shipment of tattooed hogs to a central marketing point proved to be infected with tuberculosis. An inspector visited the farm and applied the combination test to the remainder of the hogs on the farm, with the result that practically 100 per cent reacted to the avian test. The inspector also found the chicken flock to be badly infected.

On the inspector's recommendation, the owner sold his entire flock of chickens, restocking with day-old chicks the following spring. Later, 32 hogs from this farm were shipped to market and again identified by the tattoo mark. A report on 27 of these animals showed that not one had been found infected; the remainder were not slaughtered under federal inspection and a report on them could not be obtained. It was reasonably apparent that the tracing of the disease, slaughter of infected flocks, cleaning, disinfection, and a restocking with healthy chicks had removed the source of infection.

The tattoo should also be of aid in studying results of feeding tests, in identifying carcasses in contests of various kinds, such as the familiar ton-litter competitions, and in similar activities where facts concerning the size and quality of carcasses are desired. In fact, any experimental work involving studies of dressed carcasses offers a wide field for the use of tattoo marks.

A copy of the circular may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

BETTER PASTURES NEXT YEAR

Most of the permanent bluegrass pasture soils are now low in available phosphorus and many are inclined to be acid. This is true even of the better class of such pastures. The only way their producing capacity can be returned is to supply the fertility. Now, when lime and phosphate fertilizers are top-dressed on pastures, results on speeding up production are usually slow in showing up until the materials have reached into the surface soil. This may take some time, but often results are more real than apparent the first season. It is also the reason why liming recommendations are often advised a year in advance.

With this in mind, much of the better bluegrass acreage might also benefit from a reseeding with a mixture of alsike and red clover, particularly those that are thin and worn. Where the fertility has been supplied and while the native turf is improving, a reseeding with the above mixture will give much temporary relief and will also aid in building up the native turf. So our program for improvement of these pastures is pretty much a combination of fertilization and reseeding. In our field experimental studies, I have seen old, worn pastures so thin that it would take 10 acres to support one animal, turned into the most luxurious pasture through this combination practice. About 12 to 15 pounds of seed to the acre of a mixture of 4 to 6 pounds of alsike and 8 to 9 pounds of red clover, seeded in early March right on top, has given an excellent catch of clover in the pasture, says an expert on soil culture and pasture.

It has been our experience that reseeded pastures may be grazed the same season, first for about three to four weeks when the clover plants are so small they cannot be eaten off and later, beginning about August 1 when they have made a good growth and are thoroughly caught. The period in between should be allowed for the catch to become established.

The important points regarding successful reseeding of old pastures are these: First, don't waste time and seed until it is known that the soil is capable of supporting a catch. This means lime and phosphorus and frequently potash. Second, sow inoculated seed early in March; early seedings stand the best chance of being successful. Third, keep the cattle off most of the time until the clover has become established. Fourth, reseed only those pastures that are worn and thin; if a good thick turf is present, fertility alone will increase production because there are enough plants on hand. Furthermore, it is next to impossible to catch clover this way on a thick sod since the seeds cannot easily make good contact with the soil.

If you have any considerable acreage of pasture you'd like to plan on reseeding, why not divide it with a temporary fence and reseed one-

CALL HORSE DENTIST

If you have a horse that has gone through the heavy work season in poor flesh and his teammate or other barn companions have kept in good flesh on similar work and feed, it would be a good thing to have his teeth examined. Frequently a horse is kept in poor condition because of bad teeth.

CHANGE RATION GRADUALLY

You can sometimes save a little on your feed cost by increasing the amount of grain food and reducing the amount of mash as the chicks get their growth and get above the two-pound weight. Do not make any sudden changes in your feeding

of it the coming spring. Pasture the unseeded portion up to midsummer, when the reseeded area should be ready with the best kind of grazing. Then the next season just reverse the practice. It will probably be found that at least twice the grazing can be obtained from the same area that you are now getting by following this practice. I wish all of you could see the results with reseedings we have had the last two seasons and again this year. We have turned old pastures into clover meadows.

We have already referred to fertilization as the fundamental practice in pasture improvement, and so just a few words of advice on that point. You can apply both lime and phosphate any time now and even in late fall if you wish. Usually 200 to 400 pounds of 20 per cent superphosphate are sufficient and when potash is used 100 to 200 pounds is enough. From some of our fertilizing trials, I am even inclined to the belief that spring applications of the phosphate and potash, with lime, if needed, applied the previous season, is a very good practice.

The usual question asked about the use of fertilizers is, will it pay to use them? Our answer is decidedly, yes. Last year an application of 300 pounds of 20 per cent superphosphate, 150 pounds of potash, and a ton of lime to the acre returned 36 extra grazing days over an untreated acre, the value of which exceeded the cost of the fertilizer. Furthermore, there is at least a three-year residual effect of the fertilizer to be considered. In other words, the cost should not be charged to one year, but rather distributed over at least three.

There are some matters to attend to before next spring if you want good pasture. Cut the weeds, many of which can be cut off now with the horse mower. This has been a great season for weeds, and I have seen large permanent pastures that could be mowed, thoroughly saturated with mulein, milkweed, dock, yarrow, ragweed, and the like. They take an enormous toll in both moisture and fertility from the pasture. Thoroughly weedy pastures is but additional evidence of a thin turf and a lack of fertility. Where grass grows luxuriantly, weeds have a hard time getting a foothold. Cut them off now before they go to seed.

And let's not forget this. Some time this fall drag the pasture, if possible, to scatter the season's droppings. A thorough harrowing will do a good job and will prevent a lot of wasted grass next season and besides it's about the only way of distributing such fertilizer. And when the grazing season is finished, shut the pasture gate. Stock should not have the run of pasture during open winter and early spring—times when the ground punches up with tramping and plants are easily pulled out. I know that some stockmen allow their cattle on pastures in open winter, particularly when there is a lot of old grass left. That's all right if the ground is frozen, but even under such conditions it should be done with judgment, to reduce these chances.

HANDLING EGGS.

Cool eggs as soon as they are gathered, and keep them cool until they are marketed. The principle of cooling milk is practiced by nearly every farmer, but on many farms it is still a common practise to pack eggs as soon as they have been gathered, while many of them are still quite warm. The filters and sists of an egg case act as insulators and hold the heat present in the eggs for a considerable period. This procedure often results in spoilage by the time the eggs reach the consumer. Gather the eggs twice a day, and keep them in a cool place until they are marketed, to reduce these chances.

SPEAKING OF THE HEN

I don't care to note just the hue of her coat, whether white, black or speckled or red; if her pedigree's good and she works as she should I know she will forge right ahead. Her looks may not win her a place at a prize, perhaps she would fall at a prize, but the question I'd ask and I feel we should know is whether she lays or she lies? Does she work with a will and the egg basket fill with a product of excellent grade? Is she steady at the sun till the day's work is done, are you proud of the record she's made? Is she always in action, and chuck full of pep, there's a question I'd ask: Is she always in step, and whether she lay or she lies?

SUMMER GRAIN RATION

Should grain be fed to dairy cows on pasture? Since spring and summer grass is relatively low in nutrients, a cow producing 25 to 30 pounds of milk per day must eat about 150 to 300 pounds of grass in order to get enough feed for her daily requirements. Since this is practically impossible, a grain supplement must be given. For cows producing 20 to 35 pounds of milk per day, a mixture of the ordinary farm grains such as oats, corn, wheat bran, and barley fed at the rate of one pound of grain to four to six pounds of milk produced per day will be sufficient. For cows producing more than 35 pounds of milk per day, the ration should contain a high protein concentrate mixture.

Even though work horses are fed plenty of grain they will not keep in good shape if their ration is not properly balanced. Oats and prairie hay make a satisfactory ration, but corn and prairie hay are not good. When corn is the only grain fed, at least half the hay should be alfalfa or clover. If neither alfalfa nor clover hay is used the ration of corn and prairie hay may be balanced by feeding a small amount of a protein concentrate. The amount needed to balance the corn and prairie hay ration will vary from one and a half pounds to two pounds daily, depending on the weight of the horse.

schedule, but make changes gradually, by reducing the amount of mash as you increase the grain feed. If you wish to change mashes, from a starting food to a growing mash or to a laying mash, this must be done gradually also, by substituting a little of the new food each day until you have gradually changed the ration.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Shredding corn fodder has been shown to kill from 90 to 100 per cent of the corn borers in the stalks. Those borers which escape death in the shredding process are usually killed when the fodder is stored or fed.

Divides Jugoslavia



General Pera Zivkowsitch, commander of the Yugoslavia Royal Guard and Dictator of the post-war nation, has issued a decree dividing the country into nine semi-independent states to put an end to political friction.

International Newswire

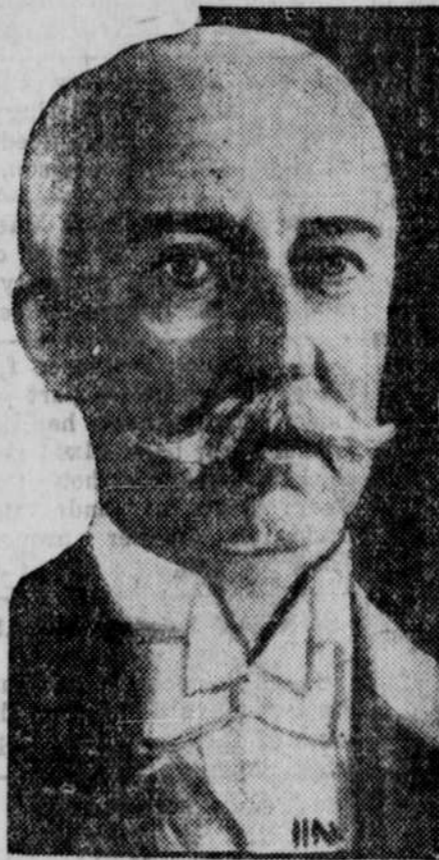
Waits for Verdict



Eunice Pringle, Los Angeles dancer, waiting in the courtroom with her mother, Mrs. Lou Pringle, previous to her appearance on the stand in the trial of Alexander Pantages, millionaire theatrical manager, who, she alleges, attacked her.

International Newswire

Roumanian Regent Dies



Garfore V. Buzdagan, former president of the Supreme Court and a member of the Roumanian Regency, is dead, and Roumania now faces a serious situation because of a law that calls for the resignation of the entire Regency in case one of its members dies. There is strong indication that Queen Marie of Roumania will again wield power in her native land.

Appointed to Investigate Lobby Activities



The Senatorial Committee appointed to investigate lobby activities in the United States, will be comprised of Senator Borah, of Idaho, Republican (left); Senator Robinson, of Indiana, Republican (right); Senator Walsh, of Montana, Democrat (above), and Senator Blaine, of Wisconsin, Republican (below).

These men are to make a sweeping investigation of the varied lobby activities that have been going on to influence everything from Prohibition to tariff, and it is not unlikely that they will uncover something of decided interest to the nation.

International Newswire

Air Tour Shows Progress Made in Aviation



Indicative of the progress made in aviation in this country, is the fleet of thirty-eight planes comprising the National Air Tour which left Detroit enroute to the principal cities in the United States. Can you remember twenty years ago when Wilbur Wright (lower inset) gave the country its first thrill by piloting the flimsy craft (shown below) from Governor's Island to Grant's Tomb, in New York. Note Mr.

Wright in flying togs. Then cast your eye over the graceful lines of the plane used by Colonel Lindbergh (inset) in many of his memorable flights and compare it with the Wright plane which was the sensation of past years. Today aviation has made tremendous advances but it is not unlikely that the planes of today will look just as funny to the next generation as does the Wright plane to us now.

International Newswire

Guard Mills Against Fresh Outbreaks



North Carolina National Guardsmen, on duty at the gate of the Marion Manufacturing Company's plant, the scene of the clash between Sheriff Adkins and his deputies with striking workers in which four men were killed. Inset shows Will Pless, Jr., prosecuting attorney of Marion, who will lead the State's attack in the trial of the Sheriff and his deputies now held for alleged murder.

International Newswire

York's Leader Honored



Tardy recognition was finally given to Sergeant Bernard Early, Company C, 328th Infantry, who was platoon commander of Sergeant York when the memorable capture of the German machine gun nest was made. Early at last was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

International Newswire