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## Feeding Alfalfa to Hogs

Prof. G. E. Day, O.A.C., Guelph

Green alfalfa is a product of fairly uniform composition, and for a green crop is characterized by a very high percentage of protein, being considerably richer in protein than red clover. Owing to its rapid growth and the frequent cuttings which may be made during the season, coupled with its high feeding value, it is perhaps the most valuable crop that we have for soiling purposes. A small plot of alfalfa situated near the stable furnishes a remarkably large quantity of valuable feed for anything which may be stabled during the summer, more especially cattle or hogs. Green alfalfa should be fed very sparingly to horses, as there is a danger of causing colic. A small amount, however, is beneficial in giving a variety to the ration of the horse.

We have also fed green alfalfa to hogs and obtained very encouraging results. Alfalfa is not suitable for constituting a large proportion of the ration of very young pigs, though a small amount may be fed to good advantage to pigs of any age. If the time pigs are three months old, they can be made to depend to a considerable extent upon alfalfa, and the meal ration can be reduced as they grow older.

In our work, the pigs were fed green alfalfa in their pens and they ate only slightly more than a pound of green alfalfa each a day. Their meal ration consisted of a mixture of ground barley and wheat middlings. In this test, 4.3 pounds of green alfalfa proved equivalent to one pound of meal, which is a higher value, pound for pound, than that obtained for skim-milk. It must be remembered, however, that alfalfa cannot be made to substitute more than a limited amount of the meal ration of a hog, and consequently is not of the same relative importance as in the case of dairy cattle.

Our results with hogs were not equal to those obtained by the Kansas Experiment Station, where they have found in one case 170 pounds of green alfalfa were equal in feeding value to 100 pounds of corn. This result, however, may be regarded as an extremely favorable one, and indicates the possibility of materially reducing the bill for meal, even in the case of hog feeding, though, as stated before, it is suitable for substituting only a comparatively small amount of meal.

Alfalfa hay has also been successfully used in hog feeding, but only with comparatively matured hogs. For hog feeding, however, only the finest quality of hay is suitable, the second and third

cuttings being best for this purpose. For winter breeding sows cheaply, alfalfa hay may be made to play an important part either fed dry or put through a cutting box, steeped in water, and mixed with their meal ration.

## Home-grown Mangle Seed

"We are trying an experiment this year that we believe is going to be worth a lot of money to us," remarked Mr. Frank Twiss, of Halton Co., Ont., recently, to an editor of Farm and Dairy who was visiting his farm. "Mangle seed, as you know, has not been satisfactory for several years now; that is, the kind of seed you buy. We are going to grow our own."

"Where did you get the idea?"

"One of my neighbors, Mr. G. Gastle, planted 19 mangles one spring, and from those 19 mangles he got two bags of seed. I set out 20 mangles this spring, and 17 are still growing. Come and see them." We sauntered to the back of the farm.

Mr. Twiss had planted his mangles at the beginning of the first row in his root field. Their cultivation, therefore, represented no extra labor. "This is not my first experiment," continued Mr. Twiss, after we had viewed the seed plot. "Last year I set out three mangles and had seed enough for half of my root field this year. The rest of it I had to buy."

One could tell to a row where home-grown and bought seed had been used. The stand where Mr. Twiss' own seed had been sown was fine and vigorous, hardly a miss anywhere. The store seed had not come up evenly at all, and misses were frequent. Here is where Mr. Twiss expects to make his money out of home-grown mangle seed, not the saving in the actual cost of the seed, but in more uniform and larger crops of mangles.

"It is no trouble to grow it," said he. "It is as easy to grow as our own seed oats. I just wait until the seed is dry and then it can be pulled off in handfuls. A farmer is foolish who does not grow his seed. These 17 mangles will yield far more seed than I will require."

It is important to bear in mind that the immediate object of cow testing is to ascertain the performance of the individual cow. The benefit of the work to the average dairyman lies not in the information obtained regarding all his cows taken as one herd, but in the careful investigation of the merits of each cow composing that herd taken separately and individually.—C. F. Whitley, Dairy Record Centre, Ottawa, Ont.

## Rainy Day Jobs

Jas. McNeil, Glangarry Co., Ont.

One of my friends and neighbors was in trouble recently. He had arranged with all of us in the near vicinity to come and help him at silo filling. We all arrived bright and early in the morning with our teams and right ready to do a good day's work as we too had lots of work at home waiting for our attention. We expected to find half a day's cutting already done in the corn field. What we did find was the proprietor tinkering away at the corn binder and not a stalk out.

"I meant to fix this up some rainy day," he remarked, "but I never got it done, and I am afraid we will get a poor start on the silo this forenoon."

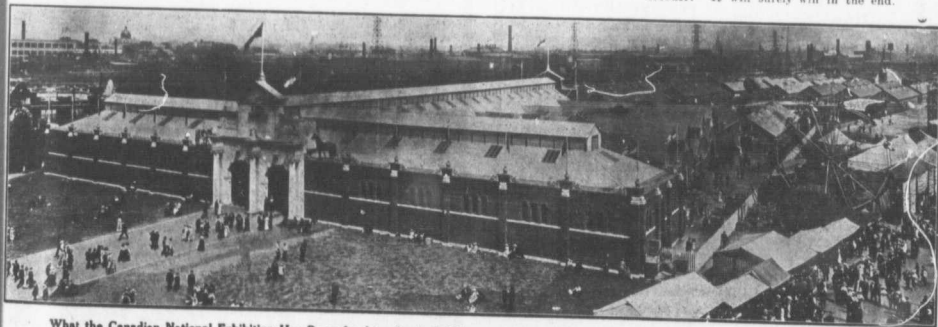
It was a poor start. Some eight men and four teams lost a couple of valuable hours while the finishing touches were being put on repairs and a start made on the cutting.

This is not the first instance of this kind that I have come across in my farming experience. I suppose that the farmer is the exception who is not held up several times during the year by finding that some rainy day repairs have not been made. They explain that work accumulates to such an extent that some few jobs have to be slighted. I do not consider it necessary, however, that the job slighted should be the one needed next and the one that is apt to cause delay.

I have a little plan myself that works to perfection. I have a combined implement shed and workshop. Right above the work bench I tack a large piece of cardboard, beside which a pencil is suspended on a string. Every little rainy day job that comes along I make a brief note of it on the cardboard. When the rainy day does arrive I take a glance over the list and know exactly the job that should be done forthwith. Following this system I have not been delayed for years through neglected tinkering. Rainy days have been sufficient for all rainy day work.

I regard lack of system as the greatest cause of neglected tinkering. Another cause is that most of us prefer to loaf on rainy days. When we do work we go about things easily, and at the end of the day have about one-quarter as much done as if we had worked consistently as we do on other days. I believe in making the rainy days profitable, and this can only be done by consistent, well planned work.

Utility should be the watchword of every breeder. It will surely win in the end.



What the Canadian National Exhibition Has Done for Live Stock Exhibitors—A View of the New Arcade and Cattle Sheds Erected This Year

Live stock exhibitors, whose interests seem to have received so little attention from the management of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, are now warm in their praise of the new buildings erected this year for the accommodation of their stock. The management of the Canadian National have now awakened to the necessity of giving fair treatment to the live stock end of their fair, and their new interest is duly appreciated.