

and leave it as much like the green grass of the pasture as possible.

If it is to be fed to cows in milk, and the farmer wishes to get the greatest quantity of milk, grass should be cut just before coming into blossom. It is then most juicy, and will therefore produce a greater flow of milk than if allowed to stand longer. If the object is to secure the best quality of milk, with less regard to quantity, it may be cut in the blossom.

For feeding to store cattle, the grasses may be cut when in full blossom; for horses at work and for fattening cattle, it is better just after it has passed out of the blossom, or when the seed is said to be in the milk.

Grasses attain their full development at the time of flowering, and then contain the largest quantity of soluble materials, such as starch, gum, and sugar, these, with the nitrogenous compounds which are also most abundant at this time, are of the highest value supplying nutriment to animals.

After flowering, and as the seed forms and ripens, the starch, sugar, &c., are gradually changed into woody fibre, which is nearly insoluble and innutritious.

This fact is well established, and shows that grasses in general should not be allowed to stand after the time of flowering. There is, indeed, a great deal of nourishment in the ripe seed; but not enough to make up for the loss in the stalk and leaves, if the mowing is put off till the seed is ripe. Grasses fully ripe will make hay little better than straw.

Grass is cut either by hand with the common scythe, or by the mowing machine. With the former, a good mower will go over an acre a day. With the latter, on smooth land, two horses and one man will mow at the rate of an acre an hour, or from ten to twelve acres a day, without over-exertion.

Besides mowing so much faster, the machine also spreads the grass evenly, saving the labor of spreading by hand. It also enables the farmer to cut all his grass nearer the proper time, and he is not obliged to let a part of it stand till it is too ripe.

After being cut, the grass should be frequently spread and turned, so as to dry as rapidly and as uniformly as possible. This may be done by hand with a common fork, or by a hay machine called a hay-tender, a light revolving cylinder set with tines and drawn by one horse, by means of which the grass may be constantly stirred and kept in motion, and much time and labor may be saved.

When grass is partially or wholly cured, it may be raked by hand, or by a horse-rake. Raking by hand is easy but slow, and thrifty farmers now generally use the horse-rake whenever they can. With the horse-rake, one man and horse can do as much work as ten men can in the same time without it. Hay cut in the forenoon should be raked before night, that it may not be exposed to the dews.

The time required for curing hay depends partly on its ripeness when cut, and much on the state of the weather. In good weather if machinery is used, it may be cut in the morning after the dew has risen, and dried so as to be put in light cocks early in the afternoon, or

before the dews of evening. A slight opening to the sun for an hour or two the next day should dry it enough, if it was out while in blossom or before. Hay should be got in during the heat of the day.

Grass cured rapidly and with the least exposure, is more nutritious than that cured more slowly and longer exposed to the sun. If dried too much, it contains more useless woody fibre and less nutriment. The more succulent and juicy the hay, the more it is relished by cattle.

After the grass has been cut at the proper time, the true art of haymaking consists in curing it just enough to make it fit for storing away, and no more. The loss of the nutritive substances, which make the hay most valuable, is then stopped at the earliest moment. It is as great a mistake to dry grass too much, as to let it stand too long before cutting.

If the hay has not been perfectly dried, and there is danger that it may heat in the mow, it is well to have alternate layers of the new hay and straw or old hay. In this way the heating may be prevented, and the straw or old hay will be so far flavored and improved, as to be relished by stock of all kinds. If there is much reason for apprehension, four quarts of salt to the ton may be sprinkled in.

Experience has shown that hay properly dried is not likely to be injured by its own juices alone; if it has been exposed to rain, it should never be put into the mow until it has been thoroughly dried.

How to pull Flax.

We have been given to understand that a far greater amount of land than usual has been sown with flax, in expectation of a great demand for it, to be used for manufacturing purposes. We believe there will be such a demand for it, but the profit to the farmer will depend much upon the manner he harvests and takes care of his crop. We will, therefore, give some practical information on this subject. The flax plant is of rapid growth, and it usually commences to flower within two months after its green spears first appear above the ground. It is generally agreed that the fibre is in the best condition for manufacturing purposes before the seed becomes quite ripe.

But a small quantity of seed can be obtained from the flax that is designed for the finest fibre. When both seed and fibre are required, which will generally be the case with our farmers, the flax should stand until the seed are plump and shiny. The fibre of ripe flax is not so fine and strong as that of partial green flax, still it is the very kind which may be used for most coarse fabrics, either to mix with cotton or for making mixed linen and woollen cloth.

In Belgium, where fine flax culture has long been practised with distinguished success, a full-grown plant is selected, and the best-matured and ripest capsule is taken. This is cut across with a sharp knife, and the section of the seeds examined. If they have become firm inside, and the outside has assumed a good deep green color, the plant is considered fit for immediate pulling. At this time the entire plant will exhibit signs of its approaching maturity, the bottom of the stalk will be seen