

# THE CORN SILO, WHEN AND HOW TO FILL IT AND KEEP THE ENSILAGE FROM SPOILING

The Silo Gaining in Popularity Every Year Where It Is In Use By the Dairymen and Farmers.

At no time has the silo been more popular than it is to-day. At the present time I would say there are about 150 silos in use in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. While this is a very small number for a county of the size of Lancaster, and for one in which so many cattle are being fed, I know it to be a fact that there never has been a greater number of silos in use. This popularity is rapidly increasing. During the past year I have been either directly or indirectly instrumental in having about 25 silos placed.

There are about 75,000 cattle fattened in this county every year. From figures which I have it has been found absolutely impossible to make any proceeds on this feeding work above value of manure without the use of the silo. Feeding experiments at our own station this year have demonstrated to our farmers that without the use of the silo cattle will be fed in a direct loss, or, in other words, market price will not be received on the farm for grains fed. We have no system of feeding either fat cattle or cows which can adequately compete with the use of silage.

You cannot concrete the inside of a pit silo heavily enough to keep out the water in flat or poorly drained silo. Unless your buildings are located on a hill or some other place having first-class natural drainage, don't try to use a pit silo.

If you want to experiment you might dig a silo to the required depth on flat land, then dig a six-inch well in the bottom of the silo down to a permanent water vein. Curb up the well and put a drain head over the top. Put a few inches of gravel on top of this, then your silo floor. This method of drainage has worked satisfactorily in a number of cases for draining ponds and sink holes. It might do fully as well for draining a silo.

A silo 10 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep will give you a capacity of 26 or 27 tons. A good way to build this would be 15 feet below ground and five feet above.

corn into the silo when in the milk, but the best feeders have come to the conclusion that the proper time to cut for ensilage is when the corn is ripe enough to go into the shock. If frost strikes it before that time, of course, it should be cut down and siloed as soon as possible. Corn cut too green makes a strongly acid ensilage which is less palatable and contains less nutritive value than the later cut corn. Unless your corn is very dry, indeed, it will not need any water added at the time of putting into the silo. If dried thru hard frost and slow filling, a few barrels of water may be added after the silo is filled, but for ordinary conditions this is not recommended.

## SHREDDING CORN FOR STOCK BRINGS GOOD RESULTS

It will pay you to shred all the corn you use for fodder, especially if this is done in autumn before the corn has stood in the shock through exposure to a lot of winter rain and snow. If you have stock enough to use up all your corn in this way I believe you will be more satisfied with shredding. Should you do this shredding, however, all at the same time it will make a pretty big stack or barnful of shredded fodder and you want to be careful about its heating. Build the stack over a few lines of common drain tile laid together loosely. This will let the air in.

Farmers have had good results from filling their silos the second time. One of the best dairymen in Illinois filled his silo for the second time in December last year and it made good feed. The corn was cut just before frost and placed in large shocks. When cutting this dry corn into the silo a hose of water should be run into the blower constantly so that the feed will be thoroughly moistened.

While this silage probably is not of as high feeding value as silage cut at the proper time, yet the fermenting action tends to soften the hard corn stalks and the changes that take place make it a better feed than either common or shredded fodder. Farmers with whom I have talked on this subject think that the increased feed value pays for the cutting and the feed is in much better condition to handle.—Fred L. Petty.

## FEEDING THE CORN EAR-WORM.

The damage resulting from the work of this insect has amounted to five and one-half million dollars in two years. In this state three full broods reach maturity. The larvae of these three broods feed mainly upon corn. The larva enters the soil in the fall and burrows down about three inches. From this point it excavates a tunnel to the surface, leaving a thin plate of surface soil untouched. It goes back to the bottom of the burrow and spends the winter. In late May and in June it crawls up its open burrow, bursts the thin plate of soil and crawls out. Within a few hours it will be able to take flight and begin business. The females deposit their eggs upon the leaves of the young corn, and in four or five days they hatched. The larva feeds on the leaves near the tender curl for about eighteen days, then the full-grown larva enters the soil. It remains in the soil about thirteen days, and then comes out as the second brood in early July. The second and third broods feed upon the tender corn silk and grains. The corn earworm moth is a strong flyer and will travel a long distance to find corn that is in a stage of development suitable to its needs.

The method of controlling this pest is by destroying those that pass the winter in the soil. Late fall or early winter plowing will destroy a very large per cent due to exposure to the weather and birds. To have good results all the farmers in the community should plow their infested fields. One farmer alone cannot get rid of the pest, because there are always enough in his neighbors' field to infest his crop. A farmer that plants his corn as early as possible will escape the large per cent of loss due to this insect, because the corn will then be past the attractive stage when the third and largest brood appears.—Charles Dillon, Kas.

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## DO NOT PASTURE CORN STALKS, TOO DANGEROUS

This may seem like a broad bit of advice, in view of the millions of acres of stalks which are fed off every year in the corn belt. But it isn't our suggestion. It is the advice of the U. S. D. A.

"As death from cornstalk disease is generally sudden, and there is little opportunity for treatment," says a government publication, "animals should not be turned into a field with standing stalks."

There are good reasons aside from loss by this mysterious disease why the stalks should not be fed off in the field; and for this reason, if for no other, we point in the advice. The feeding of standing stalks is usually safe, but every man who practices it runs the risk of finding dead in his yards valuable cattle which were ready to help in making profits the day before.

Nobody seems to know just what there is which occasionally gets into a field of stalks which is deadly poison to cattle. But we do know that if the stalks are cut at the proper time for making fodder, cured and removed from the field the danger is avoided.

Stalks fed in the barnyard are safe, and better than stalks fed in the field because they are cut when all the feeding value is in them, or should be, at least. Stalks shredded and fed in the barn or yard are better because the stalks themselves will be eaten. Stalks made into silage at the proper time are bet-

## METHODS OF SPREADING THE HOG CHOLERA GERM

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore., June.—Hog raisers of Oregon need to be on the alert to prevent the introduction and spread of the dread disease into their parts of the state. Since the disease is due to a germ of microscopic size it naturally follows that it can be communicated to well hogs only by permitting the germ to be carried to them. A knowledge of the different methods of carrying the germ from infected to well hogs is essential to prevention. Some of these methods of spread are given by Dr. B. T. Simms, veterinarian at the Agricultural College, as follows:

- 1.—By direct contact with hogs suffering from cholera.
- 2.—By carriers, that is, hogs that have recovered from cholera but still pass germs with their droppings.
- 3.—By humans that have come into contact with infected hogs or premises.
- 4.—By dogs, coyotes, buzzards and other carrion eating animals that have fed on the carcasses of infected hogs.

## THEY HAVE DETECTIVES AFTER THE KANSAS COWS

Twenty-six farmers in Dickinson county, Kansas, organized a cow-testing association last year, with the help of the Kansas Agricultural College. They hired a man to do the testing. He worked at the home of each man one day every month. The cost to the farmers was about \$1.50 for each cow for the year, for the 379 cows entered.

## Feeding for Great Production.

Alfalfa, beet and corn silage are the principal feeds used by a W. Morris & Sons, noted California dairymen, who have recently brought out three Holstein sows, each with a record of over 1000 pounds of butter in a year. They feed liberally on green alfalfa or alfalfa hay, beets or beet pulp, and corn silage, giving all that the cows will eat. They feed grain moderately, which consists of two pounds of ground wheat to one pound of ground barley, with some bran. It has been found that the cows are in much better condition while milking their best and eating plenty of beet pulp and silage with some grain than when milking only two-thirds as much on alfalfa hay alone.

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When to Silo Corn.  
Asks Perry Scheibel of Wisconsin:  
"When is the best time to cut corn for the silo?"  
Years ago it was the practice to put