What Variety of Corn for Silage Making?

Is Maturity a More Important Question Than Tonnage Per Acre—*By J. D. Macdonald, Glengarry Co., Ont.*

EARLY this spring, when it became finally known that the choice of varieties of seed corn for the silo was to be limited to three or four southern kinds, Farmer and Dairy made the remark that perhaps one of the results of the compulsory using of southern corn would be that hundreds of dairy farmers would be growing the same variety next year from choice. I am afraid that Farm and Dairy made a good guess. A very heavy yield always impresses one. I well remember my own first experience with southern corn, a variety similar to what is now known as the Eureka ensilage. That corn grew 15 feet high all over the field. I never had anything on the farm that filled the silo so fast. I decided that it was the coming corn. I was even inclined to pity those of my neighbors who held to the smaller varieties for silo filling purposes.

Since then, however, my viewpoint has changed, and I appreciate the wisdom of my friends who stayed with the varieties that reach a greater degree of maturity under our conditions. Perhaps a discussion of corn varieties might not be without interest now, even if the topic is out of season, and I propose to set the ball rolling. I will first refer to the results of the test conducted by the Experimental Union with ensilage corn in Ontario last year. I find the report on page seven of the January 24th issue of Farm and Dairy. Here it is in full:

Variety	Tons freshly husked ears per acre	Tons whole crop per acre
Wisconsin No. 7	3.4	13
Compton's Early	3.4	12.5
Golden Glow	3.3	12.2
Longfellow	3.2	11.8
White Cap Yellow Dent.	3.1	11.7
Bailey	2.8	11.1
Salzers' North Dakota	3.3	10.7

The thing about this report that struck me most forcibly was the small difference in total yield between the varieties which we regard in this district as purely ensilage corn and the varieties which may be grown, even here for husking. Between Salzers' North Dakota and Wisconsin No. 7, for instance, which gave the lowest and highest yield respectively, there was a margin of only 2.3 tons, or about 20 per cent. of the crop. To look at a field of Wisconsin No. 7 and then compare with a field of Salzers' North Dakota, one would expect the first field to produce twice the tonnage per acre. The explanation of the small difference is, I believe, that the Flint corns carry their weight close to the ground and therefore do not make the same showing. I am not satisfied with these returns from Guelph, however. We are not in a position to make a final decision between these varieties until an analysis is made showing the water content of each. Certainly when grown under the same conditions, the earlier corns should show a greater degree of maturity, a higher proportion of dry matter, and it is not difficult to conceive of the higher proportion of dry matter counterbalancing the extra weight of the later corn.

Connecticut Experimental Work.

In reading Hoard's Dairyman recently I was interested in a report by Prof. Southwick of the Connecticut Agricultural College on experiments conducted along this line on a Connecticut dairy farm. Several types of corn were tested, Eureka and Leaming being the chief. These two corns were grown in the same field and under identical conditions. Prof. Southwick reports results as follows:

"At harvest time the Eureka barely showed any kernels while the Leaming had kernels in the dough. Moreover, the weight of ears on the Leaming was a much larger proportion of the total weight, because the stalks were big and tall in the Eureka, while the ears were small. When weighed and analyzed the case stood as follows:—

	Eureka	Leaming
Yield per acre (green)	25 tons	21 tons
Water in each 100 lbs.	81 lbs.	76 lbs.
Food material in 100 lbs.	19 lbs.	24 lbs.

"Stating the matter another way: From an acre of Eureka four more tons of corn were handled and cut to get 580 lbs. less of dry food material than with the Leaming. To be sure, the Eureka furnished four more tons of water! But, was it a cheap way of watering cows?

"Another comparison of quality should also be made, namely, the amount of the different nutrients contained in a ton of these two kinds of corn. Such a comparison makes a very striking contrast between the protein and carbohydrates which are the chief milk forming ingredients of all feeds, and the fibre the least valuable. One ton of green corn contained the following:

	Eureka	Leaming
Protein	32 lbs.	42 lbs.
Carbohydrates (N. F. Extract) .	212 lbs.	300 lbs.
Fat	4.6 lbs.	9 lbs.
Fiber	115. lbs.	103 lbs.
Ash	17. lbs.	33 lbs.

"A cow can consume only so much roughage in a day, hence it is easy to see from the above that when the Leaming was fed as silage less grain was needed to furnish the same amount of food. About 40 lbs. of the Eureka would be needed to replace 30 lbs. of the Leaming."

Two Rows—and the Work Well Done.

Mr. Jno. Arnot, of Oxford Co., Ont., may be here seen giving his corn its first cultivation this season. With a steady team and a good implement Mr. Arnot is doing two rows at a time and working up to within one inch of the plants. Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

Commenting on these results Prof. Southwick says:—

"Some dairymen will say, 'If mature corn makes so much better silage, why don't the cows show a difference in milk from it?' The answer is: They do, if it is properly cut and fed. Properly cut means cut very fine. Properly fed means fed in smaller amounts, or with less grain, than when immature silage is used. The number of dairymen who have proven this to themselves is increasing every year."

Corn for Next Year.

I heartily agree with Prof. Southwick that every improvement in silage helps to reduce the grain ration and that silage is improved when the corn is matured. Only the general principles, however, can be applied here. Connecticut is evidently a better corn country than is Eastern Ontario, and I would not expect Leaming to mature here as well as did the Eureka corn there. And now the question come up, What varieties of corn shall we grow next year when we will probably be able to get anything we want? We have found that Wisconsin No. 7 gets fairly mature with us in favorable seasons; say 50 per cent. of all crops grown. Flint corns will mature practically every season. When the Wisconsin does mature it is certainly to be preferred to the flints because of its greater yield, the disadvantage of higher water content then being eliminated. With flint corns we are sure of a mature corn practically every year and the Guelph results show a difference of only two or three tons in yield per acre. In my endeavors to make good silage every year, along with maximum quantity consistent with quality, I have been growing dent and flint corns half and half. My plan is to plant flint with one side of the corn planter and dent with the other. I then have two rows of flint and two rows of dent. Some farmers in this neighborhood mix the seed and plant the varieties together. I believe, however, that the better corn has a better chance growing in double rows by itself. The two varieties are thoroughly mixed when drawing in to the silo and the ensilage is full of grain.

I believe that good ensilage means lots of ears. Am I right? I will be glad to hear from others who have been studying along the same line. This year we have been forced to grow Mammoth Southern corn and the ensilage will be much better than no ensilage at all. But I am looking ahead to next year.

The Story of a Pure Bred Holstein Calf

It Got a Cold Reception But Paid the Mortgage Just the Same—*By A. Gregory, in Rural Life*

IT was a measly, little black-and-white calf that Sam brought home from the fair, where he had been inveigled into buying it. He wouldn't tell me for several days how much he gave for it, but when I wanted some money to buy Susie a dress to wear to Prue Simpson's dance it all came out, and she, poor child, had to stay at home, for I wouldn't have any of them say she had to wear old clothes because her father fooled away his money on that horrid calf.

Would you believe any man of ordinary common sense would give $100 for such a specimen of livestock as that? Why, he could have got two good cows for less money, and to think of spending it on that miserable little runt of a calf! Had I married a fool? We were so hard up, too, interest to pay, as well as everything else.

The calf came from extra good stock, Sam said, and would make an extra fine cow. That was small consolation. "There was never a cow lived that was worth a hundred dollars," says I.

Probably I said more than that, considerable, I was that stirred up. Sam looked awful down in the mouth and went to the barn, to see the calf, I suppose.

We felt pretty much at outs with each other for some time. I'll own up I said about all the mean things I could think of and that's a-plenty. Honestly, I believe if anybody had offered him $10 for the calf, he would have taken it up quick. He hated to have me even look at the animal, and I never did unless he was around so he could have the benefit of my sarcastic smile.

It seemed as though things kept right on from that time going from bad to worse. The winter was a hard one, Sam had the rheumatism six weeks straight when he could not get out of doors, the hens didn't lay, and eggs were 50 cents a dozen. Then when spring did come it was cold and wet. The chickens that I expected to raise did not hatch, and the berries were killed by late frosts. Really it seemed as though everything conspired against us. The only thing about the farm that seemed to thrive on adversity was Highland Molly (that was the name of the heifer). She grew and was fat and sleek as a seal. She would eat anything. That was a characteristic of the breed, Sam said, they were not dainty.

The other cattle looked common and poor beside her, although I'd died before I'd said so to Sam.

I knew all the time he wanted to take her to the fair, but was afraid I would be mean about it, but I wouldn't let on. She certainly was a beauty and likely he'd got a prize. We needed every cent of money, too, but I was perverse, I suppose. He was blue as could be for a very long time. The mortgage was worrying him, and how we had got so behind on the interest that they were beginning to talk of foreclosing. Dear, what a wearisome time it was! We sold everything we could and got along as best we might.

Along in February Tom Reed was in our house and the talk veered around to cattle.

"Oh," says Tom, "I heard over to the Center that Beach's cow, the one he calls Highland Betty, made 38 lbs. of butter in seven days on a test. Wonder if your heifer will ever do that?" Then he laughed, a mean, little laugh. Sam's face got red, but I could see he didn't mind it much.

Tom didn't go for quite a spell and Sam got to fidgeting so I couldn't imagine what was the matter. When he finally did go Sam made a bee line for the secretary and took out the papers he got with the calf. His hands shook as he looked them over and even then I didn't sense what ailed him. I thought of all the sudden deaths I'd read of and such like, that had happened to people until I wanted to scream. I couldn't stand it another minute.

"For pity's sake, Sam," says I, "what's the matter?"

"She's Highland Mollie's mother," he said, in a husky voice.

Then I thought sure he'd gone crazy and I stood and looked at him in horror.

"Yes," he said, and he seemed more like himself again, "that cow of Beach's, I mean."

I sank down on the lounge. It seemed as though I had heard something about these butter tests and what prices some of those cows had brought. I began to see.

Well, the long and the short of it was we sold the despised calf for more than enough to pay off the mortgage and Sam has only to look at me when I question some of his bargains and I wilt right down.