

Read over, July 26, 95. Get the cost of Chez Nous out, trouble with Makr Keller as a carpenter. Do the rye yard story.

RAD: 199H, side 1: fields, crops March 20, 1979

Side 1

RAD: There aren't many oats grown any more. The only reason we grew oats was to seed, to get alfalfa started.

A nurse or cover crop?

Yeah.

Why did we use to grow oats? We fed them to cattle?

Cattle, hogs. Folks still use them, their still in hog feed. Oats is just not a paying crop really. Straw, too. People with cattle and hogs need straw. Depends a little bit on what you're farming. If you see a farm with a lot of cattle, you'll see oats growing. If there's no cattle, very rarely will you see oats grown.

What about winter wheat? Does anybody grow that anymore?

Not around here. Used to be, there's some yet. Wheat prices aren't too great. The only time I grew wheat was up on that farm I bought. As a matter of fact I still have some straw bales down in the barn. Corn and soybeans are much better around here.

Chez Nous rye on lawn story. Nurse crop of rye that did so well, only grass would grow under it. What was the rye used for?

It was (hump?) feed mostly. Thick stalks like barley, another crop we used to grow. For the cows. But corn is much higher producing per acre. We can get along with out the other crops. Phasing all these other grains out.

It's too bad, we're losing variety.

It is. Rye is now a good crop for plowing under. Just don't see it much anymore.

(talk about a dog, I guess)

What questions should I be asking about land, tilling and stuff?

You'd have to spray for corn borer, from an airplane. They weren't too common but it comes and goes. You never know which year that you'll get them. They say now with chisel plowing, which leaves more stalks on the ground, they say the corn borer

population is building up. We haven't had a big problem, but it doesn't mean we won't in the future.

The old disk that had a fitting that you could turn every so often and it would grease the bearings.

A grease gun would shoot grease right into the bearing. Much quicker. That started at least 50 years ago. Oil doesn't last as long as grease. (talking about greasing something by hand) Now most of them are greaseless bearings. As long as they don't get dirt in them, they'll last the life of the machine. Sometimes have to be replaced. ///

They used to think they had to cook soybeans to use. But now press them to remove oil. What remains is the soybean meal, very palatable and digestible. The oil is used in manufacturing, lots of plastics use soybean oil and it's used in food, too. When the meal comes back to the farmer, it's a major protein source for feed for hogs and cattle. Very little flax (linseed) oil feed made anymore, maybe in the Dakotas. And cotton. If we raised more cotton for fabrics we wouldn't have to use the polyester (which is a petroleum product). We need to raise more cotton, maybe we will.

Scalping. Take the cob, get the most of the corn off the cob.

Thrashing, but went onto talk of Mr. Chard (Shard?). Then a schedule of when thrashed where. (a document)/// ???--jj