

## Cutting, Curing Sweet Clover

### Precautions Peculiar to This Crop

At least 50 per cent. of all sweet clover fields are either partly or entirely killed by cutting the first crop of the second season too close to the ground. This is the conclusion of the United States Department of Agriculture after an examination of hundreds of acres of sweet clover in different sections of the United States. Canadian farmers, when experimenting with sweet clover, frequently make the same mistake and kill practically their entire stand by cutting too close to the ground as they have been accustomed to do with timothy or red clover. To prevent these losses, the clover plant should be carefully examined before mowing and the stubble be left long enough that at least one healthy bud or young branch, may be left on each stubble. In fact the plant should be cut several inches above the young shoots or buds as the stubble may die back from one to three inches if cut during damp or rainy weather. In any case a five or six inch stubble should be left and this is usually sufficient to ensure a second growth, but in cases of an exceedingly rank growth of say 40 inches or more, an even longer stubble may be necessary. Tilling the mower bar is not usually sufficient. Extension soles are being added to their mowers by almost all experienced sweet clover growers.

When sweet clover is cut in the fall of the first year a stubble of four or five inches will suffice to give the best results. In any case a five or six inch stubble should be left and this is usually sufficient to ensure a second growth, but in cases of an exceedingly rank growth of say 40 inches or more, an even longer stubble may be necessary. Tilling the mower bar is not usually sufficient. Extension soles are being added to their mowers by almost all experienced sweet clover growers.

### When to Cut.

The proper time to cut the first crop the second season will vary in different localities, depending upon the rainfall, the temperature, and the fertility of the soil. In no event should the plants be allowed to show flower buds or become woody before mowing. On fertile, well-limed soils in many sections, a very rapid growth is made in the spring, and after the plants will not show flower buds until about five feet high. On such soils it is essential that the first crop be cut when the plants are no more than thirty to 32 inches high, if hay is desired which is not stemmy and if a second growth is to be expected. In cutting the first crop of the second season it is a good plan to use extension shoe soles on the mower.

In some sections of the country it is difficult to secure sweet clover hay because the stand is ready to wilt at a time of the year when weather conditions are likely to be unfavorable for hay making. Succulent plants like sweet clover can not be cured into hay of good quality unless excellent weather conditions prevail during the haymaking period. One of the most successful methods for handling sweet clover hay is to allow the plants to remain in the swath until they are well wilted or just before the leaves begin to cure. The hay should then be raked into windrows and cured at once. The cocks should be made as high and as narrow as possible, as this will permit better ventilation. In curing, the cocks will shrink from one-third to one-half their original size. It may take ten days to two weeks to cure sweet clover hay by this method.

## Eighty Acres in Alfalfa

### On a 100 Acre Farm

FOR 17 years Mr. Blake Stringer has been growing alfalfa on his farm near the village of Freeman in Halton Co., Ont. Last year he had 80 of his 100 acres either growing alfalfa or seeded to alfalfa. Although there is no silo on the farm and no corn grown worth mentioning, there is enough alfalfa to cover the 180 cows he has, and it is found that the cattle do well on a few roots and liberal rations of alfalfa hay. Each year, too, there is a lot of hay and generally some alfalfa seed to sell and both command a ready market.

"Our usual system," said Mr. Stringer, when I

visited him last summer, "is to take two crops of grain and seed down to alfalfa with the second crop. Our seeding mixture, is one-half bushel of barley, one bushel of oats and 15 lbs. of alfalfa to the acre. This is plenty; less would be better." A few other points in alfalfa growing enunciated by Mr. Stringer are as follows:—

"Some people sow clover and alfalfa together. This is a mistake. The alfalfa comes up with just one spike the first year. It does not cover the ground. The clover does. It stools out and smothers the alfalfa."

"I do not object to blue grass coming up along with my alfalfa. I do not consider that it kills out the alfalfa. It merely fills in the vacant spaces where the alfalfa plant dies and the mixture of the alfalfa and blue grass makes a better feed for horses than pure alfalfa."

"We can always grow great grain when plowing down an alfalfa sod. Alfalfa is a soil enricher." Mr. Stringer has been almost consistently successful in getting good stands and good crops. This he attributes to a farm that is naturally well drained and to a good strain of seed. He got a start with Grimm alfalfa 14 years ago and has propagated it on the farm.—A. L. McKee.

## Splendid Heifers at Walkerside

### Emphasis Placed on Age at Breeding

THEY are rearing a splendid bunch of heifers, two or three hundred of them, at Walkerside Farm, in Essex County. The grade Guernsey and Holstein cows are good producers to begin with.



A First Taste of June Pasture.

The bulls are of the best breeding. The calves, therefore, have the backing necessary to making good when they themselves are of milking age. "Up to eight months old the heifer calves are housed in the calf barn, half a dozen or more to a pen, grouped according to age and size. Mr. Cramer, the farm foreman, is strong in his belief that the "baby fat" should be kept on them until they freshen for the first time. Skim-milk is fed until the calves are eight months old. When three weeks old they are eating the best alfalfa hay the place affords, and they are never stinted in their grain ration. When weaned from the milk they are removed to big runs under the hay barns where they are fed alfalfa hay, chaffage twice a day and a couple of pounds of grain each daily. It was noticeable that there was little difference in size between Guernsey and Holstein heifers of the same age. I remarked on this uniformity of size.

"And why not?" asked Mr. Cramer. "The Guerneys are quite big enough if you don't stunt their growth by breeding them too young. We breed our Guerneys and Holsteins to come in at practically the same age; around 30 months. Because the Guerneys breed young is no reason for doing so. There is no time when you can grow heifers so fast or so cheaply as when they are young, and we don't intend to interfere with that growth by early breeding. Too much of it has been done on even this farm."

Mr. Cramer's doctrine of dairy development may be summed up as,—a good heifer to start with, liberal feeding but not overfeeding to retain the baby fat, and later breeding than is usually practised. He emphasizes the latter point, and as we walked through the cow barns, each with its 100 milch cows, he pointed to this cow and that cow, under-

sized, he stated, because bred to freshen still young. Cramer believes in a cow having 5 calves, not one calf another calf.—F. E. E.

## One of Those Quiet Bulls

### And What He Did "of a Sudden"

A BULL is not an animal to be played with. He may be ever so gentle, but let him once feel out his power and he becomes as dangerous as a maddened elephant. It is surprising, as one travels about among breeders, to note the careless manner in which many bulls are handled, but I believe it to be folly to take a bull out of the stable without a stick, no matter what his temper may be. A bull need only run amuck once to do damage that can never be undone.

Thirty years ago or more, Mr. W. E. McKilloan, now a well-known Holstein breeder at St. Elmo, in Gengary County, received a lesson in the treachery of bulls which he has never forgotten. It was because Mr. McKilloan started out on a farm of his own and the bull they were using was an Ayrshire about four years old and of such gentle disposition that the men used to often lead him by the horns. The day when Mr. McKilloan learned his lesson, they had tethered the bull in a pasture with a long chain, which had been used instead of a hay fork rope. His brother had gone to the cheese factory with their milk and "W. E." was starting for the field when he noticed that the bull had gotten his chain tangled up in some bushes, and went to loose him. The bull, however, had apparently been angered by his inability to get his own chain free and would not let Mr. McKilloan come close enough to catch the chain. So from a nearby corn field he broke off a cob of corn and with this went up to the bull. While the bull took the cob in his mouth Mr. McKilloan caught the ring which was in his nose and began to untangle the chain.

But immediately the bull felt the hand on his ring he made a plunge at Mr. McKilloan with his horns. Fortunately the chain held at his first plunge and gave him a chance to get a firmer grip on the ring, but at the next plunge the chain broke. Mr. McKilloan knew that his only hope lay in peeling up on the ring and thus holding the bull's horns back so that he would be unable to grab him until such time as his brother might return from the cheese factory and come to his rescue.

For one hour, the long east in Mr. McKilloan's life, he and the bull fought. Mr. McKilloan is a big man and was then in his prime, but it took all his strength to hold out for the hour. And had he not been in that condition, his life would not have been long. The bull's head was driven back foot by foot across the field, but always he kept pushing up with all his might on the ring. Once the bull caught him with a brush of one of his horns and left the blood oozing out through his shirt over a long stretch from hip to shoulder.

Finally his brother returned from the cheese factory and saw what was going on in the pasture. He summoned his uncle to the rescue, and with two ropes. As a bull of a ton or weight has tremendous power, they saw that what they had to do first was to make some way for Mr. McKilloan's escape, so they crept up one on each side of the bull and while he still was fighting with the fastened the two ropes into the ring. Then they crept back and hauled together on the ropes and W. E. McKilloan was allowed to break free. "Since that time," says Mr. McKilloan, "all bulls look cross to me."

## Cold Storage for Farmers

### How it is Worked in Grey County

ARMERS in the district surrounding Orus Sound, Ont., are particularly fortunate in being able to obtain cold storage for their meats. In the cold storage plant of Mr. Lemon, a wholesale produce dealer, one cold storage room is reserved for public use. In a recent report to the Department of Agriculture, Mr. H. O. Duff, district agent, says, "In Grey County, states:—'On one side

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