

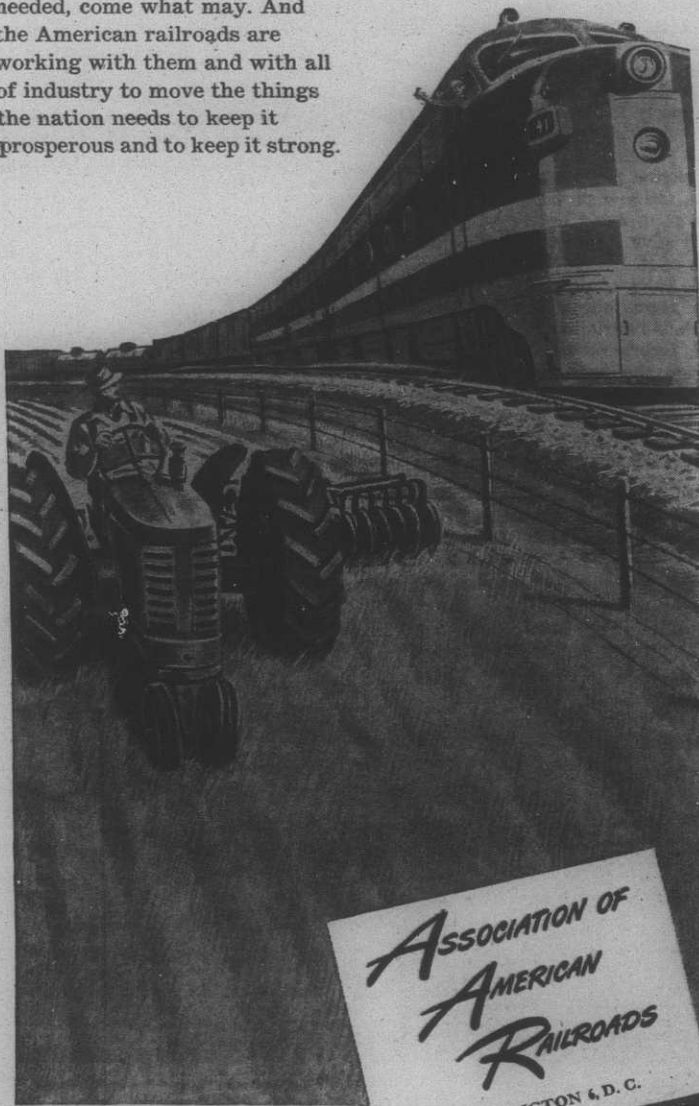
TEAMED-UP

Farmers and railroads are long-time "partners"—in one of the biggest and most vital jobs in America.

The farmer grows the food, the feed, and the fiber so basic to the strength of the nation. The railroads bring the farmer his supplies and equipment—and carry his products wherever they are needed.

And these days, when national rearmament is everybody's biggest job, this "partnership" takes on even greater importance. For, as America's "muscles" get bigger, its appetite for almost everything increases enormously.

American farmers are working to produce the crops that will be needed, come what may. And the American railroads are working with them and with all of industry to move the things the nation needs to keep it prosperous and to keep it strong.



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Soils and Crops

Poor Stands May Reflect Condition of 1950 Seed

By RALPH MERCER

EVEN THOUGH in some areas, the crested wheatgrass did not do as good a job as usual in furnishing grass prior to the time range grasses were ready for grazing, it did the best it could and in many cases, livestock would have moved had it not been available.

As I visited various sections of the state this spring I found both good and poor use being made of the crested wheatgrass acreage. It was a case of planned acreage and planned use against acreage that was seeded without utilization plan. It's nice, of course, to see large acreages of this grass growing early in the spring when other grasses and vegetation are still dormant, but it seems too bad that it can't be converted into meat and milk.

Where an acreage sufficient to meet the early spring need is not available on farm and ranch units, it would seem a good stroke of business to plan now for seedings this fall to make a more balanced feed program on many of our farms and ranches in the state. Even if seedings are made this fall it may be several years before stands are sufficiently established for hard usage. The main point is that the longer, the delay in making the seedings—the longer our livestock will be deprived of this type of feed.

Poor Stands

Poor stands of cereal crops were more prevalent this year than they have been for a long time. In many cases it was due to a crusty layer on the soil surface. In other cases it was apparent that other factors were responsible. While it is hard to be sure of the reason for these weak plants, it is pretty generally agreed that much of the trouble was from weak seed.

There isn't much doubt but what the factors involved in growing cereal plants in 1950 were responsible. Of course, a lot of seed was used that was frosted in early August last year.

While this seed may or may not have shown frost damage, and even though at the time it was tested for germination it may have shown a high percentage of live sprouts, still by the time these kernels battled with reduced soil moisture and some resistance encountered by the sprouts in making their appearance above the ground, the food reserve was diminished to a point where they had to give up the battle.

Whatever the cause, it merely stresses the point that there is no substitute for pure seed of good strong germination.

Cultivation

It might be well at this period of the growing season to again remind growers of seed crops that there is no substitute for good cultivation.

The vast majority of alfalfa and grass seed producers realize this and make it a definite part of their seed production practices. They have learned that the place to clean the resulting seed crop is in the field and not over the cleaning machinery.

Producers of Ranger alfalfa for seed are again cautioned that all fields must be cultivated prior to inspection.

This regulation voted by the directors of the Montana Seed Growers association at the last annual meeting was made necessary because of the different generations of seed being produced. The primary object of this regulation is to control volunteer plants in the field. In the production of foundation, registered and certified seed, any volunteer plants growing in a field are of another generation and can be numerous enough to affect the value of the seed.

While the cultivation can be made following the clipping of the first crop, where this is the practice, it is much more satisfactory in the spring. A good, deep cultivation in the spring buries the shattered seed from the

Paw Gets the Weeds Under Control

