

fence rails. A good experienced man will husk and place in the crib from 50 to 75 bushels of corn in a day. Machines that will husk the ears from the standing stalks are now on the market, but have not found general use. After the husking is done, the stock is allowed to roam over the fields to feed upon stray ears, nubbins, leaves, husks and finer parts of the plant.

PLACING CORN IN SHOCKS.

The practice of utilizing the corn-stalk, as well as the grain, is rapidly gaining in favor throughout the corn States. Farmers are beginning to appreciate the food value of this part of the crop. The crop to be cut for stover is allowed to ripen as much as possible without the leaves falling off before or during the operation of cutting and shocking. At this time the ears should be all, or nearly all, dented or glazed, the husks should be dry, and the leaves should be from one-third to one-half green.

The cutting of the crop is done either by hand or machine. For this work the corn harvester is largely used, and is especially valuable where labor is scarce. The combined corn harvester and shocker is used by some, but as yet it has not found any general sale, the main objection being that the shocks are too easily blown over.

After the plants are cured, a process which requires about a month, the corn is husked. The husking is done either by hand or machine.

When the husking is done by hand the fodder is tied in bundles and again placed in shocks, or it is hauled to the barn and stored.

In many sections the husker and shredder is used in an extensive way. This machine eliminates the labor of husking, and places the stover in an excellent condition for feeding.

Stover that is to be shredded should be thoroughly dry, so that it will not spoil. The shredded stover is usually stored in a barn or shed, but can be placed in a stack.

On many farms the corn fodder, called "shock corn," is fed without being husked to beef cattle. In this way, much labor required in husking and handling the crop is saved.

PLACING THE CORN CROP IN THE SILO.

Each season sees silos becoming more popular and numerous throughout the corn belt. They are appreciated and used not only by dairymen, but also by beef-cattle feeders. Recent experiments in beef production at the Purdue Experiment Station show that silage, fed as a part of the ration for fattening steers, may be worth from five to seven dollars per ton.

Corn intended for the silo is cut when it has reached that stage of maturity when the kernels of many of the ears have become dented, the husks have partly turned, and the lower leaves of the stalks have become dry.

The cutting of the corn in the field is done either by hand or with the corn harvester.

HOGGING OFF CORN.

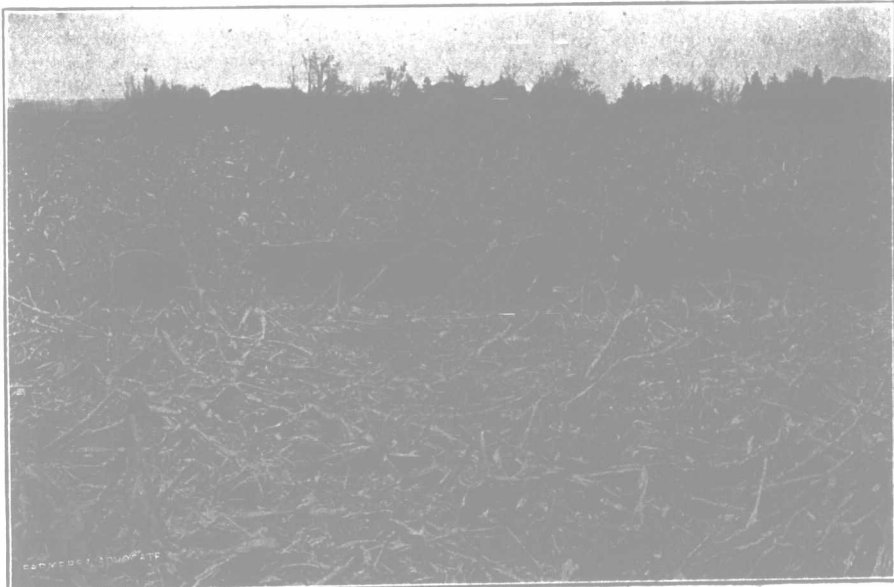
Many farmers throughout the Central West follow the practice of "hogging off" a portion of their corn crop. They consider it an easy and economical way to harvest the corn. This practice consists of turning the hogs into a field of standing corn, allowing them to pull down the stalks and consume the corn at will. The general plan is to turn the hogs into the corn when the ears are dented, which is about September 1st, and allow them to stay until about December 1st. The field is usually portioned off by a fence, so

that not more than 15 or 20 days is required for the hogs to clean up the corn on a limited area. Hogs turned into a field without limitations will likely waste more corn than where they are limited to certain portions which they can clean up in 15 to 20 days.

THE DAIRY.

PREPARE TO ENTER THE DAIRY-HERD COMPETITION.

A circular letter has been sent out by the Secretary of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association to the makers in cheese factories and creameries, urging them to interest their best patrons in the dairy-herd competition which it is proposed to hold again this season. There is no cost to enter, and the stimulating influence of such a competition is very beneficial. It is planned to put up a considerable amount of money this year in addition to the medals heretofore offered. In the section for cheese-factory patrons, the first prize is to be a silver medal, supplemented by \$15 in cash; second prize, \$15 cash, without medal;

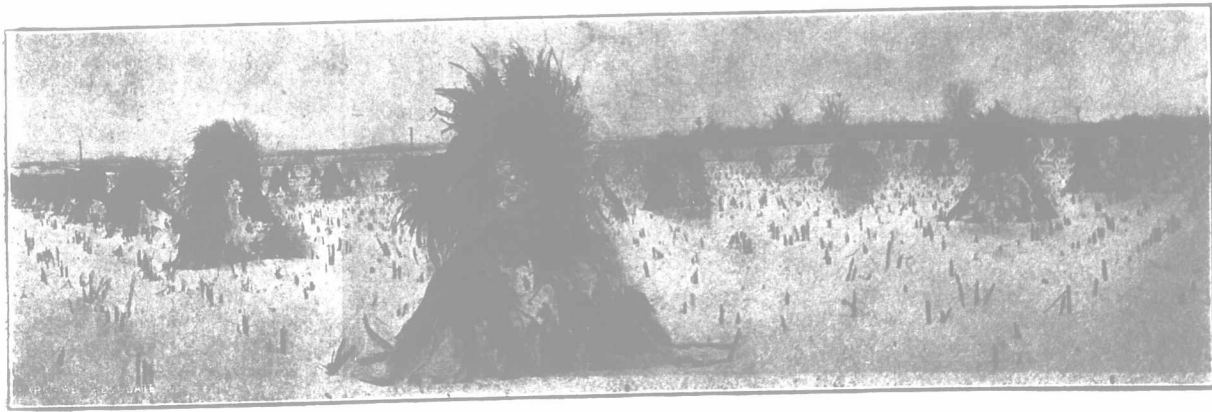


An Easy Way of Harvesting Corn.

(Courtesy Minnesota Experiment Station.)

third prize, \$10; fourth prize, \$6; and fifth prize, \$4. In the creamery section the prizes will be the same, except that the medal will be bronze, instead of silver. This means that \$100 in cash and two medals are to be put up. In the case of the cheese-factory competition, the prizes will be for the herd averaging the greatest number of pounds of milk delivered to the factory during the season (the dates of which will be announced later). In the case of creamery patrons, the awards will be to those averaging the largest amount of butter-fat. No herd of less than eight cows will be eligible, and the average on which the awards are based will be made on a basis of the largest number of cows whose milk is sent any time during the season. Substitution of a cow for another one that has dropped off in her flow or dried up will not be allowed. Before making the awards, a thorough investigation of the facts will be made by the local director of the Association or by a competent committee.

While there is no doubt that the competition will be held, the above regulations are subject to ratification by the Board of Directors, who are to meet in Toronto on September 8th, after which an official announcement will be made. Meanwhile, dairymen whose herds are doing fairly well will be wise to prepare. If there should be a good-sized entry this year, there is good prospect of the competition becoming an annual event. Otherwise, it will not improbably be discontinued after this year.



Corn Fodder in this Condition is Unsatisfactory to Handle.

SEMI-OFFICIAL YEARLY TESTS OF AMERICAN HOLSTEINS.

Replying to inquiries coming to this office, in regard to the action of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, at the annual meeting in Syracuse last June, as to the semi-official yearly test, the Superintendent of Advanced Registry would say that our association at that meeting, by proper resolutions, endorsed such tests, and pledged the association to the offering in the near future of prize money for their encouragement. It is hoped that the Holstein-Friesian Association will be able to co-operate with the other associations of breeders of dairy cattle in the support of a National Dairy Register of Merit, conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, and that yearly records of all Holstein-Friesian cows meeting the requirements will not only be published in the Holstein-Friesian Advanced Register, but also in the National Dairy Register of Merit. The present Holstein-Friesian system of advanced registration will be in no way affected by the authorization of the semi-official yearly test, the same being wholly optional; but the addition of such tests will so round out our system as to make it nearly ideally perfect.

The establishment of any plan for the making of yearly tests requires time, and practically all such tests that are to be completed during the fiscal year 1909-10 must be begun during the present fiscal year. Many Holstein-Friesian owners will, no doubt, desire to take up the yearly test during the coming autumn, winter, or spring, at the beginning of the next lactation period of their cows; and that such owners shall be at no disadvantage, in comparison with the owners of other breeds of dairy cattle, this office is prepared to furnish all necessary blanks, and to take charge of all such tests; the rules under which Holstein-Friesian semi-official yearly records are made being such as will not only admit the record of any animal to the Advanced Register, but also to the proposed National Dairy Register of Merit; provided that, at the date of the beginning of the test, such a co-operative register shall have been established. Any modification of rules that it may seem desirable to make, in order that our association may co-operate with the other associations of breeders of dairy cattle, and with the United States Department of Agriculture, will be duly announced.

A semi-official yearly record is a record based upon a regular official test of the cow for a period of not less than two consecutive days in each month of that lactation period; the record beginning the fourth day after calving, and continuing during that period of lactation, but not exceeding 365 days in length. The average per cent. of fat found in the milk during the period of official test is used as a basis for computing the approximate amount of fat in the milk for that month; while the official daily production of milk is used as a check upon the owner's report of the milk production for the non-official days of that month. Only A. R. O. cows are, at present, eligible to have their semi-official records reported and entered in the Advanced Register. The main points of the rules for the making of these tests are as follows:

Three days must elapse after a cow calves before a yearly test may begin. The calendar day on which the cow drops her calf may be reckoned as the first day, and the owner may begin weighing the milk on the morning of the fourth day. The official periods of the test are conducted in all respects just as are our regular official tests; and any regular official test, or parts of the same if it be a long test, may constitute any one of these periods. All that is required of the owner in addition is that he weigh each milking during the month, and make a complete report to the Superintendent of Advanced Registry monthly, on blanks furnished him for that purpose, of the detailed production in milk of the cow for that month; making affidavit to the same. In the case of the loss of a milking the space is left blank, and the milk estimated by this office in the same manner as it is now estimated by the supervisor in charge when a loss occurs in regular official test work.

For all purposes of Advanced Registry classification, the age of any Holstein-Friesian cow is that at time of calving; but for the application of the scale of requirements for semi-official yearly tests, the animal will always be three days older, as the requirements in production apply to exact age at the beginning of the record. A heifer beginning her yearly record at just two years of age, or younger, must produce not less than 250 lbs. of butter-fat within a period of, not exceeding 365 consecutive days; and for every day that she may exceed two years at date of beginning her record, the requirement in butter-fat is increased by one-tenth of a pound. This increase continues till the requirement reaches 360 lbs. of butter-fat at the age of five years and five days, after which no further increase is made. No Holstein-Friesian cow, or heifer of average capacity, will be much troubled with these requirements, and the object with owners will be to see how much they can exceed them.

Application for the conduct of these semi-official yearly tests is made to the State Agricultural College just as now; and it is desirable that a uniform charge for the travelling expenses of supervisors shall be made to all owners, so that all shall in this respect fare exactly alike. This plan now obtains in many States, and will probably soon be the rule in all.

MALCOLM H. GARDNER,

Delavan, Wis. Superintendent of Advanced Registry.