

Some Live Farm Topics

Hay-Making

Before another issue of THE FARMING WORLD reaches its readers, the majority of them will have begun haying operations. In some sections the clover crop will be a light one, but this is not generally true. In the Ottawa district a week ago we saw some as fine fields of clover as one would want. Excepting the short clover crop in some sections, the hay crop promises to be a good one. Timothy, generally speaking, promises a large return.

The important thing, now that a good crop is assured, is to have it properly cured and saved. Given suitable weather, curing hay, and even clover, is not a very difficult task. But with broken, unsettled weather, the curing process is a hard one to master, especially with clover. Indeed, to cure clover, under more favorable conditions so as to produce a first-class crop of hay, is a fine art that many farmers have not mastered yet.

To go into the details of hay-making would be unnecessary here, as every farmer is, or ought to be, familiar with them. There are, however, a few points that should be remembered, especially in making clover hay. The important thing is to secure the evaporation of about 40 per cent of water before the leaf structure is destroyed. Clover, when cut at the proper season, that is, when about in full bloom, contains from 70 to 80 per cent of water. Clover hay, when it goes into the barn, should not contain more than 25 to 30 per cent of water. Anything over 40 per cent is dangerous. Therefore, the problem in curing is how best to get rid of this surplus water.

During the growth of the plant the sap is constantly passing from the roots, through the stalk and out into the open air from the leaf. After this root supply is cut off by the mowing machine, what is wanted is to have the leaves pump out what remains before their structure is destroyed. Therefore, clover should be cured as quickly as possible, which is best done by free exposure of all the leaves to the air. If allowed to be in a heavy swath, the leaves on top will quickly become brown or black, while the stalks are quite full of sap, and both the leaves and stalks on the under side will be quite green. Therefore, shortly after it is cut, clover should be shaken up with the tedder, or raked so as to allow the leaves to have free access to the air as soon as possible. How to do this in the best way must be determined by the haymaker himself.

Curing timothy is not such a difficult process, if ordinary care and judgment are exercised. If cut on the early side it will be more appetizing and more suitable for dairy cattle and sheep, though it will not, perhaps, have as much food value as if cut later. Fairly well matured hay is better for fattening stock, though it should in every case be cured and in the barn before the seeds ripen sufficiently to shell out. Our view is that better results will be obtained, every-

thing considered, by cutting hay on the early side. It is more palatable, and pound for pound more satisfactory for most animals.

Alfalfa for Hay

To have good hay from our alfalfa field, we must be sure and cut it early, at the very best fodder and, perhaps, the very worst may be taken from the same field and all owing to a few days' difference in the cutting.

Farmers who have been in the habit of growing red clover are inclined to let lucerne get too ripe before cutting, thinking that it should be as far advanced in bloom as the red, which, however, is a mistake. Alfalfa rapidly increases in fibre as it nears maturity and consequently decreases in digestibility. If cut at the right time, a very nutritious, palatable hay is secured with a little additional care in the handling and curing.

Considerable of the value of the plant is found in the leaves, and in curing we must retain all the leaves possible. Avoid exposure to sun and rain, especially the former. If the swath be left exposed to a bleaching sun until it is dry, we will not have the best results. I would rather rake and coil before it is dry, while still tough, and allow some time in the coil to cure.

The impression that alfalfa is hard to cure is wrong, those who have grown it most claim it to be as easy as red clover, though it will not stand the rough handling that other hays or clovers will, owing to the tendency its many leaves have of falling as they become dry.

The value of alfalfa as a fodder is becoming recognized more and more. Owing to its high protein content it is very valuable for young growing stock, milk cows, hogs, etc. Scientists say it is worth as much for feeding as wheat bran, ton for ton. The old idea that it was injurious to horses is being exploded. Horsemen who grow it are feeding it to their horses and get excellent results. It is very palatable, and as horses are very fond of it, it should be fed in moderation.

A field of alfalfa, when rightly handled, gives a large yield of one of the best fodders a farmer can store up for his stock of every kind. Experiments have shown that alfalfa contains the greatest proportion of digestible matter when about one-third in bloom. If you have much, start the mower when you see the blossoms just coming. Don't cut too much at a time, and coil before quite dry, and you will find comparatively little trouble in producing a fodder that stock will leave eat chop to eat.

F. C. ELFORD,

Huron Co.

Succession in Fodder Crops

If soiling stock is to be practiced successfully it is important to have a succession of green fodders throughout the growing season, with each in its best stage of growth for feeding. There should be no breaks in the succession and each crop should be used

as nearly as possible at the time when it contains the largest amount of food constituents. The Connecticut Experiment Station found, by several years of experiments and practical observation in the practice of soiling, that the following crops gave excellent results and gave a continuous growth throughout the season. This was brought about by carefully sowing and having the crops ready to feed in regular succession:

Kind of Fodder	Approximate Date of Sowing	Approximate Date of Feeding
Rye fodder	Sept. 1	May 10-20
Wheat fodder	Sept. 5-10	May 20-June 5
Clover	July 20-30	June 5-15
Grass from grass land	July 10-20	June 15-25
Oats and Peas	April 10	June 25-July 15
Oats and Peas	April 20	July 15-25
Hungarian Grass	June 1	Aug. 10-20
Clover (from No. 3)	Aug. 10-20	Aug. 10-20
Soya Beans	May 25	Aug. 20-Sept. 5
Flowers (from grass land)	Sept. 5-20	Sept. 5-20
Cow Peas	July 10-20	Sept. 20-30
Barley and Peas	Aug. 5-10	Oct. 1-30

There are few of these crops but could be grown in Ontario. Those which could not be grown to advantage would be replaced by corn, lucerne, or some other suitable fodder crop. However, from the above table it will be readily seen that it is possible to have a regular succession of suitable fodder crops for summer feeding, each one coming in at a time when it is of the most value for feeding farm stock.

A. P. MACVANNEL,
Perth Co., Ont.

Dry Paris Green

It is the usual practice to put Paris green on potatoes wet, but this entails a large amount of heavy work carrying water around a big field. Out in Minnesota, Paris green is applied dry, and does the work just as effectively and with much less labor to the operator. It is applied by what is known as a blow gun, a machine weighing but a few pounds, which can be carried on the shoulders, and two rows can be done at the one time. Forest Henry, one of the Institute workers of that State, in describing this method, says: "A man can easily walk over fifteen acres a day, and do better work than any other sprinker or sprayer I ever saw, where killing potato beetles was the only object. The Paris green does not collect in drops when put on dry, as is the case when put on with water. It can be used when the vines are dry as well as wet, as it is a heavy powder and settles into the leaves, and is not easily blown off."

Will be Sold

The entire plant of the Wiaront Beet Sugar Manufacturing Company, Limited, will be sold by public auction in Toronto on July 15th, 1934. The factory was completed and equipped in 1903.

Over-running Their Contracts

At Raymond, Alberta, beet growers are over-running their contracts in planting. Over 3,000 acres are planted. There has been some good rains, so that everything is growing well and things look promising for a big beet crop.

Lamb Fence and Gates

Lamb Fence will fit the ground in any place and can be erected in less time than it takes to get ready to weave a hand-made fence. It is made of the very best High Carbon Steel wire, which has much more tensile strength than the hard steel wire or common soft wire. Lamb Gates are efficient as well as handsome.

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