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Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD



A SILO is needed on the small dairy farm more than anywhere else. It does away with the need of a large pasture and insures a full milk supply during summer droughts.

Fodder preserved in a concrete silo is safe from fire and waste and retains the maximum food value. The cost of building a silo with a capacity of 100 tons need not exceed \$300. It varies according to the supply of labor. Concrete costs little more than wood and is so much better in every way that it is confidently recommended. No fodder is relished so much by stock as silage. Its influence is beneficial to the animal system, is invigorating and prevents cripples and impactions. Succulent silage makes for good health and heavy milk flow. It is equally good for poultry and hogs.

Corn is the most suitable of all crops for silage. It should be harvested when the bottom leaves are drying off and the grain is doughy and glazing. Without hurrying the work of filling the silo, the best method is to ensile the crop as soon as it is harvested, cutting the stalks and cobs into small bits. The grain is more or less macerated in the cutter.

The fodder thus treated is carried by means of an elevator or blower, which should deliver the material as near the center of the silo as possible. This may be done by the aid of a bag chute attached to the mouth of the elevator or the blower.

The labor of distributing the fodder is thus minimized, and an even supply of the material will be distributed all over the silo. If the fodder be allowed to fall direct from the mouth of the conveyor the heaviest parts will fall on one side and the lighter parts on the other. The silage will not settle evenly, and loss will eventually result. To assist in close packing it is absolutely essential to trample the product all over the silo. Trampling the sides or around the edges is not sufficient, for with the shrinking of the center the outer edges creep toward it and away from the walls, thus allowing access of air and consequent loss. The center should always be kept a little higher than the outer edges. The rate of filling should be six to eight feet per day. Quicker filling than this may result in generating too much heat, in which case the silage is liable to decompose.

After the silo has been filled the fodder should be covered with a light framework or coarse sheet and weighted down. This is done to keep out air, and after the silo has been opened for use in the spring or summer it is best to replace this top covering after each day's supply is taken out. Avoid, as far as practicable, sinking holes in the silage. In fact, keep as little of the silage exposed to the air as possible.

The daily ration of silage for a dairy cow is from thirty to forty pounds when fed with other fodders; when there is some grass available thirty pounds per day is ample. Sheep will eat as much as three pounds a day. It is advisable to give horses small quantities only of silage; otherwise there may be trouble from stomach derangements. Limit the amount fed to a few pounds per day. Pigs and poultry will eat small quantities.

Silage may be made of all plants that animals are permitted to eat in the green state, and such fodder preserved by this means loses but little of its feeding properties in the process. In one way there is a slight improvement. That is, the tougher fiber of silage fodder is softened and made thereby more digestible and acceptable to animals.

However, there is great risk in putting vegetables in a silo if a dairy is kept. The milk is apt to be tainted. Oats, rye, millet and alfalfa work well in connection with corn, but the latter is the main staple and may be used by itself.

NEW POTATO DISEASE.

Silver Scurf is Spreading Rapidly—Infected Tubers Must Be Rejected.

A new disease, silver scurf (*Spondyloboletus apiculatus* Harn), has recently been introduced from Europe and is spreading rapidly in our eastern states, says a recent bulletin of the United States department of agriculture.

This disease is marked by dark areas on the skin of the tuber, which on close examination may be seen to be



Photo by United States department of agriculture.

POTATO AFFECTED WITH SILVER SCURF.
(The lower part of this tuber is affected; the upper normal.)

spotted with fine black points. This fungus does not produce a decay of the potato, but after the skin is killed there is a rapid loss of moisture, and the tubers shrivel and take on a silvery appearance, greatly depreciating their market value.

This fungus is apparently not killed by seed disinfection; therefore all infected potatoes must be rejected.

USE ALL THE CORN.

Silo Makes Available Feeding Value of Stalk as Well as Ear.

By the use of the silo and harvesting the corn plant for silage the feeding value of the plant is increased from \$10 to \$12 per acre. It is estimated that 25 per cent of the feeding value of the corn plant is in the ear of corn and 40 per cent is in the stalk.

If a field of corn which would make forty bushels per acre is harvested in the usual way of gathering the corn and leaving the stalk stand we have harvested only 60 per cent of the crop. The forty bushels of corn at 50 cents per bushel are worth \$20, but if the stalks have two-thirds the feeding value of the grain the stalks are worth from \$10 to \$12 or \$15 per acre, depending upon the quality of the crop and the condition they are in when harvested for silage.

If the stalks are left in the field they have a feeding value of from \$1 to \$1.50 or \$2.50 per acre. This decreased value of the cornstalk when left in the field is due to the fact that when the stalk is left standing it loses its moisture and the fiber becomes hard, woody and indigestible.

It is therefore evident that to obtain the maximum feeding value of the corn crop it should be harvested and made into silage and that the use of the silo will increase the feeding value of the corn plants from \$10 to \$12 per acre.—Roy C. Potts, Department of Dairy Husbandry, Oklahoma A. and M. College.

PRUNE AND SPRAY.

The good book says to watch and pray. The good advice, as all will say, but prayers won't stop the bugs and blight. So make up your mind you'll have to fight. If you raise good fruit and make it pay, you must fertilize, prune and spray.

—Farm Press.

For Filling the Apple Barrel.

How to pack apples in barrels: Two layers of fruit should be placed in the bottom of barrel with stems down and as close together as possible. These will form the facing, for this end will be the top when opened. Fill in with the same grade, shake the barrel often and when near the top put in two more layers with stems up, letting the last layer stand a full inch above the chime of barrel. Now put on lid and slowly press into place, shaking the barrel in the meanwhile. The stores sell very excellent barrel headers or presses. But one can be rigged very quickly by using a plank or scantling with one end under a stud reaching to the shed plate and nailed temporarily in place. See cut. Be careful not to press the apples too hard.—Farm Journal.

Fertilize Your Orchard.

As neglected as the average farm orchard is in almost every particular it probably suffers worse from the lack of fertilization than from any other cause. It is indeed a rare case where the farmer or perhaps even the orchardist manures or fertilizes his orchard as thoroughly and as conscientiously as he does his corn and wheat ground, says the Farmer's Guide.

Badly Expressed.

Mother-in-law it is no kind of you, Joseph, to take the trouble to drive me home! Son-in-law—Don't mention it! It's no trouble at all. On the contrary, it is the most delightful drive I have had for some time!—London Telegraph.

Then He Stole.

Prudent Swain—if I were to steal a kiss, would it scare you so that you would scream? Timid Maiden—I couldn't! Fright always makes me dumb.

The wise prove and the foolish confess by their conduct that a life of employment is the only life worth leading.

—William Pailey.

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MRS. BROWN'S DOLLAR.

Good Mrs. Brown desired to buy a simple little blouse. She wanted one that wasn't high to wear around the house. At first she thought she'd send away to some big city store. For fear perhaps she'd have to pay at home a nickel more.

But Mrs. Brown is rather wise; she took a second thought. She knew that here before her eyes she'd see before she bought. Perhaps a nickel difference. In prices there might be—And maybe fifty cents in looks and quality.

She thought she'd see what in the town. The dealers had to sell. And so that morning she went down to shop a little spell. And she was glad that not in haste she sent her cash away. She paid a dollar for a waist she found upon display.

Not here is what she never knew. Though happen all it will. The dollar that she handed to the clerk to pay the bill before the afternoon was paid. To some one in the town. And in the course of daily trade at last to Mr. Brown.

That night when supper she had cooked she wore her garment new. Brown told her sweet enough she looked. To kiss—and did it too. In fond embrace he held her near to take another snugg. And said, "A little present, dear"—She got her dollar back!—American Lumberman.

RUN JUVENILE MARKET

Portland (Ore.) Children Have a Market to Sell Garden Products.

Children of Portland, Ore., had cultivate school gardens, but they had a market in which to sell their produce. This is conducted by representatives of the Woman's club and has proved a great success.

When the juvenile market, so called, was started, following a general exhibit, commission merchants overtures to buy the entire stock, their offers were refused, and the club was established of selling to the consumer.

By noon almost the entire supply of the vegetables which had been stockpiled, the market continued out the afternoon to do a thriving business, and when it closed in the evening there was scarcely a remnant of supply on hand.

BLACK ROT OF CABBAGE

Recognized by Blackened Vein Leaves—Treatment Recommended.

A bulletin of the Connecticut agricultural experiment station, contains a number of related cruciferous plants but we have reported it from the first only on cauliflower. While we did not see it on cabbage until now, it seems quite probable that it caused more or less harm to this before, since it has been reported quite injurious in several other states in times past.

This disease is recognized by the blackened veins of the leaves, the bacteria develop chiefly, and thus extend down into the head, leaf tissues finally turn yellow, the leaves are easily pulled off, and rot, caused in part by other organisms.

BLACK BACTERIAL ROT OF CABBAGE

Photo by Connecticut experiment station.

BLACK BACTERIAL ROT OF CABBAGE. Leaves often loosen them at the base and develop an ill smelling library decay. The bacteria gain entrance through drops of water at the pores on the margins of the leaves. As the germs of this disease are carried on the seed, it is wise to use that the seed used does not come from a diseased crop. If doubt exists it is well to treat the seed with formalin 1-240, or corrosive sublimate, 1 part for fifteen minutes. Likewise, if the disease shows up in a seed bed, it should be changed the next year. Seed in the field this year should not be used for cruciferous crops for next seasons and, even if the disease is present, yearly rotation is desirable where it can be carried on without special difficulty. Refuse from diseased cabbages should never find way to the manure pile.

Farm and Garden

MERCHANTS SHOULD DEMAND PROMPT PAYMENT OF BILLS

Abuse of Charge Account Due to Carelessness—Cash System Best.

Some people become careless about paying the bills of the local storekeeper. It is not that they are dishonest; they are simply careless. "Oh, I've been dealing with that man for years now, and he won't mind waiting awhile," they will say as the first bill is poked away and forgotten until another reminds them of the unsettled obligation.

A local storekeeper cannot go on doing business at the same old stand and render satisfaction and the best possible equivalent for the money without his customers' cooperation. A cog will slip here and a cog will slip there in any business when this sort of thing continues indefinitely, and the home merchant realizes it has become a practice.

On the other hand, a prompt response to the merchant's first bill will be rewarded. It will place a well stocked store at your disposal and a list of prices that does not have to be fixed with an eye to the debtor's list.

While it is commendable to pay your tradesman's bills promptly, it is better still never to open a charge account. Pay for each article when you buy it and join the ranks of the local merchant's best friends, better friends even than those who pay once a week or once a month.

As a matter of fact, this charge account idea is nothing less than a personal favor which a storekeeper is not obliged to grant. It is a favor that is not granted by the mail order concern. But when a storekeeper permits a customer to go on his books the least that customer can do is to settle his account without delay. How this prompt return courtesy will rebound to the customer's advantage has already been pointed out.

CARNIVAL FOR PLAYGROUND.

Pennsylvania Town Will Have \$10,000 to Maintain a Site.

That the hundreds of children of South Bethlehem may have a public playground, public spirited citizens arranged for a six day carnival to raise funds for a site.

That town has about 3,500 children of school age who have practically no place to play except in streets and on corner lots. Lehigh university for two years has given the use of its athletic field during the summer, and so far

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