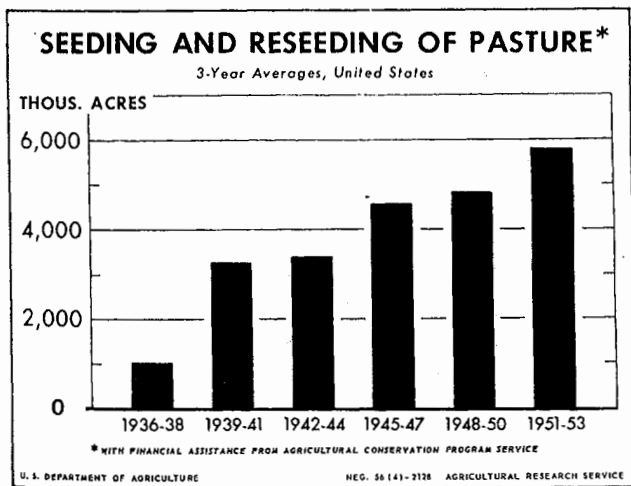


PASTURE IMPROVEMENT



Considerable progress in the improvement of public and private grasslands has been made in recent years. More farmers are recognizing the importance of having good improved pastures on their farms if they are to make the most efficient use of their land resources. Several different practices are associated with the improvement of pastureland. Application of lime, phosphate, and potash may be required. Weeds need to be mowed and competitive plants controlled. Seeding or reseeded of pastures with good seed and with the right kind or mixture of pasture plants for the soil, slope, temperature, and moisture conditions involved is also a major prerequisite to the establishment of an improved high-forage yielding pasture.

The Federal Government has taken an active part in helping farmers to improve their pastures. Research has been carried out to develop the best plants and improvement practices. Technical assistance in carrying out pasture-improvement practices is rendered by the Soil Conservation Service and financial assistance under the Agricultural Conservation Program benefits farmers in this phase of conservation.

Seeding and reseeded of pasture, 1936-53.—Seeding and reseeded of pasture has been carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program since 1936. The accompanying chart indicates that the acreage of pasture being seeded or reseeded with financial assistance from the Agricultural Conservation Program Service has gradually been increased.

Seeding and reseeded of pasture 1950-53.—The distribution of the acreage seeded or reseeded under the Agricultural Conservation Program during a 4-year period, 1950-53, is shown by the accompanying map. The greatest emphasis on seeding and reseeded of pasture under this program is in the Southern States where cropland diverted from other uses and land recently cleared is being seeded to improved pastures. Some States, particularly Kentucky, have placed a strong emphasis on this practice in assigning funds available for payments to farmers. In other States, such as West Virginia and the New England States, more emphasis has been placed on using funds for the application of such materials as lime, phosphate, and potash. This means that the amount of seeding and reseeded of pastures in these States is not adequately reflected in the above map, which is based only on the acreage seeded or reseeded with financial assistance given for that specific practice.