5. THE HOHENHEIM SYSTEM

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In discussing the Hohenheim System, or as the English refer to it, "The New System of Grassland Management," we may make clear at the beginning the four main points involved in this system, viz., (1) dividing the pasture area into different smaller plats, (2) dividing the grazing herd according to production, (3) frequent rotation of these groups of cattle, and (4) intensified fertilization with more attention to high nitrogen applications.

When the pasture is prepared for the season, the question arises of how to utilize the pasture in order to get the highest returns. Here we reach one of the most important parts of the "Hohenheim System." The average farm has one or two plats where the stock grazes during the season. The entire herd and perhaps horses and sheep are running on one of these plats as long as they possibly can find some food. If the grass is too short, the barn feeding begins. It is surprising what large quantities of concentrates many farmers feed during the summer months. About the same conditions existed in Germany up to the war. With the war on and cut off from all outside sources, Germany had to find means to supply stock with feed on her own land. It was Professor Warmbold who first introduced at the Agricultural College at Hohenheim a new system of grassland management. The whole area of the Hohenheim pasture was divided into many plats; and with the larger number of plats, it was necessary to increase the frequency of the rotation of the herd on these plats. Every up-to-date dairy farmer long ago made it a practice to feed his stock according to the production, at least during the winter months when the stock is fed entirely in the barn. Why should it be different during the summer months when the stock is on pasture?

According to the most practical and economical system of feeding in the barn, therefore, the herd was divided into three groups during the pasture season also. These groups included, first, high producing cows; second, low producing cows; and third, dry stock, horses, etc. Grass high in protein can fully, or at least to a great extent, take the place of high priced concentrates. Considering this, we give to our higher producers the grass which is richest in protein. We therefore bring this group of cows first on the plat which has the best stand of grass. After a few days we move this first or high-producing group to a second plat, where again they may obtain young and fresh grass. The second group of low-producing cows then occupies the plat which the high-producing cows left. It is reasonable that in just a few days the first group of cows cannot clean the plat entirely and there is plenty left to feed the second group very well. After the latter are off, there is still enough for the dry cows and young stock. By this system of rotation the high-producing cows have higher protein and more digestible food and can find it in a shorter time and

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