

Shrinkage in Grain by Storage.

There has been much said and written on the shrinkage of grain from the gathering, threshing and cribbing of the same, if their sale was delayed six or eight months.

I read an article in the Ohio Valley Farmer, published in Cincinnati forty odd years ago (1855), edited by B. F. Sanford, as follows:

"Wheat from the time it is threshed in Aug 1st will shrink two quarts to the bushel, six per cent. in six months, under the most favorable conditions, hence it follows that ninety-four cents when threshed is as good as one dollar a bushel in six months after stored; and corn would shrink in weight from 10 to 20 per cent, and 100 bushels as it comes from the field in November by the first of April will not weigh over 80 bushels, so that 40c per bushel as it comes from the field is better than 50c in March—and other grain shrinks in the same ratio."

The above article on the shrinkage of grain by storage was published last winter in the Cincinnati Enquirer, and also in our Butler county papers, and not one word changed from what I read in the Ohio Valley Farmer, forty odd years ago, showing conclusively that the author of said article was totally ignorant as to the loss of grain by shrinkage in weight. I have no doubt he was honestly mistaken.

There are certain principles underlying every branch of agriculture which if thoroughly understood would solve many of those vexed questions. Years ago when our education was very limited we had some very singular ideas, or rather curious notions and traditions that had been handed down to us by our forefathers. I well remember my mother saying that to make good soap it must be stirred with a sassafras stick, and if hogs were killed when the moon was on the decrease the meat when cooked would shrink in bulk, and if they were killed when the moon was on the increase the meat would increase in size, when cooked, and if the husks of corn were thick we would have a cold winter. If this be true look for a cold winter for 1896.

I claim that all articles written on agricultural subjects to be of any value to the tillers of the soil should be itemized statements showing whether the loss has been by shrinkage in weight, or by wastage, and has been ascertained by repeated and tested experiments by weighing, stating when weighed and when reweighed, and condition of the grain when weighed, and by several different trials, so they would know they were correct.

For the past ten years I have been making experiments to learn the facts as to the exact amount of shrinkage in weight of the different kinds of grain from the time of threshing and also gathering of corn up to the first Monday in April, the day that all farm products are subject to be placed on the tax duplicate, with the following results:

I threshed my wheat crop of 1893 July 28, it was in good condition, and I fill three sacks, their weight was 405 pounds. They were placed in the wheat bin where nothing could disturb them, and I reweighed them March 21, 1894, making about eight months, and they had not lost a single pound, but gave stronger weight than when first weighed.

On the first day of August, 1891, I weighed ten sacks of oats as they came from the threshing machine, and they weighed 1272 pounds, and each sack was weighed separately, and weights of each marked on a card and sewed on the sacks, so that there could be no mistake; they were reweighed January 1, 1895, and the ten sacks weighed 1310 pounds, a gain in weight of 44 pounds, making a gain of 3 1/2 per cent. The season 1891, being a season of long continued drought, there had been no rain from June 26 up to Sept. 10, except a few light showers. Perhaps in years of abundance of rain during their ripening and up to

threshing they would not make such a gain in weight.

It is a well known fact that when threshed in good condition and then reweighed in twelve months afterwards clover seed gains in weight one per cent. The same is true of flaxseed, also rye and barley. Potatoes do not begin to lose in weight until they begin to sprout, when the loss is rapid. The same of apples, they lose in bulk and weight if not kept in cold storage.

Last fall, 1895, I filled a large burlap sack of ear corn the day it was husked, Oct. 25, and it weighed 103 1/2 pounds, a card was tacked on the sack stating date and weight, and on July 1 was reweighed, and weighed 150 pounds, showing only a loss of 3 1/2 pounds; but last fall was a remarkably dry fall, and corn was fully matured and well dried out at time of gathering. Falls when we have a large amount of wet weather and the corn not thoroughly dry and matured it will shrink from 5 to 6 per cent. Such have been the results of my experiments. It does not shrink 10 to 20 per cent, as some farmers claim it does.—Joseph Allen in The Cincinnati Price Current.

Fur Trade News

The London, England, correspondent of New York Fur Trade Review, writes as follows on September 12. "No marked change has been noted since my previous report: until within the past few days since which time much activity has prevailed, manufacturers becoming quite busy, as the result American sable has been inquired for to an increased extent, being a leading fur. Mouflon remains in steady demand, and some grades of Mongolian skins have changed hands at cheap rates, but the supply is rather large. Mongolian crosses have been sold at former prices; the first shipments of the new season's Thibet skins have arrived, and some lots have been sold at 9 shillings 6 pence, but the market cannot be called active; stocks of dyed skins are rather large. In goat rugs grays are offering at 3 shilling 5 pence if without finding buyers; sheep rugs are steady but quiet, with small sales on y of long wool at about 3 shillings 10 pence. Australian opossum continues in demand, and higher prices are looked for with a reduced supply. Mached French rabbits are steadily advancing in price, and some large contracts have been made; the trade in capes to imitate seal is general and brisk. A parcel of 1,618 Archangel, furriers, white coats, has been disposed of at 5 shillings; no movement is apparent, however, in Newfoundland or Greenland hair seal. Dyed fur seals are asked for, but very few sales of importance have taken place thus far. Dyed kolinski is moderately used, and there is an improved demand for dyed Persian lamb.

C. M. Lamson & Co.'s sale of American furs takes place on October 11th, 15th and 16th. In the minor sales Culverwell, Books & Co. will offer 50,000 African monkey, 3,000 chinchilla, and 2,000 Turkish grebe skins and 500 Thibet crosses. Dyster, Sadler & Co. will offer at auction October 13, 20,000 Australian opossum, 1,500 wombat, 1,200 wallaby, 500 kangaroo, 5,000 China mouflon and 101 Turkish angora. Fleck, Chandler & Co., will offer 12,000 African monkey, 10,000 Australian opossum, 7,000 wallaby, 12,000 chinchilla, 50 polar bear, 50 fur seal and 20 leopard and tiger skins.

Anning & Cobb will sell in London, on October 12 50,000 Australian opossum and 5,000 Australian bear skins. A. & W. Nesbitt will offer on October 13, 100 African monkeys, 2,000 Australian opossum, 2,000 wombat, 5,000 Chinese otter, 1,000 sable, 3,000 Japan fox, 50,000 Japan mink, 10,000 Mongolian lamb and small quantities of leopard, tiger, polar bear and other skins, and 2,000 kid crosses.

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