

Nebraska Doing Things

Nebraska City Tribune:

The boys over in Nebraska are producing 114 bushels of corn to the acre.

Whatever lack of efficiency there is in the conduct of public affairs under the democratic administration, the farmer boys are certainly doing their part. In the corn-growing contest for boys under 18, William A. Wiese of West Point took the \$50 prize for 114 bushels raised on one acre. He did all the work himself and realized \$115, including the \$50 prize, for his acre of corn. He was able to sell the corn at a premium price.

Along with this result in bushels and money, the boy was able to make to the state board of agriculture a detailed statement of his work, showing intelligence and system as well as energy. Other boys, who competed in this corn-raising contest, showed good results, 93, 85, 79, 77, 76 bushels to the acre, and so on down to the lowest on the list, who, on the hilly and washed-off land at Gretna, was able to produce only 33½ bushels to the acre.

It all shows how the farmers of Nebraska are attending to their business and are training up the boys to appreciate intelligent and proper handling of the soil.

When the young soldiers of Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois returned from the war, married their sweethearts and went into the little sod houses on the prairie homesteads of Nebraska, no one dreamed of the splendid achievements they would work out in the then uncertain prairie state.

The 200x400 miles of prairie, sloping upward from the Missouri river at the rate of eight feet to the mile, was considered high and dry and was marked on the early maps as a part of the great American desert. The people of the older states, sending their young folks out to the prairie homesteads, hoped for the best, but doubted the experiment. "There is no timber for fuel or fencing or running water for the stock," and what was a country good for with neither wood nor water?

Now these Nebraska farmers have the best water system and the best water in the world, and while they have no timber nor coal, they have no waste land, and every acre is either a corn, or wheat, or alfalfa, or grass producing acre, and the money income from one of these producing acres will pay the farmers' coal bill for a year.

Of the seven corn states in the union, Nebraska stands with Iowa and Illinois as one of the three great corn states of the world.

And the Nebraska farmers know the value of their land. They know how to get the best results and their boys know that it pays to be intelligent and to understand the soil. There are lightweight politicians, lightweight governors, lightweight congressmen and senators, but the corn raisers of Nebraska are not lightweights.

Keep Your Eye on Us

Keep your eye on Hastings. It is going to be the Wichita of Nebraska. —Hastings Republican.

And you might have added, brother, that Grand Island will be the Topeka. —Grand Island Independent.

Meanwhile Alliance will continue to be the metropolis of the west end and one of the best cities in the state. Keep your eye on Alliance.

MALINDA ITEMS

The Malinda school was closed Nov. 25th and 26th for a Thanksgiving vacation.

The following pupils of Dist. No. 54 were neither absent nor tardy during the month ending Nov. 26: Myrtle Chapman, Theron Chapman, Carl McLean, Nora McLean, Eva McLean, Edith McLean, Eva Miller.

Home Course In Live Stock Farming

VI.—Pastures and Forage Crops.

By C. V. GREGORY,
Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture," "Making Money on the Farm," Etc.

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THE cheapest gains on farm animals are made with green feed. Plans should be made to have a plentiful supply on hand at all times. There will be the clover meadows, of course, which will be used principally for hay. Occasionally there will be a luxuriant growth of fall feed on them which can be used for pasture to advantage. This second growth clover is especially valuable for milk cows, calves and hogs.

Permanent Pastures.
Pastures should be rotated where possible. Where a four year rotation is practiced one-fourth of the cultivated land will be in grass each year. This will generally be more than is needed for hay, in which case part of it can be used for pasture. In addition to this, there is usually some land on every farm that is too wet or too rough to be used for anything but permanent pasture. In too many cases these permanent pastures are weedy and unproductive. A flock of sheep or goats will do much to get rid of the weeds. If there are any thistles they should be cut while in bloom and a handful of salt put on the roots.

Where an area of land has been very severely overgrazed in the past it will be absolutely necessary that it be very carefully pastured for the first two or three years. The native grasses and forage plants must have a chance to regain their former vigor and to go to seed. A very large number of stockmen advocate resting the land—that is, keeping all stock off for a period of three or four years. That this remedy will bring about the desired results has been definitely proved in numerous instances.

To increase the productivity it will be necessary to thicken the stand and loosen the soil. The yield of pastures can often be doubled by running a disk over them in the spring. This is especially true if a few pounds of grass seed to the acre are used at the same time. There is nothing better than alsike clover for the wet spots. Redtop is also good in such places, although it is not liked well enough by the stock to warrant its use where better grasses will grow.

Alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*) is a perennial clover whose appearance suggests a hybrid between red and white clovers, but it is not a hybrid. It will thrive on soil too wet for red clover, but on ordinary soil is probably not to be so highly recommended. It should be sown with grasses to give the best results.

The standard pasture grass throughout the corn belt is blue grass. For early spring and late fall pasturage nothing can equal it. It is nutritious, the stock like it well, it is not easily injured by tramping, and it is a good yielder. The chief objection to it is that it practically ceases growth during the hot, dry days of midsummer. At this time it is necessary to supplement the blue grass pasture with some forage crop or have a fresh pasture to turn the stock into. Many stockmen have several different pastures. They stock one heavily, so that it will be eaten down close in three or four weeks, then change the animals to a fresh one while the grass in the first gets another start. In this way greater value can be got out of a certain amount of pasture land. It is a good plan to allow part of the blue grass land to make a growth of six or eight inches before winter. This makes excellent winter pasture for both cattle and horses, and they will thrive and fatten on it. Horses will paw through several inches of snow to get to it. Although blue grass will thrive fairly well in dry and unsheltered locations, it will do better where shaded moderately. Pasture land partly covered with brush and short timber is a favorite place to secure a good stand.

Orchard grass is next to blue grass in importance as a pasture crop. It is hardly as nutritious nor is it liked as well by stock, but it makes a more rapid growth and continues to grow throughout the summer months. When sown in a mixture of other grasses, as it usually is, the stock are liable to eat the more palatable grasses first, leaving the orchard grass to grow up and become hard and woody. Where the plan of changing pastures is practiced there is little trouble from this source, as all the grass is eaten down quickly.

A good mixture to sow on old pasture before disking is eight pounds of blue grass, two pounds of orchard grass and two or three pounds of some kind of clover. Red clover is good, but does not last long. In most regions where blue grass flourishes white clover will work without seedling in a few years. A mixture of alsike and redtop scattered around the wet spots will complete the restoration of the pasture. From this time on a good disk every spring will keep the pas-

ture in good condition. Any thin spots which appear can be reseeded at the same time. A few trees scattered here and there throughout the pasture protect the stock from heat and flies.

Summer Forage Crops.
With the best of pasture, however, some additional green feed is necessary, especially during the midsummer months. At that time of year, when flies and heat are worst, a slackening in the food supply means a loss in gain on young stock and in milk production from the cows. A well planned supply of forage crops at this time will give larger returns for the land used than almost anything else that can be grown. Forage crops can often be used to good advantage as catch crops where other crops have failed to grow or after something else has been harvested. Forage crops by keeping the land occupied with a rank growing crop help to keep weeds in control. They also enable more stock to be kept on the farm than would be the case otherwise.

One of the best forage crops is rape. It yields heavy crops of excellent feed. It is especially valuable for hogs and sheep. They make excellent gains on rape, particularly if a little grain is given in addition. Rape should be sown in the spring at the rate of about four pounds to the acre broadcasted or two and one-half pounds drilled. The seed bed should be well prepared. The greatest amount of feed per acre is obtained if the rape is cut and fed. A more economical way of handling it, as far as labor is concerned, is to have small movable pens or a pasture divided into small lots and change the stock frequently from one to the other. If left too long in one place they eat the rape down so closely that it is killed or the growth seriously checked.

Sweet corn is a valuable forage for all classes of stock. A variety which stools considerably should be selected, and the planting should be thick. If cut and fed fresh every day it is greatly relished. It is especially good for milk cows, often doubling the yield. Sorghum and Kaffir corn are also used considerably as forage crops, especially in the southern states. About fifty or sixty pounds of seed to the



FIG. 11.—HOGS IN RAPE FIELD.

acre are used when sown broadcast or half as much when drilled. It can be sown with a grain drill by stopping up every other hole. The saccharine varieties make the best feed. If all the sorghum is not used as green feed it can be cut and shocked for winter use. It will have to be left in the field until needed for feeding, as it spoils when stacked.

A Good Forage Crop.
Indian corn makes good forage if sown thickly enough. The largest planter plates should be used, together with the fastest drill attachment, as thick planting makes small and tender stalks. Corn which has well developed ears is often used as a combined grain and forage crop for "hogging down." The hogs are turned into the field in the fall and left until ready for market. A few shotes turned in later will clean up all the corn which the fat hogs have missed. Lambs get a great deal of feed out of the cornfield in the fall, especially if rape has been sown at the last cultivation, and do little damage to the corn.

Excellent fall feed can be obtained by sowing rape or a mixture of rape and clover with the small grain in the spring. If there is moisture enough in the ground after the grain crop is removed a splendid crop of fall forage will be available in three or four weeks. Often the fall feed is worth more than the grain.

An excellent forage crop for pigs is Canada field peas. They should be sown in the spring at the rate of one-half bushel to the acre, together with two bushels of oats. If sown alone the rate of seeding should be two bushels to the acre. The hogs may be turned on when the peas are in the dough stage. In the southern parts of the United States cowpeas and soy beans may be used in the same way. Millet yields heavily and makes a good quality of hay. It is also used occasionally as a green feed. Millet is a dangerous feed for horses, but may be fed to other classes of stock with safety.

Succulent Crops For Winter.
While not strictly forage crops, root crops, pumpkins and squashes answer the same purpose. Sugar beets, mangels and turnips yield heavily, but require considerable attention during the growing season. Carrots are especially good as a horse feed. Squashes yield as many tons of dry matter to the acre as roots, are just as good feed and are much more easily grown. Pumpkins can be grown in large quantities in the cornfields with little extra labor.

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