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## CURING RED CLOVER AND TIMOTHY HAY

WHEN questioned as to his one day system of curing hay, Mr. Glendinning of Manilla, Ont., who was in the office of The Dairyman and Farming World recently, said: "That failure to save good hay by this method could always be traced to some lack of judgment on the part of the farmer using this system and that the conditions for the successful curing of hay were not right, else a first class product was bound to result." Mr. Glendinning gave his system of curing red clover and timothy hay to be as follows:

"We commence to cut our hay early in the morning after all, or nearly all, the dew is off, which is usually about 9 o'clock. We always run two mowers, thereby getting enough cut by noon. We start the mowers about 20 minutes ahead of the tedder and as there is no oiling or any repairs needed on the tedder, it has caught up to the mowers by the time the hay is cut.

### CLOVER LEAVES MUST NOT BE EXPOSED

Although the mower is the best machine we have for cutting clover hay, it is not the ideal, for by it the leaves are left on top of the swarth. The leaves should carry the moisture out of the stems, and if they dry up and drop off, there are no organs left to take the moisture out. If the swarth from the mower could be reversed, it would then be in the best shape for curing. The tedder, however, tends to overcome the disadvantage of the mower swarth.

In the afternoon, we ted the hay again and then haul it to the barn. True, this cannot be done with all kinds of hay. Common sense and good judgment are needed in the cutting of hay, as conditions and different localities have a lot to do with the ultimate success of the work. It often happens that there are conditions where it is utterly impossible to save hay by this one day plan. Our hay, after it is put in the barn, never becomes brown. It is possible, though, that the same field, or half the field, could be cut a week later, treated in the same way, and yet the whole thing become spoiled. This could be caused by very heavy thunder showers which flatten the clover down. If the clover lies flat on the ground, mildew develops on the bottom. This mildew develops the same as would yeast, and if you take it to the barn in this condition you will assuredly have musty hay. By taking the hay before it goes that far, you obviate this difficulty. There may be conditions where, owing to excessive amounts of rain, the plants contain more moisture than the average. If such hay was cut and treated as above it would make silage instead of hay.

### IT MADE SILAGE INSTEAD OF HAY

I tried an experiment last year by cutting some alsike clover on June 13th. It was tedded thoroughly and brought in the same day. It was very soft indeed. One-half of it was brought to the barn and thrown on the floor. It made silage instead of hay. This clover silage was very black and appeared to be entirely spoiled, so I was going to throw it out. It was accordingly thrown outside the barn. When

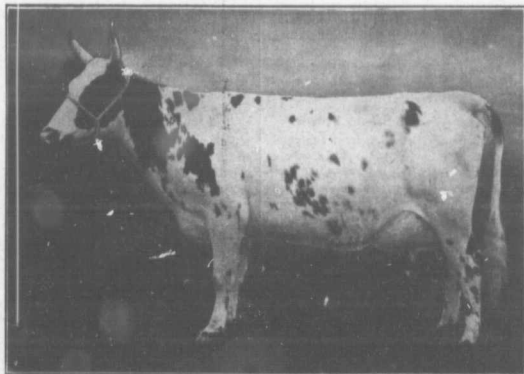
the cattle saw it, however, they came up and ate it as if they were starving.

### THERE MUST BE NO FOREIGN MOISTURE

If there is foreign moisture on your hay in the form of either dew or rain, you will have both heat and must. Twice we have had hay spoil. The first load to be spoiled was during the first year we treated our hay in this manner. We started to draw it to the barn early in the morning, when the dew was on it. I had taken it from the lower part of the field where the dew was heaviest. I had that load dropped on the front of the mow. When we took the hay out of

dew. We rake it into windrows and let it lie in this condition. The next morning we draw it in about 11 o'clock. We ted the windrows if the hay lies over night, in order to give any moisture that may form a chance to dry off. When the one day system fails, you can usually trace it to some cause, such as foreign moisture or taking in hay that has mildew on it when harvested.

It is not advisable to simply dump hay into the barn by means of a sling or fork. It should be evenly mowed and not left just where the fork drops it. By using a logging chain to attach the



AYRSHIRE TYPE AS SEEN IN SCOTLAND.

1st Prize Aged Cow and Reserve, Champion at the Ayr Show 1906.

the mow, we found it was all in perfect condition except this one load. It was very musty.

The first year we saved hay by the one-day process, I was away from home and left word with my son to keep a sharp look-out on this hay. We split long pickets and laid a single one in here and there in such a way that we could draw them out. One day a man in the mow found the picket was hot. He investigated and found it was due to a leak in the roof. He looked around further and found more spoiled hay, due to another leak. It had been raining hard for a week and it was this foreign moisture that was producing the heat. The essential thing in curing hay by this method is to use good judgment. There are conditions, and there are sections of the country, where it would be difficult to save hay by this process. The only advantage there is in the one-day system is that it does away with a lot of work and you obviate the difficulty of having the hay caught in the rain, or dew.

### LOCKING HAY TOO LABORIOUS

You can make just as good hay by putting it into cocks, but it entails more labor. When we cannot get all that is cut in on the one day, we never allow it to lie over night exposed to the

fork to the ear it is possible to swing the lift and place it almost where desired. This method of using the chain, of course, cannot be practised where there are high cross beams in the centre of the barn.

### Proper Time for Cutting Clover

Theoretically, the best time for cutting clover for hay is when the plants are in full bloom, says Prof. Henry. If cut before bloom, the amount of water in the crop is so excessive that the process of haymaking is slow and unsatisfactory. If delayed until the blossom heads are all brown, the conversion into hay is much simplified, for the plants have then parted with much of the water they carry while developing, and are consequently easily dried. But such hay has lost much of its valuable protein and carbohydrates. Practice and theory then, combine in setting the period when one third of the clover heads are turning brown, as the best, all factors considered, for haymaking.

Haymaking from clover has fallen into three lines, each of which has its advantages according to locality and weather conditions. Under the first system, the clover is mown as soon as the dew is off and by frequent teddings and