

Soaking Corn for Cattle.

We recently received an inquiry from one of our Nebraska readers asking if there had ever been a test made of the results of soaking corn in cold water for feeding to cattle, particularly as to how long corn can soak without losing any of its fattening properties. The inquiry was submitted to Prof. W. A. Henry, the well-known authority upon feeds and feeding, who makes the following reply:

Relative to the merits of feeding soaked and dried corn, an experiment by Georgeson reported in bulletin 47 of the Kansas Experiment Station, is in point. One lot of five steers were fed dried shelled corn and another lot of the same number received shelled corn soaked until the grains had begun to soften. Shots were placed with the steers to work over the droppings and gain what they could from them. Georgeson summarizes the results in the following words:

a. "The five steers fed on soaked shelled corn gained a total of 1,632 lbs. in 150 days on 282 bushels of corn, while the five steers fed on dry corn gained a total of only 1,468 lbs. on 290 bushels of corn.

b. "The steers fed on soaked corn, owing to their better condition, brought a higher price in the market than the steers fed on dry corn. Balancing both cost of feed and market value of the two lots, there is a difference of \$25.50 in favor of soaking the corn.

c. "The hogs following the steers fed soaked corn made a total gain of 635 pounds, while the hogs following the dry corn steers made a total gain of 747 pounds. This makes a difference of 112 pounds gain in favor of the dry corn, and the market value showed a difference of \$5.58 in favor of the hogs following the dry corn steers.

d. "Based on the foregoing figures, it will pay to soak corn if it can be done for 6 cts., or less a bushel."

In experimenting with the amount of water required for soaking, Georgeson found that a bag containing 100 pounds of air-dried corn immersed in water for a moment, and then removed and allowed to drain thoroughly, weighed 106 1/4 pounds, that is, in this short time the corn had taken up over 6 pounds of water. When soaked 12 hours, 100 pounds would take up 21 pounds of water, and when soaked 24 hours it would take up 29 pounds. This shows that corn takes up most of the water it will absorb during the first 12 hours.

As to the query how long the corn can be soaked and not lose its fattening qualities, no direct statement can be made, for I know of no experiments or tests in this direction. Some of the substance of the corn grain passes out into the water, and so is lost in feeding. How much substance thus passes out, and what it consists of, has never been reported by our investigators, so far as the writer is aware.

W. A. HENRY.

Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station.

NOTE.—The above correspondence by Professor Henry in one of our American exchanges throws some light on a feeding problem which our cattle feeders would do well to note.—EDITOR.

Mr. Wm. Rennie

A Short Sketch of His Life and Work

This week an important change takes place in connection with the Agricultural Department of the Ontario Agricultural College. Mr. Wm. Rennie, who for the past six years has so ably filled the position of farm superintendent, tendered his resignation some weeks ago to take effect on October 1st. Prof. Day, agriculturist, a short sketch of whom appears in another column, will henceforth have charge of the farm department in conjunction with his other duties.

Mr. Rennie is one of the best known farmers in Ontario.

Before receiving the appointment of farm superintendent at the college in 1893, he had more than a provincial reputation as one of Canada's most successful farmers. He was born in a log cabin in Scarboro township, York county, in 1835, his parents having come to this country from near Edinburgh, Scotland, three years previous. Mr. Rennie received his early education in the Public Schools of those early days, when the rod played almost as important a part in a boy's bringing up as the book. In his twenty-fifth year he began farming on his own account in the township of Markham. In 1870 Mr. Rennie engaged in the implement and seed business in Toronto, which business is still being successfully conducted under his name by his three sons. Though launching out in an enterprise requiring so much of his time and attention, Mr. Rennie did not give up or in any way neglect his farming operations, which were continued with marked success until ten years ago. His farm was more than once selected as one of the prize farms of Ontario, which is a striking proof of his skill as a farmer.

Unlike many who undertake large things, Mr. Rennie has been eminently successful in every enterprise he has engaged in. While engaged in farming he made a number



of valuable importations of Clydesdale horses, and at the time of his retirement in 1889 twenty-one of these horses, including male and female, old and young, were sold at public auction, realizing the large sum of sixteen thousand dollars, or an average of nearly \$762 each.

Mr. Rennie's splendid work at the Ontario Agricultural College is too well known to need anything more than a passing notice just here. Under his management the college farm has been brought up to a high state of cultivation and productiveness, in which it has been clearly demonstrated that truly scientific farming is synonymous with successful farming. One of Mr. Rennie's specialties has been shallow cultivation, and in his crop rotations he has reverted back to nature as often as possible; that is, seeding to grass every few years.

In closing this brief sketch we cannot do better than quote Dr. Mills' testimony to Mr. Rennie's worth given at a gathering held recently at the College, when a farewell address was presented to him:

"As I have often stated before, I now repeat, that Mr. Wm. Rennie is one of the best tillers of the soil on the continent. I have met with a great many representative