

Well-cured bacon will keep a long time under favorable conditions, but half-cured Wiltshire bacon will not. The British public want the lightly cured meat all the year, and so they do all their other out-of-season products, but they pay considerably more for them, often double and treble, so they must do it if they want lightly-cured Wiltshire bacon from Canada throughout the year. Farmers in Canada will then find a way of supplying a little more of the out-of-season bacon hogs, just as they are now finding a way to get fresh eggs at Christmas, but it costs money and extra pains and consequently it requires so much higher price, or it will not pay to supply.

The farmers are beginning to know the packers pretty well now, and if they continue to practice lowering the prices at the time of the output, the farmers will recognize it, and either leave their pens empty or find some joint method of disposing of this important product. In this particular there is a magnificent market in Britain for loins of pork, and now that our fresh meat conveyance is almost perfect, it would be well if this trade was opened up. There is no portion of the animal so much in demand in Britain as the loin of fresh pork and fresh chops, and this part of the carcass makes the poorest bacon. The juicy out-like flavor of the loin is entirely lost by salting and curing. It gives us in its stead a hard, salty, lean meat with a rim of fat without even a line of lean. If these loins were packed and forwarded they would command the highest price as pork, and we should have left the best streaky meat for curing and exporting as bacon, and these streaky sides would keep longer and fresher than full sides, while we have a good market for the remainder of the carcass at our own home and in the Northwest. It is a curious coincidence, but the Britisher eats very little fresh pork in summer but very much in the colder season, and this is the very time when we are best able to supply this choice joint.

ELLIS.

Storing Fodder Corn

A Practical Farmer Tries a New Plan With Success

To the Editor of FARMING:

The question of storage for corn fodder for winter use is a very important one, and perhaps a convenient and satisfactory method has not been adopted by every farmer who grows corn for winter feed. That corn fodder is a cheap and nutritious food is now pretty generally recognized by agriculturists. But I believe a much larger amount would be grown throughout our province if a practical way of storing the fodder for winter use conveniently and in a comparatively limited space were known. Of course, I know that practically the simplest and easiest method is to build a silo and convert the corn into ensilage, but we must remember that many farmers are not in a position financially to undertake the outlay which such a course demands, for not only is there the cost of a silo, but proper machinery must be procured, which all combined, probably at a low estimate, would mean an expenditure of \$150. Then, again, a great many farmers are still opposed to the use of ensilage, especially for milking cows, and I think the results obtained by experiments conducted by experts, between well-cured corn fodder and good ensilage, are not very marked; however, it is not my intention to discuss the relative values of such feeds, but simply to give my experience in storing the dry fodder.

It has been generally customary to stand the sheaves around the inside in a mow, care being taken to keep them in an upright position, and at intervals to fasten boards or scantling to make an air space between rows of stalks and keep them from falling together; as, if many were allowed to come in contact, the result would be to heat and get musty, or rot, and thus spoil the whole business for feed.

But very few have the barn space that would be required for following out that plan, except for an acre or two, for of course they could only be placed one deep. Another plan adopted was to place poles in upright positions conveniently near the barn or stables, and build round stacks of a load or so of stalks around each pole. Others, again, have allowed the corn to remain out in the fields in the stooks as they were put up at the time of cutting, and drawing them as required for feeding, which is a very laborious and wasteful and often a vexatious way, as the stalks, being frozen to the ground, have had to be chopped off, and very often dug out of the snow. But what has been the most ridiculous method of all which I have seen adopted is to stake poles or rails horizontally about four or five feet from the ground, and then stand the stalks on either side only one deep, and there, stretching back and forth half way across a field, they have been left out in rain and snow all winter; truly there will be no danger from heating, but what an enormous loss in nutritive value by bleaching and freezing!

I have tried some of these plans, but did not find them satisfactory, and, besides, the mice worked in them badly, eating all the corn, and making the stalks smell so that the cattle did not like them, that is, those which were not fed in the earlier part of the winter. Two years ago I heard of a plan which I do not think I have ever seen in an agricultural journal, that is, packing the stalks with a layer of straw between each layer of corn-stalks, and I resolved to try it with one load, which I did, and, although they were the last I fed on toward spring, they were in excellent condition, as fresh and nice as when placed there in the fall.

Last summer I had three acres of corn for fodder of good height and yield of cobs, altogether a nice crop, I think about 2,500 sheaves of average size, and I must say I was somewhat perplexed to know how to store it, for although I had tried packing with straw, it was in such a limited way that I did not feel at all certain about the result of storing such a large quantity in one or two mows in that manner. However, as I have no silo, I thought I would risk it, although not without some "fear and trembling," but I must say I am very pleased with the excellent condition in which it is preserved. It is not musty, nor injured, but fresh and green as when I placed it there and something worth remembering, the mice do not work in it to harm it. Why, I cannot explain, unless they do not like the straw. All I know is they leave it alone, which is a great consideration.

My plan is this: After the corn has stood in the stooks long enough to be nicely cured—not left so late as to be rain-bleached or frozen—to draw them in and place a layer of straw on the bottom of the mow, then a layer of corn-stalks placed flat, close together, like grain sheaves, but not overlapping. Let each sheaf have its whole length on the straw, cover the whole mow with the layer, then cover over with straw again, and repeat with corn, and so on to the roof or as high as you wish to pitch them. You cannot injure the corn by putting too much straw, but I think all that is necessary is from four to six inches for each layering. Have the straw convenient in an adjacent mow, or, better still, on a scaffold over the driveway, so that it may not be too much trouble to get at when drawing in the corn.

I have been feeding milch cows all winter on corn preserved in this way, giving them no other fodder, excepting straw, besides grain and roots, and they are doing well. I think about 2,000 sheaves can be conveniently placed in a mow 15 x 30 feet. The variety of corn which I grew last year is called "High-mixed," and I think it very good. It may be that some other varieties, such as the Mammoth Southern Sweet, which, although I like very much as a fodder corn, it seems to be more succulent and, consequently, harder to cure, and might not be as easily preserved in the way I have described, but I think almost any kind of well-cured corn will keep all right. I thought perhaps this might be of use to some, and if you think it worth while you can print it in your valuable paper, FARMING.

Camborne, Ont., March 1st, 1900.

A. J. LACEY.