



Coiling and Capping produces best quality Alfalfa Hay

THERE is a place for alfalfa on every farm in this country on which we find live stock, even if that stock be only hens," once said F. D. Coburn, America's greatest advocate of alfalfa growing. When Mr. Coburn first started his great campaign for the popularization of alfalfa many years ago, we in Canada did not then realize that we were included. We regarded alfalfa almost as a tropical plant. Then came our own apostle of alfalfa growing, Mr. Henry Glendinning. He told us that he was growing alfalfa on his own farm in Ontario county, lots of it, and growing it successfully. Then we begin to find that here and there, in Ontario particularly, there were individual farmers who had been growing alfalfa successfully, but who, unlike Mr. Glendinning, had not realized the immense value of the plant to the dairy farmer.

Milk is rich in protein. Alfalfa is rich in protein. Hence it is that alfalfa is a greater boon to the dairyman than to any other class of live stock farmer. Mr. Glendinning told his audiences at many an Institute meeting that he had cows giving 20 to 40 lbs. of milk a day all through the winter, and never receiving a pound of grain. Alfalfa would take the place of grain. At first, like all pioneers in any educational propaganda, he was not believed; but now a mass of statistics that prove the great feeding value of alfalfa form an incontrovertible argument in its favor. Compare the percentage of digestible nutrients in alfalfa and bran, the latter the standard grain feed for dairy cows:

	CRUDE PROTEIN,	CARBON	HYDRATES,	FAT,
Bran	11.9	42	2.5	
Alfalfa hay	11.7	40.9	1	

It will be noticed that in composition alfalfa hay compares very favorably with bran. Alfalfa, however, contains a higher percentage of crude fibre, which is very difficult of digestion, and hence it would hardly be safe to say that alfalfa hay is equal to bran in feeding value, although it approaches bran very closely.

PROF. DAY SAYS ALFALFA EQUALS BRAN

Prof. Geo. E. Day, at the Ontario Agricultural College, has conducted several accurate tests on the College dairy herd, comparing the feeding value of alfalfa and bran. Four groups of cows were experimented on, and the results may be taken as an accurate indication of the relative merits of these two foods. Summing up the results of his work, Prof. Day remarks: "In order to hold a large producer to her milk flow it would be necessary to feed a meal ration, but in the case of cows giving less than 40 lbs. of milk a day it is questionable whether the feeding of a meal ration would be found profitable when first class alfalfa hay is fed. The possibilities of alfalfa as a means of saving meal are very great."

Cows giving less than 40 lbs. of milk a day! That includes almost every cow in every dairy

herd in this country. Therefore, every dairyman in this country, if climatic conditions are at all favorable, should be growing alfalfa. If he does not grow alfalfa he must buy and feed bran or some similarly expensive food. Bran costs \$19 to \$25 a ton, depending on situation. Alfalfa can be grown anywhere and put right in the barn for \$5 a ton, and many growers say that it costs them even less than that. Can we afford to pay \$20 for bran when we can grow its equivalent for \$5? And yet it is estimated that only 33 per cent of the dairy farmers of Ontario are growing alfalfa, and in the other provinces the percentage is still lower. Read what some of our most successful dairymen, the men who are right



Successful Where Other Crops Won't Grow

Mr. W. O. Morse, Halton Co., Ont., may be here seen cutting two and one-half tons of alfalfa hay to the acre in one cutting on a gravel bliside so steep that no other crop could be made to grow before alfalfa was tried. The soil is now seven years old.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.
up on top of their profession, think of alfalfa. They grow it themselves and hence talk from experience:

25 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

"We have grown alfalfa more or less extensively for 25 years," writes H. R. Nixon, Brant Co., Ont. "We did not consider that it made very good hay years ago, as we did not cut it early enough, and the leaves fell off in curing and the stalks were hard and dry. We used it in those days chiefly for hog pasture, for which purpose it is most valuable. We later learned to cut it early, as soon as a few blossoms appeared, and found it made hay vastly superior to any other we could grow. It also makes excellent pasture,

Alfalfa, the Greatest Dairy Roughage

"Do we consider it advisable to grow alfalfa for our cows? Well, we had 10 acres four years ago and have 125 acres to-day. This I think, speaks for itself. It costs us only \$3.85 a ton to produce this richest and best of forage crops."—R. E. Gunn.

but will not stand too close cropping by stock. We never allow a hoof of any kind to pasture on the fields we cut for hay.

"We cut three crops per annum and get an average of about four to five tons per acre in the three cuttings in favorable seasons. We can store it for \$3.50 a ton. While we consider it the best hay that can be grown for dairy cows, we do not believe it equal in feeding value to bran, pound for pound, as some do. We sow with a nurse crop of barley, using 20 pounds seed an acre and one bushel barley. We allow nothing to pasture on it after harvest or any other time if we wish to retain a good stand of plants. Tramping of stock certainly will thin it out.

"Alfalfa is harder to cure than red clover. We mow in afternoon and run over it twice next forenoon with the tedder and rake and coil in afternoon. It stands in coil next day, and if the weather is fine it may be shaken up the third day in the forenoon and drawn in in the afternoon. Any one who keeps cows should grow alfalfa. We have 30 acres seeded now."

AS A PASTURE CROP

"I put the greatest value on alfalfa as a pasture crop," writes Mr. F. Birdsall, of Peterboro Co., Ont. Mr. Birdsall has 30 years' experience in alfalfa growing to back up his contention that alfalfa can be successfully pastured. "If a man has a large acreage I would pasture part of the first crop and cut a second crop later on when the weather is more favorable. Alfalfa costs me an acre about the same as red clover. For pasture it is infinitely more valuable than clover as it has a quicker growth and stays in the ground longer.

"I sow on well prepared ground, preferably following roots, seeding 15 to 20 lbs. of alfalfa and a bushel of barley for cover crop. I give a light dressing of barnyard manure late in the fall. As early in the spring as possible I run over the field with a horse rake and follow with a roller. I cut when the crop is about one-third in bloom."

EXPERIENCE OF A PRIZE-WINNER

"I have been growing alfalfa hay for eight years," writes S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont., whose farm stood high in the Inter-Provincial Prize Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy. "In these years my alfalfa has averaged more tons to the acre than has red clover or timothy, and has been produced at \$1 a ton less. As a food for dairy cows, it works in well with corn ensilage. When feeding the alfalfa hay in the stable in conjunction with ensilage, I find that one ton of alfalfa hay gives me about the same results as 1,000 lbs. of mixed grain for milk production. In the regular rations I feed my cows all the corn ensilage and alfalfa hay they will eat, with mixed grain and cotton seed or oil meal added, according to the amount of milk given by each cow.

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