

Grassed Waterways Stop Gullies, Also Produce Valuable Hay Crop

By T. J. Conlon¹, R. J. Douglas² and W. C. Whitman³

Improvement of a severely eroded watercourse at the Dickinson station is beginning to pay dividends.

The badly gullied waterway, well over one-half mile long, on land obtained in 1951, was for all practical purposes waste land at that time because it was too rough to permit the operation of hay making machinery.

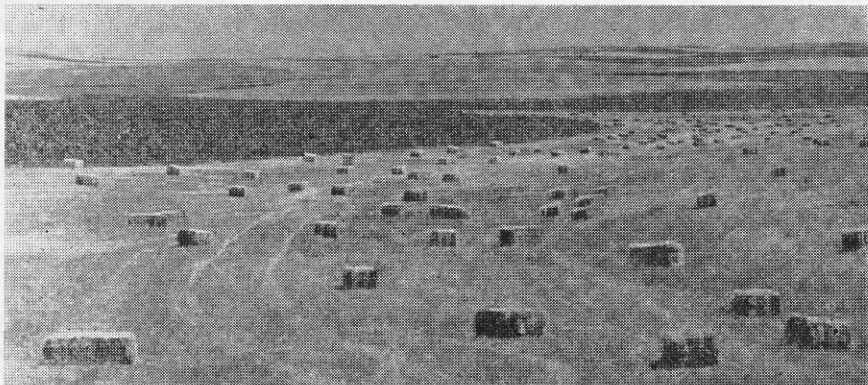


FIGURE 1.—Baled hay on the new grassed waterway at the Dickinson Station in 1955. (Photo by W. P. Sebens).

The strip was surveyed by local Soil Conservation Service personnel, and levelling, filling and grading operations were carried out in the spring of 1954 to produce a flat bottom bed 40 feet wide with gently sloping sides. The strip was seeded, as soon as grading was completed, to a mixture of five pounds bromegrass, four pounds intermediate wheatgrass and three pounds alfalfa, with a light seeding of oats for a cover crop. The hay crop harvested in 1955 was estimated at three tons per acre.

PUBLIC DIAGNOSTIC ACTIVITIES

An important aspect of the work of this station's Department of Veterinary Science in 1955, as in previous years, was the large amount of public diagnostic service given to farmers, hatcherymen, stockmen, pet owners and others who brought ailing or dead birds and animals to the laboratory for examination, diagnosis and counsel. In 1955 this aspect of veterinary service included examination of more than 1,200 consignments, many of them one specimen but several of them including several animals or birds, ranging up to lots of fowls some of which totaled more than 2,000 birds submitted for pullorum testing.

¹Assistant Agronomist, Dickinson Experiment Station.

²Superintendent, Dickinson Experiment Station.

³Botanist, Dickinson Experiment Station.