

to thirty-five bushels of oats. Such crops are probably all cut by this time, but whether or not to thresh them is the problem.

A third division may be made of crops that will yield over the amounts mentioned in the second division. Such crops are worth cutting and threshing this year, even though the straw is weak, broken and tangled, but the grain is of poor quality and, if used for feeding purposes, will be comparatively low in feeding value.

The real problem of disposing of damaged crops presents itself when one has crops which fall into either the first or second classifications. With the first mentioned crops one may decide to cut—or the crop may already be cut and there may be enough grain in the heads to constitute considerable feeding value which one is loath to lose. Generally speaking, it may be said that rusted straw without any grain in it, or with from a pound to two pounds of light shrivelled grain to the sheaf, is of less value than clean straw, although, under actual test, the rusted straw contains more valuable food elements than clean straw. The explanation of this apparent contradiction is that rust has arrested and held in the straw much of the food value that would otherwise go to the grain, but at the same time the rust has made the straw so distasteful that animals will not readily eat it and so use the food value of rusted straw.

One cannot say with exact definiteness just what should be done with the rusted crops that carry less than enough grain to make them up to the value of good straw, for the reason that there are great variations in the actual value of such crops and different men are in different positions to use that value. However, it is generally safe to spend little effort on fields that carry less than ten bushels of shrivelled wheat or twenty bushels of light oats. If one has cattle or sheep, or can get them without much trouble, they should be given the run of such fields, but it would be doubtful economy to buy stock especially for such fields, in view of high interest rates and the narrow margin between feeder and butcher cattle. With such fields the loss may as well be made complete with the plow or a fire.

With crops that fall into the second class (that is, that have been considered good enough to cut but of doubtful value for threshing) there is almost a pressing necessity to realize value by feeding. Such crops are of much greater value than threshed straw, but of much less value than green sheaves or hay, and already there has been spent time of cutting and stooking, but to thresh would not pay, and clearly the proper thing to do is to feed. Then enter all the secondary considerations in the question of feeding stock: the water supply, shelter, available labor, supply of money, interest rates, supply and cost of stock, market conditions now and in sixty, ninety, a hundred and twenty or a hundred and fifty days. Also, one has to consider whether or not he will make stock feeding a regular practice, for, if he does not, he will have to pay for extra equipment and experience out of one season's operations. With a crop such as we are considering already cut there should be no hesitation to stack, or, if not cut, much of it should be cut to be stacked and the balance left for stock to feed off before the snow falls.