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"CANNED" CORN IN THE MILCH COW'S RATION

Practical and Successful Dairy Farmers Tell of Their Experiences with "Canned" Corn for Their Cattle
—A Dollars and Cents Argument for the Silo

ORDINARILY when we speak of "canned" corn we think of small tins about four inches high and as many in diameter, covered with a nice paper label and sold in grocery stores, three for a quarter.

When we stop to think about it, isn't that just what ensilage is? A silo is just a great big can only made of cement or staves instead of tin, in which green corn is preserved by the exclusion of air, even as corn is preserved in tin cans by excluding the air.

Even as we prefer canned apples to dried apples, so does the cow prefer canned corn (ensilage) to the dry fodder that many dairymen are still feeding. It has been demonstrated that a dairy cow will give more milk on ensilage than on fodder corn. We could fill half of this issue of Farm and Dairy with records of experiments conducted at various American agricultural colleges to prove the superior milk producing value of corn ensilage. Instead, however, we will give the experiences of some of our practical dairy farmer readers in the feeding of ensilage. These experiences are only a few of the many that could be supplied by dairymen who have silos. Let them speak for themselves:

FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE

"I built my silo four years ago. It is built of staves, six inches wide and 30 feet long. It is 14 feet in diameter. I find that ensilage is one of the best kinds of feed for all kinds of cattle, especially for dairy cows. I have also fed it to hogs. The ensilage that I am feeding now is the first corn that I put in the silo and it is better ensilage than this year's corn.

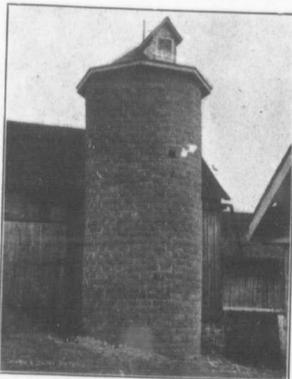
"It is a fine thing to have corn or silage to feed when the grass is drying up in August. I do not know of anything other than ensilage to take the place of grass. No farmer who keeps dairy cattle should be without a silo, especially when feed is so scarce as it has been the past few years.

"The kind of corn we use for ensilage is the Flint variety or a mixture of Leaming and eight-rowed yellow. With the Flint variety one gets more grain and does not need to feed as much of it." — Geo. A. Bailey, Hastings Co., Ont.

NINE YEARS WITH A SILO

"Our silo was built in the summer of 1904 of cement concrete mixed about one to eight and plastered inside. It is 80 feet high and 12 feet in diameter. The wall is 12

inches thick at the bottom and tapers to seven inches at the top. This was the first cement silo built in our neighborhood but now practically all the new silos here are monolithic cement con-



A Substantial and Permanent Corn "Can"

The number of silos on dairy farms is ever on the increase. There's a reason. Those who have experience are recommending the silo to their neighbors. In recommending the silo to all other readers by telling of their satisfactory experiences. The cement block silo seen herewith is on the farm of Jno. McKennie, York Co., Ont.

crete structures. About 75 per cent. of the neighboring farms are equipped with silos.

"We feed silage to cattle of all kinds whether beef, dairy, or young cattle, and find it the most economical and palatable feed we can produce on

the farm. We do not use it much for other kinds of stock, although horses relish it and hogs and hens will pick over a basketful of it whenever they get the chance. Corn silage is deficient in protein and cattle should also be fed some alfalfa hay or wheat bran or some such feed in addition so as to make a balanced ration and give the best results.

SILAGE IN SUMMER

"We had about five feet of silage left when the cattle were turned out to grass in 1911, and when the pasture failed about August 1st we started feeding the silage twice a day and found it the best and most convenient feed to tide over the summer drouth we ever used. We fed silage twice a day from August 1st continuously until the cattle again went on pasture the next spring. The only time we do not approve of feeding silage is for about a month immediately after filling the silo when the process of fermentation is very active and consequently one is feeding a lot of mouldy silage. I have no hesitation whatever in advising any farmer who keeps cattle to build a silo if he has not already got one.

"I have had another experience which I hope and trust will never befall any of your readers, but which was valuable in demonstrating the fire-resistant qualities of a well built cement silo. On the night of August 3, 1910, our barns were struck with lightning and burned. The silo had a very severe test as it stood about three feet from a now full of wheat and barley sheaves, and although the wind was blowing towards the silo it was practically uninjured. The only damage visible was a small crack on the inside extending from the top about 15 feet down through the holes which had opened into the feed chute. The crack did not show on the outside of the wall. Fearing that it might spread when filled again I had four wire cables each made of six strands of No. 9 wire put around the silo and tightened by making a loop and twisting with an iron bar. I have filled the silo three times since the fire and it appears as solid as ever." — James Dimma, York Co., Ont.

SIXTEEN YEARS' EXPERIENCE

"Our silo was built 16 years ago. It is a stone silo. It is built in one corner of the barn having a bank on two sides, the other two sides showing in the stable, and in this part the wall is two feet thick to the height of eight feet. Above that it is one foot in thickness and was built between planks and bound with rods and timbers every five feet. The timbers were placed in position on two sides with iron rods
(Continued on page 12)



A Few of the Silage Fed Holsteins in the Herd of W. E. Mason, Norfolk Co., Ont.

In this herd are two cattle with great records. One heifer holds a world's record; another a Canadian record. All are long distance performers of the first order. And all are fed on silage. So it is in almost all other great dairy herds: the basis of the ration is corn ensilage; a food that combines cheapness, succulence and palatability as no other food does.