

pastures. Overgrazing, which is much more likely to happen in August than undergrazing, will readily lead to a setback to valuable species before they have properly established themselves.

Sheep may very suitably be employed in the winter grazing of young pastures provided too close grazing, which will take place if not guarded against, is not allowed to occur. The grazing by sheep of young pastures, when not overdone, is valuable, because of the even, thorough consolidation of the soil which it brings about.

In late winter the greatest harm to pastures may be done if ground is stocked when it is so wet and soft that it is not fit to carry stock. Stocking wet ground is what at times leads to invasion by markedly objectionable weeds such as docks, daisies, and buttercups. Some of these weeds are occasionally cited as being indicative of want of drainage, but actually they often appear on land which is relatively well drained and which has been broken up by stocking when wet in the late winter.

General Tillage Work.

During August every day on which soil-moisture conditions are favourable for cultivation work should be devoted to the turning-over of as much as possible of the land intended for cropping. Areas which previously have been skim-ploughed should now be ploughed to the depth of the full furrow. The policy of speeding the plough at this season is especially advisable in respect to cereal crops, but it does not apply to cereal crops alone. Land intended for lucerne, root, and other forage crops should be ploughed in August if possible. When ploughing for these crops land which has been in grass it is often an advantage to fit to the plough the skimming-attachment, which assists in bringing about the complete burial of the turfy surface-layer. Without the use of the skimming-attachment twitches and other weeds are likely to make their appearance on the surface between the furrows.

Forage-crop Considerations.

The planning of the programme of forage-crop production for the coming season cannot safely be postponed much further. The experience of previous seasons may be useful as a guide for future work. For instance, it is well to keep in mind the occurrence of any crop disease. It is definitely known that it is merely courting failure to sow cruciferous crops such as turnips, swedes, and rape on land on which club-root has attacked recent crops. Onion-mildew and potato-blight are other instances to which the same principle applies. Dairy-farmers as a rule should aim to provide some fresh, young, or non-woody forage to supplement their pastures as soon after Christmas as possible. If the summer happens to be a dry one, or if pasture-grazing management has not really been efficient, then herds will begin to fall off in their production at an unduly rapid rate soon after Christmas unless they are fed some highly digestible non-woody forage. Young green lucerne following a first cut of the crop removed in good time, the fresh-grass aftermath on a paddock from which ensilage was obtained at a suitably early date, and soft turnips of a quickly maturing type sown early are three sources of forage which may be widely resorted to for relief in this connection. In planning the summer forage-crop provision it is well to remember that the season may be better than may reasonably be expected, and that when this is the case it is in the interest of convenience and economy to be able to convert any surplus into hay or ensilage. If the summer forages consist entirely of crops such as soft turnips and rape it will be impossible to do this—another instance of the weakness of having all the eggs in one basket.

The experience of the current winter will have emphasized to many the inadequacy of their winter-forage provision—a matter that should receive much attention from now onward for some time.