

TRACTORS AND DAIRYING



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade Increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land—Lord Chatham.

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Substituting Tractor for Man Power

Two Tractors Save Eight Men in Silo Filling

THE greater the number of jobs adapted to tractor work, the more profitable will be the tractor investment. Canadian farmers have used tractors for only a few years, very few for more than two years, but already we have learned to hitch the tractor to so many implements and power machines, that some farmers have their tractors in almost constant use. United States farmers have been working on the same problem. Recently, when reading the "Pennsylvania Farmer," we came across a letter from a farmer of that State on the use of the tractor which showed so much ingenuity in substituting tractor for man power, that we thought it worthy of reproduction in Farm and Dairy. Mr. Stephen M. Trimble, of Delaware Co., Penn., tells of his experiences as follows:—

"As silo filling time is here again it occurs to me that possibly the way we eliminated seven men without decreasing our speed in harvesting the corn crop may be of interest. Our farm is situated in southeastern Pennsylvania on the outskirts of a city which, during the past few years, has become a great munition and shipbuilding centre. This has made extra help high priced and hard to obtain. For this reason, during the planting season of 1914, we only had to pay extra men \$1.75 a day, whereas this year we had to pay \$1 a day and our board, and considered ourselves fortunate to secure efficient helpers. In fact, ever since the European war started we have had to contend with the labor agents of the big industrial plants along the river, coming to our place and trying to induce our men to leave for the higher wages which they offered. It may be seen from this that we are having a serious problem to get extra help and any way we can reduce labor needs and costs for filling our 150-ton silo is quickly taken advantage of.

Haying With Tractors.

"Our first insight into increasing the output from a day's work came with the purchase of our \$16-tractor, in the spring of 1916. Ever since that time we have tried, wherever possible, to use gasoline and kerosene instead of horse and man power. For instance, last summer we harvested 13 acres of good hay without touching it by hand, except pitching off the wagon what the hay fork left and keeping the load level as the hay was delivered to it. We used horses for moving the tractor, hitching the tractor, wagon and rake loader together which saved raking, piling and pitching it. The steady pull of the tractor delivered the load on the wagon so that the two men there had no difficulty in quickly putting on large and well balanced loads of hay.

"Several loads were hauled to the barn with the tractor and then by means of a rope and pulley drew it up the bridgeway to the barn floor. While it was being unloaded with the hay fork, we hitched to another wagon and brought another load. We saved three men and three horses this way which we had to use the previous year to do the same work. We set our wheat successfully with the tractor last year, too. But this year's feeling about silo filling. We have had such satisfaction from the tractor that it is easy to ramble on. I cannot take the space to tell about the stone crushing, plowing, corn sheeling, sawing wood and custom work we did and how much we reduced the cost of these heavy and necessary jobs.

Tractor in Corn-Cutting.

"But to come back to the silo filling. It was really a two-tractor job. One of our neighbors has a tractor exactly like ours and we hired it to run our tractor and blower. The beauty of a gas tractor is that it does not require an engineer, a horse and boy to haul water, and a half

day of man and team to haul coal. A tank wagon delivers kerosene at our farm, and as we buy in quantity a fuel problem is solved.

"With our outfit we could handle about as much silage an hour as we could crushed stone; that is seven tons. We were unable, however, to get the corn to the cutter this fast so it took us about five days to fill the silo, or half as fast as the cutter would handle it. The cost of running the tractor to handle this much green corn was approximately \$4 a day. This was divided about as follows: \$2.30 for kerosene, 25 cents for gasoline for starting, 50 cents for lubricating oil, 17 cents for cup and transmission grease, 50 cents for depreciation and storage and 30 cents for one hour's care. A steam outfit at that time would have cost us \$12 a day, and we also saved the wages and cost of the extra help needed to run a steam engine. Another advantage we find in having our own silo-filling outfit is that we can do the work when we are ready and not when some one else says we must, as is the case when depending on a traveling outfit. It also enables us to put a greater amount of feed into the silo as we can wait a few days until what we have put in settles, and then fill it again.

"As to cutting the corn in the field, I used our tractor to pull a new corn harvester with loader attachment which we had bought. It was a revela-

tion to us the way this machine cut the corn, and here in Delaware County we grow real corn, tied it into bundles and loaded it onto the wagon which was driven alongside. The year before we had used seven men; three cutting with corn knives and four loading the wagon, at \$2 each per day and their board. Thus you see I was able to do with machinery what these seven men had done. Both years we used the same number of wagons and we find it works very satisfactorily at a time like this to cooperate with neighbors so as to have plenty of wagons.

Supervision From the Tractor.

"Every one who has filled a silo knows that the main thing is to have a good steady supply of fodder for the cutter. The longer you have to wait for a load to come from the field the longer it takes to finish the job. For this reason when I was on the tractor I knew things were running to capacity because I not only cut the corn but loaded the wagons. This is a heavy part of the work, too, and if you don't keep shifting men around, which always tends to reduce the efficiency of a gang, the cutters and loaders get tired early and tend to reduce the speed of all the other operations.

"We always try to plant our silage corn as near the silo as possible, so as to save needless hauling because it is heavy and costs considerable to transport it. We start to fill the silo when the corn begins to dent and if there is any one thing we are particular in doing it is to see that the cutter knives are set so as to cut the silage into one-half inch pieces. I cannot emphasize too strongly the value of cutting the pieces small, because it packs and keeps so much better than when cut in long pieces. In fact, I would cut it fine even if it took me twice as long to fill the silo. The knives should be kept sharp, too, so as not to unduly crush the corn but rather give it a clean sharp cut. I have bought extra knives for this year's work and intend using a fresh set every day. The time lost in changing is little.

Packing Silage.

"We use a distributor inside of the silo and consider it equal to one man. I say "man" advisedly, because distributing and packing the silage is no boy's job. It is the place for only trusted men whom you can count on to work conscientiously. Boys will loaf and play when they are where they cannot be seen. I know only too well what my sorrow. I believe that very often the cause of poor silage is the lack of proper care in packing it. We keep two good men in the silo and always keep the silage high around staves and low in the middle.

"As to feeding silage, we give all the cows well clothed up—that is about 30 pounds a day. We have an overhead truck in the silo, so that the feed carrier running out to the silo, so find no difficulty in distributing it to our herd. Since we have been feeding silage we find that the cows eat one-third less hay and we have more milk."

The price of farm machinery has been advancing for some time. The cost can be reduced by making each machine last longer. Much farm machinery wears out too soon because it is not given proper care and attention. More machinery is put out of commission each year by rust and weather than by service. The life of any machine may be lengthened by protection from weather, good lubrication, and prompt attention to repair. Farm machinery is frequently left standing in the field throughout the winter. Housing not only protects the implements from rust but leaves them in good condition for use the following season.—E. J.



Only One of its Many Chores.

This \$16 tractor will draw three bottoms under good soil conditions, as on this farm at Chatham, Ont. Under average conditions a tractor of this size will do its best average traction with a two-bottom plow. With its belt attachment this tractor has a wide range of usefulness. In the article adjoining a tractor user tells of his experiences with this power in haying, harvest and silo filling.