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# Why Every Farmer Should Have a Silo

The Many-sided Argument of a Nova Scotia Farmer

Fred. A. Read, Bear River, Annapolis Co., Nova Scotia

THE value of a crop preserved by a silo is increased about forty per cent. over that of a crop harvested in the usual way.

Less room is required for the storage in a silo of the product of an acre of land than in cured condition in a barn.

A much larger amount of digestible food can be secured from an acre of silage corn than from an acre of hay.

A silo furnishes a feed of uniform quality.

The influence of well preserved silage on the digestion and general health of an animal is very beneficial.

The silo enables us to preserve a larger quantity of the food materials and of the original fodder for feeding animals than is possible by any other system of preservation now known.

Successful feed is nature's food. Since smaller barns may be built when silage is fed, there is less danger of fire, thus decreasing the cost of insurance.

Inclemency of weather does not hinder its harvesting. Silage enables us to keep more stock thereby increasing the fertility of the farm which will in time give us larger crops and affords a chance for another increase in stock.

Ensilage is considered the most economical part of the ration of dairy cows and young stock. It will save about one-third or more of all feeds fed in winter.

A silo prevents the losses that occur in curing. Where hay-making is precluded, as is sometimes the case with second crops, as clover, rowen, etc., on account of rainy weather late in the season, the silo will preserve the crop, so that the farmer may derive full benefit in feeding it to his stock.

No danger of late summer droughts, as by using the silo with clover, or other green summer crops, early in the season, a valuable succulent feed will be at hand, when pastures in most regions is apt to give out.

Crops unfit for harvesting may be preserved in the silo and changed into a palatable food, such as thistles, weeds, etc.

The harvest can be removed earlier, making it possible to finish fall plowing sooner and to seed the land down to grass or winter grain.

At a conservative estimate two cows can be kept by feeding silage at the cost of one cow from the same acre, fed on hay or other roughage.

Convenience in feeding and economy of storage room, as 10 tons of silage can be stored in the same space as one ton of hay.

## Over 90 Reasons Why

Every farmer believes he should have a silo, whether he has or not. Few of us, however, would have believed it possible to adduce so many reasons for a silo as are given by Mr. Fred A. Read in the article adjoining. These arguments won for Mr. Read a 10 by 20 Ideal Green Feed Silo, or its equivalent in value, in an essay writing competition recently conducted by the De Laval Dairy Supply Company of Peterboro. The judges in the competition were J. E. Smith, B.S.A. of Farm and Dairy, and H. C. Webber, Proprietor of "Stone Hedge" Farm, Peterboro.

The De Laval Dairy Supply Company, Limited, desires to thank all of those who have so kindly contributed to the interest of the contest, and to congratulate Mr. Fred A. Read, of Bear River, Nova Scotia, on his very excellent paper. The Company feels that the interest evinced through this contest has been wide spread and will mean considerable benefit to all of those who participated.

By providing a succulent forage winter dairying is made profitable and no reduction of stock is caused by a dry season.

It is the cheapest food that can be produced as well as the best supply, notwithstanding the drought, flood or the snows.

The silo is the cheapest method of handling the crop, of storing it, and the best method of saving and realizing the fullest value of the crop as feed.

More stock can be kept on a certain area of land when silage is fed than is otherwise the case.

Silage feeding does away with all aggravating corn stalk in the mature and prevents their waste.

as well. It excels dry feed for the cheap production of fat beef.

It keeps young stock thriving and growing all winter and enables the cow to produce milk and butter most economically.

It uses lessens the labor required in caring for a herd, if it is conveniently attached to a barn.

It allows the spring pastures to get a start.

It enables preservation of feed which matures at a rainy time of the year when drying would be almost impossible.

It does away with the system of strictly grain farming where few of the elements are returned to the soil. It increases the digestive capacity of the animal.

The silo supplements pastures and carries the burden of the winter feeding.

The silo will greatly reduce the pasture acreage required and will have a marked effect on beef production on high priced lands.

Night pasturing has been found to be a very valuable practice in connection with summer silo.

A silo permits of saving crops a year or more of plenty for other seasons of less plenty.

Experiments have proved that silage fed steers have repeatedly made the heaviest and cheapest gains.

Silage saves a large proportion of grain needed in fattening animals. It saves the need of any grain while the calf is growing. Silage-fed calves gain faster, finish more quickly, and the meat is better.

The silage system helps maintain soil fertility. The palatability of silage for cows and sheep is universally recognized by all farmers who have given it a fair trial. Cattle show great eagerness for silage.

Its succulent character makes it very comparable with grass or other green stuff.

The choicest of milk is produced from herds fed silage.

(Concluded on page 11)



Trade increases

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## Farm

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The big barn on the farm is used as a stable; the enclosed downwards in

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