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Couple treks across 'Mighty Mac' Page 10

Did wet weather degrade your forage quality? Page 44

Soybean's success

BY GAIL C. KECK

WHEN a few farmers in Ohio began experimenting with soybeans in the 1850s, they were impressed by the plant's productivity, but not so impressed with the crop's taste. Even though soybeans were already widely used in other parts of the world for food, they didn't catch on as a garden crop in Ohio. Instead, farmers began using soybeans as a forage crop — harvested for hay, grazed by cattle or "hogged off." Eventually, though, Ohio farmers began recognizing soybeans' broader potential, and by 1940 more soybeans were being harvested for beans than for forage.

Now, more than a third of Ohio's farm ground is planted to soybeans, and the crop is used for human food and livestock feed, as well as biofuels, plasticizers, polymers and paints. Read more about Ohio soybean production on Pages 4-5.

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