

Permanent Pastures

the basis for

Profitable
Livestock

Issued by the
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT
CENTRAL OF GEORGIA RAILWAY COMPANY
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Profitable, Permanent Pastures

Profits in stock-raising depend upon many different factors—well-bred live stock capable of heavy production of high quality meats, milk, or wool; experienced and competent labor to handle and care for the animals; and proper feeding.

But perfection in all these factors will not make profits if the cost of feed cannot be controlled.

The largest item in the daily accounts of the successful live stock raiser is the cost of feed.

The greatest possibility for economy in the cost of feed lies in permanent pastures, for more than half of all the feed consumed by live stock, and the cheapest half, comes from pastures.

A basis of good permanent pastures is absolutely necessary for the building of a profitable live stock industry.

The Southeastern States now have many permanent pastures good enough to justify a challenge to other regions long famous for good pastures, to show as much grazing per acre each year. This is not generally known, but it is an undeniable fact.

Only in recent years has much attention been given to the question of permanent pastures in the Southeast. The interest in better cattle which followed the eradication of the cattle tick forced a study of the pasture problem. This study developed the fact that the Southeastern States may have permanent pastures that will show greater net profits in live stock raising than other sections of the country, because they afford a greater amount of grazing per acre.

The Central of Georgia Railway Company, through its Agricultural Department, was a leader in the effort which ascertained this very important fact, and has succeeded in proving on its Test Pastures that good pastures may be so easily and cheaply made, as to encourage the establishment of thousands of fine pastures, covering a total of hundreds of thousands of acres, in less than five years.

The Central of Georgia aided and encouraged the work of the Georgia State College of Agriculture in trying out at a number of different places in the State a variety of the pasture plants which seemed to have possibilities. In 1920, when the College was ready with what no one had been able to give before, a definite recommenda-

tion of plants best adapted to conditions, the Railroad announced it would spend a hundred dollars to start a pasture in each of the counties served by its line, on which a practical, visible test would be made of the pasture plants which the College believed would give best results.

The records kept of these Central of Georgia Test Pastures prove the statement that the Southeast has pastures which will give more grazing per acre than the pastures heretofore recognized as the best in the United States.

The owners of the Test Pastures kept a record of all stock placed on or taken off their pastures. The railroad's Agricultural Agents checked these records on their monthly inspections, and reported the exact number of head of different kinds of live stock which grazed the pasture each day. These figures were reduced to animal unit day's grazing, using Prof. Warren's Table, which counts two yearling cattle, horses, or mules, as one unit; or four calves or colts, five hogs, ten pigs, seven sheep or goats, or fourteen lambs or kids, as a unit.

SUMMARY OF THREE YEARS FIGURES

| Year | No. of Test Pastures | Total Acres | No. of Days in the Grazing Period | Total Animal Unit Days Grazing | Average Animal Units Grazed Per Acre |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1922 | 44 | 1,068 | 278.18 | 428,594 | 1.44 |
| 1923 | 49 | 1,223 | 275. | 443,831 | 1.32 |
| 1924 | 49 | 1,174 | 244. | 417,827 | 1.46 |
| Total | 142 | 3,465 | 797.18 | 1,290,252 | ---- |
| Yearly Average | | 1,155 | 265.73 | 430,084 | 1.40 |

This shows that during three years the Test Pastures furnished a grand total of 1,290,252 animal unit days grazing, which represents either the total number of days one cow would have to graze to equal the entire amount of grazing furnished by the Test Pastures, or the number of mature animals that would have to graze one day to equal the same amount of grazing.

Dividing this by 797.18, the total number of days in the grazing periods for all three years, shows that on an average the equivalent of 1,618.52 mature animals were grazed each day.

Exactly the same pastures were not grazed every year, some new ones being started after the first year, and others being abandoned for one reason or another. The total of the number of acres grazed during the three years was 3,465, which, divided by three, gives 1,155. This figure represents the average area of pasturage which furnished the grazing for this average number of 1,618.52 mature animals. When this average number of mature animals grazed each day is divided by 1,155, the average number of acres which furnished the grazing, it is found that the Central of Georgia Test Pastures grazed an average of 1.40 head of animal units per acre per day.

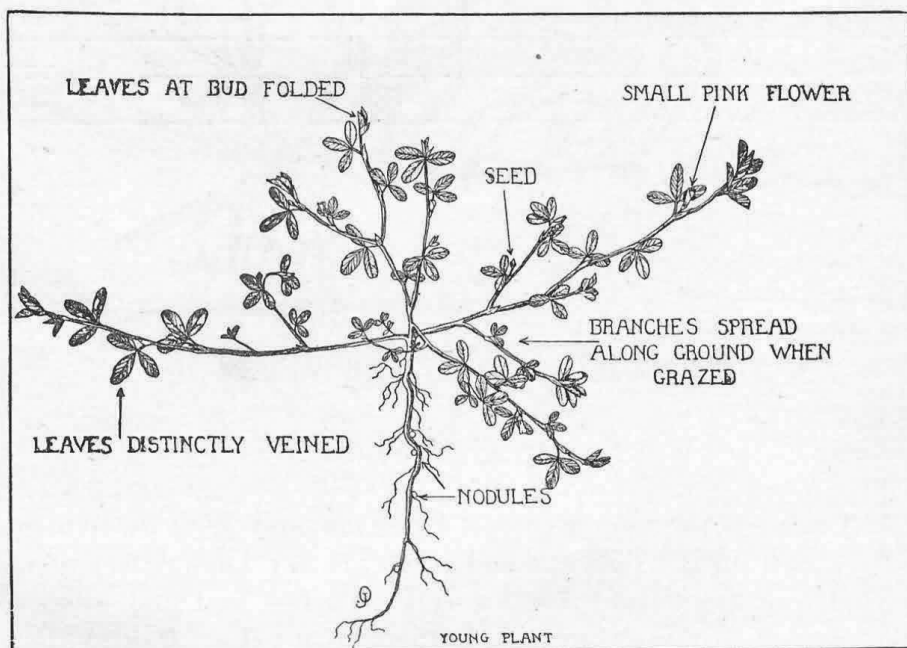
Pastures that grazed one and two-fifths head of mature cows or their equivalent per acre, for an average grazing period of eight and two-third months each year, justify the claim of a carrying capacity surpassing that of other sections.

These good pastures in the territory served by the Central of Georgia are lowland pastures. Nearly every farm in Georgia and Alabama has enough such land for a good pasture without sacrificing land suitable for field crops. Good crop producing soil is usually too dry to make good pasture, and the best pastures are on land which would often be considered waste land.

Lands which have been allowed to lie out and grow up to weeds, brush and small trees because they are too wet for safe crop growing, may be cleared, burned off, and sown to a mixture of about ten pounds of Lespedeza, five pounds of Carpet Grass and three pounds of Dallis Grass per acre, in February or the first half of March, and if then grazed early enough and hard enough to keep down fast growing weeds, will make a fine sod by the following spring. The Lespedeza will give good grazing the first season, while the Carpet Grass and Dallis Grass are getting started.

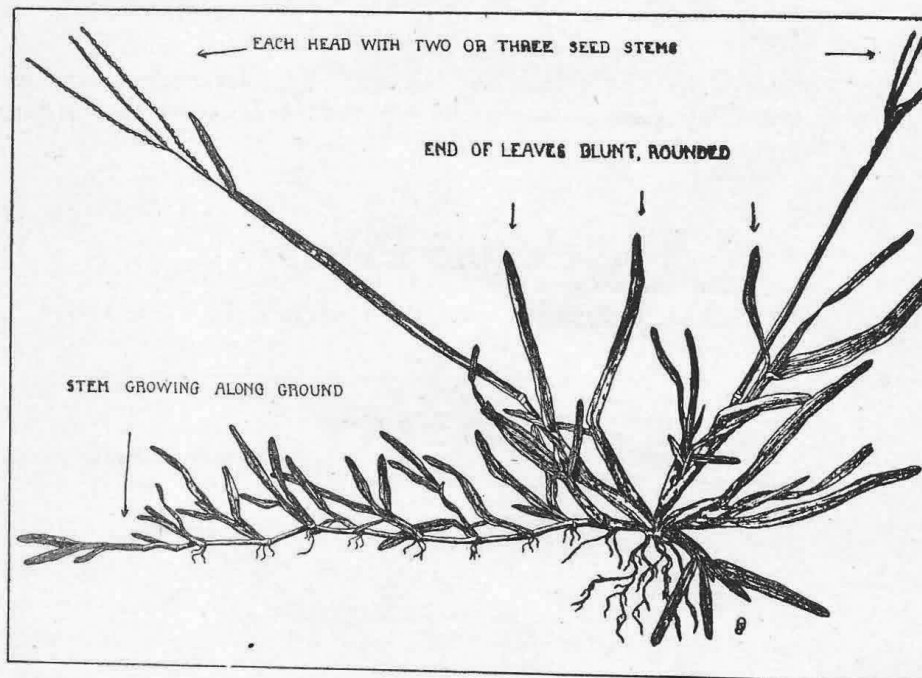
The Pasture Plants

PICTURES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PASTURE PLANTS USED



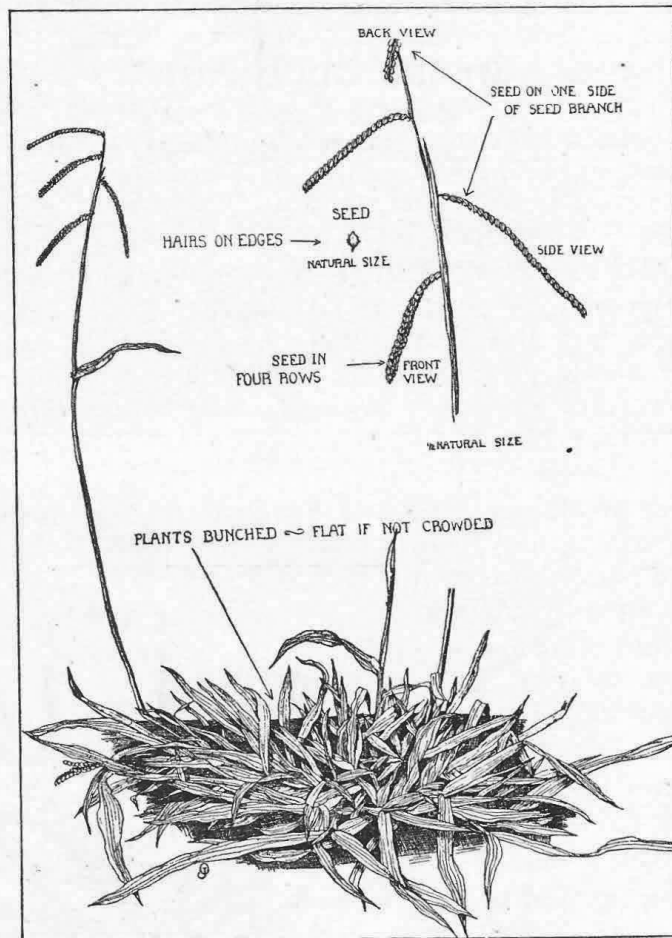
LESPEDEZA. One-fourth Natural Size.

LESPEDeza, or Japan Clover, is a legume, which draws nitrogen from the air, like all members of the legume family; and is a soil improver as well as a nutritious and fattening grazing plant. It is an annual and re-seeds each year, and, therefore, does not furnish much grazing until June, but from then until frost it will not only keep cattle in good growing condition, but will make both meat and milk. Its food value is not much below that of alfalfa. Its form of growth is such that it can not be grazed so closely, even by sheep, that it will not re-seed.



CARPET GRASS. One fourth Natural Size

CARPET GRASS is a Central American and West Indian grass, which does well on the lighter, sandy soils if they have sufficient moisture. Under proper conditions it forms a perfect mat and gives such heavy grazing that it ranks next to Lespedeza in value. It re-seeds, and also spreads from runners on the ground, like Bermuda grass; but, unlike Bermuda grass, is easily killed by plowing. The roots live through the Winter and it begins growing and furnishing grazing very early in the Spring.



DALLIS GRASS. One-eighth Natural Size

DALLIS GRASS is a South American grass, which has a wider range of adaptability than Carpet Grass, *i. e.*, it will grow higher up on the hillsides and closer to the edge of the water. It is an upstanding grass, and if not grazed closely will make good hay. Like Carpet Grass, it lives through the Winter in the roots and appears early in the Spring, furnishing some grazing as early as February, and from then until as late as November, and even through the Winter in the southern parts of the Southeast. It does best on heavy soil.

The Agricultural Department of the Central of Georgia Railway has another pamphlet for distribution to those who wish to start pastures, which gives instructions for starting a pasture and more complete details as to results on the Test Pastures.

The Future of the Livestock Industry in the Southeast

With the pasture problem solved, and pasture improvement given its proper place in the plan for early development of the stock-raising industry, Georgia and Alabama will surely become producers of meat and milk at such low costs, and in such quantities, as will place them in the front rank of like-stock producing States of the Union.

In the Summer, Georgia and Alabama can grow such hay and forage crops as Soy Beans, Velvet Beans, Cow Peas, Alfalfa, Sudan Grass, Napier Grass, Sorghum and many others. For grazing in the Winter months, they have oats, rye and other Winter grains, and such Winter legumes as Bur Clover, Crimson Clover, Austrian Peas and the different varieties of Vetch.

A mixture of Hairy Vetch and Fulgham Oats planted in the Fall will harvest early in May, when it is usually much needed, from a ton and a half to three tons of fine hay per acre, having practically the same feeding value as Alfalfa.

Georgia and Alabama now offer to the experienced live stock man seeking a new location, unequalled opportunities for success in the following advantages:

The above listed variety of feeds which may be home grown.

Winters so mild that expensive shelters and heavy feeding to counteract the cold are unnecessary.

An unsatisfied home demand for all live stock products.

Long growing and grazing seasons.

Low-priced lands.

A foundation of permanent pastures of unrivalled carrying capacity.

The possibilities for live stock raising in the Southeast have been overlooked by both home folks and homeseekers. But now the cattle tick is gone, the home folks are sowing thousands of acres to permanent pasture each Spring. The interest in live stock waxes greater every time the weevil or low-priced cotton causes a wane in cotton production.

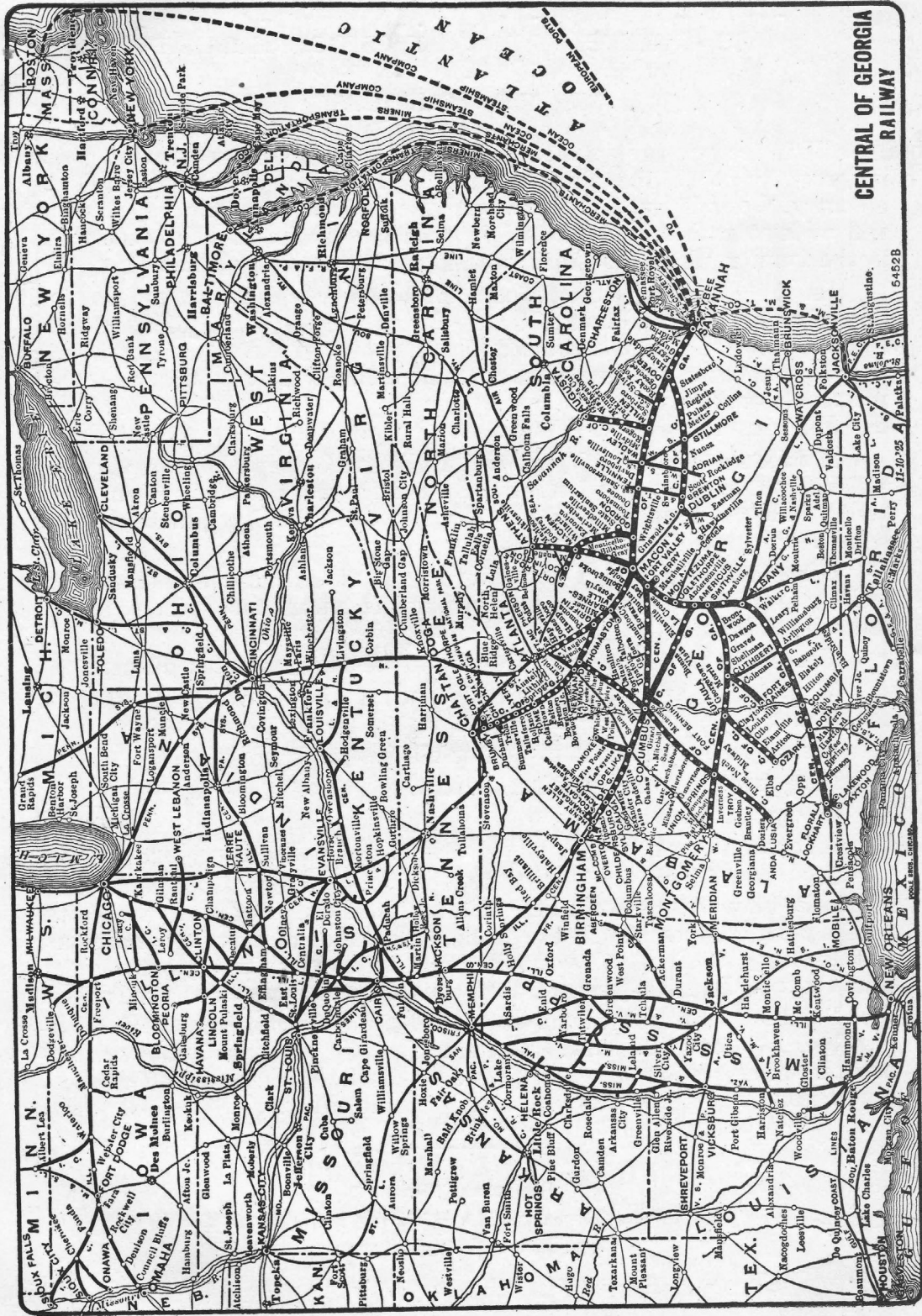
But the home folks are to have the help of homeseekers in developing their live stock industry. Live stock raisers, and particularly dairymen, in other sections are learning that the Southeast now offers them opportunities for profit, as well as a pleasant climate.

Representatives

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