FARM MANAGEMENT

Alfalfa for Ensilage

Will you kindly give me some information on the best way to make ensilage from alfalfa? What do you consider is the value of good alfalfa ensilage as compared with ensilage made from corn. In this neighborhood the weather is none too certain for curing hay at the end of June, and it would often be an advantage to put part at least of the first cutting of alfalfa in a silo. The second crop should be easily cured as hay, but the third cutting would be hard to make hay of so the silo would again be the best way to save the crop. Would you advise putting the alfalfa through a cutter? Would you cut the alfalfa ensilage out of the silo or strip a layer off the whole top of the silo? What grain ration, if any, would you feed to supplement the alfalfa hay or ensilage for milk production?—J. C. H., B.C.

In Henry's Feeds and Feeding, the nutritive value of ensilage from corn and alfalfa is given as follows:

	Dry Matter.	Protein.	Carbo Hydrates	Fat
Alfalfa	27.5	3	8.5	1.9
Corn.	20.9	.9	11.3	.7

Comparing the analysis of these two feeds we find that the alfalfa has a ensilage contains such a large proportion of protein, home-grown cheap combined with a small proportion of cotton seed or oil cake meal would be most satisfactory. Where corn ensilage is fed, being deficient in protein the grain ration should be composed more largely of protein rich foods such as bran, oil cake and cotton seed meal.

If the ensilage is to be fed in winter when the process of decay is slow, it would be immaterial whether the ensilage were taken from only a part of the surface or from the whole surface. In summer when the decay is more rapid, and it is necessary to use several inches of silage a day to prevent decay, it might be well to cut down through the silage, using only half of the surface at a time.

Fertilizer for Second Hay Crop

Would it be advisable to cut the second crop of hay from a meadow the first year seeded? If so, would it be wise to apply any fertilizer after the first cutting, what would be the best kind to apply? The hay is mostly clover and has better growth than the most in this vicinity.—C. N. McP., Que.

I consider that it would be advisable to cut the second crop on the first year meadow. The second crop will be better this year than it will ever be again, and the meadow will not be injured thereby. It might be well to give the field a light top-dressing of barnyard manure between cuttings, applying it with the manure spreader. It will act both as a fertiliser and as a mulch. Should it be desired to apply a concentrate, nitrate of soda, say 100 lbs. per acre, might be used, applying it on a dry day so that the dew will not cause it to singe the young leaves. — Frank T. Shutt, C.E.F., Ottawa.

A Grand Start Towards Building a Great Herd

H. H. Craig, Howick, Que., goes on the principle that the sire is the most important consideration in the establishing of his Holstein herd. Here is his selection, Sir Acme Beets Segis 2nd, a grandson of King Segis, and bred by Dr. H. Harwood Vaudreuil, Que. Study his conformation here. Then note his breeding as given on page 17 this issue.—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

little more dry matter, more than three times as much digestible protein, almost three times as much digestible fat, but that it is deficient in carbo-hydrates. Reducing the fat content to its carbo hydrate equivalent we find that alfalfa has the equivalent of 13.25 per cent of digestible carbo hydrates and corn 13.05.

Your plan of making the cuttings of alfalfa that are difficult to cure into ensilage, appeals to us as a sensible one. We would suggest that you cut the alfalfa as soon as the second growth appears at the base and run it through a cutting box into the silo. Those who have had experience with alfalfa ensilage tell us that while good ensilage may be made from long alfalfa, that the chances of success are much greater where the alfalfa is first run through the cutting box, in that the cut alfalfa packs more closely into the silo; thus thoroughly excluding the air.

Another plan that has been successfully tried is to run dry oat straw into the silo along with the alfalfa. When it comes out the straw is then in a most palatable condition for feeding, and the dry straw takes up some of the excess moisture of the alfalfa. In any case the alfalfa should be allowed to wilt somewhat before putting into the silo.

Alfalfa hay or alfalfa silage would make almost a balanced ration for the cow giving an ordinary quantity of milk, say 20 to 25 lbs. of milk a day. Cows giving a large flow would need to be fed grain as well. As alfalfa

To Make Hay Caps

I see an article on caps for capping alfalfa hay in Farm and Dairy. Where can I obtain these caps?—R. L., Oxford Co., Ont.

Our hay caps are made from 28 gauge galvanized iron. They are made on the same principal as the top of an oil can, by cutting in on side to the centre and drawing the edges in and then fastening the overlapping part with four rivets. The cap is then trimmed to make it round. We had our caps made in our own town by a local tinsmith. They cost about 42 cents each, the tinsmith furnishing everything. The width of the iron used is 36 inches. The cap has sufficient slope so that when placed on the floor it is 7½ inches high.—Laidlaw Bros., Aylmer West, Ont.

In the weed battle no quarter is given; it is a fight to the death.