

Ensilage vs. Dry Fodder.

Bulletin No. 7, of the Missouri Agricultural College Experiment Station, Prof. J. W. Sanborn Director, deals with the above subject. The object of the Bulletin seems to be to prove that the same crop of corn can be dry-cured and stored more cheaply than ensiled, and much hostile criticism has been provoked from practical men who have experimented with both methods. It would seem, however, that in Missouri it costs more to build a silo than in Canada, as in this instance the cost was \$5.03 per ton capacity, the silo being of stone. The Professor also got estimates of a wooden silo from a carpenter of his neighborhood, which would reduce the cost of storage to about \$3.40 per ton, fully twice as much as most other authorities estimate. Again, the Professor claims to have saved corn fodder in good form by storing it in barns. In this country, at least, this can seldom be done. True, some seasons, such as the fall of 1887, it has been done, but can not be considered a safe method. Further, most practical men claim that corn can be hauled to silo cut, and stored as cheaply as it can be cut, stoked and drawn to the barn when dry. The Professor assumes that the only value of ensilage is the dry matter it contains. This is certainly a fallacy. Who would think of valuing turnips or other roots on that basis. Again, practical men claim that two tons of corn ensilage are of equal feeding value with one ton of hay, and will any one claim they contain as much dry matter? Again, the corn with which the experiment was made was not raised or cared for properly, and it is not surprising that results obtained should differ from those of others. He admits that the corn was not first class, being partially decayed from lodging, but claims that it was a fair trial, inasmuch as the dried fodder was of the same. We are not just sure on that point; it is just possible that the decay affected the silage more than the dried article. However, be that as it may, it is the general belief of practical men that the Professor is in error. Mr. L. S. Coffin, of Iowa, a man of unlimited experience with silage and dry fodder, writing in the Breeder's Gazette, says:—"My experience, mind you—not 'supposition or theory'—is that I can run three hills of corn through the cutter when green as quickly as one when dry. I can put this corn from the hills onto a low wagon in just about the time I would put it into shock. I can pile more hills onto the same wagon green than when dry out of the shock. When once on the wagon it can be handed to the man at the feed-cutter in just about the same time it would take to unload from the wagon to a loft or onto a stack in the yard. The green-cut corn goes directly to the silo and is done with until wanted to feed out, and this fine cut up corn, ears and all, is the most convenient stuff in the world to feed. On the other hand, that stacked must again be loaded on wagon or sled, hauled to cutter, and then run through but slowly, or with much added power. Then right here is another thing. In the silo the cut up ears are so intimately mixed and blended with the leaves and stalks that the cattle never attempt to hunt for them, but in the dry they will nose the fodder all over and hunt until all the corn, however small, is eaten, and then the leaves and finer stalks. More or less of the larger always being left. These are some of the every day practical things of the silo and dry fodder."

When winter was upon you in all its fury you regretted the neglect of some defence you could have made against it; recall the regret this fall, and don't neglect the precaution again.

Stock.**Chatty Letter from the States.**

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

The little flurry in the cattle market, which made owners think for awhile we were on the eve of a decided improvement in the cattle market, proved to be only temporary. One bunch of fancy cattle sold at \$5—only one, and they were Polled-Angus steers. The general market has been overstocked with poor to good cattle, selling at \$3 to \$4.75, and only a few of the fancy top cattle have held their own.

Prices for hogs have declined rapidly of late, though during September we have seen some improvement. The decline was in anticipation of heavy supplies in the country, and the September reaction was mainly a board of trade movement. Good light hogs, 150 to 180 pounds have sold fully fifty cents above the best heavy, but the grass fed light hogs have sold very low.

The Senatorial Committee, which was appointed to inquire into the cattle depression, has recently been making an examination without much result. The trouble is that the chairman, Senator Vest, is committed to the assertion he made on the floor of the Senate, to the effect that the dressed beef men were making a profit of \$30 per head on all of the cattle they killed. Having made this assertion he seems to think it necessary to back it up, and in trying to do so he loses sight of the real facts which such an investigation should bring out. The Senator is trying to avoid any witnesses who would testify that the main difficulty with the cattle market is the production of too many cattle. The cattle market is not likely to improve much so long as all of the markets of the world are glutted with cattle and beef. However, we live in hopes.

Geo. Cooper, of Maquoketa, Iowa, recently marketed a lot of 1626 lb. Shorthorns at \$4.70. E. D. Shinkle, of the same place, sold some 1617 lb. Shorthorns at \$4.65. Both of these gentlemen are unusually successful feeders. The very best western range cattle, choice fat, 1350 lb. Dakota and Montana steers have lately sold at \$3.75 to \$4. Texas cattle have been in very heavy supply, and have sold the lowest ever known before.

A lot of 1000 head of Oregon sheep, averaging 106 lbs., sold at \$4 per hundred pounds recently, being about the same as some which sold one year ago at \$3. Country feeders have been buying very freely at \$3.50 to \$3.80, and some dealers think too many sheep will be fattened this fall and winter. The mutton demand is growing, however.

Whole train loads of pretty good 950 to 1050 lb. Texas steers have lately sold at \$2.15 to \$2.35. These figures are the lowest since the depression of 1873. The stockmen of the southwest seem to think it best to relieve the ranges by marketing cattle even if prices are low. The fact that Texas cattlemen are in better financial condition than for years, and are still crowding the markets, almost regardless of prices, is the strongest evidence that there are too many cattle on the southwestern ranges. H. J. Schunaman, of Freeport, Ill., was at market with some cattle which he fed in Wright county, Iowa. He reports good crop in that part of Iowa. He sold some 1270 lb. grass-fed cattle at \$3.40. One year ago he sold a lot of cattle here at \$5.25, and in view of the good foreign demand he sees no good

reason why prices should be quite so low. At the same time he saw many western range cattle sell for less than his, which would dress more beef to the 100 lbs. The gentleman seemed to think that there ought to be a decrease in production and an increase in price very soon, but he admitted, in answer to questions by your correspondent, that he would feed twice as many cattle as last year.

There seems to be a good deal of uncertainty among hog raisers as to the prospective profits of their business. A year ago, when hogs were selling at \$6 to \$6.50 they seemed to have no doubt about it. They paid as high as \$8 to \$12 per hundred pounds for store pigs and bred every sow that was breedable. The result is a very heavy crop of pigs and young hogs, and now that prices range about \$1.50 to \$2 per hundred lower than last year, and the country is not only full of pigs, but full of corn also, they seem to think they may have been too sanguine. The prospects are, however, that hogs will be too plentiful for the next two or three years for prices to be as high as they were last year. According to the Government crop report the supply of hogs is 101 per cent., and the condition 98 per cent. Last year the average supply was 95.7 per cent., and the condition 95.9; in 1887 the supply was 87.1 per cent., and the condition was 93.1.

Restrictions in Breeding.

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Various remedies have been suggested in order to lessen the production of what is termed among breeders *the scrub stock* of the country. Some who have written or spoken in reference to it have done so with an entirely loyal object in view; they seek only the country's benefit. There are others who urge their views from what would appear to be purely personal motives. They have acquired more or less improved stock, and they wish to secure more decided control of the market. These inferior animals are constantly coming in the way, and to their disgust and amazement, people will invest their money in such stock, resulting, according to their opinion, in decided injury to the man who does so.

Some, in order to put a restriction on inferior animals, have advocated that a license be given only to such as are deserving of it; all others being excluded from use. The latest in the way of such restriction is a proposition coming from a member of the Clydesdale Association of America advocating that a fee of \$100 be charged for every imported horse entered in the Stud Book. The object named by the promoter of this resolution being that a better class only may be imported. But to most it would appear that the real reason is that the number of horses brought into the country may be so restricted and limited that those already here may have the advantage of the market.

Would the imposition of such a fee have the effect of guaranteeing only very superior horses being brought? Suppose I am a buyer in Scotland and two horses are before me, one for £200 and another, slightly inferior, but still a good horse, for £175. I must pay a fine of \$100, no matter which I buy. Will that compel me to buy the best horse? Will it not rather be "the last straw on the camel's back" which will force me to the conclusion, "I will make the cheaper horse do." I have no doubt, in many cases, it would have this result—the very opposite of what is advocated.

I believe that all such restrictions lead only to evil results; besides, I object to a man's personal liberty being taken away in connection with