Alfalfa Drive Is Rapidly Gaining Headway On Peninsula

SIX HUNDRED ACRES OF NEW ALFALFA FOR QUEEN ANNE'S

Conclusive proof of the fact that Queen Anne's County is firmly convinced of the value of alfalfa is shown in the recent report of the Extension Service here that six hundred acres of new alfalfa will be planted in the county either this fall or in early spring.

The county's previous acreage will be increased from 1249 acres to 1849.

While the former acreage necessitated the maintenance of approximately thirteen dairy animals on one acre of alfalfa, the new increase will decrease this figure to approximately eight. It is estimated on good authority that the increase in dairy revenue in Queen Anne's County made possible by this interest in alfalfa will closely approach the twenty thousand dollar mark annually.

Local dairymen busying themselves with the work of making their land ready and sowing the crop are:

Henry E. Wright, 10 acres; C. W. Anderson, 5; Dr. J. L. Cornell, 1; James F. Boyles, 3; J. Fred Carter, 4; B. L. Appleford, 5; Davis Walraven, 7; W. E. Faulkner, 10; Edwin H. Corwin, 5; William Lane, 2; Edwin P. Meredith, 5; L. C. McGinnis, 5; M. C. Sherman, 30; George A. Hart, 5; George Mullikin, 5; H. B. W. Mitchell, 3; Charles O. Walls, 8; H. F. McGinnis, 2; Edw. P. Cockey, 6; Chas. R. Price, 25; H. H. Klinefelter, 10; Hill Anthony, 4; Frank T. Price, 10; John Woithon, 5; S. T. Smith, 2; Frank Walraven, 15; John L. Embert, 5; John W. Smith, 5; Earle Everett, 6; C. F. Rich, 2; John R. Benton, 5; Pioneer Point Farms, 30; W. H. Fisher, 12; W. R. Hubbard, 25; Melvin Chance, 8; James P. Brown, 10; Mrs. Alice Wilmer, 4; W. Irving Walker, 10; John H. Chambers, 15; Charles Mullikin, 5; Earle Bishop, 35; J. W. Perry, 10; Dorsey Robinson, 15; F. Addison Emory, 12; Wm. C. Smith, 30; W. W. Seney, 12; Edward Green, 12; W. E. Butler, 10; C. T. Bishop, 2; M. M. Price, 10; James T. Earle, 10; W. E. Denney, 10; Thos. J. Keating, Jr., 5; Milton Hunter, 5; Henry McClyment, 18.

SUPPLEE WILLS JONES FAVORS ALFALFA HAY

The cost of producing milk as a rule can be lowered by feeding home grown feeds. The average dairyman produces an ample supply of roughage but very often it is deficient in protein.

Every dairyman should include at least one leguminous crop in his rotation. Alfalfa is one of the leading leguminous roughages and is highly recommended to all dairymen. One pound of alfalfa is, in protein content, approximately equal to one and one-half pounds of red clover or three pounds of timothy or two pounds of mixed hay. Since grain concentrates are fed to balance the roughage, it is plainly evident that the liberal use of leguminous hay especially alfalfa will greatly reduce the need of buying the high protein concentrates.

Grow alfalfa, it helps the soil as well as helping the cows. Don't forget it also helps your bank account.

CULTIPACKER VALUABLE AID

Too much can not be said in favor of the cutipacker in preparing land for alfalfa. This implement is a sort of combination disk and roller which serves the double purpose of firming the land and pulverizing the surface, both of which possesses are absolutely essention to good production. The farmer who contemplates an alfalfa acreage will never be without one of these valuable machines after he has employed one.

Fundamentals Of Alfalfa Production

1. **SELECT A FERTILE, WELL DRAINED SOIL**
   The best soil on the farm is none too good for alfalfa.
2. **TEST YOUR SOIL AND APPLY LIME AS DIRECTED**
   The best means of sampling land is to bore down about six inches in at least five different places, mixing your borings in a bucket. A half pint of the mixed soil taken to any County Agent's Office will secure for you full information on the amount of lime needed. Remember that each ton of alfalfa hay cut removes about one hundred pounds of lime from the soil. Apply more than enough lime. Apply your lime between ploughing and working.
3. **PREPARE YOUR SEED BED THOROUGHLY**
   Work your land too much after ploughing rather than too little. Alfalfa requires a firm seed bed pulverized on the surface. A cultipacker is an ideal implement for use on alfalfa land. Plough as early as you can and work the land until the most careful man around you would not work it any more.
4. **USE SEED RECOMMENDED BY YOUR EXTENSION SERVICE**
   Southern grown seed will not do well in Maryland. An extreme shortage of Northwestern domestic seed this year makes added precautions a necessity. Be sure of getting Highland Utah or Kansas seed without too much regard for the cost. Economy carried to extremes is ruinous in the selection of seed. A dollar saved in seed may cost you a hundred dollars lost in poor production.
5. **BE SURE THAT YOUR SEED ARE INOCULATED PROPERLY**
   County Agents at all times are glad to give help and advice in this. The best culture can be secured at cost from the University of Maryland. Full directions for its use accompany each package. Make your arrangements about getting culture in time to avoid delay in planting while this is being made up for you.
6. **SOW IN EARLY SPRING OR LATE AUGUST**
   In this connection many prefer spring planting and others prefer fall. No recommendation is given in this regard. Choose your time and arrange your work in a way that will enable you to give the land the attention it needs before sowing the seed.

CAROLINE LIVE STOCK IN SERIOUS NEED OF HIGH PROTEIN FEED

By T. D. HOLDER,
Caroline County Agent.

The milk producers of Caroline may be considered fortunate in having three milk receiving stations located within the county. These stations are located in the county at Goldsboro, Greensboro and Ridgely. Two stations located at Hurlock and Queen Anne, nearby points outside the county recetive a proportionate share of the milk produced in the county. With milk marketing facilities such as this existing it is reasonable to expect continued advancement along dairy lines and that the dairy industry which now ranks second in the county will within a few years be the leading agricultural industry of the county.

According to the 1924 census Caroline has 6640 dairy cows which produce annually an average of 311 gallons per cow. This average production is relatively too low to be profitable to the dairymen for this investment. Since there is hardly any possibility of an increase in price of milk, or of labor or feed prices being reduced, it is of utmost importance to the dairymen of Caroline to reduce production costs to increase profits, by increasing the average production of milk per cow.

The one big factor which influences our average low production of milk per cow is the lack of good legume roughage feed such as alfalfa hay. This fact is apparent when we consider that only 958 acres of alfalfa grown on 227 farms out of 1638 farms on which milk is produced and sold.

Besides having in the county 6,640 dairy cows, we have a total of 8,281 dairy animals, 1,083 sheep, 4,619 hogs, 4,675 horses, 1,973 mules and 257,302 chickens. For any or all of the above mentioned livestock alfalfa would be the most economical to feed.

Alfalfa is being grown in Caroline as shown by the fact that 227 farms are now growing the crop. Usually on these farms the average milk production per cow is about double the average production for the county where dairymen have corn stover, timothy and clover hay for roughage feed.

GENEROUS LIMING OF NEARLY ALL SOILS ESSENTIAL FOR CROP

To grow well, alfalfa needs plenty of lime. This is true not only because acid in soils is detrimental to the development of alfalfa but that it actually needs much lime as a plant food. If it is remembered that in every ton of alfalfa hay there is the equivalent of 100 pounds of lime stone or shells, several times as much as in corn stover or grass hay and much more than in other legume hay, this can be readily understood.

What is the effect of soil acidity on plants? The following are a few of the effects as far as is understood:

1. In very acid soils, magnesium and aluminum compounds are set free, that are poisonous to most plants. Lime neutralizes some of these compounds, acid phosphate others.

2. The nodule forming bacteria do not develop well in acid soils. If so alfalfa would not thrive well.

3. The Acotobacter, another soil building form of bacteria, would fail to develop.

4. Lime would be deficient as a plant food for alfalfa.

What is the best form of lime to use? There is no best form to use. No matter what form was used, in a short time after applying all would be the same in the soil. It is estimated that a ton of slacked lime or hydrated lime applied to one acre would all be turned back to lime stone within two weeks. All forms are equally good, if equally pure and equally fine.

The important question is: What form gives me the most available lime for my dollar.

To figure this, three things must be known:

(1) The percent of purity.
(2) The fineness.
(3) The price per ton.

The number of pounds of available oxide per ton may be determined from report of the State Lime Board. Only that part, finer than 20 meshes to the inch should be counted.

To find how much you are getting for $1 divide the total available oxides as determined above, by the price per ton.

AGRICULTURAL AGENT OF PENINSULA COUNTY FINDS ALFALFA VITAL

BY R. S. BROWN,
County Agent, Talbot County.

A recent survey shows a great need for increasing the alfalfa acreage throughout the county. The reason for the present low acreage is very apparent when we consider the high percentage of failures to get stands and the low yields per acre.

It is possible to secure a larger percentage of alfalfa stands which will in turn encourage a greater alfalfa acreage. This can be accomplished by eliminating, as far as possible. the conditions which cause alfalfa failures; namely: unfavorable soil conditions, poor seed, pests and faulty methods of seeding. Unfavorable soil conditions are by far the most serious of all these conditions. This simply means lack of any one or all of the following: lime, phosphoric acid and potash. In other words, we must have a sweet well-balanced soil for alfalfa to thrive.

Alfalfa, when properly inoculated, plays an important part in soil renovating and building. It feeds the soil with respect to organic matter and nitrogen and takes from the soil mineral plant food in the forms of lime, phospheric acid and potash.

Well balanced fertilizer for alfalfa would be enough nitrogen to carry the plant until the inoculation is established and functioning, sufficient lime to sweeten the soil and furnish the lime necessary as a plant food, available phosphoric acid and potash to obtain good root development, heavy growth, vigor and resistance and good quality.

Dairymen, particularly, should give special attention to working an alfalfa acreage into their crop rotation. Statistics show that the average production per cow in Talbot County is below thirty-five hundred pounds of milk per year. Many of these cows would materially improve this production if they were given a liberal feed of alfalfa hay each day.

Some of our leading county dairymen say that they could not produce milk profitably without the aid of alfalfa hay.

QUEEN ANNES MAN FINDS ALFALFA COST ABOUT $15.00 ACRE

"Producers of alfalfa on the Eastern Shore," says Wm. C. Smith, of Queen Anne's County, former President of the Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau who now operates four fine farms at Church Hill, "Will be surprised at the really small cost of putting in the crop. I have strongly advocated alfalfa in connection with the dairying for years, and am this year sowing thirty acres more on my farms."

"So far as I am able to know from fair records, the lime is the main expense, running between six and ten dollars per acre depending upon the acidity of the land. In this connection, I have learned after long practice that the only safe means of procedure is to secure tests of the soil and abide by the results to the letter. Seed should cost about five dollars per acre when the best are used, and only the best should be used. We have ordered for this year ten bushels of Utah seed from highland sections. My expense per acre all told will not exceed fifteen dollars per acre this year."