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Will make the season of 1909 at the feed yard one block north of the Leon public square. He is good size and good bone and a good breeder.

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**PLANT ALFALFA.**

This is the Year Decatur County Farmers Should Plant Some Land to Alfalfa.

In view of the fact that the many floods and heavy rains this spring will result in a big shortage in crops of all kinds in Decatur county, why would not this be a good year to start growing a field of alfalfa on your farm.

Prof. M. L. Bowman, professor of farm crops at the State College at Ames, has just issued a pamphlet giving full instructions as to how to prepare the ground and seed to alfalfa, and he recommends that farmers in all parts of the state plant it. We reprint the pamphlet in full and ask our farmer friends to carefully read the article.

This crop is of the greatest importance to the Iowa farmer and is certain to become one of the common crops of this state for the following reasons:

1. It can be successfully grown in practically all parts of the state.
2. It will yield in a single season from two to three times as much as clover and timothy.
3. It has a high feeding value.
4. It enriches the soil.

**YIELD.**

Alfalfa yields heavily. Three cuttings may be expected in this state in a single season, and frequently a fourth cutting.

The college has had marked success at all times when alfalfa was seeded at the right time of the year and the ground properly prepared. The first cutting this year, made June 18th, yielded on the average of 2.31 tons per acre. Not less than two more cuttings will be had this year. If alfalfa is properly seeded the Iowa farmer may depend upon from four to six tons of hay per acre annually.

**ADDS FERTILITY TO THE SOIL.**

All legumes have the property of taking free nitrogen from the air and transforming it into available plant food by means of organisms which grow upon the roots, forming tubercles. Alfalfa is especially valuable from this standpoint. Its roots contain a high percentage of nitrogen which becomes readily available for the following crops when the alfalfa ground is broken up.

**ALFALFA IN A ROTATION.**

Except in special cases it is not desirable to keep alfalfa more than four or five years in one place, for the following reasons:

1. In this region alfalfa is at its best about the third or fourth year. After this it is very likely to deteriorate. This will not apply to the semi-arid regions. There the alfalfa, sending its roots deep into the soil makes a good growth and manages to keep ahead of the weeds and grasses which will not thrive so well without the aid of sufficient surface water. Conditions are different in Iowa. We have more surface water which will aid the blue grass and weeds in getting a foothold by the time the field has been in alfalfa for four or five years. And while at this age, and later, the field will yield very profitable returns, it will be on the decline, and it is therefore best to plow it up and seed down another piece.
2. From the standpoint of rotation of crops it is not desirable to keep a field in alfalfa for more than four or five years. It will then furnish a piece of ground for the growing of corn while another portion of the farm should have been prepared and seeded to alfalfa. Better results in each case may then be expected.

**PREPARING THE GROUND.**

Ground which has grown a crop of oats, barley or wheat is generally used. The grain should be removed from the field as soon as possible and an application of from 8 to 10 loads of well rotted manure to the acre be added immediately. It should then be disced thoroughly, lapping disc half, plowed, disced again, then harrowed and let lie until the 5th to 10th of August, when it should be disced, harrowed and seeded. The small grain should either be threshed or hauled from the field and stacked as soon as the grain is ready in order that the ground may be plowed. By so doing the ground will, under ordinary conditions, collect ample moisture by August 10th so that the seed will germinate rapidly.

**TOP DRESSING.**

When ten acres or more are to be put into alfalfa it is often found quite difficult to prepare the ground as above stated and have it ready at the proper time for seeding, due especially to the time which it takes to scatter the manure. Very favorable results are being secured where the ground is prepared as stated above with the exception of adding the manure. Then put in the seed and wait until along in the winter when 8 to 10 manure spreader loads of manure are added per acre in the way of a top dressing. Care should be taken that no more land be put into alfalfa than can be thoroughly manured, for only by so doing have we been able to secure the most favorable returns.

**TIME OF SEEDING.**

The best results may generally be expected from seeding in late summer. The term "fall seeding of alfalfa" is commonly used, but this is improper and misleading. It should be spoken of as late summer seeding. Alfalfa sown in the fall is very sure to meet with failure. It should be seeded not later than the 5th to 15th of August. If seeding takes place in the fall, the alfalfa plants will not have made sufficient growth to withstand the winter. Alfalfa should not be pastured the first season. The growth from seeding time until winter sets in should be 6 to 8 inches, and should be left on the ground for winter protection. A nurse crop should not be used.

If alfalfa is to be sown in the spring it should be only in the northern parts of the state, and in this case desirable results have been secured by using a nurse crop. If oats are used at all they should be early oats. Wheat or barley is much better. They are not so likely to lodge. If the nurse crop is heavy, a poor stand of alfalfa is almost sure to follow. Not more than one half the usual amount of grain should be sown to the acre. Better results may be expected if no nurse crop is used. In this case it will be necessary for the weeds to be mowed down two or three times during the summer so that the alfalfa will not be choked out. It is better to sow in the spring than late in the fall. Late summer seeding is the best. The following year it will be freer from weeds and have a better stand than

that which was sown the spring before. Corn stalk ground which was well manured the year before for corn is generally used for spring seeding. The stalks should first be removed. The field may then be thoroughly disced and harrowed. The seed should be sown about the first of April.

**METHOD AND AMOUNT OF SEEDING.**

The drill is much preferable to the putting of the seed in broadcast. Where the ground is thoroughly prepared, according to the directions, it will not be found necessary to harrow after the drill. When put in broadcast the ground should be harrowed. Twenty (20) pounds of seed to the acre is recommended. It is best to sow one half the seed first, then cross the field sowing the other half. By so doing the seed will be more evenly distributed and this is a very important factor as alfalfa does not spread out and take up all the ground as does blue grass, for example. Plants will be produced only on those spots where the seed is sown, so if the seed is sown unevenly there will always be an uneven stand. The seed should be put in the ground immediately after preparing the seed bed, which must contain a sufficient supply of moisture at the time the seed is sown or the seeds will not germinate properly. The seed should not be covered deeply; a half to three-fourths of an inch is sufficient.

**WHEN TO CUT FOR HAY.**

As hay, alfalfa has no equal, but it must be cut and cured at the proper time. To delay means the hay will become woody and the leaves will shatter off. The following crop will also be injured. It should never be allowed to get into full bloom, but should be cut when from one-tenth to one-fourth of the plants are in bloom. This will generally be during the second or third week in June. The best time to mow for hay is in the latter part of the afternoon, then the sun will not wither up the leaves and transpiration can take place unimpeded. During the evening and night the leaves will throw off the moisture rapidly. Should there be a dew it will soon be lifted by the morning sun, then the alfalfa may be tedded for a short time. Care must be taken not to shatter off the leaves. They are the most valuable part of the plant. Tedding will not do this until the moisture content is getting low. It will not be difficult to determine when the tedding should cease. It will be found that the hay can be hauled in much sooner with the use of the tedder, but it must be used judiciously. By handling the hay in this manner it may be cured in from 36 to 48 hours under favorable conditions. Never cut alfalfa when the dew is on.

**DISCING THE ALFALFA FIELDS.**

When the alfalfa field is two years old it should be disced. The disc should be set but very little, the idea of discing being chiefly to split the crowns of the alfalfa plants that they may thicken up. Some weeds will also be destroyed in this process.

**ALFALFA BLIGHT.**

Blight will sometimes attack alfalfa, especially in the humid regions when there has been an excessive amount of moisture. This will be noted by the leaves turning yellow and falling off, the lower ones being affected first. In this case the alfalfa should be cut at once. The next crop will come on immediately and will not necessarily be affected.

**ALFALFA FOR HOGS.**

There is no other pasture equal to alfalfa for pasturing hogs. It keeps them in a healthy, growing condition and furnishes one of the most economical means of producing pork. One of the best ways to begin with alfalfa is to seed down a field intended for a hog pasture. The ground must not be low and wet for alfalfa will not grow on wet land. It is adapted to almost every kind of soil, but kills out where ever water stands near the surface for any length of time. Special care should be taken the first year. There is often a tendency to pasture too closely and especially in this case the alfalfa is used for pasturing sheep. They relish it greatly and if turned in, in too great a number, they will keep the alfalfa so closely picked that the plants cannot make proper root development, and will be greatly weakened or killed out entirely.

**ALFALFA SEED.**

The production of alfalfa seed in the humid regions has not proved profitable. The semi-arid regions for the west are better suited for this purpose. Better results seem to be had from seed obtained from the eastern part of Kansas and Nebraska than from that obtained from the irrigated district.

Great care should be taken in the purchase of seed. Be sure that it is of good vitality and free from obnoxious weed seeds, some of which resemble the alfalfa very much.

**SOIL INOCULATION.**

This is a question which has been much discussed of late years in such a way that it has been misleading and no doubt has been the means of discouraging many who otherwise would be growing alfalfa at the present time. The following, taken from press bulletin issued by Prof. C. F. Curtiss, Director of the Iowa Experiment Station, states very clearly the fallacy of nitrogen cultures for Iowa farms.

"The farmers of Iowa and other states with similar soil conditions should waste no money buying bacteria. Barn yard manure and thorough tillage are worth more than all the nitrogen cultures on the market. Put the soil in good enough condition to grow seventy-five bushels of corn per acre, and the question of cultures will take care of itself."

**ADVANTAGES OF ALFALFA.**

1. It yields from two to three times as much as clover and timothy, and is a more valuable hay.
  2. It is rich in protein.
  3. For hog pasture alfalfa has no equal.
  4. It is superior to any other crop for enriching the soil.
  5. Alfalfa fed in conjunction with corn will make the most economical gains.
- METHODS TO BE EMPLOYED.**
1. To grow alfalfa, the ground must be put in good physical condition.
  2. Add eight to ten loads of manure to the acre.
  3. Late summer seeding gives the best results. (From 5th to 15th of August.)
  4. The importance of a good seed bed cannot be too strongly emphasized.
  5. Sow good seed.
  6. Alfalfa must be cut promptly when ready.

**It's all in the Taste**

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This contest is open to all. No money required—nothing to buy or sell. Simply send to Prof. B. W. Crossley, Iowa State College, Ames, Ia., before Jan. 5th, 1910, the most perfect ear of corn you are able to secure. For further particular watch this paper.

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Battle Creek, Mich.

**Keep Your Bowels Open**

A Safe Certain Home Remedy that is Sold By All Druggists

A fact any doctor will verify is that constipated people suffer most from disease. Regular bowel action is absolutely necessary to health. People who are constipated either part or all of the time must use something to make their bowels move. This should not be a violent purgative or a cathartic that merely tears its way through the bowels emptying them of waste matter for the time but leaving them in a weakened state that prolongs the constipated condition. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is an easy, pleasant, natural laxative that removes the waste matter and establishes regular, daily movements without pain or gripe. Children and delicate women should never be given strong physic for it not only weakens the bowels but the entire system. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin serves as a tonic and an aid to digestion as well as a laxative that is certain in its effect upon the most obstinate old cases and yet safe and pleasant for a baby. With the first few doses the ill effects of constipation, such as dyspepsia, indigestion, liver trouble, biliousness, flatulency, sour stomach, sick headache, bloated stomach, etc., quickly disappear. It is a remedy that should be in every home for every member of the family at some time has need of a safe, sure laxative. Mrs. J. C. Cooper, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I use Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin for myself and family. I keep it on hand constantly, as I find it to be a most pleasant laxative and is all you claim for it." Sarah J. Houser, Eureka Springs, Ark., says: "I would have been dead had it not been for Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. It is the best medicine I ever used for constipation, indigestion and biliousness." M. R. Zerkel, Troy, Ohio, considers it the best known laxative for children. We are glad to send a free sample to any one who has not used it and will give it a fair trial. Write today to Pepsin Syrup Co., 305 Caldwell Bldg., Monticello, Ill. All druggists sell it at 50c and \$1.00 per bottle.

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