

Harvesting the Corn Crop.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We aim to begin cutting corn for silage just as soon as the grain begins to show the glazing state, or when it is rather hard for boiling purposes. We always sow two or three sorts together, so that one will ripen earlier than the other. In this way, we are usually able to begin before the frost comes, but would rather take chances of frost than of ensiling immature stuff. In case of frost, we do not add any water, but we aim at packing the corn much firmer.

We usually cut a block of two or three acres, the outside rows of the block being cut with a sickle, and the balance with a corn-binder. By the use of the binder the men can handle about one quarter more corn per day, and the cutting-box will cut fully one-quarter to one-third more when tied in sheaves than when loose. The corn binder is started one day ahead, so as to keep well out of the way of the loaders. Three horses, with binder, can cut from four to six acres per day, depending on how the corn is standing. It usually takes three teams, with four wagons, four men loading, two men unloading, one feeding the cutting-box, and two in the silo tramping, leveling, etc., besides the engineer. The corn racks, hung below the axle of the ordinary wagon, will be found most convenient, or the ordinary hay rack with very low truck wheels, can be used.

We use the largest size Blizzard blower, driven by a 20-horse-power steam engine—our own outfit. A fair day's work is from eighty to ninety tons. I have cut one hundred and four tons, actually, in less than ten hours.

In the silo, I usually place a board or plank in such a way that it scatters the cut corn fairly even, and, besides, the men use large forks. I am now making a new device, similar to the end of the blower on the threshing machines, one that can be turned in any direction with ropes. Cornstalks, grain and leaves should be evenly distributed and thoroughly tramped, especially around the outside.

We hire extra help for this heavy work of silo-filling. There is no comparison between putting corn in the silo and the old plan of cutting with the sickle and shocking. Any farmer who can grow corn, and works fifty acres of land, will find corn one of the best-paying crops on the farm.

I append statement showing yield and cost of growing 30 acres of corn in 1908:

Rent of 30 acres, at \$3.00 per acre.....	\$ 90.00
Manure $\frac{1}{4}$ of rotation, at \$5.00 per acre.....	150.00
Plowing, at \$2.00 per acre	60.00
Harrowing four times, at \$3.00 per day, seven days.....	21.00
Seed, 15 bush., at \$1.15 per bushel	21.75
Sowing, 3 days, at \$3.00 per day	9.00
Cultivating four times, 6 acres per day 20 days	60.00
Thinning and hoeing, 40 days, at \$1.50 per day	60.00
Cutting, team 7 days, at \$3.00 per day.....	21.00
Drawing, 7 days, 1 team 28 days, at \$3.00 per day	84.00
Men loading and unloading, cutting, tramp- ing, 96 days, \$1.50 per day.....	144.00
Use of engine and machinery, 7 days, at \$7.00 per day	49.00
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	\$769.75

Profit in growing from 30 acres.....\$ 132.05
Average yield, 16 tons 48 lbs. per acre.
Macdonald College, Que. JOHN FIXTER.

Selecting and Keeping Seed Corn.

H. & J. McKEE

After-harvest Tillage.

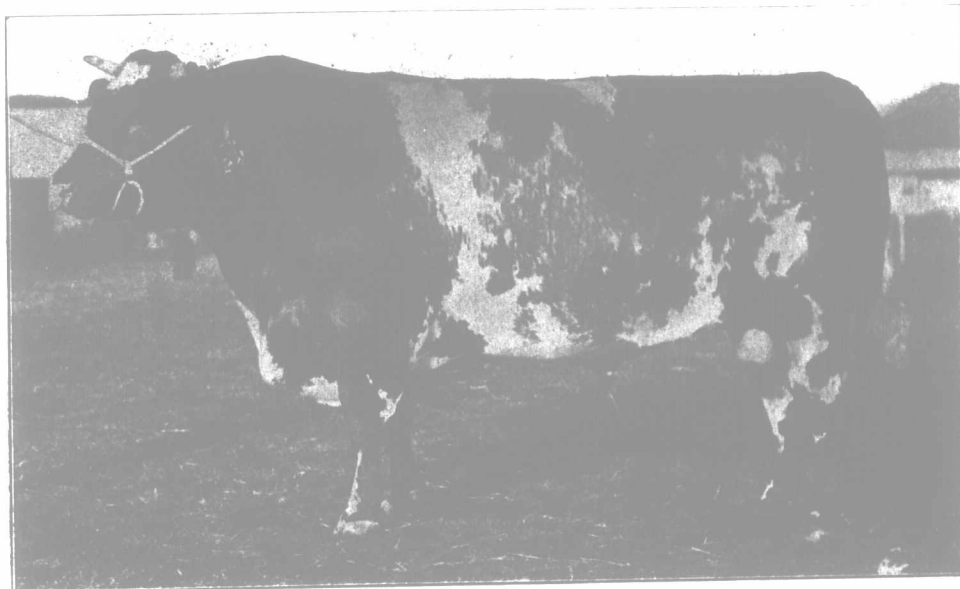
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

No one rule or method can be universally and successfully applied to all portions of our land in after harvest tillage of the unseeded stubble fields. Conditions vary, and the fields may be cultivated with different objects in view. With some it is weed eradication; with others it is with a view to conserve soil moisture; again, with others it is soil pulverization, and, therefore, fertilization. If the object is to eradicate weeds, shallow surface cultivation with the disk harrow, finishing with the smoothing harrow, meets the conditions admirably. This covers any weed seeds lying on the surface, or, perchance, that may be within an inch or two of the surface, giving them opportunity to germinate with the first shower. At this season, these seeds, fresh and full of vitality, germinate rapidly, hence, by the end of September, most of them have sprung to life, and they may be turned under at the convenience of the husbandman. Their mission in life has been nipped in the bud; instead, they are made to return to the soil a part of the fertility drawn from it to give them life.

This disking and harrowing the soil has also the effect of conserving the soil moisture, and may be successfully pursued on lighter soils with this object in view. On these lighter soils the roller comes into good use for compacting the soil, and firming it for a later plowing. This later plowing should be at least three inches deeper than the disking, depth according to the subsoil.

The disk harrow does effectual work on all soils but heavy clay and coarse gravel. It should be used across the furrow at least twice, then longitudinally once or twice, finishing across with the smoothing harrow.

In hard clays and coarse gravel, the single-furrow, or, better still, the two-furrow, plow, is more



Excelsior.

Champion Shorthorn, Highland Show, 1909. Exhibited by Geo. Campbell, Hart-
hill, Keig, Aberdeenshire.

effectual, cutting a wide, shallow furrow not more than three inches deep. This should be followed by the disk and smoothing harrows. The object here must be to conserve moisture and, with the clay soils, to pulverize and break down the soil for the succeeding crop, whether it be a hoed crop or grain. This should be again plowed later in the fall two or three inches deeper than the first plowing, again cutting the furrow across the early plowing, which should be across the first plowing. The land should be well ridged up, giving every opportunity for drainage and for the frost to get in and do its work of breaking down and mellowing the soil. In the spring following, soil treated in such a manner is usually like an onion bed; thus, plant food had been made soluble for the young plant rootlets. I find that soil thus treated always responds bountifully. The two systems outlined will repay the extra labor involved in keeping the soil clean and free from weeds, and in conserving soil fertility, thus preventing soils from becoming hard and solid after harvest. Again, by putting the soil in this favorable condition, more fertility will be unlocked for the young plants by the breaking-down process peculiar to soil cultivation.

W. F. STEPHEN

Does Not Fear Frost.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I give you my experience and method of filling silo, an experience which has extended over a period of fifteen years. I never hurry the cutting of the corn into silo for fear of frost. The freezing of corn until the leaves become white does not seem to affect the silage in the least. In fact, I have had it frozen hard before cutting, and found no evil results from it. We get the best silage from corn that reaches that stage when the corn becomes hard on the cob, but not ripe. I never have added water when cutting into silo.

Our method of cutting in the field is with the corn binder, generally cutting it the day previous to putting it into silo. About five or six acres is a good day's cutting with the binder. For filling silo, we generally have from four to five teams, the number depending on the distance to haul. Four teams are quite sufficient to haul from any point on a hundred-acre farm.

Low-down trucks, on which are placed the bottom sills of a hay rack, the sides being removed, is the kind of rig for easy loading in the field most common here.

For cutting into silo, an ordinary straw-cutting-box is used, and a twelve or fourteen horsepower engine will give sufficient power to blow to top of silo. We always hire engine and cutting-box, most of the threshers having an outfit that will fill any ordinary silo in a day.

The number of men required for the work is about eight besides the men driving the teams, four in the field to load, one at the box to help the man driving the team to unload, and three in the silo to tramp and distribute.

A very important point in filling a silo is to have it evenly mixed, not allowing too many leaves to accumulate in any one place. Help is secured by four or five farmers joining together and changing work.

The cost of putting a given acreage into silo may vary, according to conditions and locality. In this locality, where there is a silo upon almost every farm, and where the labor is all exchanged, the only cash outlay is for cutting corn in field, and the cutting of it into the silo. The charge for cutting in the field is one dollar per acre, the owner of corn finding horses to put on binder and the twine, but in this locality a great many of the farmers own their own binder, four or five joining together to purchase one. The cost of filling a silo is about ten dollars, or one dollar

per hour; and so, by placing what value you choose upon the other labor, you have the cost of filling an ordinary silo. As to cost, compared with old method of cutting and husking, I cannot give any estimate, having had no experience.

Peel Co., Ont.

JOHN H. WATSON.

Would Not Go Back to Husking.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I will give my little experience on silo-filling, and hope that you may get something out of it. The stage at which we aim to cut corn is when the grain is nearly all glazed. We don't hurry the filling if frost threatens, as we would rather have it frosted than put in too green; and if it is frosted, we use a little water, just enough to make it tramp down solidly. The way we put the water on is to fasten a pulley and rope to the side of the silo, and haul it up in a bucket.

We generally cut corn the day before we begin to fill. We think it better to have it wilted, as it packs more solidly in the silo. We cut with the corn binder, because it is so much faster, and the crop is so much more easily handled.

I think we can haul and store in silo about five acres per day, but it depends on the weight of the crop. The number of teams needed for hauling depends on the distance crop has to be hauled. We use three teams, and three men to drive them, and two men in the field to help load. We use a low truck wagon, with long reach, and rack fifteen feet long, built on the bolsters, and we like it the best of any corn wagon we have seen yet. Our cutting box has carriers, and is driven by a six horse-power gasoline engine. We