

CROCKETT COURIER: MAY 17, 1951



Van Moso De Manso ABBA No. 59086
Age 1 year — Weight 925 pounds
Sire, Manimoso Manso — Dam, Lady Van Dorn
Owner: W. K. McLean
Bar M Brahman Ranch, Crockett, Texas

Photo Courtesy Childs Studio, Crockett

SOIL CONSERVATION EMBRACES MANY PRACTICES

Through the efforts of Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation service, and other forward-thinking men, the United States has become well awakened during the past 15 years to the need for a national soil conservation program. The term "soil conservation" is heard and read frequently in the press and has achieved a virtue of its own in everyday thinking.

Yet, conceptions of what soil conservation really signifies vary widely. To one man it may mean terraces and contour strip cropping. Such an observer might drive mile after mile through flat lands where neither terracing nor contour stripping were needed and report he had seen no evidence whatever of soil conservation even though every acre was being farmed properly with the soil conservation practices adapted to that kind of country.

To the trained conservationist, however, soil conservation means farming the land according to its

natural capabilities.

Modern soil conservation is sound land use and treatment of land with all the proven measures that are needed to keep it permanently productive while in use. It means terracing land that needs terracing; it means contouring, strip cropping, and stubble mulching the land as needed, along with crop rotations, cover crops, lime, fertilizer and manure. It means gully control, stabilizing water outlets, building farm ponds, locating farm roads and fences on the contour, planting steep, erodible land to grass or trees, development of good pastures and devoting good management to them after they have been developed.

Modern conservation, moreover, consists of doing these and still other necessary things. Where land is too wet, modern soil conservation calls for drainage; if it is too dry, it calls for irrigation; if it is subject to wind erosion, it calls for wind stripping, tree planting, and stubble mulch farming. If plant nutrients have been depleted, it calls for fertilization. And modern soil conservation calls also for the use of the best of the most adaptable varieties of crops as well as the most efficient tools available to farmers.

And an indispensable part of modern soil conservation is a supporting

program of research, such as will provide at all times the advantages that progressive science can contribute. Also, a continuing, vigorous program of education, which must be made part of our teaching from kindergarten through college.

Moreover, modern soil conservation calls for the continuing maintenance of all effective work which is put on the land. These scientifically planned conservation measures are not just for a single year or cropping season. Like savings bonds or savings deposits in the bank, they increase in value and return on the original investment as the years go on.

A DECADE OF PROGRESS.

The old saying that a man can't see the forest for the trees is often true. We are so close to a thing that we don't see the change that is actually taking place.

I have been in Houston county for ten years, working pretty closely with farmers and other agricultural workers on problems of erosion, soil depletion and unsound land use. Before that time I had never seen any part of Houston county or east Texas. Needless to say, I thought I was in a pretty sorry location with a poor prospect of doing much about it.

In the first days of soil conservation in east Texas the popular and only practice for erosion control was terracing. Little thought was given to crop rotation, cover crops, pasture improvement, terrace outlet waterways, timber management or drainage. These practices and many others have become accepted in various combinations for the treatment of different types of land and different land uses. The concept of accepting the natural limitations of different types of land and then putting it to its best use along with the right combination of conservation practice is being widely accepted today.

Many farmers are retiring those steep slopes and overflow bottoms to pasture and meadows where once they tried to grow row crops. These acres in forage crops and grazing now produce as much income with less labor and no erosion hazard than they formerly did in row crops. Then to compensate for acres retired from cultivation they have gone to cover crops and increased use of fertilizer on crop land to increase yields per acre. Yields of over 100 bushels of corn, four tons of hay and 1 1/4 bales of cotton per acre have been made here

in Houston county. This was unheard of even five years ago.

The changes noted above in the agriculture of east Texas is a healthy trend and many farms will be passed on to the next generation in much better shape than they were passed to the present one. This is just the opposite of the common practice of the past hundred years.

Looking back over the past ten years of conservation work in Houston county, east Texas, and the south as a whole I see a lot of progress. Even so we have only scratched the surface and the next ten years should bring many times the quantity of such conservation work plus a lot of improvement in the quality. When the businessman, professional man, banker, laborer and all other non-agricultural people, realize that they have a lot at stake in the movement of soil conservation and soil improvement work, we will see far more progress than we have ever seen before.

Ralph L. Mather,
Crockett, Texas.

CRIMSON CLOVER PROVES ITSELF

Although Crimson clover was brought to America from Europe about 1818, it found its way to Houston county in 1949. It has been grown in America over a century. It was used at first as an ornament, but later became recognized as a forage plant. Crimson clover does well in sandy and loamy soils where drainage is good.

Crimson clover has reseeded here in Houston county during the year 1950. It is still not the answer to all the needs for a winter forage crop; but, with continued experimentation, the possibility for reclaiming worn-out soil with Crimson clover is due to become much better.

The adverse season this year is the best kind of a test this clover could get. Crimson clover stands are doing remarkably well considering the drought. Pioneers in planting Crimson clover in Houston county were James Lockett, R. L. Barrett and Glover LaRue.

CROPS FOR WINTER FORAGE NEEDED

Singletary peas and Crimson clover are two crops that are being planted in pastures for winter forage, with lespedeza, dallis and bermuda grass as the summer forage crops.

Other special legumes and grasses come and go, but so far the base grass is bermuda and dallis, with the legumes mixed in for nitrogen.

"The main need in Houston county is to add nitrogen to the soil to produce more grass when the legumes have disappeared. This could be added to the soil in the form of commercial fertilizer, manures or planting legumes in the soil and giving them a chance to put nitrogen in the soil," said Charlie Hanning, county agent.

Houston county soils are also low in phosphate and potash, and many ranchers are adding the phosphate and potash, but are neglecting nitrogen; and without legumes they are not getting full benefit of the phosphate and potash.

KEY TO SUCCESSFUL RANGE MANAGEMENT

"The Key to Successful Range Management" is to know your grasses, is the subject of a booklet issued by the Agricultural Extension service, Texas A. & M. College system,

by G. G. Gibson, the director.

A. H. Walker, extension range specialist, Texas A. & M. College system, discusses this at length in the booklet.

"Grass is our basic heritage. It is Texas' greatest and most neglected resource. All grasses are not the same; some are heavy forage producers, others light, some grow in winter, others in summer; some are shallow rooted, some are deep rooted, some are liked by livestock, others are not. Knowing grasses, like knowing livestock, is fundamental in the business. Certain grasses on a pasture are indicators and are like signs on a highway. They show whether you are going up-hill or down, or if the way ahead will be crooked or straight."

NEWTON COUNTY EXCEEDED ALL OTHERS

College Station, May 9. Newton county exceeded all other Texas counties in reforestation for the past planting season, according to a summary of tree planting activities released by Don Young, head manager, Department of the Texas Forest Service.

More than 17,600,000 tree seedlings were planted by farmers and forest industries in the 1950-51 season, extending from December, 1950, through March, 1951. The distribution of tree seedlings was the largest in the history of the Texas Forest Service, exceeding the 1949-50 distribution by approximately two million.

Newton county landowners planted 5,441,900 seedlings this season, including 5,400,000 seedlings planted by forest industries.

1951 COTTON ACREAGE PLANTED IN COUNTY

Since 1951 cotton acreage allotments have been lifted it is estimated that about 45,000 acres will be planted in this year's crop.

Last year, under quotas, about 30,000 acres were permitted by the marketing quota law.

It is anticipated that this year's crop will be a record one for Houston county and in all probability farmers will receive a good price for this commodity. Sixteen million bales are needed this year for our armed forces and domestic use.

Practice Soil Conservation.

BRUCE PLUMS WILL MOVE THIS WEEK

According to the Grapeland Messenger, Bruce plums will start moving to markets this week.

Because of better growing conditions this year, shipments may still top the number which was shipped last year.

At the present time, it has been estimated that shipments of the plums will total somewhere around thirty cars.

PMA LIME PROGRAM NEARING AN END

Houston county farmers have, under the 1951 PMA farm program, received about sixty-five railroad car loads of lime.

This is practically a train load and has served 125 or more farmers, averaging about twenty-five tons to the farm or enough for twenty-five acres.

This program is nearing an end, but if there is a farmer who wants some lime the PMA can probably take care of his request, if his order is placed in the next ten days.

Congratulations

To Farm Owners and
Ranchers

On Their Fine Work
Done For

SOIL
CONSERVATION

It is a very necessary program for growth and development of our county.

Retail Merchants
Association
Claude Keeland, Mgr.

Congratulations

TO THE

Farmers and Ranchmen
of Houston County

Upon the Progress of the Soil Conservation
Program.

It Is Through United Effort That
WE SUCCEED

Paris Milling Co.

J. D. Ivins, Manager



We Serve Better Food

Thanks To Our
Farmers and Ranchers

Modern conservation farming and ranching methods enable us to bring you finer meats and fresher, more nutritious fruits and vegetables, as well as bakery and dairy foods. Make it a date to try our cooking next time you're in town. You're always welcome here.

Royal Cafe

Soil Conservation Helps the Whole Community . . .

and the farmer and rancher who practices conservation, benefits in many ways, too.

WE CONGRATULATE ALL WHO
PRACTICE SOIL CONSERVATION

Roy Selman

Bud Hale

Nat Patton, Jr.

J. A. Bynum

Royse Heard

Loyd Lovell

Marcus Mason

Florence Shroyer

Steve Denny

Crockett Courier — May 17, 1951 — Page [uncertain]

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3 Texas Photo Courtesy Childs Studio,
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Modern conservation ing methods enable u:

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Make it a date

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Royal

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Ralph L. [Mather,] [uncertain] Crockett, [Texas.] [uncertain]

[CRINSON] [uncertain] CLOVER

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Crockett Courier — May 17, 1951 — Page [uncertain]

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NEWTON COUNTY
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