

### Levelling Corn in Silos

James E. Orr, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Farmers in our section of Middlesex Co., have a unique way of levelling the corn in their silos while filling them. One man thought of this plan, and all his neighbors, after thoroughly testing it, have adopted the same device and are delighted at the excellent manner in which it does the work.

A number of old bags from which the bottoms are cut off are sown together loosely. One end of this improvised chute is securely fastened to the spout of the blower. The man in the silo takes the lower end, in hand and around he walks scattering the corn as delivered from the blower, evenly all over the enclosure. As the filling continues the lowest section of the bag is removed, the sections being removed again and again as required. The invention has no patent and it works splendidly.

### Alfalfa That Stands Pasturing

R. E. Birdsall, Peterboro Co., Ont.

Alfalfa can be pastured successfully and still yield a good crop of hay. I would like to encourage our farmers to grow alfalfa. When, however, they are told that they must not pasture it, they hesitate, and the result is that alfalfa is not widely grown.

The accompanying illustration shows the second cutting this year taken from a field of alfalfa. This is the second year that this particular field has given two crops. Last year I might have cut it for the third time in the season only pasture was scarce and I turned my lambs on it. The alfalfa is now (Sept. 6) about 10 inches high.

Peterboro county is a dairy county

pure and simple. What the Dairymen require is pasture. There is nothing that gives better pasture than alfalfa, and I maintain that it will pay better to pasture it, even should it not stay as long in the land, rather than keep the cattle off it and perhaps have it for hay a year or so longer.

### Indigestion in the Horse

Dr. H. G. Reed, V.S., Halton Co., Ont.

An attack of indigestion is more serious in the case of the horse than in any other of our domesticated animals. There are several reasons for this, the main one being the comparative smallness of the stomach. Another is the fact that it may be said that as a rule the horse cannot vomit. There are exceptions to this rule, but not many. Consequently in the feeding of horses greater care and judgment are necessary than in the feeding of the other farm animals, and indeed when a horse suffers from an attack of this disease, it is almost invariably the result of improper feeding and care.

In the case of some animals with a naturally weak digestive system a very slight cause will be sufficient to set up serious troubles. Such animals are usually subject to colicky pains, and although they do not appear to be of a serious character, soon passing off and leaving the patient apparently none the wiser, yet such an animal is not a desirable one to own, for as a rule it is only a question of time when he will suffer from a more

serious attack, which will put an end to his career.

#### CAUSES.

The causes of indigestion are numerous. The most common one is probably an extra big meal, such as when the animal gets access to the oat bin or meal sack. Another fruitful cause is the giving of a heavy meal of such food to a horse that is very much fatigued. Still another is the habit, far too common among farmers of giving a horse an unusually heavy breakfast to enable him to endure an extra hard day's work. Mouldy hay or oats are very indigestible and never should be fed to horses. Imperfectly masticated food is a frequent cause, as in the case of old horses whose teeth has been neglected, also in the case of colts during the process of teething.

#### TREATMENT.

The treatment of indigestion in horses (aside from properly regulating the diet) is of little practical interest to the ordinary man because of the fact that the administration of drugs by the stomach has little or no effect in controlling the disease. The process of digestion being for the time arrested, the drugs are not absorbed or assimilated, but simply lie in the stomach in an un-



A Second Cutting of Alfalfa—A Crop that is a Profit Maker

Many of our best authorities contend that it is not advisable to pasture alfalfa. Mr. R. E. Birdsall, however, who has been growing alfalfa for a number of years, and that successfully, has sent Farm and Dairy the photo reproduced above, as proof that alfalfa may be pastured. Read what Mr. Birdsall says in the adjoining article, and send us your experience in this particular for the benefit of Farm and Dairy readers.

changed condition, and of course no results are obtained. A case of acute indigestion in a horse calls for a prompt and competent veterinary treatment in which the medicine will be injected under the skin or into the veins, thus ensuring its absorption. As this mode of treatment requires specially prepared drugs and the use of delicate instruments as well as skill on the part of the operator, the ordinary man is not prepared to practise it. But while curative treatment may not be of much practical interest to the farmer, preventive treatment (which is of far greater value) is of the utmost importance.

#### PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

The farmer who has an animal of normal health and feeds it, at regular hours, a reasonable amount of good clean food and sees to it that the horse is not over exerted, nor unduly fatigued, is not likely to have a case of indigestion on his hands. The grain ration should never be suddenly increased for any purpose. A horse that is known to be very much fatigued should always have less rather than more to eat for his supper, and a horse that is going to be called on to do an extra hard day's work should never be given more grain for breakfast than he has been accustomed to get. The practice of these simple rules, together with seeing that the food and water are pure and sweet will prevent any attack of indigestion in an animal of normal health.

### Sow Thistle Costs a Million a Year

Every farmer has heard of the sow thistle. Some people call it milkweed. But its milk is not nourishing. It is a pernicious weed and does a great deal of damage to crops. The most said about it to-day is that "it is bad—very bad," says The World. That does not help the situation any, for the farmer in this case must help himself.

Of late years the sow thistle has wrought tremendous damage to the crops in Ontario. The value of some crops has been reduced five, ten, and even 20 per cent. A rough estimate places the gross damage at over one million dollars a year. The weed is spreading; it is spreading rapidly. Something requires to be done quickly if its progress is to be arrested.

#### SEVERAL VARIETIES.

There are several varieties of the sow thistle. The most unattractive member of the large family is the perennial sow thistle, known to botanists by the caption of *sonchus arvensis*. It is the most pernicious of all weeds found in Ontario at the present time. Every agricultural county in the province is affected, the farms are impoverished and in some cases the farmers are almost driven out.

Two varieties are commonly found in Canada; the annual sow thistle, has leaves which are deeply cut, and lobed, and scarcely spiny. The leaves of the perennial sow thistle, on the other hand, are deeply cut or serrated—not lobed—and only slightly prickly. The annual, as its name implies, lives only for the year, and can only be reproduced from new seed. The roots do not run deep into the ground.

The perennial sow thistle is quite the opposite. It is a tall, coarse growing weed with deep roots, and numerous thick underground stems or rootstocks, commonly spoken of as "roots." The stem is smooth, hollow, and is filled with a bitter milky juice. The leaves are deeply serrated, and irregular. This weed grows freely on a great variety of soils, but is especially troublesome on rich, low damp land. The first year it usually appears in a field in scattered patches, consisting of young plants, each made up of a rosette of leaves lying close to the ground; and thus when numerous they completely cover the ground. The young plants have only short underground rootstocks, and are comparatively easy to destroy. The second year a large stem bearing numerous leaves and flowers is produced and the rootstocks grow long, sending up large quantities of new shoots. Once established in this manner it is no easy task to destroy the pest.

#### SPREAD BY SEEDS.

The thistle is rapidly and widely spread by means of numerous seeds, which are blown far and wide by the wind, and also to some extent by the abundant growth of underground rootstocks, which are constantly sending up new shoots through the ground and choke off other vegetation. Each piece of rootstock broken by harrow or cultivator forms a new plant centre and carries on the work of destruction.

All this general discussion is to acquaint the reader with the enormous difficulty which confronts the agriculturist in striving for the extermination of this pest. Now see the damage it does—it simply kills. An isolated and unsupported effort on the part of an individual farmer produces an indefinite measure of success in destroying the weed, because the result of his work is usually lost when the wind carries a fresh supply of seed from the neighboring fields.

A number of methods for eradication have been devised. These consist mostly of crop rotation, summer fallowing, hood crops and digging by hand. Hon. James Duff, minister of agriculture, in an interview, said:

"There is no greater enemy of the Ontario farmer than the sow thistle. Its ravage are enormous. Any campaign having for its object

the lessening of the weed province. T ing the matten and I Remedies, costly. But and persistence county coun every year, f and muscle o

### Wintering

J.

There is c among the b wintering bec ars. From th with the othe stands, if p months. My middle of Oct begin getting I lit out all I pollen and ju so that the be colonies will weaker ones, f is placed close I then place If I find a fo pling one o excluder and soon eat thro fighting. If th is not necessa



The illustration s upper ones can b ones below.

#### WEAK CO

Weak colonies s slow at building strong colony is After I got ther feed them, which October or Nov time the brood is little danger of f again so late in are fed quickly, t up in one day. it would have to weather was warm at almost any t I take an emp each end, placin This should be low