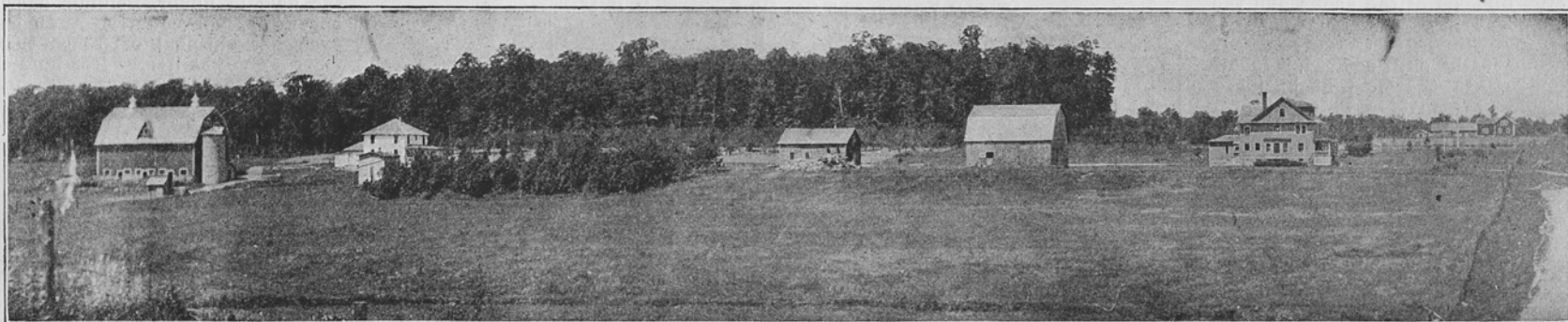


# CLOVER LAND

## Farm Management in Relation to Profitable Cloverland Crops



THIS is a momentous subject. I feel, however, from the experience I have had doing the work on the station the past three years, and from the observation of many others, I have gained many ideas, which are beneficial to me. Thinking these might be of use to others, I am writing them for publication in The Cloverland Magazine.

With great interest I have watched some farmers who are operating their farms on a basis of making them pay the very largest economic returns. With equal interest, I have observed others who seemingly word theirs contrary to every natural and practical law for making money. It is the former kind of a farmer most of us are interested in copying after. As a usual thing, the most prosperous set forth the best examples to follow. They are the most enterprising, and the real boosters of the community.

Rules which might be beneficial for me to follow might not be good ones for my neighbor to put into practice. Each individual farm is more or less an experiment station of its own. Therefore, each farmer must have definite, well planned ideas of his own for guidance. The best that can be done is to give or set forth a few good general, well seasoned and long tried principles which have proved themselves worthy of consideration.

A few of the most essential ones, as I recall them, are based upon system, thought and attitude. To have a well thought out system and to work it with the right kind of an attitude is almost always sure to reap reward for the operator. A few things to which system can and should be applied are: System for starting work in the morning; system for the time of feeding each class of livestock; system for the right kinds of feed for each particular kind of farm animals; system to work out details on rainy days; system for regular work; system for the management of fields, as a rotation of crops; system of layout of farm; system for location of buildings in their proper relation to the fields for convenience and appearance of the farm home.

I will endeavor to point out a few of the best policies to pursue for the people who are not entirely acquainted with agricultural conditions as they are in this part of the country. It is required of all successful businesses that they have their work definitely planned so as to avoid confusion among the laborers. No place is this more necessary than on the livestock and grain farm. Each man on the farm should know what his part of the chores are. This will do away with confusion of work. It will prevent

After several years of remarkable success as superintendent at the U. P. station at Chatham, Mr. Housholder has resigned and taken the management of the famous Whitney farm in Menominee County, on April 1, 1919. The new superintendent at Chatham is D. L. McMillan, an expert who needs no introduction to readers of Cloverland Magazine.

By BURTON W. HOUSHOLDER, Supt. Chatham Experiment Farm

one man walking around another, wondering what to do next, and will eliminate feeding of animals twice, or neglecting them at other times, by one man depending upon the other.

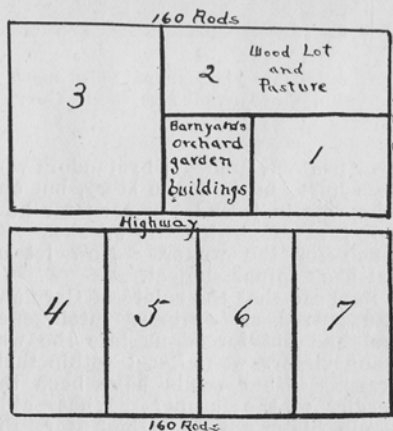
This being a new country, many will have to start from the building of a farm home, which I will refer to as a crop. In this, the selection of the most desirable location in relation to the highway, the fields and the general appearance of the farm is not always easy to determine. A system of the layout of the farm is very essential and should be studied and acted upon with definite, well laid plans. It is very hard to move buildings, once they are constructed. Many country homes are never profitable because the buildings are poorly arranged, poorly located with respect to the fields, and too small or too large for the farm they are on.

Each individual must necessarily select the proper place for his buildings. Many times it would be best to locate them as near the center as possible, for convenience to the fields. Other times this is not practical, as it would destroy the appearance and attractiveness of the farm home. Farm homes are usually isolated enough at the best, and it is almost always preferable to have them on the main traveled highway and as near the central location of the farm as possible.

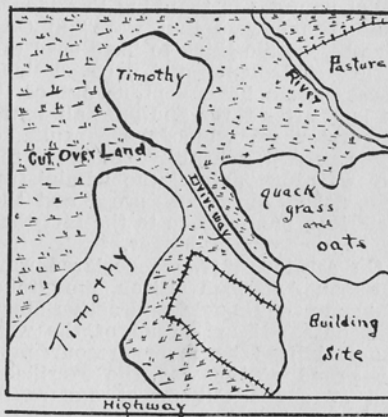
The cost, size and number of the buildings should be in direct proportion to the size of the farm and its business. Frequently we see buildings constructed by some one who doesn't know the game, so to speak, which are entirely too large and too costly for the farm they are on. Many times the people who have such buildings are from the city and have not given the matter serious thought. Often they think they are the most enterprising persons in the community and are conferring a valuable gift to the country and setting up a model structure for the balance of the farmers to pattern after. In this ecstatic frame of mind they lived happily, until the inevitable turns up and they find it impossible to make the interest, taxes and depreciation upon the investment. There are a good many such places as this scattered broadcast over our land. Whenever I see a farm home like this I always think that the farmer had more money than good judgment.

Contrary to this, are many farm homes with too few buildings of insufficient size for successful management in the storing of hay and grain and proper shedding and feeding of livestock. Such conditions will also bring unprofitable results. When going into a new country, about the best thing one can do is to size up the community, its buildings, outlay, etc., and strike a medium for his own plans.

The location of the fields should be such that they are most accessible and convenient to the buildings. Many miles of travel and hours of time can be saved through the proper location of buildings and the fields in their relation to each other. The following outline of three one hundred and sixty acre farms will illustrate this point very clearly:



It will be noted that the highway passes through the middle of this 160-acre farm. The buildings are ideally located for their proximity to the fields. The nearest point to the field and greatest distance away from the buildings is but 40 rods. The most remote point indicated by the arrow is about 130 rods away. The fields are numbered and laid off in excellent shape for tilling. The only one to which objection might be made is number three, which is nearly square. This would cause much short turning. This man knew how to locate and what arrangement to give his place for convenience and appearance. This alone has increased the value of this farm many hundreds of dollars. Not many pieces of land are so favorably situated for making ideal plans.

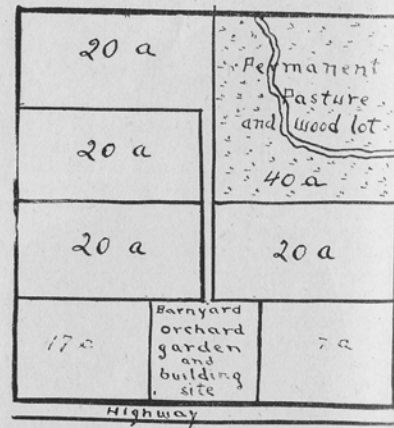


The buildings on this 160-acre farm are located in the corner nearest town

for city going convenience. No thought was given for convenience and reduction costs in operation. The fields are very irregular, poorly planned, costly to farm and very difficult to manage. This is an actual diagram of a farm I was on a few weeks ago. While on the place I met the proprietor and conversed with him upon several topics, among which I was informed farming was a poor business in the following language: "I tell ye, there haint no use talkin' cause there haint no money in farmin' in this poor, starvin', God-forsaken country." I thought there was not for him and said nothing. Note what was growing in the fields. I speak of this because it is so common an occurrence in this land of Cloverland for her farmers not to grow C-L-O-V-E-R, nor a good rotation of crops. Instead they raise timothy, one of the most destructive crops on the soil and the one containing the least digestible nutrients as stock feed. It has been impossible for me to buy one car load of pure clover hay this winter. This is an ideal clover country and will grow the crop abundantly, if given the chance.

I can assure my readers that farmers of this class do not make their living from their farms, that they get the most of it out of the woods, and that it will be a blessing to the farming community when the woods work moves on, taking these people with it, thereby leaving room for some energetic, prosperous person who will rearrange things and make farming profitable.

This particular tract could be laid out in some such a manner as follows and be very convenient and productive:



Following the outline of this plan the buildings would be placed centrally and upon the highway in a very prominent and attractive position. They would be within one-quarter mile of the most remote field, instead of about three-quarters as shown in the outline preceding this one. The fields would be rectangular, a most convenient shape for farming

(Continued on Page 38)





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## Farm Management in Relation to Profitable Crops

(Continued from Page 10)

and in sufficient number so they could be handled in a proper rotation system. These plans are not set forth to be adopted, but merely to show how many farms could be improved through the proper location of buildings, in lessening the cost of management and giving to the place a more attractive appearance.

It costs less to clear in straight lines. It costs less to farm in straight fields. It costs less to operate a farm with the buildings properly located. The receipts are greater from the farm run in a proper rotation system. So where is the argument for timothy farming and that in irregular fields?

One may think it strange that I should dwell at such great length upon the system of proper location of farm buildings and fields. But should any arise, would say that buildings and fields are one of the very first C-R-O-P-S planted and that will not pay any settler to put them in broadcast.

It is much easier to have a system to work by on the farm with the proper buildings, correctly located than without. It is also easier to have a system to work by in the caring of livestock in these buildings than for general farm work. Rain, snow, freezing, thawing, sickness of both farm animals and farm help, plant diseases, insects, breakage of farm equipment and what not, often tend to break up the system for farm work. These obstacles make it very difficult to know what is best to do and how to do it the quickest and cheapest way. Such conditions make it very necessary that the manager have an alert, active and elastic mind in order that he may be able to grasp the situation and manage his help to the best advantage. No set of rules can be set down and strictly adhered to. Every farmer must study his own situation and act according to his own best judgment.

A few good practices which will aid in taking advantage of many inconveniences are: Doing of many detail jobs on rainy days, as cleaning, straightening and hanging grain bags, sewing harnesses, repairing farm machinery, cleaning buildings, cleaning farm seeds, picking up litter around the farm buildings, cutting and splitting wood, etc. Doing these little chores at odd times helps to keep things ready when needed and improves the looks of the place. Personally, I have found it a most splendid practice to have a small note book in which to take notes of all details that can be done on rainy days. A rainy day, rightly used, is often more valuable to the farm than a clear one, not including the benefit it may have upon the crops. No real farmer will go to the hay for a sleep on a rainy day, nor allow his men to do so.

Fields should be properly managed as well as the farm help. To do this, an extra good crop rotation system should be put into operation and worked as much as possible. It is very difficult to say what crops will make the best rotation for Cloverland, because of her very great variation of soils and climate. The following ones have been found to work very well on the station and some other localities. I would advise that every farmer consider with his county agricultural agent the proper rotation for him to work:

### Three-Year Rotation for Frost Belt.

Barley, Oats Rye, Wheat  
Clover  
Roots and Potatoes

### Four-Year Rotation for Frost Belt.

Oats, Rye  
Roots, Potatoes  
Barley, Wheat  
Clover

By correctly working the first rotation of three years, one can obtain three crops from one plowing, providing the soil is strong enough and free from weeds. It would be necessary to plow for roots and potatoes.

By keeping this crop well cultivated and free from weeds, the soil could be harrowed smooth and sown to any one of the nurse crops named and seeded to clover at the same time.

Four crops can be obtained from the second system, with two plowings, such as outlined in the first. It would be necessary to plow for oats and rye, and for roots and potatoes.

The following rotation is considered a good one for portions of Cloverland out of the late spring frost and early fall frost belts, where the soil is strong:

### Five-Year Rotation.

Oats, Rye  
Potatoes, Corn (for either silage or grain)  
Wheat, Barley seeded to clover  
Clover  
Clover

With ordinary conditions two plowings are sufficient for these five crops—one for the potatoes and corn, and one for the oats and rye. It would be necessary to cultivate the land thoroughly when growing potatoes and corn, and to keep it free from weeds. Where any two crops are mentioned it is meant that if one wished a diversity of crops he could grow one on one part of the field and one on the other. If one wished to grow peas it would be well to substitute them for either the oats or rye.

Barley and wheat are taken as nurse crops for clover, because they do not actually grow as rank as either oats and rye, hence do not shade the ground as much. This condition permits the clover to grow larger and a better stand is assured.

Manure should be applied to each field at least once in each rotation period. The preferable time is after harvesting the oats or rye, or after the first cutting of clover hay. It will spread easier at these times and will tend to stimulate larger yields of either grain or hay. If applied as a top dressing after the first cutting of clover, manure will usually increase the second-year clover crop. The time of application should suit the convenience and purpose of the operator, as near as possible. No set time can be made and carried out.

As so much has already been written in The Cloverland Magazine about the different varieties of grain most suitable for growing in this country, I do not think that point needs further emphasizing. If I were to say anything I could only repeat what has already been so ably set forth by J. W. Weston and B. P. Pattison.

No rule of farm management nor farm cropping should lose sight of the livestock phase. The above rotation systems exclude this part of the farm work. To leave this part of the agricultural industry out of consideration in the operation of a farm would spell disaster. The reason livestock and pasturing was not mentioned in the rotation systems was because Cloverland has so many hundreds of thousands of acres of cut-over lands not in shape to grow anything but grasses for the farmers' livestock. This makes it unnecessary to place pasturing in the rotation systems, in most instances.

It is necessary to have livestock in order to have manure for the fields. To run a farm on the systems given without the application of manure at least once within the four or five-year period would surely place many Cloverland farms where many of those in the east are today. We do not want the task of reclaiming any of Cloverland farms, nor do we wish to place such a burden upon our children. We must keep Cloverland acres productive, and to do so every farmer must keep sufficient livestock to furnish the required amount of manure and see that it is applied regularly to her fields.

Livestock farming provides the most economic way for marketing farm produce. Farm produce fed in