EIGHT YEARS’ RESULTS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
FERTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT IN INCREASING
THE PRODUCTION OF PERMANENT PASTURES

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There is available in the pasture research literature of the world
(9, 10) a vast body of data attesting to the relatively low produc-
tion of most permanent grasslands. The low productivity char-
acteristic of these grasslands has been variously attributed to the
single or combined effects of lack of fertility, improper grazing man-
agement, insect injury, drought, and in the case of woods pastures, to
shading.

Fortunately, considerable evidence has gradually been accumulated
in the development of a better understanding of the underlying causes
which affect the production of permanent grasslands. Small plot
"lawn-mower" investigations and studies conducted under actual
grazing conditions have contributed valuable information of direct
and immediate practical importance in the field of pasture improve-
ment. It must be emphasized, however, that there are still many uns-
solved problems.

It is clear from the literature that the yields of permanent grass-
lands can be materially and profitably increased provided proper
treatments are given them. Further, it has been shown that in addi-
tion to increased yields and better quality of forage, improved pas-
tures provide the cheapest and most economical source of feed on the
farm, and offer an effective and realistic means of controlling soil
losses due to erosion. Occasional studies (12) appear to suggest that
the production of improved permanent pastures may compare favor-
ably with that of cultivated crops on soils of comparable fertility.
The gradual and progressive development of an understanding of the
requirements of grasslands and of their value and importance not
only as an excellent source of forage but also in soil improvement and

1 Contribution No. 189 from the Department of Agronomy, University of
Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. Cooperative investigations of the Departments of
Agronomy, Dairy Husbandry and Soils of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment
Station, and the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering,
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Published by permission of the
Director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station. Received for pub-
lication October 29, 1943.

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Professor of Animal and Dairy Husbandry, and Professor of Soils, respectively,
Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station. Assistance in carrying forward the
agronomic phases of the study was provided by the late F. W. Tinney, Assistant
Agronomist, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, during the
period 1936–39. Thanks are due Doctor O. S. Aamodt, Head Agronomist in
Charge, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils,
and Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, and Professor L. F.
Graber, Department of Agronomy, Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station,
for many suggestions in connection with the study. Gratitude is also due to
Messrs. G. M. Werner and C. E. Zehner, Assistant Professor and Instructor of
Dairy Husbandry, respectively, Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, for
assistance with certain of the livestock phases of the study.

3 Figures in parenthesis refer to “Literature Cited”, p. 315.

Published April, 1944