

# FARM AND DAIRY



## & RURAL HOME

*We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas*  
 Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

*The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada.*

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## How the Silo Solves the Feeding Problem

ENSILAGE has been fed for 30 years on at least a few Canadian farms. The men who have fed it longest are the men who like it best. And yet to a great many farmers the feeding of ensilage is a process surrounded by much mystery. To such men that old saying "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" aptly applies. The best horse may get into the open oat bin with a foundered animal the result. But oats are still regarded as a safe feed. The best cow may find a sack of cotton seed meal overturned and eat enough to almost kill her, and nothing is thought of it. But let there be an inkling of trouble from the feeding of ensilage and up go the hands of those little-informed men in holy horror, and the incident is cited again and again as proof of their contentions that "ensilage isn't safe."

This superstition regarding the feeding of ensilage takes many forms. Not so long ago a dairy farmer informed me that if a man fed ensilage "the cows wouldn't have any teeth left in three years." It is not so very long either since another man informed me that "a bite of ensilage will kill a brood mare." I believe it is fairly well authenticated that some six fine horses were killed near Ingersoll, Ont., as a result of feeding them ensilage, and this incident has been mentioned to me again and again by men who are afraid of silo corn.

### ITS PLACE FOR HORSES

The most enthusiastic advocate of ensilage feeding will admit that it cannot be fed safely in large quantities to horses. Ensilage is a bulky feed, whereas the horse has a small stomach and cannot be expected to thrive on ensilage. Where used in reason, however, there is no danger. The veterinarian who examined the six horses killed near Ingersoll informs me that there it was a case not so much of feeding too much ensilage as of feeding rotten ensilage, which, of course, is not advisable in any case. In my own experience I have fed herds of dairy cattle, numbering all the way from 10 head to 170 head: have always fed ensilage when available and have never yet noticed any bad effects. My experience has led me to believe that ensilage is one of the best roughages available for dairy cattle, and I consider it by all

F. E. ELLIS, B. S. A., EDITOR FARM AND DAIRY means the cheapest roughage for dairy cattle. Let me enumerate some of its advantages.

The time when the advantages of silo corn most appeal to one is when he wakes up of a cold winter morning and finds the temperature away below zero and a regular blizzard raging outside. Doesn't it give one a sense of satisfaction to know that he no longer has to wend his uncomfortable way to the field to dig the corn stalks out of the snow and then chop them free from ice before the cattle can be fed? How much easier and more comfortable it is to climb into the silo and throw out in a few moments all the ensilage needed for that feeding and never go out in the cold at all. There it is right on hand, luscious and palatable. It's even ahead of pulp-ming roots by machinery.

Ensilage is one of the most widely used feeds

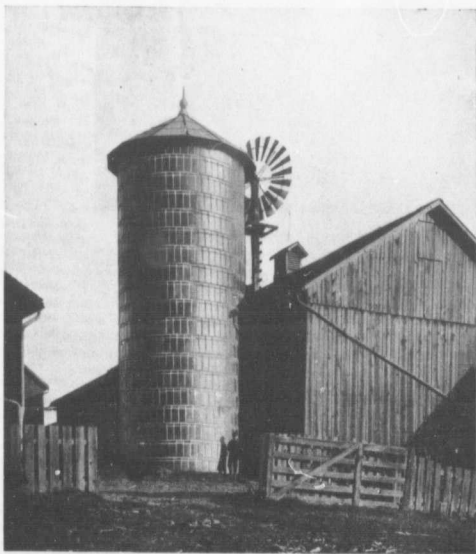
on the farm. It is hardly necessary to more than mention its value for either dairy or beef cattle. Fed to calves in judicious quantities, it develops their capacity, the capacity that is necessary to profitable production later on. To sheep and horses it may be fed in small quantities with perfect safety and good results.

A friend of mine, an Oxford county farmer, feeds ensilage to his hogs. His plan is somewhat as follows: A large room in the basement, with cement floors, is divided into two compartments. As feeding time approaches, the hogs are driven into one compartment and the floor of the second compartment is scooped off clean. Ensilage is then thrown on to the floor and mixed with meal, and the hogs allowed out to feed themselves. My friend told me that this method of feeding involves a minimum of expense and a maximum of profit. He values ensilage quite as much for his hogs as for his pure bred Holstein cattle.

The position of ensilage in the dairy cow's ration is no longer a disputed one among intelligent dairymen. When the balanced ration was first being boomed, even college experts seemed to be carried away with the idea that all that was necessary to a good ration was to have the fat and carbohydrates in the right proportion to the protein. Now college men and practical dairymen alike are reasoning that palatability of the ration is of equal importance with the right nutritive qualities, or even more important. You may feed a cow the finest balanced ration in the world, but if she does not find it palatable she will not eat it, and will not give the returns at the pail.

This is one of the great advantages of ensilage—its succulence makes it palatable, and hence pleasant to the cow. The value that was placed on succulence once led dairymen to cut ensilage too much on the green side. The water content of such ensilage was too high, the feeding results were below par, and this explains why many farmers throughout the country got nothing but dissatisfaction from their first experiments with the silo. The plan that is preferable is to allow the ensilage to mature as much as possible, even up to the glazing stage, then

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**A Recently Erected Silo that is Giving Splendid Satisfaction**

This Natco glazed tile silo was erected last year by Mr. Chris Hamilton, Copetown, Ont., at a cost of \$250. The silo is 20 feet below the ground, bringing the bottom on a level with the floor of the basement stable, the foundations being all stone. The upper portion of the silo is all glazed tile. "The silage," writes Mr. Hamilton, "has come out in grand shape and the cow will eat it before anything else."