

the richest food never live long. There are not many that will stand two quarts of Indian meal per day for a great length of time.

We ought to contrive to have a greater variety of dry fodder through the winter. Corn husks are of much importance, and all farmers in New England who keep stocks of cattle ought to have a good supply. This they can have by planting an extra acre of corn for the single purpose of saving the stalks for winter feed. An acre will yield a great supply without a large quantity of manure. Still it may be a better course to plant for the purpose of securing the corn as well as the husks.

A little more time spent in increasing the manure heap, and in stirring the ground between the rows of corn, will aid farmers to procure winter food quite as much as the growing of acres of roots which must be wed at much greater cost than is usually expended on corn.

Oat straw, wheat and barley straw are all good to increase the variety of winter feed—and all these may be profitably mixed with husks at the time of harvesting. All may become a little mouldy, but eating this is no worse thing than eating mouldy cheese which many prefer to that which is green or dry.

Buckwheat straw is another article, which was formerly burnt in the field as soon as it was threshed, in order, as it was said, to prevent the scattering of the seeds among the manure, in the solemn fear that when once scattered over a farm it could never be rooted out. It was thought to be a greater nuisance on a farm than thistles or witch-grass.

But look around you, farmers, and find any wild fields of buckwheat if you can. This grain never flourishes without cultivation, and you may exterminate it if you wish, as easily as you may rye or wheat.

The straw of buckwheat is really

worth something as a variety for cattle in winter. They will eat some of it at any rate, but they will eat more when you mix it with husks at the time of husking. People err more in letting this grain stand late in the field than in letting corn or rye stand late. They are deceived by the late blossoms which are not to be regarded. Look to the main chance, and cut early.

Why use cut feed?

An intelligent farmer asks for the philosophy of cutting hay. He can understand that it is useful to cut corn stalks, and coarse fodder, because the cattle will eat them better. But when cattle will eat up good English hay perfectly clean, why should it be passed through the hay cutter?

Our friend evidently supposes, that the stomach does its work upon everything that passes into it, with equal facility, and without any tax upon the rest of the system. This is manifestly an error. All food has to be ground up before it can be assimilated, and pass into the circulation of the animal. If food is not artificially prepared by cutting, grinding, or steaming, the animal has to prepare it himself, so far as he is able. Certain kinds of food will pass through the system, imparting to it only a part of their nutriment, because the teeth of the animal have not perfectly masticated it. Whole kernels of corn or of oats are frequently seen in the feces of an old horse.

The more perfectly food can be prepared, the more completely will the system appropriate its nutriment. If the whole labor of grinding up the food is thrown upon the animal it is a serious tax upon the vital energy, which every good farmer wants for other purposes. In the case of the horse and the ox, you want the