

Carrying Over to Lean Years

Why Not Another Silo for This Purpose?

L. K. SHAW, Welland Co., Ont.

EARLY last winter I received a commission to go out and buy a few head of milch cows of the Apraxion commission, preferably with papers attached. In looking for these cows I traveled over quite a section of Western Ontario. I found good number of breeders who had been selling heavily and probably a majority of those visited were willing to reduce their herds. The season gives everywhere was the same—no silage. The counties that I visited were in the wet belt last spring. Through the winter season it rained almost continuously. Fields that were seeded after much tribulation were later drowned out. As a result, silos were half full, a quarter full, and in some cases had not been filled at all.

I came across one man, however, who had no cows for sale, no young stock for sale, and was quite satisfied with conditions generally, and with himself. His pride in his silage was justified by his foresight. With his 1917 corn crop he had had no better luck than his neighbors. His 14 x 35 foot silo was just half full. In addition to this, however, he had a 10 x 30 foot silo left over from the year 1916 that had not even been opened. I always plan to grow more corn than I think I will need," he told me. "The 1916 I had a good crop. I filled both of these silos and then fed corn stalks cut up, moistened and well mixed with pulped roots and straw, until Christmas. The big silo then carried us through the regular winter gave us three months of summer feeding as well. The smaller silo was not touched, and will make it possible for us to feed almost the usual amount of ensilage this winter."

Wise man! He had prepared for the lean year ahead. It is a common experience that good years are followed by poor years, and it is always a problem with a live stock farmer just how much stock to carry. A capacity herd of cows for two years leaves a surplus stock to be disposed of in a lean year, and sometimes disposed of at a low price. He was asking myself, Would it not be a good plan to grow more corn than is needed on a regular policy, and have a good supply of ensilage ahead? It means more silo capacity than would otherwise be necessary, but considering the value of the food stored in the silo, the silo affords the cheapest storage that we have on the farm. There is no doubt but that the ensilage will keep, as one neighbor last winter fed silage that was four years old from the bottom of his silo, and he tells me that it was good feed.

The Milker in Alberta

Good Service for 2½ Years

W. A. BARR, Olds, Alberta.

I INSTALLED a milking machine about two and a half years ago, and I have been entirely satisfied with the results. I was right up against the help problem. I either had to sell some cows or get a machine, but I had plenty of range for the cows, I decided to keep them and get a machine with the intention of throwing it out of the stable the end of a year unless I was perfectly satisfied. I decided to invest in one of the greatest labor-saving devices yet invented for the farmer, and very simple. When you see the machine in operation you wonder why such a machine was not invented long ago. It does it almost perfectly. We have to strip by hand to a certain extent each year by putting in a few new cows or heifers with good-sized teats, and who let that do not milk so fast. By cutting out the cups are used, and the machine is left on long enough, it will milk them dry.

With one and one-half h. p. engine, you can run three units, a water separator and a pump, all at once. I have the water pumped for the stock all the year round, while the milking is being done, so the

gasoline bill is not high. Regarding upkeep of machine, I did not have any expense the first year. Last spring I got a new set of mouthpieces which finished out this year, costing 35 cts. each.

The cows seemed to like the machine from the start, and we did not have any trouble with them. I believe the man who will milk a cow as good as our machine is hard to get. I deal with three units, milk 20 cows in an hour, while before I got the machine, I used to gather up all the help I could around the place. At present I have a returned soldier with one arm disabled, who could not possibly milk a cow, but he can milk the 25 cows with the machine. In having time I come in about five o'clock and milk the bunch myself, leaving the men in the field until quitting time.

As long as I stay in the dairy business, my machine could not be bought unless another one could be procured.

Freezing in the Silo

Ideas for Use Next Winter

FARMERS who had more trouble than usual last winter with frozen silage will be interested in the method advocated by W. J. Dougan, of Wisconsin to prevent the freezing. Here is an extract



Mr. Wm. Bailey, Dundas Co., Ont., Makes Good Use of the Milking Machine in Solving a Difficult Labor Problem. A View of His Stable with the Machine in Operation.

from his address before his State Dairymen's Association:

"In taking silage out of your silo, keep the surface like an inverted saucer. Insist always on your man edging out six or eight or ten inches around the edge and let it go down gradually toward the edge. The silage does not freeze through the wall so much as it freezes from above. Two years ago, I went into my silo when my man went away for a short vacation around the edge three feet high and coming up in the centre. I went into the silo with a pick and I dug found not a bit of frozen silage except right close up against the wall.

All the rest of that cold weather there never was a ring around the silo of frozen silage because I always insist upon keeping the silage in the form of an inverted saucer. The first year after the first snap of cold weather, I fill a lot of gunny sacks about two-thirds full of fine chaff and take into the silo, enough up the doors and keep the whole top of the silo. I shut down the doors and keep the doors all up as we go back, keeping it just as close to the edge as possible. We lay a ring of those sacks around close to the edge, and when the man puts them down he tramps every

When you come to take out the edge as possible, throw the sacks back with your fork from half of the silo onto the other half of the sacks. Just draw off a straight line through the other, pick the sacks off that you want and cover it over again. At that angle cover the other side in the same way. In that way you will have no trouble to keep it from freezing."

Cutting Clover too Short

It Saves Hay But Kills the Stand

DIGES it says to set the cutter bar of the mow so low that it fairly shaves the ground. Writing in Hoard's Dairyman recently, Thomas N. Cisel says "No." Here is his argument:

"With many farmers it is the rule to cut grass very short, putting the bar just as near the ground as possible. While a small amount of hay saved by low cutting and the field looks neater, all is so overbalanced by the injury done to the sod. On a first winter, usually stand that clover plants, after the tending above the soil. The crown, to a great extent, is the heart of the clover plant from which the stems sprout if the plant is vigorous. To injure the crown means to stunt or kill the plant. Should the weather turn dry and hot soon after the clover is cut, the chances are the stand is ruined if the crown does much to repair the damage but the plants will never be as strong again after once being injured.

"Along with this short cutting is the rule of permitting the clover to be well ripened before cutting for hay. Once fed clover is cut, the maturation it will never make a good stand the next year. If the hay crop is well matured when cut, the seed crop will usually be thin. Late cutting and short cutting will usually ruin the best of stands.

"Examine a clover stand that has been cut short in dry, hot weather, and you will find almost everywhere the crown has been cut away by the knife and the hot sun has burnt the very heart of the plant. Go again to the field where the stems are a few inches long and examine the plants. You will find them plump and vigorous and ready to start the new growth. This short cut method has more to do with clover failures than any other one cause.

While timothy is not so easy to injure as clover in this way, yet much injury can result from a short cut of timothy.

"The mowers of today are so made that you can shave the surface of the ground, and it is not uncommon to find where the soil has been cut away. The result is much shorter cutting. The old style mower and heavy slides at each end of the bar and the cutting bar could not be lowered to the soil level. It will also be remembered that the farmers had much good clover and timothy twenty-five years ago.

"Some farmers today raise good clover and timothy and it has been my observation that it seldom the field that shaves his sod for the last inch of straw."

The idea that red clover will persist for more than one year will be a new one to most Canadian farmers. Hoard's Dairyman, however, editorially endorses Mr. Cisel as follows:

"We have long been convinced that farmers, as a rule, were more to blame than anything else for the failure of the clover crop. This was due to the fact that the head is brown before cutting near death to the clover the next year. If you want to save your clover, cut it always before the seed forms. When once the seed forms the clover plant has fulfilled its mission and proceeds to die the same as other plants.

"We once saw a red clover field that had been kept in good production for nine years by cutting three times each season, keeping it from being matted, and by giving it a light topdressing of manure in the fall. With all their familiarity with clover, farmers have got to learn a lot about the biological laws that govern its growth. Mr. Cisel has evidently been a close observer and is governed by facts and not traditions or notions as the most of us are."

The man who is expecting to feed a number of hogs during the season of 1918-19 should grow barley. While oats is probably more generally fed in Canada than any other grain for hogs, it is a poor feed for fattening pigs. The best pig is in feeding growing pigs or milking sows. Barley is not a fattening grain in Canada. It may be used with oats and shorts for 3 or 4 pigs, and as a finishing ration for hogs over 100 lbs. It is the best grain we can grow.—G. B. Rothwell, G.E.F., Ottawa.

The prevalence of ration as a means for the reproduction of the supply, available energy, modern feed taught by a and used by animal husbandry. One would a all conditions, vigorous offspring matter that the materials involve true if protein necessities in becoming clear other important a successful r is discussed he stricted source production in

Ten years ago as a series of the effect of by reproduction. in their make-adequacy of the energy are the formulating a that is, so much adequate energy but in one case entirely of fee the corn plant, the wheat plant, the oat plant, a mixture of the ample, the corn composed of five meal, two pound and seven pound giving a nutritive and 75 percent consumed.

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