

Questions and Answers  
Miscellaneous.

Clover Silage.

I have a good crop of clover this year, and if wet weather continues it will be impossible to make hay. Could you tell me at what stage to cut it. Also how to prepare it and get it ready for the silo?

P. S.

Ans.—Cut at the same stage as for hay. It may be cut as soon as the dew is off and ensiled the same day. If allowed to dry too much there will not be sufficient moisture to start fermentation and make good silage. If put in too wet, sour silage may result. The natural sap in fresh cut clover should furnish about the right quantity of moisture. With partly cured hay a little water could be added at the time of ensiling, in a similar way as it is done when putting dry corn in the silo.

Skin Trouble—Bloody Milk.

1. A year ago a calf seemed to have a sun-burned nose. The skin peeled off, the lips swelled and the trouble spread all over the face to forehead and the animal is not doing well. It does not thrive.

C. A. B.

2. Cow that calved 5 days ago gives bloody milk.

Ans.—1. This evidently is not due to sun-burn. It is a form of eczema. Isolate the calf and dress the parts 3 times daily with 1 part carbolic acid to 35 parts sweet oil.  
2. This is not unusual, shortly after calving. It is very probable that the milk will become normal in a few days. If not, bathe the udder frequently with cold water, and give the cow 1 ounce tincture of iron in a pint of cold water as a drench twice daily until the trouble ceases.

V.

Stray Dogs.

We have several dogs straying around here. They come within about 50 feet of the house some times, and we have sheep, but we have no dogs. I cannot understand why they should continually keep coming around. I have shot at a couple of them to scare them, but it does not seem to do any good as they come back again in the course of a day or so. I would like to know if there is any law against shooting them, or could owners claim damages, if I shot and killed them?

S. S.

Ans.—Any person may kill any dog which he sees pursuing, worrying or wounding any sheep, or a person may kill any dog which he finds straying between sunset and sunrise on any farm where sheep are kept. If the dog is muzzled or is in the care of some person it cannot be lawfully killed unless there is reason to believe that such dog, if not killed, is likely to pursue, worry or terrify sheep on such farm.

Ensiling Alfalfa.

Could you give us some information about filling silo with alfalfa? With the prospects for corn not bright and no hay weather in sight, what would you advise doing? Should it be put in wet or partly dried? Any ideas you could give us on this matter would be much appreciated. With the conditions now existing things are beginning to look serious.

H. R.

Ans.—There is very little information available regarding the ensiling of legumes, although both alfalfa and clover have been stored this way. While the fodder, cured properly would probably have higher feeding value as hay, yet when the weather is unsatisfactory for making hay the silo is a means of saving the feed. The digestibility of legumes is somewhat lower when made into silage than that of green feed. One difficulty is to get the silage to go together solid enough to exclude air and prevent molding. However, legumes have been ensiled and the feed came out in first-class condition. The crop could be cut after the dew is off and ensiled while still green. The sap would supply sufficient moisture. Too much dew or rain on it at time of ensiling might have a tendency to produce sour silage. It should be thoroughly tramped at time of filling. We have known of second crop of alfalfa or clover being ensiled with corn; layer about, making excellent feed. If the weather continues catchy there will no doubt be considerable clover and alfalfa ensiled. Thorough tramping and sufficient moisture to prevent dry mold, and yet not make sour silage, are necessary.

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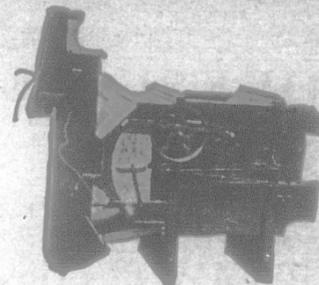
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