ANNUAL FORAGE CROPS FOR THE DRY LANDS.

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In discussing forage crops for the dry-land sections of the United States, one must necessarily make a distinction between that portion of the Great Plains area in which perennial grasses and legumes can be produced and that part where perennials must give way to annuals. This imaginary division line can be placed in the northern United States at about a fifteen-inch annual precipitation; in the center, eighteen-inch; and in the south, thirty-inch. In the latitude of Nebraska and Kansas, in sections having a less rainfall than eighteen inches it is very difficult, if not impossible, to grow profitably without irrigation the hardiest kind of perennials, such as alfalfa, brome grass, etc. Farther south the division varies to a line of greater rainfall on account of the increased evaporation, and in Texas, near the southern boundary of the United States, the line must be placed near an annual precipitation of thirty inches. On the contrary, in the north near the Canadian border, these perennial crops can be grown on a precipitation of fifteen inches or less.

Wherever this division line is located, the two sections marked off by it must be considered separately in a discussion of their forage crop problems. In that section where the perennials can be grown, the problem is a comparatively easy one and alfalfa is the solution.