



DR. FRED V. GRAU

ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

TURF IS PART OF AGRICULTURE

In these times of shortages and crises, I sense an effort in some quarters to discredit and devalue the importance of turf in the economy of this country. It is true, and members of the turf industry are among the first to admit it, that turf is not as important as the production of food. In dollar value, however, turf is crowding food production for top honors. Remember the 1966 Pennsylvania Turfgrass Survey? Those figures were authentic and startling.

Recreation on turfed surfaces has become as much a part of our lives as driving, eating and sleeping. The health of a nation such as ours is closely associated with recreational activities. Golf, for example, is one of the activities that keeps our lawmakers in trim (Burning Tree, Congressional, Columbia, Soldiers Home and others). Golf is played on turf during the daytime. The energy that is used is mostly the players' and what it takes to get them there and back to the home or the office.

No official in his right mind would have the temerity to deny needed turfgrass facilities access to enough energy to maintain turf so that it can be used for recreation. We are talking now about "minimum" maintenance during the energy chaos, not "spit-and-polish" upkeep.

Golf courses may be making hay from the roughs, which will ally them with food production. No one should be surprised to see sheep grazing all night every night on the course to keep the grass cropped to save energy and produce food. How many players have played on wooly-grazed turf? Aside from a few loose, rounded impediments, the playing surface is remarkably good.

In the concept of soil building, soil

conservation and reduction of erosion, turf plays an important part. In these respects, turf is agriculture. No one can deny that living sod is a great purifier. It absorbs airborne impurities; it filters water as it percolates downward; it is one of world's best solar-powered air conditioners. Turf is one of the most efficient users of lime and fertilizer. Turf is in an even better position to utilize "used" water, such as sewage effluent, than are farm crops. By recycling "dirty" water, we can conserve potable water.

I have been, and still am, a farmer, and I have been a golf course superintendent. I stand firmly on the premise that farming and food production are closely allied to turfgrass establishment and management. The one is to nourish our bodies; the other is to sustain our minds, as well as to keep our bodies fit. Together, we have the complete equation for a healthy, vigorous population. Let's keep them going forward together.

Q—If we should decide to graze sheep on our golf course, we will have some questions. What breed, how many, how to contain them? We are willing to give it serious consideration, if this threat of energy scarcity gets worse. Of course, we'd rather not be bothered. (Pennsylvania)

A—The first step to take before making any firm commitment is to go to the county agent and ask his advice. He may throw you out, but then again, he may listen. Every state experiment station has a sheep specialist who is qualified to answer just about every question you can ask about sheep. He may tell you 1) to forget the whole crazy idea, 2) loose dogs will raise hell with the dumb woolies, 3) chemicals you use will kill the little beasts,

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MEMO...

*Reduce
Golf Cart
Costs*

1. Is your club thinking of buying carts for a rental fleet?

☒ YES ☐ NO

2. Do you want the all-day-long rentability of a gasoline driven cart?

☒ YES ☐ NO

3. Are there hills on your course and you want a cart that will go up them without the feeling that it's not going to make it?

☒ YES ☐ NO

4. Do you need the prestige that goes with the better known golf carts?

☐ YES ☒ NO

If we've answered the above survey right for you, then write us and we'll send you the specifications on our Golfkar. GOLFKAR IS ECONOMICAL TO OWN AND OPERATE!

P.S. If you allow private carts on your course and are looking for additional income for your pro-shop or superintendent, write us and become a Golfkar Dealer. In the ten years we have been making carts we have many satisfied owners. Some couples have HIS and HERS Golfkars.



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