

The English sparrow destroys the heads of Rici corn and the Jerusalem corn on the college farm before the seeds become ripe. In the treeless sections of the western part of the State the sparrows do not bother these varieties, and they are good grain yielders but yield little fodder. Milo maize does well on the college farm in a long season, but in two years out of the three was cut off by the frost.

Kaffir corn stands the drought better than corn. It will continue to extract moisture from the ground and grow after the ground has become so dry that corn has become momentarily checked. When finally the ground becomes so dry that the Kaffir corn can grow no longer it remains stationary and if the late rains come starts to growing again as though nothing had happened. Corn under the same conditions dies. Frequently in Kansas the corn crop is small because although the rain fall is sufficient and the stalks are vigorous though the season, a few days of hot winds at tasseling time kills the pollen and the kernels of corn do not form. Kaffir corn is not affected in this way.

The thick short jointed stalk of Kaffir corn enables it to withstand strong winds much better than either corn or the sweet sorghums.

Kaffir corn has strong feeding powers and heavy root development, especially adapting it to poor soils. It will produce a good yield of grain in poor land and on uplands where corn will fail except in favorable years.

Kaffir corn is not proof against chinch-bugs. and chinch-bugs when very thick will kill it, but an ordinary attack such as will seriously injure corn does not seem to hurt Kaffir corn much. When only a few inches high Kaffir corn is readily destroyed by this pest.

#### *Objections to Kaffir corn*

Like all sorghums, Kaffir corn makes a weak, slow early growth, which is in strong contrast to its vigor and hardiness after becoming a foot high. In damp ground, in wet seasons and on weedy land, the weeds in the early season will often make a strong growth while the Kaffir corn is too small to cultivate easily. This makes cultivation expensive and difficult.

When fed alone, stock tire of Kaffir corn much more quickly than they do of corn. Some stockmen feed red and white Kaffir alternately. This gives some variety, but only partially overcomes the defect. When Kaffir-corn is fed with feeds

rich in protein, as alfalfa, soy beans, bran, or oil-meal, animal relish it for any length of feeding period. This lack of protein (flesh and blood forming material) and an excess of starch and other heating substances makes Kaffir corn an undesirable feed to be given alone, but combined with the other drought resisting feeds—alfalfa and soy beans—makes a ration containing all the material, in proper proportions, needed for meat and milk productions and the growth of young stock.

Kaffir corn is a very constipating feed, and for this reason, when fed alone to either horses, cattle, or hogs, induces an unhealthy condition. Alfalfa and soy beans are laxative, and either fed with Kaffir corn secures a healthy condition of the animal.

In fattening hogs the best results (greatest gain on least food) were obtained when Kaffir corn meal and soy-bean meal were used in the proportions of four parts of the former to one of the latter. Kaffir corn has not been found better than corn, or cheaper bushel for bushel, but it has been found that especially on light land and in dry seasons, acre for acre, Kaffir corn is the more profitable crop.

No doubt there are many limited localities outside of the so-called arid regions where this crop could be grown to advantage for poultry. The fact that it is better than corn to combine with some of the by-products available in different localities would seem to make it worth while for poultrymen in those localities to test it. We had an inquiry not long ago from a subscriber who could get refuse beans very cheap. Kaffir corn, if to be had at a reasonable price in his locality might be the best grain he could get to use with beans. If he is in position to grow his own grain it might be a profitable crop for him. Where the by-products of cotton seed are abundant and cheap, Kaffir corn it would seem, could be used to better advantage than any of the more common grains.

What the Kansas bulletin tells of it is enough to incite poultrymen to test it as a food and experiment with it as a crop.

I shall be glad to hear from any or all of the readers of the JOURNAL who will try the experiment of raising this corn but as a forage crop and for grain for feeding to poultry and give me the results of such experiments (*pro bono publico*). I