

It has been shown on this farm that highly productive pastures can be established on the clay downs and that by good management they will remain productive for a number of years. Left—An unimproved pasture. Right—An improved pasture.

belts, mainly pines, have been planted to give shelter from the south-west and north-west winds.

Supplementary Crops

Though swedes, turnips, rape, and greenfeed were grown in the past as part of the normal programme, this is not done today. Rape is grown only if a dry spring has affected pasture growth, and then the poorest paddock is ploughed and worked as early as possible and sown to rape. After the rape has been fed off the paddock is usually worked and drilled in Italian ryegrass (201b. per acre) and Imperial Green Globe turnip (140z. to 160z. per acre) for winter feed. The paddock is then summer fallowed preparatory to being regrassed the following autumn. It is not usual to grow turnips or swedes for winter feed, the stock usually being wintered on greenfeed, young grass, and hay.

Pastures

It has been shown by these farmers that highly productive pastures can be established on the clay downs and further that by good management they will remain productive for a number of years. This is illustrated by the number of paddocks which have been down to pasture for over 7 years and are still highly productive.

The farming system practised in the early years of occupation required that almost one-third of the farm be under the plough each year, and the area in new grass varied between 80 and 100 acres. Under such short rotations it was impossible to build up fertility sufficiently to establish good pastures. Also it was customary to sow grass with turnips. The turnips were break-fed in winter, but the paddocks pugged up so badly that new pastures were seldom very successful and quickly reverted to browntop and sweet vernal.

In his early attempts to establish good pastures Mr. Baker used burnt lime and potash, but this was not successful. However, the first pasture sown down in 1929 with agricultural lime established well and was maintained with further dressings of lime and superphosphate. One pasture was sown down in 1931 under this method and is still producing excellent feed.

As there are usually no crops grown on the farm, there is no set rotation for pasture renewal, but when it is necessary to renew a paddock it is usual to plough out of lea and sow to turnips and Italian ryegrass for winter or spring feeding, follow with a summer fallow, and then sow to pasture. Land to be resown to permanent pasture is always summer fallowed and sown down toward the end of February. Usually a ton of lime and 2cwt. of superphosphate per acre are

