

MONTANA

June 15, 1951 SOCIETY OF MONTANA HELENA

Farmer-Stockman



Good pasture and hayland development, as illustrated by this scene from the Beaverhead country, are important phases of the grassland program being sponsored by Montana State college in co-operation with the United States department of agriculture.

Montana's Grassland Program

AGRICULTURISTS ARE GENERALLY agreed that grass is basic to a stable, profitable and lasting agriculture. They also believe that only by building farming and livestock operations around this basic crop can the nation continue indefinitely to supply the food, fiber and shelter in the quantity and quality that is in keeping with the standards Americans have set for themselves.

In this belief in the basic nature of a "grassland agriculture" the United States department of agriculture and the land-grant colleges have launched jointly a program aimed at placing renewed emphasis on the use of grass and legumes in strengthening the nation's agriculture for the long pull ahead.

The nature of the grasslands program will, of necessity, vary according to the needs and conditions that exist in each of the states. Here in Montana the grasslands committee at Montana State college has prepared a program designed to put greater emphasis on helping farmers and ranchers

What Is the Program?

IT IS NOT a program, as a few have been led to believe, of putting every acre into grass and legumes at the expense of cultivated crops. On the contrary, the program is aimed at stimulating greater interest among producers in making grasses and legumes a PART of well balanced farming and ranching systems, that will conserve the soil, maintain productivity and at the same time build a permanent and profitable agriculture.

Fundamentally Montana's grassland program embraces five major phases—range, irrigated pastures, nonirrigated crop land, utilization of grassland and conservation.

The first of these—range—is discussed in this issue of Montana Farmer-Stockman (see page 6) by Ray G. Johnson, range specialist for the Montana Extension service. The other four will be treated in later issues.

make the best possible use of their range, irrigated pastures and hay lands.

Actually most of the objectives of the Montana State college grasslands program have been a part of the institution's program of service to farmers and ranchers for a good many years. County extension agents and specialists have long been advocating the greater use of irrigated and dryland pastures, improved grasses and the production of high quality forage.

So today's "grassland program" is largely a fresh effort to encourage Montana farm and ranch operators to make more and better use of grasses and legumes in developing a well balanced, long term agricultural economy in the Treasure state.

And, as Ray G. Johnson, extension range specialist says, in this issue (see page 6), the range program is set up to make available to range producers the same caliber of production information on range as has long been available in the field of cash crop production and animal feeding and breeding.

COVERS MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING