

Ideal Conditions Prevail For Fertilizing Forage Fields

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR
TO FERTILIZE OR NOT TO FERTILIZE

Early April 1966 is proving to be a year in which certain farm operations can be carried out at an unusually early time. One of these is the application of fertilizer for early pasture—a matter of some importance following a season of feed shortage.

It is on this question of chemical fertilizers to be used on grass that we find the authorities speaking with a forked tongue.

At the moment we have on our desk two rather official appearing documents, one approved by the F.E.I. Soils and Field Crop Committee, the other by the Department of Agriculture. The first, a recommendation of 300 to 400 lb of 6-12-12, this would provide slightly over 20 pounds of nitrogen which other authorities and many farmers know is quite inadequate to do the job.

The second document is a press release issued by the Federal Department of Agriculture and suggests that for profitable production what is needed is 500 pounds of a 15-5-15 mixture.

Note here the nitrogen involved adds up to 75 pounds as compared with slightly over 20 in the other recommendation. Again our first authority recommends a 0-20-20 formula for legumes, here again other authorities suggest 5-20-20. Another point of considerable importance for early spring application is the nitrogen carrier which in most standard mixtures is an ammonium sulphate form which does not release its nitrogen until soil temperatures have gotten over 50 degrees. Here again to get results with an early application the nitrogen or at least a portion of it should be of the nitrate type.

The point of all this is that farmers planning the use of mixed fertilizer for early pasture are not likely going to get the results expected from a potato fertilizer such as 6-12-12.

CROPPING TIME

At the moment indications are for an unusually early spring, fields are firm enough to permit the spreading of manure and fertilizer and already some cultivation is reported to have taken place. There are, of course, many other early springs on record and these on the average have probably not produced as good a crop as the later ones. There is some real cause for concern that the reserve of moisture in the ground is very low and unless quite heavy rain or snowfall takes place within the next six weeks crop prospects may not be good. Generally our observation would be that if new seedlings are disregarded pastures and meadows appear to be in good condition. For new seedlings 1965 was a very bad year and the result is that many of these new meadows are far from good and present a problem. Three approaches might be considered:

1. Plough and take another crop of grain and reseed.
2. Sow some grass seed among the stubble and harrow in.
3. Apply a high nitrogen fertilizer thus promoting a crop of grass which may perhaps be more abundant than is realized.

Frankly the latter course of action appears to have the most to recommend it from the standpoint of getting a crop of hay, keeping down expenses, and improving soil fertility.

INCOME TAX

Some time ago it was brought to the attention of the Federation that the income averaging feature of income tax available to individual farmers was not being applied to farm partnerships and farm companies.

We took this matter up and the advice from the CFA office in Ottawa is to the effect that the averaging provision applies to any tax payer including a corporation whose principle business is agriculture.

In the case of a corporation where there are only two tax rates, the lower one for profits

under \$30,000 the averaging provision would be a value only if profits tended to fluctuate between levels that involved the two rates of taxation.

In the case of partnerships one partner may average and the other not and it is not even required that they both average, or both refrain from averaging. The partnership as such is not a taxable entity.

CORN AND SILAGE

There certainly appears to be an unusual amount of interest in the growing of corn. Related to this, of course, is interest in silage equipment and silos. We have heard rumors to the effect that the Department of Agriculture is considering providing some assistance in the purchase of silage equipment—nothing definite at the moment. We have before us quotations from a commercial firm on wood stave silos. These do not include delivery and cost of erection.

12 feet by 35 feet \$1,200
16 feet by 40 feet \$1,855
20 feet by 40 feet \$2,480
20 feet by 50 feet \$3,160

A wood stave silo is not a complicated structure to build and farmers who have their own lumber and who can do a certain amount of the work involved the cost can certainly be kept below the figures quoted above. However, it must be admitted that the commercial structure will probably be superior from the standpoint of quality and durability. In any event we see a considerable development in silage and one grower is planning on 100 acres of corn.

MEETING ACTIVITIES

As the cropping season approaches, meeting activity tends to taper off provincially, but not at the national level. This week a committee from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Dairy Farmers of Canada is meeting in Toronto to consider the factors related to integration of the activities of both groups. This committee meeting grows out of a resolution introduced at the Dairy Farmer's meeting in January and defeated one day but again introduced the next and passed in amended form.

Towards the latter part of next week the executive of the Dairy Foods Service Bureau meets in Toronto for its quarterly meeting. In Ottawa Federation representatives from the Maritime Provinces hope to meet with Maritime members of parliament for a discussion on Federal farm policy. At the same time the Centennial Commission is holding a seminar on rural beautification with a view to stepping up activities in that area for 1967.

Next Monday the Holstein people have their annual meeting at Birch Court. We do not expect the origin of the 'Red Factor' in the breed will receive special attention. The fact that it is there is proof that it was introduced at some point, just when or from where is, of course, an interesting academic question, but does little to solve the problem. Holstein people now find it necessary to live with it.

CENTURY FARMS

The recognition of century farms carried out in this province in 1964 has attracted attention in at least two other provinces—Ontario and New Brunswick. Over a year ago interested parties in Ontario sought information and certain areas are taking the matter up. Just recently two gentlemen from the Centennial Commission in New Brunswick visited the federation office to make inquiries.

WASTE TIME

Farmers are constantly being advised by farm management people and economists with respect to efficiency, under-employment and productivity. One aspect of the farming operation that we would like to see statistically established is the amount of time spent by farmers in trying to procure parts and repairs.

In far too many cases valuable time is lost and over the holiday we had the experience of

Temporary Hibernation Is Space Travel Hope

By FRANK CAREY

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) A space scientist has reported that new experiments with hibernating hamsters raise hope for eventually inducing temporary hibernating powers in man—for long space voyages and for food conservation during times of famine.

Dr. R. R. Chaffee of the University of Missouri's Space Science Research Centre also said that an ability to make men go into hibernation and slow their bodies' demands by cooling them could greatly extend the time available for surgeons in performing critical operations.

He told about it in a report to the opening of the convention of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology—a conclave of nearly 20,000 scientists.

Declaring the Syrian hamster is the only inbred hibernating laboratory animal—but that not all of them have such powers—Dr. Chaffee told of genetic experiments in which the ability to hibernate gradually was increased over several generations in some families and reduced in others.

He said this suggests that only a few hereditary genes may be involved in the hibernation process, and further suggests the possibility of producing a race of hamsters which would all be hibernators and another race lacking any power to go into hibernating sleep.

Saying the production of such wholly different lines would allow a definite test of the few-genes concept of hibernation, the scientist added:

"If these (hibernating powers) prove to be the expression of only a few genes, and involve only a few gene products, and these products can be supplied to animals in a non-hibernating species, then presumably the possibility presents itself of producing hibernation in animals which do not have the natural capacity to hibernate—and conceivably in man."

HEMLOCK OUTLASTS ALL
The oldest tree ever measured in Ontario was a hemlock with 368 annual rings.

BARRELS ROLL QUIETLY
An anti-noise device introduced in England is plastic hoops around metal barrels which have to be rolled.

seeing three tractors, two spreaders and a loader all immobilized because a poorly installed bearing had disappeared and the replacement was not readily available. Some attention on the part of experts to devise protection for the farmer from this type of economic sabotage would be appreciated.

Stories Of Phantom Tankers Told In Mozambique Channel

By JOSEPH MACSWEEN

LONDON (CP)—To the fanciful, this story may recall phantom ships seen by superstitious sailors, perhaps even the elusive Marie Celeste, which sails forever in ocean mists.

But it tells instead of fat bank books, big, smelly oil tankers, Greek and South African businessmen, Rhodesia's white-minority regime, and of how the United Nations and Prime Minister Wilson tried to stop oil getting to Britain's upstart colony.

Ever since Ian Smith seized independence for Rhodesia Nov. 11, there have been tales of phantom tankers in the Mozambique Channel.

These yarns arose from puzzlement over how Rhodesia, an inland country without oil resources of its own, hoped to meet its fuel needs while defying oil sanctions by Britain and the United Nations.

The two tankers now so much in the news—the Ioanna V and Manuela—are obviously far from phantoms. But London

newspapers have indicated a degree of mystery about the ships, which once had a stated destination of Rotterdam, surely one of the most substantial and non-controversial of

STORY EMERGES

Yet when Ioanna V—with new owners and new flag—arrived at Beira a week ago, a different story emerged.

The Ioanna V skipper, astonished that anyone should mention Beira's oil-pipeline connection with Rhodesia, said he had merely stopped for repairs and water and was en route to Djibouti, in French Somaliland.

The ship had passed Djibouti without stopping after picking up 18,000 tons of crude oil from the Persian Gulf late in February.

It sailed on through the Suez

Canal and circumnavigated Africa. In the meantime, say London reports, it had been sold for £400,000 (\$1,200,000) and its registry was changed from Greek to Panamanian. It also changed skippers at Dakar, Senegal, on Africa's west coast.

The Ioanna V seems to have gone through more navigational convolutions than her sister ship, the Manuela, which was eventually boarded by the Royal Navy Saturday when it was obviously headed for Beira.

"This is the story of how three private companies and an unrecognized rebel regime held the United Nations, the Royal Navy and the British prime minister up to ridicule," is the way The Observer, a weekly paper, begins its article on the subject.

The Sunday Times says that when Ioanna sailed into Beira last Tuesday, she was carrying the first of 27 tanker cargoes of crude oil destined for the pipeline to Umfali, just across the Rhodesia border from Mozambique.

If Ioanna and her sister ship had been able to continue their scheduled voyages unhindered, Rhodesia would have had enough oil to supply its seige economy for a year, says the newspaper.

Mortgage Rates Go Up In U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Interest rates on U.S. government-backed home mortgages were increased Monday—for the sec-

ond time within about two months—to 5½ per cent from 5½ per cent on single-family dwellings.

The action, another phase in the Johnson administration's march toward tighter money, will mean a total rate of 6¼ per cent on such mortgages, including the one-half of one per cent charged on premiums insured by the Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration.

Mortgage bankers expect that the biggest effect of Monday's action will be to reduce the premium sellers of homes must now pay to obtain mortgage financing. This rate—called points—now runs to as much as six and seven per cent of the total value of a mortgage in some areas of the U.S.

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