

# CHEAPEST WAY TO FEED FARM ANIMALS IS TO HAVE THEM GRAZE IN PASTURES

Clemson College, S. C.—The cheapest way to feed animals is to have them graze in pastures. It is an easy and sure way to make money. The profits per acre may not be large but a comparative large acreage can be used with a small amount of man labor.

As all kinds of land may be used for grazing there need not be any idle land on the farm. Much land can be used for grazing that is not suited to staple crops. Pastures occupy some of the best land in the country and pay a profit on it.

For the cotton belt, Bermuda, Lespedeza, White Clover, and Bur Clover are the best plants to occupy the pasture area and for any given quantity and area of land will carry the largest number of animals. When well established on good land this combination of plants will carry as many as four grown cows per acre. A pasture that will carry one grown cow per acre is a good one.

For the rest of the country, extending as far west as Kansas and Nebraska, Kentucky and Canada Blue Grasses and White Clover make the best pastures and these plants are well adapted to the section indicated. A blue grass pasture that will carry one grown cow to the acre is regarded as exceptionally good; one that will carry a grown cow to two acres is regarded as good.

For certain types of land Canada blue grass, Red Top and Alsike Clover give the best grazing.

For the country north of the cotton belt the blue grasses and white clover are so aggressive that they occupy land not otherwise used so that most of the good blue grass pastures of the country are established by natural agencies and this is a desirable and easy way to get a good pasture. Most of the large area of land used for grazing in this country is occupied by plants established by natural agencies and sometimes this results in good grazing, but often it results in very indifferent grazing.

In the cotton belt no pasture established by natural agencies is comparable to a pasture soddied with Bermuda, Lespedeza, White Clover and Bur Clover. As a rule if a cotton farmer wants a good pasture he must make it.

Bermuda may be established by planting a small piece of sod every two feet each way on land that has been prepared as for oats or other small grain. The sod may be put out any time from April to October when there is moisture enough to make the sod live. White Clover may be sown in the early fall. Bur Clover (in the burr) is best sown in July. Lespedeza should be sown the latter part of February. Five pounds of White Clover seed are enough for one acre; twenty-five pounds of bur clover burr and twenty pounds of Lespedeza seed are sufficient for one acre.

Good pastures should be made gradually as the time element permits of making the cost small. Enough Bur Clover and Lespedeza to sow one acre each gives a start and seed from these small areas can be sown on other areas and the process continued until the plants are established over the entire area. Cattle may help to scatter the seed, especially Lespedeza seed. The

labor cost is much less where more time is used. Time is often a valuable aid in farm operations and it is very inexpensive. This is particularly true in establishing good pastures.

A grown cow should gain two hundred and fifty pounds during the pasture season. With fairly good pastures and good management the gains per acre should be worth four to five dollars and may be more. This appears small when compared to cotton at \$100 per acre and this difference is just as great as it seems and yet the pasture farmer may make the most money. Unless land is scarce and limited it usually does not matter about the acre profits. What should be of interest is how much does the man make. The man labor on one acre of cotton may be greater than it is on one hundred acres of pasture where beef cattle are bought in the spring at the beginning of the season and sold at the close of the season in the fall. One man may do the required work on five thousand acres of pasture. Cotton is a much more intensive crop than pasture grass but extensive crops may be just as profitable as intensive crops. It is really better for one to think of how much money he is going to make during the year rather than how much crop he is going to make on one acre.

Near the middle of the cotton belt there is an area of country that appears to be about one-half gullies. By pasturing that land a man made eight to ten thousand dollars a year. There was plenty of land, such as it was, and he used it. The fact that he was using large areas of land did not worry him.

Pasture farming is a very sure way to make money but you must use comparatively large areas.

With some pastures it pays to rotate the animals. Let them graze one area for a while then change to a different area and in this way the grass in each field is given a good chance to grow while the animals are grazing elsewhere. But this is not the way to manage a Bermuda pasture. Keep plenty of animals on a Bermuda sod to keep it grazed close to the ground.

By eating the best grasses animals encourage worthless weeds to grow in pastures and for this reason it is often advisable to run a mowing machine over them once or twice a year. Pastures need some shade but it takes open land to grow good grass. The cattle graze on the open areas.

The cotton farmer may have some excellent temporary pastures. A corn field where a good crop of peas or velvet beans have been grown as companion crops makes a valuable pasture for the fall season. The gains made in such pasture may be worth as much as ten dollars an acre.

Other temporary pastures may be had with peanuts and soy beans and still others with rape and sorghum. Temporary pasture in the cotton belt may be made to supplement the permanent grazing areas to very great advantage.

Nitrate of soda, as a top dressing on Bermuda sod, can be made to pay good profits. It should be applied the first of May.

Cotton is a very reliable crop but even cotton is not as sure as pastures.

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## Better Farming in the South

### TO USE FERTILIZERS MOST PROFITABLY

Fertilizers Supply One or More Plant Foods Without Which Crops Will Not Be Profitable.



J. C. PRIDMORE, Agronomist

The ambition of every farmer is to make the largest crops possible every year, and it is his duty to make them when he can. But harvests of large crops remove large quantities of plant food from the soil. This decrease of plant food finally prevents good yields. And unless some provision is made for restoring and then maintaining production, low yields and unprofitable returns will continue to be the result. One cannot draw money from a bank unless he has friends there. Neither can the plant draw upon the soil and get the necessary food elements if the soil does not contain them.

Plan For Good Yields Every Year Every farmer should adopt for his land a system of farming that will give him good yields continually year after year. If this is done, he must feed the plants, for plants, like animals, must feed to grow. While plants require some ten or more elements for their growth, all, except three, are supplied in abundance in most soils. The three elements not supplied abundantly are nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. All these are generally deficient in most southern soils, and, therefore, have to be supplied in some commercial form to get profitable yields.

For a farmer to get the largest acre returns from his investment in fertilizers, it is necessary for him to know something of the conditions under which fertilizers may be used most effectively. He naturally asks: "Under what conditions will fertilizers prove most profitable?"

Fertilizers are used primarily to supply one or more plant foods without which crops will not be profitable. But there are conditions other than plant foods that may influence growth. It is very necessary that good growing

conditions be provided for the plant so that the fertilizer used may enable the plant to grow most vigorously, and, therefore, bring about the biggest yields.

#### Vigorous Seed

The fundamental, good growing conditions making possible the most efficient use of plant foods, are good seed, a good seed bed and good cultivation.

All planting seed must have strong vitality to germinate and grow rapidly. Seed should also be of a variety adapted to local conditions. Time and rate of planting must be given attention, for either one of these may very materially effect the yield of the crop.

#### Good Seed Bed

Conditions required in the soil for best plant growth, and biggest acre returns from fertilizers used, are a good, well prepared, finely pulverized seed bed. It should be mellow and firm, so as to enable the roots to penetrate freely and deeply in search of food and moisture, and to allow sufficient circulation of air. It should be well drained. It should be well supplied with organic matter, which aids in absorbing and holding moisture and improves the structure and tilth of the soil. Good cultural methods must be employed so as to destroy weeds and retain soil moisture.

If the preceding conditions are satisfactory for plant growth, then, and not till then, are crops able to make the most efficient use of plant foods within their reach. If any one of these unfavorable conditions exist, a plant cannot fully utilize the foods supplied in fertilizers. Under good growing conditions fertilizers are used very profitably, proof of which is furnished by thousands of farmers all over the South. Fertilizers contain genuine plant food, and, of course, have a marked beneficial influence when applied in sufficient quantity, and the plants are otherwise given a fair chance. The question now is, Are you striving to so improve your soil conditions that you may utilize the value of fertilizer to the fullest extent?

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#### GERMAN RIFLE SOCIETIES.

No Jane's Paper Becomes Their Organized in Brazil. Rio de Janeiro, April 12.—Jane's Paper, under the title of "The German Rifle Society," has taken the direction of the German rifle societies in the south of Brazil. It denounces these organizations for their affiliation with the League of German Marksmen of Nuremberg, which, it says, gives them an undeniably military character. The paper declares that Brazil should take warning in time.

#### The First Steam Engines.

The first known use of steam to drive a kind of steam engine was described by Hero of Alexandria, probably in the first or second century B. C. But the first real steam engines were those used at the end of the seventeenth and in the early eighteenth centuries for pumping water out of mines. Newcomer's engine was used in English mines about 1711.

Baku's Imports of Wire. Russia, imports \$40,000 worth of wire monthly from the United States.

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#### TO TRAIN UP OFFICERS.

to be established in South Carolina. The organization will be established through the 3rd Army Department April 1st. A list of non-commissioned officers of the army who have been recommended for commission, according to announcement here today between 2,000 and 3,000 men will take the course. If found qualified they will be commissioned as high as the grade of captain for the duration of the war. The course of instruction will extend over a period of three months.

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