

We have chemical analysis of nearly every kind of food which is used for domestic animals. Chemistry tells you how much starch, sugar, oil, gluten, albumen, and other constituents, are in hay, grain and roots; but it does not tell the nutritive value of any kind of food.

Nutritive value is found by putting the substance into the stomach of a living animal, and noting the results. It is true, we have some knowledge of the nutritive value of sugar, starch, oil, albumen, gluten, and other constituents of food; and from the relative proportion of these, in a given substance, we can guess as to its general nutritive effect. Still, there are some kinds of food that produce better results than the percentage of their nutritive constituents would seem to show. Roots, for instance, which are largely composed of water, when fed in connection with other food, will not unfrequently do more good than a larger per cent of nutritive elements locked up in other forms. Farmers, therefore, should not be too credulous in adopting the practices of others, but experiment carefully, and test their value. Some men will tell you that fodder-corn is nearly worthless as a summer soiling crop, and that better results will be obtained from clover, lucern, or something else. They may find it so in their practice, or may imagine it to be so; but I cannot agree with them, since my experience tells me that we have no plant, in our hot, dry summers, that will give such good results as corn-fodder. It makes good milk, and it makes an abundant flow. I cannot grow clover for summer soiling so cheaply as I can grow corn-fodder; clover fails in hot, dry summers, while corn-fodder does not; and I should esteem it a calamity to the dairy interest of America were this plant blotted out of our summer soiling crop. White clover I regard as one of our most valuable pasture plants; it gives a nice flavor to milk; it is rich in sugar—an essential in milk—and therefore helps to maintain the health of animals in their abundant secretion of this fluid.

Pastures should always, if possible, be located on high ground and stocked with a variety of grasses—June or Kentucky blue grass, orchard grass, blue or wire grass (*poa compressa*), and those indigenous to the soil—the grasses that propagate themselves by layers. The different species of agrestic supply pastures throughout the year. Among the grasses that afford most nutritive matter in early spring are meadow fox-tail, tall fescue, and, indeed, all the fescues are valuable

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