NOTES

UNIT DAYS OF GRAZING

The beginning of experimental work in pasture investigations is so recent that little has been done in the formulation of terms to describe the factors concerned in this field. There are a number of terms now in use which are unsuited for accurate descriptions and which may convey a different meaning in various publications. Perhaps the most conspicuous examples of this kind are the terms “cow days,” “cattle days,” or “pasture days” of grazing.

The need for a term which will express the idea of quantity of grazing supplied by different pastures, or for the same pasture under different methods of management or fertilizer treatment, has been apparent in all of the articles contributed by investigators of this subject. While there is a rather general understanding that “cow days of grazing” or “cattle days of grazing” carry a meaning of animal unit days, the terms in themselves do not imply exactly this and it has not been the practice in every case to reduce the data to unit days.

The expression “cow days of grazing” means of course that a mature or adult cow has been provided an opportunity to graze on the pasture for the indicated number of days. The expression “cow days” is objectionable from the standpoint of the beef cattle producer or experimenter because in many cases the animals are males rather than females. “Cattle days of grazing” or “pasture days” are objectionable because they do not indicate in themselves that the animals grazed were adults. The use of such terms does not give the reader assurance that the cattle were adults and the writer assumes no obligation for an implication of this kind when he uses them. Some of the animals may have been less than a year old.

We wish to propose, therefore, as a substitute for “cow days,” “cattle days,” and “pasture days,” the term “unit days.” The term “unit days of grazing” has several factors of advantage. It is short,