

FARM AND DAIRY

&

RURAL HOME

Why Cattle Like Ensilage

L. C. Smith, Peel Co., Ont.

Why does the Irishman like potatoes? Why does the German always provide kraut for his winter menu? I don't know. But I do know that neither one nor the other could live without his favorite dish or something approaching it in character. We all need something to eat in winter that approaches the green and natural food that we can get so readily in summer. The Canadian goes in heavily for vegetables and raw and preserved fruits and those take the place of the German's kraut or the Irishman's potatoes.

Cattle, sheep and hogs are all equally appreciative of something green and natural in their ration. We can up green stuff for ourselves. Why not can it up for our stock? I have a can somewhat over 30 feet high and 14 feet across in which I keep the finest preserves for my dairy herd. In the coldest of winter days my cows get a supply of green, succulent feed from this immense can that we call the silo. The driest of hay and straw goes down easily when mixed with the succulent corn ensilage.

There are various styles of silos (or preserving cans) in use. In my own immediate neighborhood we have cement block, solid cement, stone, brick and several styles of wooden silos. All styles are giving satisfaction. I have not met a man who has a silo who would attempt to carry on his dairy herd without one.

They consider the green, succulent feed as necessary to the health and well-being of their herd. It will be a happy day for dairymen when we adopt the silo as universally as the Irishman the potato or the German his kraut.

Fall Plowing and Soil Moisture

E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N. S.

The argument that first set us thinking along the line of fall plowing and led us to follow this practice was that it would afford us that much more time in the spring for getting in crops. It certainly is an advantage, when the snow clears off in the spring and the land is dry enough to work, to start right in with the disk harrow and prepare the land for the seed bed. Our own plowing would occupy well over a week and that

is a great big consideration in getting in spring grains.

We have since come to the conclusion, however, that the biggest argument possible for fall plowing is its value in conserving the soil moisture. As has been stated in farm papers so often, the moisture that makes crops grow is not that that falls with the summer rain, but that which we store up in the fall, winter and spring for the benefit of the crops the succeeding year. Land that is plowed in the fall presents a rough broken surface that enables fall rains to sink right in, instead of running off as might be the case were

Flushing the Ewes

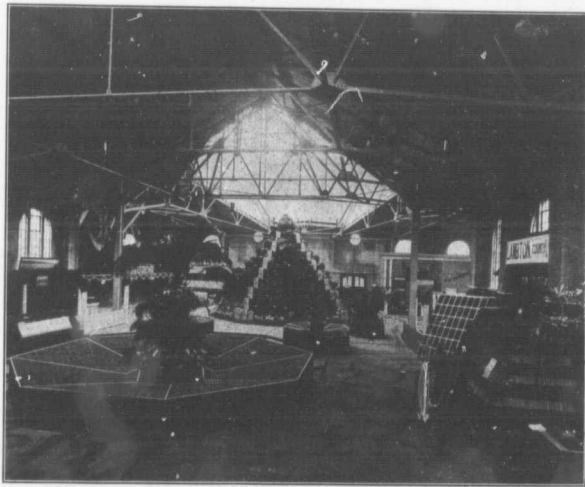
Wm. Barnet, Wellington Co., Ont.

"Flushing the ewes" is a work of much importance in sheep management if one is to secure a large crop of lambs the coming season. In many flocks no attention is paid to this part of sheep raising. This omission often accounts for the small number of lambs and the great difference in their age, thus making their owners dissatisfied with the returns, and often causing the disposal of the whole flock, whereas, if rightly handled, these losses are entirely unnecessary.

When the lambs are weaned they should be put on the best pasture available on the farm; a field of second growth clover is to be preferred above any other grass. On the other hand the ewes should be put on the barest pasture one has for a couple of weeks so that the secretion of milk may be stopped as quickly as possible. They may then be turned into good pasture so that they will gain rapidly in flesh, as it has been found that ewes in good condition breed much more readily than those that are thin.

In the writer's own experience a larger percentage of twin lambs are born when flushing has been practiced. Thus not only has the farmer less bother when his ewes lamb close together instead of the lambing season being spread over a month or two (which is often the case where the ewes are not flushed), but there is also the increase in the number of lambs which means larger returns from the flock when the lambs are marketed. There is also another advantage; the lambs all being of nearly the same age, they will be more uniform in size, giving them a more attractive appearance, which consideration will make them sell for a higher price.

Second growth clover is one of the best pastures to turn the ewes on, or if one does not wish to breed his ewes till late in the fall, when the clover has been cut down with the frost, a field of rape, with possibly a small ration of grain, will put the ewes in splendid breeding condition. Very few breeders have any trouble with their ewes becoming too fat, but on the other hand ewes that have not for some reason or other raised lambs the year before usually breed first, which goes to show that the flock cannot be in too high condition at breeding time.



The Officials of the Ontario Fruit Division again did themselves proud in the arrangement of this Exhibit

In the near foreground, slightly to the left, in this illustration may be seen a huge "bin" of apples. The idea was a happy one. Together with other departments, the O. A. College, various counties, and districts of New Ontario visitors could not get around the fact that old Ontario is far in the lead of all the provinces. The grains and fruit arranged so strikingly on the huge central stand to be seen in the centre background and located directly under the mammoth dome of the government building, all brought out very effectively the fact that Ontario leads them all.

the land in sod. This rough surface also holds the snows in winter and absorbs the water that is formed when they melt.

Plowed land being loose land, also has much greater water holding capacity than sod land and hence, when it is in a condition to work in the spring, contains that much more soil moisture. We believe in plowing heavy land deeply in the fall. First, for the value of the extra moisture conserved, and only secondly because of the assistance that it is in getting crops in in the spring.

The three main points in combating European foul brood are to get Italians, melt the combs, and practice stimulative feeding.—Morley Pettit, Provincial Apiarist.