

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CURING ALFALFA HAY

The feed value of alfalfa hay for dairy, beef cattle and sheep is lost to a great extent by improper curing and handling. Probably no other crop is so sensitive with respect to quality as alfalfa when curing methods are considered.

Not only does the time of cutting effect the total yield of the hay by regulating the growing period of each cutting but it also regulates the relative contents of protein, fat, fiber and ash. Exposure to sunshine and rain destroys the food value, especially protein, color and aroma in the hay, both vital to the highest palatability, may be either lost or preserved according to the way in which the hay is handled after cutting.

Important, however, are all these

factors on the final quality of the hay. The loss or the preservation of the leaves is also of still greater importance. In the leaves is the greater percentage of the protein, fat and ash, and also the most palatable part of the hay where cattle and sheep are concerned. Method of curing has almost entire control over the proportion of the leaves that is lost or saved. The time of cutting and the manner of curing are of the greatest importance. Alfalfa should be cut as soon as it is in full bloom as it has more feed value than is allowed to remain in the bloom too long before cutting.

Alfalfa should not be exposed in the swath to direct sunshine any longer than is necessary, but should be raked in windrows just as soon as possible after cutting which should be in only a few hours if the weather is warm for curing quickly. In cloudy or cool weather more time should be given. If the weather is warm so the moisture goes out of the plant quickly, the alfalfa should be cut and in the cock the same day.

Good cocking is also a very important factor. The alfalfa should be lifted free from the remaining windrow and placed in the cock without being turned over and without tangling the hay, and the cock should be carefully built and where there is much wind, should be built with the leaning to the side of the prevailing winds.

The cocks should be made so they are compact to prevent the sun and winds from drying the hay too much and hold all the moisture as much as possible. If cocks are to be baled or stacked promptly they may be made smaller, but if the hay is to remain in the cock for any length of time the cocks should be made larger and built more compact so as to preserve the moisture. The things necessary to be considered in curing alfalfa is: hold the leaves all on the plant, and preserve all the moisture possible to insure that the hay will not heat in the cock or stack. If baled from the cock the same principle applies, be sure your hay will not heat and bale as soon as it is safe to bale.

If hay is cured and the moisture is preserved in the hay it is worth more in the market and will bale out 10 to 20 per cent more in weight.

DAIRY AND HOG SHOW envelopes at the Herald office.

Agriculture in 15 Oregon Schools

Fifteen high schools in Oregon have already qualified for vocational agriculture under the Smith-Hughes act, and funds are available for three more, says E. D. Ressler, dean of vocational educational at O. A. C. No shortage of teachers exists, Dean Ressler thinks, but the field is a most promising one and he hopes a goodly number of O. A. C. students will take courses in it next year. The Oregon rules require a four year course in agriculture, with 15 semester credits in education to qualify.

Pressure Cooker Endorsed

The pressure cooker saves time and fuel—cooking time reduced one-half. Foods will not burn. Material does not have to be stirred. Entire meal can be cooked in single dish, thus saving dishwashing. Food will keep hot longer. Less juice lost, so more protective foods, minerals, and food flavors are retained. Hints on how to use may be had on application to the Oregon Agriculture College, Corvallis, Oregon.

Better Horses Received

Twenty-six cavalry and artillery horses have been sent by the war department to the O. A. C. in exchange for a like number that proved to be "conscientious objectors." The out-law bunch refused to do military duty. The new lot are tractable, and well suited by size and disposition to the double duty required of them. The war department also sent saddles and other equipment for the authorized increase of the cavalry unit from 74 to 125 men.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Rev. M. R. Gallaher was in Pendleton for the day Friday.

Mrs. Frank Ralph spent Monday in Pendleton on a shopping trip.

O. G. Sapper and Mrs. Anna Sapper spent Monday in Pendleton.

Mrs. F. C. McKenzie is spending a few weeks in Spokane, Washington.

Dr. F. V. Prime and family returned Monday from a vacation spent at the coast.

Miss Nida Patrick returned Friday from a vacation spent in Eastern Washington.

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35 Acres, 20 alfalfa, good buildings, some terms, stocked, worth the money.

80 Acres, about 60 in alfalfa, near town, buildings, stock.

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