

## Forestry Service Items Found to Be of Interest

### Fed With Care, Alfalfa Is Fine Feed for Horse

THE District Forester at Portland, Or., has recently received, among other scientific reports, the results of a study, made by the Agricultural Experiment Station, Lincoln, Neb., in regard to the value of alfalfa as a horse feed. The results of this study have been summarized as follows:

Alfalfa is a splendid horse feed, but must be fed with judgment and care.

Because of its palatability mature horses are likely to eat too much alfalfa if permitted to have free access to it.

The average farm horse at hard work is allowed to eat much more alfalfa and other roughage than he really needs to maintain his weight.

One pound of alfalfa or other hay and about 1 1/4 pounds of grain per day for each 100 pounds of the horse's weight make a good ration for the working horse.

Horses like alfalfa stems. Refuse from the cattle racks is very acceptable to horses.

Feed mature horses first and second cutting alfalfa which is free from mold and dust.

To make the best horse hay, alfalfa should be allowed to stand until well out in bloom.

In curing horse hay it is well to keep in mind that the dust which is present in so much alfalfa is largely a result of the presence of foreign moisture, such as rain or dew, at making time, rather than the presence of a little moisture within the plant.

Never feed wet alfalfa hay to horses.

A sudden change of feed deranges the horse's digestive system. Horses accustomed to alfalfa as a regular part of their ration are seldom troubled from its use.

If alfalfa hay is stored in the barn for horses it is well to sprinkle it generously, while mowing it away, with a mixture of salt and air-slaked lime, equal parts.

Growing draft colts have seldom, if ever, been injured by eating too much alfalfa and oats.

Good, well-colored alfalfa is of practically the same composition as wheat bran, and is of equal value to it in the horse ration.

Mature horses of a greedy disposition, if allowed to run to alfalfa racks at will, may eat too much and suffer attacks of impaction. Draft mares heavy in foal and taking but little exercise not infrequently suffer attacks of this nature.

An alfalfa pasture is a splendid place to develop draft colts with a maximum of bone and muscle.

Some complaint comes from the humid regions to the effect that mares on alfalfa pasture during the breeding season are hard to get in foal. This trouble seems to be more or less local and can be avoided by temporarily keeping the mares in other pastures.

An alfalfa patch forms a splendid night pasture for work horses, providing they are used to it and turned out regularly.

#### Last Night and You.

'Tis a story as old as the ocean,  
As fresh as the tear-like dew,  
Last night like a transient notion  
There came to me love of you,  
Shall I tell you the secret my heart  
cries?  
Shall I whisper the music I feel?  
Shall I wince or evince in my heart  
sighs  
Something you know will be real?  
Shall I tell you just how much I love  
you?  
Whisper your name in my dreams?  
Shall I bless you, caress you and love  
you,  
Till everything only seems?  
Shall I pay for your kiss with a mil-  
lion?  
Fertilise joy with a fear?  
Is my love star to be a parhellen,  
My song to be only a tear?

Last night, dear, I knew you were  
thrilling  
Oh, how your smile made me glad,  
Last night, love, my heart was in-  
stilling  
Joy that will make my soul sad,  
I closed tight my eyes in my fancy;  
I drifted alone with you  
To an island of dear necromancy  
Where always our dreams come true.

You told me the story of Esther;  
You told me the old tale of Ruth,  
Is love but a whimsical jester?  
Surely this joy is a truth,  
Your eyes shone a love unaffrighted;  
They lulled me to silence and bliss,  
If peasant were ever be-knighted  
You made me a King with your kiss.  
—Class Year, in the Chicago Press Club  
Scrap.

### Wood Flour Turns Waste Sawdust Into a Profit

IN its efforts to attain complete utilization of our forest products, the Federal Government has been making inquiries into the possibilities of manufacturing wood flour from sawdust waste.

The flour in question is not the kind which is converted into fluffy biscuits or flaky pastry, nor is it a substitute for cornmeal, although it looks somewhat like it. This wood flour is made by grinding dry sawdust or small wood waste (that of pine or spruce is excellent for the purpose) in a cheap mill, similar to the kind in which corn and rye are ground. After passing through the stones and the bolting chest it is sacked or baled for shipment. It is then worth \$12 to \$13 per ton.

This flour is used in making dynamite and acts as the absorbent for the nitroglycerine. Dynamite made with wood flour as one of its ingredients is somewhat inferior to that made with infusorial earth, but it is cheaper. The use of wood flour in the manufacture of dynamite, however, is but a minor use of the product.

Its chief use is in the manufacture of linoleum and xylolite, both floor coverings that are very popular for use in kitchens, halls, corridors, cafes, restaurants and public rooms. It is impervious to water and practically fireproof. It is also used as floor material on some of the German war vessels, for it is not liable to take fire or splinter if hit by shells.

The manufacture of wood flour is already an extensive industry in Europe. Norway has been manufacturing it for years and exports thousands of tons. Germany also is a large manufacturer. England and France are extensive buyers.

In the United States the matter of wood flour has not as yet been given much consideration. A few mills in the Middle West and one at Houlam, Wash., are all that have attempted to transfer their wood waste into wood flour. The amount of sawdust to be had in this country, especially in the Northwest, is unlimited and lumbermen should welcome this method of turning their waste into a practical and profitable product.

Experts from the United States Department of Agriculture have spent several days in the cotton fields of Salt River Valley, Arizona, roguing the Egyptian cotton. Seed from these fields will be used for planting by members of the central association next year.

### 1914 Year of Greatest Risk From Forest Fires

THE season of 1914, according to the officials of the Forest Service, carried greater danger from fire to the National forests than any year since the establishment of the forests. A long dry season, sustained periods of high temperature, recurring hard and steady winds and, in some places, unusually hot, dry nights, rendered the forests exceedingly inflammable. In fact, the weather conditions were said to be worse than in 1910, when the disastrous Idaho fires occurred.

The total number of fires during the season of 1914 which threatened the National forests and had to be handled by the protective organization of the Forest Service were 6112, or 1000 more than in 1910. Of this 6112 fires 81 per cent were extinguished before they had covered 10 acres. The percentage that burned over more than 10 acres was smaller than in any previous year.

The most serious of these fires occurred in Western Montana, Northern Idaho and the Pacific Slope. In the central and southern Rocky Mountains conditions were more normal and only 15 per cent of the total number of fires occurred in this region. A preliminary estimate shows that the total loss of merchantable timber will probably not exceed \$400,000. In 1910 the corresponding estimate was nearly \$15,000,000, although later estimates materially reduced this amount.

It is estimated that the value of the timber threatened and saved in Idaho and Montana alone aggregates over \$59,000,000. In Oregon and Washington experts estimate the value of timber saved at \$24,000,000. This does not include the value of non-merchantable timber, young growth on about 5,000,000 acres of land, or several million dollars' worth of ranch and other private property which lay in the path of the threatening conflagrations.

The figures given represent the number of fires reported up to December 1. When the complete figures are in it is expected that they will add large amounts to the total value of property threatened and saved.

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