

EXTRA FORAGE for EXTRA MILK

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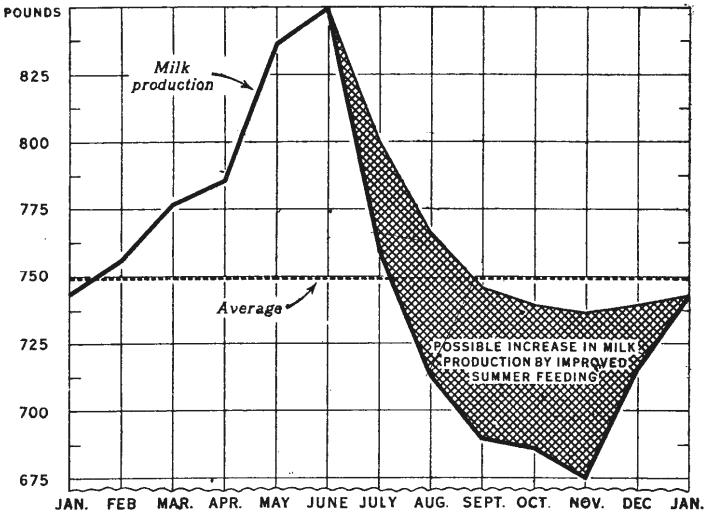


Fig. 1. The possibility of increasing milk production during the summer months through proper feeding is graphically shown on the above chart. Production of extra feed as outlined in this bulletin is a major factor in achieving the increased summer milk production. The above chart was prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

On many dairy farms of Washington, there usually occurs a period in late summer and early autumn when pastures fail to supply enough feed for the cows. Extra feed is needed to keep up the milk flow. If not supplied, there will be a noticeable drop in milk production. This extra feed should be home grown.

The dairyman may bridge this feed shortage in several ways. Whatever is to be done to meet this situation must be done at the beginning of the season (in the early spring or in the preceding fall). This means planning against the time of shortage.

Special plantings of forage crops will be needed in many cases and choices of crops are necessary. Soils, moisture, climate will help to determine what to grow.

On some farms, there are small pieces of land not suited for regular cropping; these should be used for such emergency crops. It may be necessary to use some of the regular fields for this purpose. Some may be able to use certain by-products such as pea vines—in pea canning districts—or beet tops, where sugar beets are grown. These should be placed in good storage for use when needed. All by-products from cash crops should be used if they have feed value.

Crops To Use

In the main, annual crops are best suited and usually they are short season crops. They may be selected from the following list: Rye, wheat, oats, beardless barley, vetch, peas, each seeded alone but better in suitable combinations or mixtures. Others are: Proso millet, sudan grass, corn, mangels, carrots.

Such crops must be planted at the right time and in the best way as indicated in the table below. Time of planting is especially important. Good

Crops and Their Uses

Crop	Pounds of seed required per acre	Planting Time	Ready to use by:	When used as:
Rye	75-90	Fall-Early Spring	Early Summer	Hay-Silage
Wheat	80-100	Fall-Early Spring	Early Summer	Hay-Silage
Oats	120-135	Early Spring, also fall seeding in Western Washington	Midsummer	Green feed-hay-silage
Barley (beardless)	80-100	Early Spring	Midsummer	Green feed-hay-silage
Grain and Vetch	Half & half by weight—120-140	Fall-Early spring	Midsummer	Green feed-hay-silage
Grain and Peas	Half & half by weight—120-140	Fall-Early spring	Midsummer	Green feed-hay-silage
Carrots	2-3	Early Spring	Fall & Winter	Succulence
Mangels	3-4	Early Spring	Fall & Winter	Succulence
Proso Millet	35-50	Spring—soil must be warm	Midsummer	Green feed-silage
Corn-Field sweet	10-20	Spring—soil must be warm	Late Summer	Green feed-silage
Sudan grass	25-30	Spring—soil must be warm	Midsummer	Green feed-silage

preparation of seed bed is a second important factor.

The grains should be seeded early; and at a rate somewhat heavier than is used when seeding for grain production. Heavy forage tonnage is desired. Sometimes, a mixture of two or even three is made.

Forage quality can be improved by using grains with legumes. Yields can be increased in this way. Rye or wheat with vetch or peas make good combinations.

In addition, some of these crops can be used to supply grazing when regular pastures are not able to supply enough feed. Figure 2 indicates when and how such crops may be of help. The exact time when they may be used varies, since it depends upon time of planting and growing conditions. However, they are a great help in filling the gap.

PASTURE CALENDAR

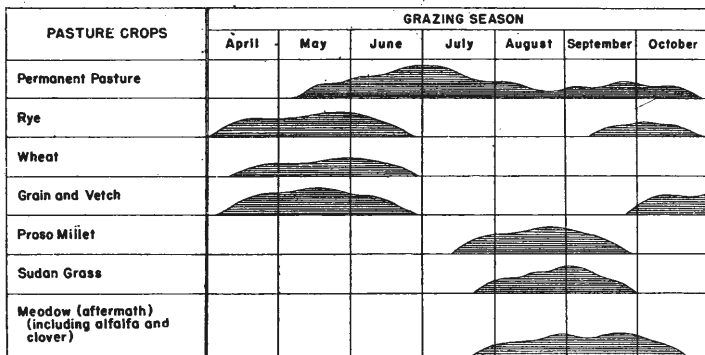


Figure 2



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