

is an accumulation of gas, the light will go out. In this case the feed doors should be opened and the air disturbed in some way before entering. Where the blower is used the blowing in of a little corn from the first load should be ample stirring. After the ensilage is made and the temperature in the silo has gone down considerably there is no danger to be feared from this source.

Covering the Ensiled Fodder

Many devices have been tried for covering the ensiled fodder in order to preserve the upper portion. The original method was to put boards on top of the fodder and weight them heavily by means of a foot layer of dirt or sand or with stone. Later lighter material, as sawdust, straw, and hay was substituted. Building paper was often placed over the fodder. At the present time a common practice is to run green corn stalks, from which the ears have been removed, through the machine after the fodder is all in. Mention has already been made of the efficacy of adding water to the surface. Very good results have resulted from sowing a liberal seeding of oats on top before wetting. The heat generated by the fermenting mass will cause the oats to sprout quickly and form a dense sod which serves to shut off the air from the ensilage beneath, and only a very shallow layer spoils.

None of these methods can perfectly preserve the upper layer of ensilage, and there will always be some loss. The only way in which all of the ensilage can be preserved intact is by beginning to feed it within a few days after filling is completed. This method possesses considerable merit in that it allows of the supplementing of scant fall pastures and is thus particularly good practice for dairymen. When this method is adopted the ensiling system is brought to perfection provided the silo is so constructed as to admit of no unnecessary losses of nutrients. Under these conditions there is a very considerable saving over ensilage made in poorly constructed silos or over field-cured shocked fodder corn.



Forms in place for erecting a concrete Silo.