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Federal Land Bank Loans

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IOWA FARM AND HOME REGISTER, JANUARY 15, 1961

FARM SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

By James R. McGuire

New Forage Preservative

DEVELOPMENT of Ethoxyquin, a new stabilizer for use in the feed industry, has been hailed by USDA officials as a major breakthrough in feed processing which benefits the forage grower, livestock and poultry producer, and the feed processing industry. It preserves the vitamins and pigments of dehydrated alfalfa during handling and while in storage for extended periods until these nutrients are eaten by farm animals. According to conservative estimates, this is expected to save \$10 million worth of nutrients a year in the U. S.

Our World's Too Fast for Hens

THE WORLD is rotating too fast for laying hens, says Paul Walther, extension poultryman at Iowa State University. They would have higher egg production on a 26-hour day, Walther says, because it takes that long for a hen to produce an egg. Since usually a hen is capable of producing only one egg at a time, she lays an egg about two hours later each day for four or five days. The next day is skipped and this allows the hen to adjust back to the period of light in the laying houses. If hens were put in a windowless house on a 26-hour cycle (14 of light and 12 of darkness), the day would be long enough to direct the hen into continuous egg production. But this would throw the poultryman's schedule off and he would have to adjust to the chicken's day.

Corn The Borer Won't Touch

UNIVERSITY of Illinois scientists are developing corn that is as distasteful to the European corn borer as spinach is to kids. Following the discovery that borer resistance is inherited, corn breeders have developed seven inbred lines with excellent resistance to first-brood borers. These inbred lines are now being used in attempts to produce resistant, high-yielding hybrids.



Crop Costs and Farm Expansion

AN OHIO STUDY of how crop production costs decline as size of the farm increases indicates that most of the economic gains are obtained when size of the farm reaches 400 crop acres. For example, cost of producing corn declined about \$6.50 an acre when size of the farm was increased from 100 to 400 crop acres.

Crop costs per acre were reduced by the following amounts when the rotated land was increased from 100 to 700 acres: Corn, about \$9; soybeans, \$8; wheat, \$5.50; and one cutting of hay, \$4.40. These reductions were due to lower charges for labor, tractor power and machinery. Farm expansion doesn't appreciably lower per-acre cost for seed, sprays, lime and mineral nutrients.

The study also showed that small-farm operators can compete with large-farm operators if they cut harvesting costs to a minimum by hiring crops harvested, purchasing new equipment and doing custom work with it, or using second-hand machinery.

If one of these alternatives is followed on a 160-acre farm, production costs per acre will be about the same as on a 280-acre farm where all machinery is owned by the operator and only slightly higher than on a 500-acre farm. The small operator's volume, however, may still be too low for satisfactory income.

Urea for Better Lawns

UREAFORMALDEHYDE, a new nitrogen fertilizer, keeps lawns green throughout the growing season and produces a thicker turf, Iowa State University agronomists have found. It is a combination of urea (also used as a protein supplement in cattle feeds) and formaldehyde (commonly known as embalming fluid). The 38 per cent nitrogen content of this fertilizer is released slowly throughout the growing season. Ureaformaldehyde is now available in some mixed lawn fertilizers.

Dairy Culling Note

PRODUCTION by the daughters of low-producing dairy cows will rise to the herd average in a few generations if superior, progeny-tested bulls are used, a 35-year, Holstein-Friesian breeding experiment by the USDA indicates. No important benefit to herd production seems to result from culling these daughters, although it is wise to cull the low-producing mothers, a report on the experiment states. Transmission of production characteristics from dam to daughter is not always consistent. Even when using proved bulls, the highest producing cows do not always have the highest producing daughters. This points up the fact that basing heifer selection on the dam's production record isn't very effective.

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