

According to the analysis white sweet clover is very similar to alfalfa in composition, and, when stock have become accustomed to eating it, will probably give nearly as good results if well cured and not too coarse.

Corn Fodder and Stover.—Corn fodder of good quality cut and cured with the ears remaining on the stalks makes a fodder approaching very closely in value to timothy hay. If not well handled there is danger that the fodder may contain a very high percentage of water and have its value reduced considerably. Both corn fodder and stover are very variable in composition, depending upon conditions under which they are kept.

Corn stover is simply corn stalks after the ears have been removed, and it will be noted that its value is considerably less than that of corn fodder.

Timothy Hay.—Compared with clover and alfalfa, timothy hay is low in protein and fairly high in fibre. It is true it is somewhat higher in nitrogen-free extract, but its low protein content is the serious disadvantage. Most farmers prefer timothy hay for horses, and it is probably safer than most other kinds of hay for this purpose. It is usually more free from dust than most other hay and if horses are allowed very liberal rations of hay it does not seem so liable to cause injury. For cattle it is not so satisfactory, and when fed to cattle a more liberal meal ration must be given, and meal containing a larger percentage of protein than when alfalfa or clover hay is fed. For sheep it is entirely unsatisfactory and should not be used for this purpose, either clover or alfalfa being exceptionally well suited for sheep feeding.

The other kinds of hay mentioned in the table are all similar in composition though they are slightly higher in protein than timothy hay.

STRAW AND CHAFF.

The noticeable feature of the composition of straw is the extremely high percentage of fibre. As a result, when we feed animals largely upon straw they have to handle a very large amount of what may be called inert or comparatively useless material. While this is true, it is also true that straw may be used as part of the bulky ration to good advantage when other bulky fodders are scarce or very high in price. Idle horses may be carried through the winter upon straw as their bulky fodder with a light allowance of grain, and cattle or sheep may be made to utilize a considerable amount of straw. It must be remembered that if straw is used in the ration of dairy cows or fattening cattle, it will be necessary to feed a good deal more meal than when hay is fed, so that sometimes what we may gain in saving hay may be more than lost through the extra amount of concentrates used. For store cattle or dry cows straw can be used to much better advantage than for cows which are milking or cattle which are being fattened.

Of the different kinds of straw mentioned in the table it will be noticed that buckwheat supplies the most protein, but it is so extremely high in fibre that it is seldom regarded as a satisfactory feed for stock except in extreme cases. Everything considered, oat straw is the most satisfactory for all classes of stock.

The table shows barley straw to be practically equal to oat straw so far as composition is concerned, but barley straw is not so palatable as oat straw and the awns or beards of the barley render it objectionable.