

University Farm News
University of Minnesota
University Farm
St. Paul 1 Minnesota

April 17 1952



Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service

For use during week of
May 11 1952

Lets Cattle Judge -- Rudy Opatril, Clay County farmer, believes in letting his livestock judge the quality of his pasture. "When my cattle were given free choice of forage they immediately went to the renovated pasture of grass and legumes," said Opatril. "They showed this preference throughout the 1951 grazing season. They taught me that my 15 acres of renovated pasture is equal to 60 acres of old pasture alongside it. I questioned whether the native grass from the 60 acres made very good hay since the cattle didn't even want it green."

* * * * *

Getting Legume Stands -- Soil tests and information from farmers show that the main trouble in getting stands of legumes, especially alfalfa and sweet clover, may be traced to a need for the proper grades and ratios of fertilizer. That's the word from Paul Burson, professor of soils and head of the University of Minnesota soil testing lab. In the acid soil areas of the state, the need, first of all, is for lime. In many counties in the acid soil areas, as many as 85 per cent of the fields have never been limed or they need re-liming. A high percentage of farmers who have limed have not applied as much as recommended on the basis of the soil test.

* * * * *

Does the Shoe Fit? -- Inspect the corn planter this spring and adjust the fertilizer distributor shoe if it has become worn, advises University of Minnesota extension soils specialist H. E. Jones. Fertilizer should not be dropped right on the corn grains, or a burn of the young corn plant may result. This is particularly important if the fertilizer contains nitrogen and potash and if the corn is to be planted on land following legumes, where the nitrogen level is high in the soil.

-rr-