

A Silo Supplies the Best Feed

BY L. C. NOTRUB.

IF it were possible to have, without too great a cost, and have it available every day of the year, there is no question but that good, healthy, live, fresh grass is the best single feed for cattle, sheep and horses. The high price of land (especially irrigated) makes it necessary that the annual yield per acre be great enough to warrant growing it, therefore, a great many of our farmers have attempted alfalfa as the most reasonable crop and the one that comes the nearest meeting their requirements.

Animals should have some succulent feed and corn, and silage supplies this and also meets with so many tons per acre requirement. Whenever alfalfa is to be fed to milk cows it should certainly be fed through a silage. Corn silage constitutes a large per cent of the silage made for feed in the United States; also alfalfa, clover, soy beans and cow peas are all made into silage. Silage made from these crops has a strong and very objectionable odor, more like decay than the characteristic odor of good corn silage.

Stage for Cutting.

Alfalfa, clover, etc., should be cut at the same stage as for making hay, and great care should be made in stacking the whole or cut hay into the silage. It must be tamped well to prevent molding. This invariably makes a good feed, but the farmers of the Northwest will have far better returns from their silage as soon as they learn to grow corn and use it to a great extent to replace alfalfa and clover silage.

Corn silage contains from 25 to 30 per cent dry matter, of which about 17 per cent is digestible. Of the digestible substance about 1.4 is protein, about 14.2 carbohydrates, and .7 per cent fat. Clover contains about 1.5 per cent protein, 9.2 per cent carbohydrates, and .5 per cent fat. Pasture grass is richer in protein than corn silage, but much lower in carbohydrates, the percentage be-

ing, protein, 2.5 per cent, carbohydrates, 10.1 per cent.

An animal fed on properly prepared silage never has digestive trouble and should show a sleek coat, clear skin and healthy bright pink color of the mucous membrane tissues of the eyes and mouth. When animals have learned to eat silage they are as fond of it as of grass. It is a frequent occurrence of animals not to eat silage when first placed before them, but they soon learn to eat it and in a great many instances they give preference to it over any other feed.

A good, strong, healthy dairy cow should be fed from 35 to 45 pounds of corn silage per day and from 25 to 40 pounds of alfalfa silage, and she should have in addition 8 or 10 pounds of grains, such as rolled barley, bran, etc. The amount of food given each animal per day, of course, must depend on the size and strength of the animal fed, and the amount of the milk yield ought, of course, be taken into consideration as well as the length of time she has been giving milk.

Study of Feeding.

It is the writer's opinion that it is highly essential that every man give good, close attention to the animals feeding and determine their needs by studying them as closely, perhaps, as he would the feeding of his own children.

It is far better to feed immediately after milking, because a great many times when animals are fed before milking the milk absorbs some of the odor of the silage. In times past the milk from silage-fed cows was considered second class, but that prejudice has entirely passed away, and the majority of milk and butter users prefer the milk and butter from silage-fed cows to any other.

The real value of a dairying country can quickly be determined by counting the number of silos in any community. The farmers of the Pacific Northwest should ever bear in mind the increasing importance of the silo.

Farmers' Week, O. A. C.

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tion on Tuesday, February 2, and the Oregon Dairymen's Association on Wednesday, February 3. Every breeder and every dairymen in Oregon should make an effort to hear Professor Eckles' talk.

Other speakers will be Mr. A. N. Henderson, chief milk inspector of Seattle; Mr. Bothell, market milk specialist of the Western office of the United States Dairy Commission; Dr. D. W. Mack, Portland chief milk inspector; Robert Ireland, manager of the Portland Pure Milk & Cream Company; Mr. David Monroe, of Spokane, a prominent Holstein breeder of Washington, and Mr. I. P. Whitney, manager of the Waikiki Jersey Farm, Spokane.

There will be a conference of the State Dairymen and meetings of the Jersey Breeders' Association and the Holstein Breeders' Association. A big get-together banquet will be served Thursday evening. In fact, inspiration as well as information will be imparted by the proceedings.

Special Low Rates.

The various railways of the state have granted a rate of a fare and a third on the certificate plan. All those who are planning to come should be sure to secure the proper certificate from their local agents at the time they purchase their ticket.

All who attend the lectures should register at the central bureau in the agricultural building at the earliest possible moment after their arrival. There will be no fees or charges of any kind.

Elaborate exhibits will be on display throughout the week. The large Armory will contain the principal exhibits, which will especially feature the work in dairying and poultry husbandry. All of the departmental museums about the college and all college laboratories, etc., will be open for inspection. Some of the most famous dairy animals in the state will be brought to the college for exhibition.

Every day from 12 to 12:30 o'clock there will be a general assembly in the women's gymnasium, at which time there will be offered a programme of music, dramatic readings and addresses by some of the best talent the state affords. Every evening at 7:30 o'clock in the same building there will be programmes consisting of music, moving-picture exhibitions and lectures by prominent speakers and leaders.

Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock

there will be a horse show in the Armory.

The college has been successful in securing some very able talent to assist in the instructional work. Among others, Dr. C. B. Smith, Mr. O. H. Benson, Mr. W. D. Working and Mr. C. E. Bassett, all of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Nellie Kedzie-Jones, of Auburndale, Wis.; Mr. C. H. Eckles, of the University of Missouri, and President N. D. Showalter, Washington State Normal School.

Many prominent men and women

of the state will also take a part in the programme. Besides those whose names appear on the programmes, there will be Governor James Withycombe, Dr. C. H. Chapman, Dr. William T. Foster, Mr. Grant Dimick and others.

The programme has been so arranged that those who are able to come for only a day or two can get the greatest possible benefit for the time expended. Certain work will be given emphasis on certain days indicated as follows: Monday, by-products, good roads; Tuesday, sheep, prunes, breeding of dairy cattle, food; Wednesday, beef cattle, pruning of fruit trees, drainage, dairying, organization and markets, clothing; Thursday, child care, dairying, hogs, organization and markets, better seeds; Friday, horses, potatoes, clothing and rural homes; Saturday, potatoes, livestock.

Uncle Sam and Sudan Grass.

Sudan grass is a great success anywhere in the dryer regions of the West, excepting in the northern tier of states, where the season is too cool. Under irrigation it has surpassed alfalfa in yield. In the more humid states Sudan grass also succeeds well, but not as well as in the semi-arid states, where it secures the drouthy condition it delights in. It is certain to be cultivated, however, wherever any of the sorghums succeed, and that means the greater part of the United States—From a statement by Professor C. V. Piper, Chief Forage Expert of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Raise Hay.

Texas does not have to ship in hay from other states, but it does ship hay in, and that is one reason why the Agricultural and Mechanical College extension workers are urging upon the farmers of the state to raise more hay. This newfangled Sudan grass looks good. It yields a heavier tonnage than Johnson grass, and dies after yielding three crops the same year of planting. It will grow and make a crop with less rain than any other grass. It is cultivated like corn. Cattle fight for a chance to eat it.—Fort Worth Record.

For Bald Men Only.

When thatches of thick hair abound They are but sprouts above the ground. And as these young sprouts upward shoot

They show ideas are taking root. (Such youthful mass of hair, forsooth, You will admit, is quite uncouth.)

Then as the brains grow strong and stronger

We need the surface growth no longer. So Father Time clears off the top And leaves beneath the perfect crop. (Such well-cleared space as this, forsooth,

Shows age has tilled the field of youth.) —H. S. Haskins, in New York Sun.

More Hay in Ration Lowers Cost of Milk

HAY is usually the most economical feed that can be given to dairy cows and if it is supplied in palatable form so that cows eat it more liberally, the production cost of the milk is generally lowered. "Most dairymen use too little hay and hay of too poor quality," say the dairy experts of the Agricultural College. "The reason that more is not used is generally because hay is poorly cured so that it is dry and woody, or partly spoiled so that it has a bad flavor, and cows do not eat enough of it to balance the rations properly."

"When hay is unpalatable cows will not eat more than 10 pounds each per day and this shortage must be made up by more of the expensive grains. On the other hand, good palatable hay is eaten to the amount of about 20 pounds per day, thereby giving much better results."

"Of very choice clover or alfalfa hay carefully fed with stems and poorer parts cleaned out, a 1000-pound cow may be induced to eat as much as 40 pounds per day, when given no other feed. These amounts are frequently fed by farmers in irrigated sections, but it is considered better practice to feed a little grain unless the cows are not very good or hay is quite cheap."

Sudan Grass in America.

The State of Texas can take honor unto itself in the fact that here in this commonwealth Sudan grass, called by many a wonder plant, was first propagated and dedicated to the service of the American farmer. It was Texas men who brought it out, it was Texas soil that first received that initial spoonful of seed transferred from those mystic lands at the headwaters of the Nile, and it was Texas enterprise that pushed it forward to a point of practical use.

The history of Sudan grass in America only covers a period of five years, but so marvelous has been the development during that time that today it has become recognized Nationally. Authorities who have studied it without prejudice unite in declaring that it will prove the greatest boon the farmers of this country have ever received.

This is a big statement, for science and discovery have laid many rich blessings at the feet of our cultivators of the soil. But when one considers that here is a forage crop that grows luxuriantly with the drouth and laughs at the flood; that, barring the extreme northern tier of states, it will thrive in any part of the United States, bringing forth a crop more bountiful than any other grass now known to the agronomist, one is inclined to accept as modest almost any claim that is made for it.—Houston Chronicle.



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