

Ensiles His Soiling Crop

A most satisfactory means of providing summer feed for dairy cattle is that adopted by Mr. J. K. Moore, Smith Township, Peterboro Co., Ont. Mr. Moore has a large herd of grade Holstein dairy cattle. He makes a practice of growing peas, wheat and oats in a mixture, sown three bushels to the acre, which he cuts as soon as it is headed out and places it in a silo.

This crop is cut and bound in sheaves with the binder. As soon as the patch is cut, and without stooking it, the sheaves are hauled to the barn and run through the cut box into the silo. Commenting upon this practice Mr. Moore said to an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy who called at his place recently, that it has proved most satisfactory and was a very cheap and satisfactory way of providing supplementary food for his cows during the months of late summer and early fall when pastures are never at their best.

Handling the Root Crop

Henry Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.

Hoeing and thinning roots is always a tedious operation. By good cultivation of the soil before sowing, we get many weed seeds to start. These are killed by the cultivators and harrows, which greatly reduces the labor with the hoe.

Early sown mangels, sugar beets and turnips usually have a great quantity of weeds come up among them. Many of our most progressive farmers find that they get just as heavy crops of these roots by sowing much later than formerly. They sow mangels and sugar beets as late as the first of June and turnips from the 20th of June to the last of the month. By following this plan it enables them to destroy many of the weeds before sowing the crop.

The frequent use of the scuffer is a great assistance not only in killing the weeds between the drills but makes the hoeing easier by keeping the sides of the drills broken. The (Breed) weeder helps greatly by running it across the drills if the plants are very thick, but if they are thin it is better to run it lengthways of the drill. This should be done the same day they are to be hoed, so that the top of the drill will be freshly broken. A man can hoe from 25 to 40 per cent. more mangels or turnips in a day by following this plan than if the weeder is not used.

When thinning, care should be taken to not only destroy all weeds but to see that double plants are not left in the drill. If the work is properly performed there will be little work to do with the hoe the second time. Do not fail to keep the scuffer going up to quite late in the season, even if there are no weeds. It makes a fine mulch that retains the moisture in the soil.

A Weed That is Spreading

The Orange Hawk weed is a plant that has spread over most of the Eastern Provinces and is extending westward in Ontario. This is a bad weed in pasture fields. Farmers should be on the lookout for it and destroy any plants that make their appearance on their farms or roadsides. It is a conspicuous plant owing to its fiery orange-red flowers. These are about an inch across. They are borne in clusters on top of a stem from a foot to two feet high. The seeds are about one-twelfth of an inch long and are furnished with wings that enable them to travel long distances by the wind. It also spreads by creeping root stems, by which means it crowds out the grass and takes complete possession of the land. It is not eaten by any kind of stock.

As it is likely to make its appearance in many portions of Ontario within the next few years, it will be well for farmers to be on the lookout for it and destroy any plants that may make their appearance by digging them up.

The plant is a shallow rooted one and surface cultivation will kill it. Where a short rotation is followed it is not likely to cause much trouble.

Curing Hay by Modern Methods

F. E. Caldwell, Carleton Co., Ont.

Our method of curing hay, which has been successfully practised for the past three seasons, is as follows: We commence cutting as early as possible in the morning in order to have a good amount ready for the side delivery rake. When the hay is partly dry, we start the rake, and keep it constantly at work turning the windrows. We use a Dain side-delivery rake. It does not whip



Heavy Hay Loaded with Ease

The illustration shows a hay loader (Dain) at work. Hayloaders are rapidly being introduced wherever hay is grown in quantity to justify the expense.

or tangle the hay, but shakes it up in fine shape for drying. In the afternoon we double up the windrows so as to leave as little surface exposed as possible. The hay being partly green is thus prevented from discoloring almost as well as if it were coiled. By practising this method the hay can be cured in a short time, with the result that the mower can be followed more closely, and if rain intervenes a much smaller acreage of partly cured hay is exposed than where the old-fashioned methods are used.

On the following morning before hauling the hay, we turn the windrows onto fresh ground with the side-delivery rake and so expose the underside to the sun. In a couple of hours the hay should be in good shape for storing. When the season is advanced we sometimes store on the same day as cut. When spreading the hay in the mow we sprinkle it lightly with salt, which decreases the chance of it heating.

Our Dain hay loader has given us good satisfaction. It is built on a different principle from other loaders that I have seen, and works equally well in windy as in any weather. One man and boy with the loader can load as quickly as three men working without it. When one is short of help it has the advantage that no hand forking is required except to spread and build the hay on the load. The loader and rake do their work so well that there is no hay left on the ground. We use a team of horses on the hay fork to unload in the buildings.

The method as described is for fine weather. The approach of rain can often be foretold by the ordinary weather-wise farmer. Being able to forecast the weather is a very necessary faculty to possess, if one would meet with the largest measure of success in hay making. In these days of swift communication, it is profitable to refer to our newspapers that go to great trouble and expense to publish the weather bulletins. If it is likely to be broken weather, we coil our hay, (but we have sometimes depended too much on coils and a whole field of hay is a sorry sight after a heavy wind and rain storm). We would like to hear from other farmers on this subject. Let us have a full discussion on this timely topic of hay making.

Importance of Properly Curing Hay

N. J. Kueneman, M.A.C., Winnipeg.

The time and manner of cutting, the curing, storing and handling of any hay crop decides the quality and the subsequent feed value of the hay. If left to stand too long before cutting, the hay becomes fibrous and woody. The same will be true if it is left lying or baking too long in the sun. In both cases the resulting fodder will have lost its succulence and palatability to a great extent. If exposed to the weather, rains, heavy dews, etc., or stored while damp or otherwise improperly stored, it becomes mouldy, musty and foul smelling. All of these must be reckoned with in deciding the value of the resulting feed.

Great care and judgment should be exercised in securing the hay crop. Many of the ills and the poor condition of stock are traceable to the inferior quality of the bulky feed provided for them.

Selecting a Brood Sow

L. C. Cameron, Halton Co., Ont.

In selecting a young brood sow try and see the whole litter to which she belongs. Select one from a large litter where the whole lot were uniformly good. We frequently see a litter in which there are two or three outstanding good pigs and the balance running from medium to poor. We should avoid even the extra good ones, in a lot like this, as their progeny are likely to be uneven.

A good temperament is indicated by a broad forehead and bright but mild eye. See that the animal has a good constitution as shown by the possession of a deep chest and sides with plenty of room for the heart and lungs. The back should be strong with an arch from the ears to the root of the tail. The hams should come well down to the hock. The legs should be straight and she should stand well up on her feet. The body should be covered with a good coat of straight, bright hair.

Fewer Varieties of Fruits

M. S. Middleton, Ont. Agr. Coll. Guelph.

(Concluded from last week.)

We have a commercial fruit business in Ontario of no small importance and commercially speaking the most important consideration is specialization. By specializing we would get greater quantities of fewer sorts and more quality. These are two great factors in commercial fruit-growing. We have passed the experimental stage. By this I mean we are able to decide with a good deal of certainty, which varieties are best adapted to suit the soil, climate and markets of a certain section. We have numerous very desirable winter varieties, which grow and do well in some sections; but, in order to obtain the best prices and a reputation for ourselves, we must select, not more than three of the most suitable varieties. One kind would be still better, were it not for the fact that it is always advisable to have another variety, blossoming at the same time to ensure proper pollination.

The varieties best adapted to the different sections are fairly well known. Thus it becomes a very easy matter to recommend varieties, but it is a much more difficult matter to get the growers to stick to the varieties recommended. It requires a good deal of organization and encouragement on the part of the growers. As with every other reform the starting is the hardest. "The work of the reformer is hard."

Fortunately, when growers once know the advantages of reform, they will not be slow to follow up. Many places could be cited where specialization has proven most profitable to the growers and all connected with the business, but it is scarcely necessary to refer to them. The wide-awake fruit-grower cannot fail to see the many advan-

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T. G.

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