

Lessening the Work of Hay Making*

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Why do so many farmers dread haying? It is mainly because of the hard work it occasions. That was what used to bother us. After cutting, the hay was tedded, raked and, if fairly dry, set up in coils. After a few days, these coils could sometimes be drawn directly to the barn; sometimes it was necessary to open them to dry. Under



Hay Loaders Figure Largely in the Work of Present Day Hay Making

The modern hay making machinery has made many friends in recent years. The work of hay making is greatly lessened and expediated where the loader and side delivery rake is used.

that method of handling, hay making was laborious and irksome. To-day, through the use of modern hay making machinery, the work of haying has been greatly lessened.

We have used a hay loader during the past four years. No other labor saving machines on our farm has given us so much satisfaction as the hay loader. When properly handled, it will load hay much more quickly and with less labor than when it is pitched by hand.



One of the More Recent Hay Making Tools now Coming to be a Necessity

Where a hay loader is to be used a side delivery rake also is called for, since it is not possible for the loader to work to the best advantage save in conjunction with the side delivery rake. This rake leaves the windrows light and open, so that the hay cures rapidly. It may to a great extent displace the use of the tedder.

One of our clover fields last year on which there was a medium crop, the clover was cut on a beautiful drying day and immediately on finishing with the mower, the tedder was started. About one o'clock we put it in windrows with the side delivery rake and commenced to draw in on finishing the work of raking it. That hay was the best hay we fed last winter.

ECONOMIZING LABOR.

It should be noted that this hay was handled with a minimum amount of work. And this is

*Mr. Moore is one of the leading dairymen in Peterboro County. He, with his father, Mr. J. K. Moore, succeeded in taking a good standing in the Dairy Farms Competition last year.

an important factor in these days. Any device that will economize on labor and keep down expenses such as will this hay making machinery, is an important factor in present day agriculture.

Besides the loader, tedder and mower, one other implement is needed for hay making. It is the side delivery rake. Hay cannot be placed in proper windrows for the loader with the ordinary proper windrows for the loader with the ordinary machinery, but on this point we should consider that the price of the loader and side delivery rake combined only equals that of the manure spreader, which implements so many farmers are now buying.

On our farm, where we practice dairying and keep a considerable number of cows, the afternoons in the fields are necessarily short. The old way of setting up hay was very inconvenient in that the hay was often not all set up at milking time. Now by the use of modern hay making machinery, that thing never occurs, and a large strip of hay can be placed in the barn before five o'clock, which is our milking time.

We always use two teams when hauling in the hay. No matter how many or how few hands we have, the two teams are always used. This year we are putting basket racks on our two 16-foot flat-bottomed racks. These will be placed on trucks and one man can build the loads. Another will manage the hay forks and another will spread it in the mows. A boy or a girl can drive the horse on the fork and another the team in the field. Thus with three men and two boys the two teams can be kept going and a considerable quantity of hay can be stored away in a few hours.

Thus have we solved in a large measure the problem of hay making. Ever since adopting this system, be it rain or shine, we have managed our hay crop as outlined, and we have had better hay than ever before. We have put it away quickly, saved labor to a large extent and removed considerably the old-time dread of the hay harvest.

We always cut in the morning, start the tedder right along after the mower before it is through its work. In the afternoon we place the hay in windrows with the side delivery rake and allow it to remain thus over night. In the morning we ted it again to remove the dew, and if the hay is favorable we commence to draw it in about 11 o'clock. If the weather is not suitable, we do not touch the windrows at all, and being in a green state, they can stand considerable wetting before any damage results.

There are two important points to be remembered when at the hay making. Never cut too much hay at once and do not place it in the mow with any dampness other than its own natural moisture.

Farm Machinery Up-to-date*

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In this progressive age when time is money and when we are all rising early to get the lion's share of the crisp dollars, it is necessary that we be up and doing when it comes to a matter of adopting labor saving farm machinery. The progressive farmer of to-day requires a full line of implements necessary to plant, care for and harvest the special crops he raises. As farmers we are becoming a race of specialists, and it is abundantly demonstrated that the farmer who gives special attention to some special line of farming is the one that is among the successful men of to-day.

EVOLUTION OF HAY MAKING.

The system of hay making has undergone great change in recent years. Today we find our more progressive farmers using the wide swath rapid cutting mowers; following these with the tedder and the side delivery rake, elevating the hay onto the wagon with a hay loader and unloading it in the barn with the horse fork and its accompanying equipment—all this work being done with a minimum expenditure for labor and being done much more rapidly than was possible when old-time methods were used. Under favorable weather conditions, one is enabled by means of this modern machinery to handle a large hay crop with very little manual labor. The old-time practice of coiling hay has been practically abandoned by many of our farmers and they claim to make better hay to-day than ever before.

While much has been done to facilitate the work of haying, harvesting has by no means been neglected. Fast cutting binders taking a swath of six or seven feet, these binders often being equipped with fore-carriages, make the farmer smile as he sees the sheaves tumble out and being brought into rows all ready for the stooker. In these days of morning and evening chores and an aggravated hired help problem, these labor saving machines are most welcome, and though costly, they soon prove to be indispensable.

OPERATES A COMPLETE LINE.

These things as outlined all apply to my own farm. We farm extensively and have a full line of the best and latest labor saving machines. Probably the first one that might be mentioned, since it is used first in the season, is the plow. On the ordinary farm, a two-furrowed plow is a financial necessity. It saves time and does more and often better work than is possible with any single plow. The 13 or 15-disc drill, speed-feed seeder is used and is speedy and accurate in sowing, and makes a better finish on every field sown than is possible with other styles of drills.

As for haying machinery, we find the long-cutting-bar mower cuts better and runs smoother over the fields and lasts longer than the shorter cutting-bar mowers. It is a great saver of valuable time, and it costs very little extra in the initial outlay. We find the reversible side delivery rake a very useful implement. With it we can go over the hay the next day after cutting in the morning, thereby tedding it, and with the same implement in a few hours gather it up in straight windrows for the hay loader. One man with a hay loader will load a ton of hay in less time than can two men without a loader. The loader also saves the time of coiling. By means of the loader and side delivery rake just as good hay can be made in half the time required by the old-fashioned way.

All this machinery must be housed when not in use else it deteriorates with great rapidity. Any progressive farmer once having invested his money in these up-to-date machines should not fail to make a further investment of a suitable shelter under which to house them. The machinery needs to be kept in first class repair if it would give good satisfaction.

*Mr. McLennan is one of the prize winning farmers in the Dairy Farms Competition of last year.