

# Journal of RANGE MANAGEMENT

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## Editorial

### The Sixth International Grassland Congress

**T**HE Sixth International Grassland Congress will bring together from all parts of the world the leading scientific and technical experts concerned with grasslands. The Congress, to be held at The Pennsylvania State College, August 17-23, 1952, will give consideration to all phases of grassland agriculture.

Grassland agriculture is one of the most important factors in farming and ranching throughout the world today. The scientific management of range, pasture and hay land is essential for permanency in agriculture. Such management is not only a foundation for a better fed population but offers substantial insurance against soil erosion.

Grassland agriculture is not an end in itself but rather a basis for economical livestock production. With tremendous increases in the population in the United States and throughout the world, greater concern is being directed toward possibilities of shortages of milk, meat, wool, hides and other livestock products. In planning for the future, agricultural leadership must look more and more to grassland agriculture to help insure an economy of abundance here at home and among the countries of the world struggling to insure freedom from want. One solution can be found in more and better grass and in better utilization of that which is available.

Pasture management on cultivated lands envisions the use of grasses and

legumes alone or in combination or rotation according to systems of management best suited to each particular piece of land.

The use of fertilizers, manure and lime, where needed, is another essential in good pasture management, especially in humid and irrigated areas. Chemicals are playing an increasing role in weed control.

The 950 million acres of native forage producing lands of the United States, commonly called range, while much less productive acre for acre than cultivated pastures, in the aggregate furnish a material part of the feed requirements of the Nation's livestock. Range furnishes cheap forage in an integrated range-farm



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agricultural enterprise. This is indicative of the vast importance to the peoples of the world of such range lands, that cover more than half of the earth's entire land surface. Improved range management offers possibilities for sustained forage and livestock production, greater production per animal or per acre of range (or both), lower costs, and greater profits.

Notwithstanding the high state of development of grassland programs in limited sections of the world, the program as a whole still represents a great undeveloped resource which can be used profitably to increase the production of food while at the same time conserving the basic resource—the soil. The progress thus far has been encouraging, but much yet remains to be done.

Since grasslands are considered to be the most important part of the agricultural economy of most countries, the improvement and better use of grasslands will have a definite effect in building up national economic strength. The United States and other countries have much to gain from an interchange of scientific information on the many aspects of grassland agriculture and the development of better international understanding. Greater exchange of plant materials and techniques will contribute to the improvement and utilization of this great economic resource.

By way of background, five International Grassland Congresses have been held in other countries. The first was in Germany in 1927, the second in Sweden and Denmark in 1930, the third in Switzerland in 1934, the fourth in Great Britain in 1937, and the fifth in the Netherlands in 1949. The International Grassland Congress Association, formed to carry on the work of the Congress from one meeting to another, was disbanded during World War II.

The Sixth Congress is being sponsored

by the Government of the United States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Departments of State, Agriculture, and Interior, the Mutual Security Agency, the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, and many societies, associations and other organizations are actively cooperating in the development of plans for the Congress. The Society of Range Management is directly represented by Past-President Dan Fulton on the Advisory Committee. Numerous other members are serving actively on other committees.

Governments of over sixty countries have been invited. It is expected that most will be represented. The Mutual Security Agency and the Technical Cooperation Administration of the State Department (Point IV) are fitting the Congress into plans for training and study of leaders and technicians from many parts of the world.

Approximately 250 scientists, technicians and agricultural leaders of the world have been invited to present papers. Of these, 150 will be outstanding grassland leaders from countries other than the United States.

The Range Program is set up for three sessions: (1) Management of Range Lands; (2) Range Reseeding; and (3) Shrub Encroachment and Noxious Plants on Range Lands. In the Range Reseeding session, two panels have been provided covering (1) Essentials Underlying Selection of Species for Range Reseeding, and (2) Methods and Procedures for Successful Reseeding of Range Lands. On each of these panels will be representatives from some five or six important range countries.

A visit to local points of grassland interest and a farmers' grassland field day are being arranged for during the week at The Pennsylvania State College. Post-Congress tours of representative

parts of the country are being planned for the two weeks immediately following the Congress. Besides three tours for the eastern half of the country, one is being planned to cover the range and related grassland phases of the West.

English, French, and Spanish have been selected as official languages of the Congress.

Grassland agriculture represents one of the greatest potential safeguards of

democratic government in the best interests of freedom-loving peoples everywhere. The Sixth International Grassland Congress will be a vital factor in stimulating mutual understanding in this important field.—*W. R. Chapline*, Chief, Division of Range Research, U. S. Forest Service, and Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Sixth International Grassland Congress, Washington, D. C.



## GRASS

Grass is the forgiveness of Nature—her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown like rural lines, are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality, and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements, which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in its place, and prevent its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea. It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates, and determines the history, character, and destiny of nations. Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and the field, it abides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world.—*John James Ingalls*, in *Blue Grass*.