decreased approximately 18 percent on the check plots from 1952 to 1953. On the 9 sprayed plots, average ground cover remained essentially the same for the 2 years (28.57 and 28.03 percent). However, in 1953, herbage production increased 6 percent. Grasses and sedges on the sprayed plots did not decline in cover or production as they did on the unsprayed plots. With one exception, the grasses and sedges were of the bunch-type and any improvement in growing conditions during 1953 would perhaps be better reflected in increased herbage production than in ground cover. Observations in September showed that cattle grazed sprayed plots much more intensively and uniformly than unsprayed plots and buffer strips. At the time, utilization for Idaho fescue was estimated to be 60 to 70 percent on sprayed plots and 20 to 30 percent on unsprayed areas.

LITERATURE CITED


Fig. 1. Completed cage, showing sloping end.

STURDY CAGE FOR RANGE AND PASTURE STUDIES

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After using several types of cages to protect areas from grazing in range and pasture studies, a useful and simple style has been evolved which meets our needs. In addition to being durable and light in weight, these cages have the advantage of fitting one into another making them economical to transport.

The cages are designed to enclose a ground area of three by seven feet. In this area two useful plot sizes may be used, 5.8 x 1.5 feet (1/5000 acre) and 5.8 x 1.66 feet (9.6 square feet). Plots of rectangular shape are favored in that a reduction in sampling error is achieved over square plots of equal area with the types of vegetation concerned.

Cages are constructed from concrete reinforcing wire. This material is available in various sizes, but we use 200 foot rolls, five feet in width. A length of seven feet is cut from the roll, and bent into semicircular shape to give the base rectangle of three feet by seven feet. The two end wires are cut loose from all the cross wires except those at the base. These end wires are then bent inwards to meet the next wire, and thus slope the cage ends. The cross wires are then rewound around the end wires to hold them in place. Ends are made from pieces of heavy field fencing, slightly larger than two by three feet, self-wired to the cage. A 20-foot length of one-quarter inch concrete reinforcing rod is then formed to shape, and wired to the bottom. For added strength the cage may be spot welded to the frame, but this is not absolutely necessary. Tools required are ⅜” bolt cutters and pliers. Cages may be painted with ‘Duco’ undercoater or silver paint. The latter makes the cages easier to find, but is not as durable. Material for 26 cages cost approximately $75.00 in Canada. Two men can construct four cages in one hour, exclusive of welding and painting.