WHICH IS THE BEST WAY?

An old Irishman living in an adjoining town, who is a most excellent farmer, in speaking of the way farmers cut their clover hay, said the following, once on a time.

"It's a quare thing that so many folks live all their lives wid clover an' don't know it. The way they cut it for hay is just the same as if a man, in fillin' a jug, would turn half the stuff onto the ground."

We have seen a lot of clover hay cut this season, that positively, we would not give half price for as a milk fodder.

The clover, in almost every instance, is left too long for the first cutting. That spoils it for hay, and also prevents a good second crop.

As we write, we look out on a small field of clover, of an acre in extent. It is new seeding. It came on in the spring with a rank growth, and just as it began to head out and show a few blossoms, it commenced to fall down badly. To secure any hay whatever, and prevent its rotting on the ground, the owner was obliged to cut it. It was given a day or so of hot sun, then cocked up and covered with hay caps. It cured nicely, even in the midst of heavy rains. For the best economy, it was cut a few days too soon, but the question was to save any hay at all.

But here was clearly shown a principal in clover cutting that every farmer ought to study. If the first crop is cut early, before the heads commence to brown, a very much stronger growth will come afterward. Now, in this case this truth is abundantly proved. The second crop came on finely, and that was cut just as about two-thirds of the heads were well in blossom. A larger weight of hay than the first crop, and very much finer in quality, was secured. This was cut two weeks ago. A third crop is coming on rank and strong, and will be ready to cut by the 10th of September. Now here are three crops, two of splendid milk quality, and one quite fair. A yield of hay of fully five tons per acre, will be secured. Is not this a better method to pursue than the one most farmers practise?

A practical feeding value of $30 an acre will be had in this way. The principle involved is this:

Clover is a biennial. That is, it takes two years to grow and produce seed. When once the root has fulfilled its mission, and produced seed, it begins to die. The thing to do then, if we want the largest supply of hay from that root, is to prevent seed from forming.

Nature is very persistent, and so she keeps on throwing up flower stalk after flower stalk, trying to produce seed. By cutting these stalks *before any seed forms*, we secure two results:

(1) We keep the root alive and vigorous.

(2) We secure two, and often three crops of hay, all of which, pound for pound, will produce double the milk that the clover hay, commonly harvested by the averrge farmer, will.

The brings us to the caption of this article "Which is the Best Way?"

What is the use of this constant turning of half of the water on the ground when we are filling the jug? Does it indicate that we are students of our business?

Farmers talk about their clover killing out. They don't realize that their practice of allowing it to stand until the seed forms before cutting, is one great reason why it kills out.—*Hoard.*

GROWING EARLY POTATOES

The Kansas Experimental Station has been experimenting for two years on the methods of hastening the growth and maturity of early potatoes. During 1897 some whole potatoes were set in shallow boxes with the blossom side up on Feb. 23rd. They were filled around with sand, leaving the upper fourth exposed and the boxes placed in a room of rather subdued light, and a temperature of 50° to 60°. Vigorous sprouts soon began to push from the exposed eyes. These potatoes were planted on March 22nd in furrows in the same position as they were in the boxes and fourteen inches apart in the rows. They were not cut but kept entire. Similar rows were planted of potatoes taken from the storage room and unexposed to the light till planted. As they grew, the sprouted potatoes took the lead from the start and both lots of whole seed kept ahead of cut seed of the same varieties. On June 1st the sand-sprouted lots showed excellent young table potatoes, while none of the others were yet large enough for use. A week's difference was apparent in the two lots. On June 16th the sand-sprouted potasoes were still ahead in size, and at the final digging, July 24th, the sand-sprouted lots showed better tubers and 10 per cent, larger yield than the others.