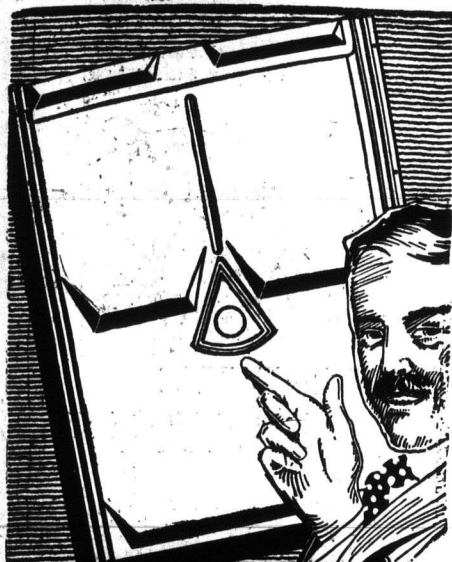




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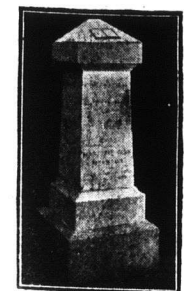
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About the Farm

Fall Seeding of Alfalfa

Where land is infested with more than the average amount of grass and weeds, the surest way of getting a start of alfalfa is to seed in the fall. This gives the alfalfa a chance to establish a good hold in the ground before the coming of grass the following spring, whereas, if sown in the spring, both grass and alfalfa make the start together, with more than an even chance that the grass will win out.

The one great point to remember when seeding in the fall is to seed early enough so the plant gets a good root system established before the coming of freezing weather. We like to finish our seeding by the 25th of this month, though we have known later seeding to do fully as well. The late seeding, however, must be favored by the winter while the early seeding can stand more winter grief and still survive.

A favorite plan here is to use land that has grown a crop of small grain for the fall seeding of alfalfa. This means quick work with the plow as soon as possible after harvest, for the sooner the land is plowed and the longer it is allowed to settle before seeding the better the seed bed that can be secured. We like to get the land plowed by the middle of July, and disc it whenever there is any growth of young grass or weeds to be killed before the time of seeding. The discing has a tendency to pack the soil, which is exactly what it needs to convert it into ideal condition for alfalfa. We have a grain drill that will sow approximately twelve pounds of seed to the acre when closed tight. We use this for a seeder, covering the seed with the small covering wheels that follow behind the discs. One is more sure of getting an even stand of alfalfa by seeding with the drill, as all seed is evenly covered. This is more especially the case in time of dry weather, a few weeks of which we are apt to have at this season of the year. Also, during the winter and early spring the drilled alfalfa will not heave as badly as will that broadcasted and started nearer the surface.—H. H., Kan.

9,000 Million Gallons Annually

Milk has become one of our staple and most important food products. It is consumed in greater or lesser quantities in practically every home in the land. It has been estimated that the human consumption of milk in this country is approximately 9,000 million gallons annually—a rather startling total. Those engaged in dairying can rest assured that the demand will not decrease, but will increase per capita as well as in the aggregate, provided, of course, that carelessness does not enter into the production and marketing in such a way as to deteriorate the quality and general food value of the supply.

Nothing is easier to contaminate, and nothing depreciates in quality, with greater rapidity than does milk. The introduction of bad flavors, and germs causing souring, ropiness, etc., are the most common forms of contamination with which the producer of sanitary milk has to contend. There are so many ways in which carelessness can lower the market value of the farm output. Unhealthy cows, unsanitary stables and yards, bad water, milking under objectionable conditions, failure to cool and otherwise properly care for the milk directly it is drawn from the udder, and lack of proper protection against dust, odors, flies, and unclean utensils between the farm and the consumer's table, all conspire to reduce the food value, and consequently the market demand.

Cities and town have become so alive to the need for clean and safe food supplies that they invariably require regular inspection of the farm premises and the herds contributing the supply, and the handling of this milk by the city dairies and distributors under strictly sanitary conditions. The mere fact that so many city consumers prefer and demand pasteurized and bottled milk in preference to that delivered in required quantities from bulk is evidence that the public want safe food supplies. Dairymen should always bear this in mind. There is no limit to which the dairy industry can be developed if this very important detail is emphasized sufficiently in the work of producing one of the most important of food products.—I. B. Henderson.

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