

1891. She weighs about 1400 lbs., her owner—Mr. ABE BOURQUIN of Nokomis, Ill.,—being a liberal feeder, and the breed having a considerable aptitude for storing up fat on which to draw as may be afterwards necessary.

Seasonable Notes.

MAKING PASTURES.

As good pasture land is always rich, it is only natural that such land should take easier to grass than poor land. It is, therefore, a good plan to sow grass seeds immediately after a bare fallow or after a root crop which has been eaten with sheep upon the lar. It is the usual practice to take a grain crop in these circumstances, but many persons prefer to sow grass seeds at once, and this is called sowing "without a crop." Now, as a grain crop is worth £7 or £8 per acre, it is evident that sowing without it is rather an expensive way of going to work. For this reason tenant farmers usually sow their grass seeds with a crop of grain, and landlords, who have a more permanent interest in the land, are more likely to sow their grass seeds without the grain crop.

Land intended for sowing down to permanent pasture should be well dunged and limed, or roots should be fed upon it, so as to bring it into high condition. It is not advisable to sow to grass land in a foul condition, and hence the importance of fallowing in order to destroy weeds and bring the land into a clean condition.

THE SELECTION OF THE SEED

is of very great importance, and is a subject of some difficulty. There are many sorts of grasses, some of which are valuable, while others are worthless. The various kinds of grasses ought to be studied carefully, and there is no better way of learning to know them than collecting them and drying them between leaves of white blotting-paper. Although there are so many kinds of grasses, there are not more than fifteen or twenty which need to be introduced into good mixtures. A good mixture must, however, also contain several sorts of clover and plants of a similar character, of which the following may be considered as a fair illustration :

	lbs.
Cow grass, or perennial (overlasting) red clover...	4
White Dutch clover	4 (1)
Alsike clover.....	2
Birdsfoot trefoil.....	2
Suckling clover.....	2
Yellow clover.....	2
Yarrow, or millefoil.....	0½ (2)
Cocksfoot grass.....	3
Dogstail grass.....	1
Timothy, or catstail grass.....	2 (3)
Sweet vernal grass.....	1
Sheep's fescue.....	1
Foxtail grass.....	2
Yellow oat grass.....	1½
Perennial ryegrass (Pacey's)	5 (4)
Tall fescue.....	2
Rough stalked meadow grass.....	1½

36½

The grass seeds may be sown in August, but this plan can only be followed when they are sown "without a crop." A more usual plan is to sow them with the grass seed-barrow

(1) I should only sow 2 lbs. of white clover here, as it comes spontaneously on most soils in this county. A. R. J. F.
 (2) Yarrow is useless here. A. R. J. F.
 (3) I should sow 4 lbs. of timothy, to make up for the 2 lbs. of clover left out. More in the April number about this. A. R. J. F.
 (4) Mr Evans promises to have some Pacey's for this season's work. All other ryegrasses are useless here. A. R. J. F.

upon young corn in the same manner as has been recommended in sowing seeds for one to three or four years. When the corn is reaped the field is already green with the young grasses, which then grow with rapidity and yield a crop of hay or grazing for animals the following summer.

TREATMENT OF YOUNG PASTURES.

It is well known that when land is first laid down in permanent pasture it frequently yields a heavy crop the first year. The second year the crop is less abundant, and the third it still further declines. Perhaps the fourth year is the most trying for a new-made pasture, and after this period it slowly recovers itself, and by the seventh or eighth year it ought to be established. The appearance of the field is, however, still very inferior to that of an old piece of permanent grass, and, in some cases, twenty or more years must elapse before it arrives at a condition which we wish to see. In other cases the land never takes to grass, and after a number of unsatisfactory years it is again ploughed up for tillage. It must be the object of every good farmer to shorten this period of probation and to produce good and productive turf as soon as possible.

The difficulty seems to be to produce a thick sward or close "bottom" of grass, in which no bare earth is visible, and the entire surface is completely covered with a continuous "sole" or "skin" of grassy herbage. On examining a good old pasture, it will be seen that the clovers and trefoils occupy an important position as a sub-growth, and that the taller grasses rise above them in abundance.

Our object is best attained by the use of large quantities of manure. No kind of crop requires such a rich soil as pastures and meadows, and, therefore, every opportunity should be taken to nurse and encourage the growth of the grasses. The best applications may be described in homely language as dirt of all kinds, such as road scrapings, ditch and hedge scourings, or parings from ditches and hedges, pond clearings and composts, or mixtures of dead weeds and soil. Plentiful dressings of these and similar materials are particularly suitable for newly made grass land.

The question as to whether the crop should be mown for hay the first year, or grazed by stock, is an important one, but we incline to the latter method as less exhausting. (1)

It is true that when grass is allowed to grow to its full height, as it does before mowing, the roots become longer and stronger, as there is a proportion between the upward growth of stem and leaf and the downward growth of roots. This is known to be the case with clover, which, when mown, leaves the soil richer in root than when grazed by sheep. (2)

To mow a newly-made pasture may then be adopted, if we are prepared to manure the ground after the removal of the crop. But a more excellent way seems to be to allow the grass to grow to a fair height and then to turn cows or bullocks into the field and let them waste a little food. The waste is more apparent than real, and we shall find the benefit of this treatment in succeeding years. Sheep are not suitable for grazing a newly-laid-down pasture, as they are apt to bite too closely, and to injure the development of some of the finest grasses.

No treatment benefits grass land so much as grazing with bullocks which receive a little oil cake every day. Bullocks do not graze closely to the ground, and the cake more than makes up for any ingredients which they remove from the ground in adding to their own flesh and bones. By following

(1) I should graze with young cattle. No sheep for the first two years. A. R. J. F.
 (2) The oftener mown at full growth, the richer the land and the better the following wheat-crop. In England clover only stands one year. A. R. J. F.