

Issued  
Each Week



# THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD



Only \$1.00  
a Year

AGRICULTURE, THE KEYSTONE OF CANADIAN PROSPERITY

Vol. XXVIII.

FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 15, 1908

No. 13

## The Silo a necessity for Dairy Farmers

N. C. Campbell, Brant Co., Ontario.

**D**AIRYMEN who have contrived to manage their stock without the convenience of a silo should give the building of one serious consideration before another season has passed. We who have had silos for several years would be seriously inconvenienced if we had to do without them. We could scarcely get through the winter without our accustomed supply of silage.

The prejudice against corn silage is soon broken down once a man commences to feed it. He comes to look upon it as something he could not do without. That the cows will not eat it, that it has an injurious effect upon their teeth and many other arguments against the use of silage soon prove to be fallacious. The feeder comes to favor it more and more as he becomes familiar with the beneficial results obtained from its use.

A silo need not be expensive. True, we might go to considerable expense in erecting a cement silo, and it possibly would pay to do so. But for the average farmer the simple wood stave silo erected upon a cement or stone foundation, is quite satisfactory. The cost need not exceed \$100, and it may be much less. On our own farm, we have a square silo erected some 15 years ago. In addition to this, we recently put up a cheap, round stave silo. The silage in this cheaper silo appears to be just as good as that in the more expensive one. The new silo has proven satisfactory in every way.

Silos are great labor savers. This is one of the great arguments in favor of them. Once you have the corn cut and in the silo, you have a most satisfactory feed ready for your cattle at all times. The filling of the silo is the great bugbear. However, in these days of the modern cutting box, they can be filled with dispatch, although it necessitates calling upon the help of one's neighbors, and later returning the labor.

Some of our foremost men claim that the average cow is not sufficiently fed. Without a doubt, better returns could be obtained from more generous feeding. I know of no one thing that is more conducive to a generous feeding policy than

to have a good supply of silage at one's disposal. Scientists tell us that even on the best of pasture, the average cow does not get as much feed as she can profitably consume. It has been my experience that cows coming off of good clover will eat silage if it is offered them.

For summer feeding, a silo is unequalled. The silage is near the stable and is ready for use at all times. Every dairyman should have a silo for summer feeding. It should be small in diameter in order that a good depth of silage will be removed daily, thus preventing waste from fermentation in the hot weather. Pasture, when upon good land, is one of the most expensive ways of feeding cattle and is the surest way of getting small returns from our fields. If we can urge our cows to increased production in the summer while they are at their best, through supplementing the pasture by silage, we will thereby greatly increase the returns from our farm.

## Seasonable Farm Hints

W. Simpson, Prince Edward Island.

Good cultivation is the foundation of all successful agriculture. Everything the farmer gets comes primarily from the soil. Without proper methods of cultivation and manuring we can neither succeed in grain growing, nor in live stock husbandry. The plant can only do its best when the soil is cultivated to a fine tilth. The difference between a vigorously growing plant and a stunted one, is the difference between profitable and unprofitable farming. Stirring the land in the spring before it is properly dried out will leave it lumpy and will result in a poor crop. Make haste slowly till the land is well dried out, is sound philosophy in farming.

Then in the matter of seed, the very best is always the cheapest. We must have strong, vigorous seed to ensure a good crop. Vitality in seed is of prime importance and from any

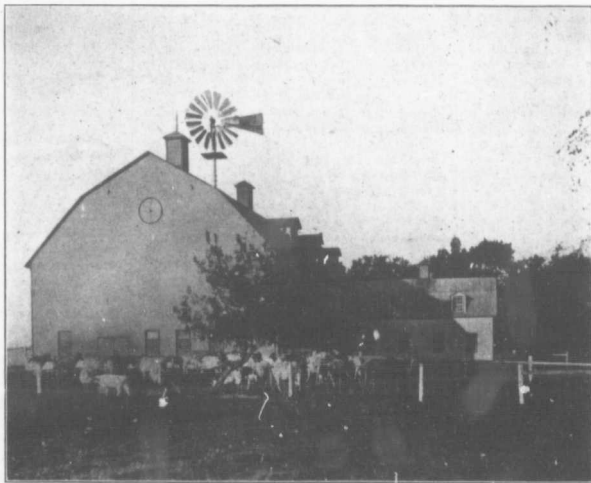
lack in this matter we will suffer serious loss. We cannot afford to have a lot of smut seeds in our grain. They take up room and waste fertility without any return. Treat the seed with formalin to kill the smut. It will pay well. Select the varieties of grain that have proved most productive in your locality.

Grow your own turnips and mangold seed from the best roots you can select from your crop, and the increase in your root crop will be a surprise in a few years.

In selecting potatoes for seed pay particular attention to type and you will soon have uniform tubers that will be in demand in the market. Constant cultivation of hoe crops will increase the yield and also the profit and spraying with Bordeaux and Paris green frequently will increase the profit from the potato crop.

Cut the hay before it gets too ripe if you would get most profit in feeding it to stock. If you are dairying, provide plenty cheap, succulent feed for your cattle to supplement the pastures all through the season. Oats and peas for the first of the summer and fodder corn for the later months fit in well. If all farmers were to do this the amount of milk per cow would be doubled and the profits from dairying greatly increased.

Test your dairy cows and retain only the best. Fewer cows and more milk would be a good "motto" for a great many dairymen this season.



THE BARN OF R. R. NESS, HOWICK, QUEBEC.

This barn is one of the most up-to-date dairy barns in Canada. Mr. Ness has travelled extensively on this continent and in the old country, and has embodied in this barn all the latest improvements. Mr. Ness won the gold medal recently offered by the Quebec Government for the best farm in his section.

Those who are engaged in dairying and at present have no silo, would do well to prepare for one this coming season. Those who already have one should build another smaller one for summer feeding. In either case, the investment will prove profitable.

We will need to take extra pains to have our milk clean from odors now. But we can do it by taking care to wipe the udders off clean, and by bedding the cows, and currying them every day.—Producer, York Co., Ont.