

these animals; but as it is a food which contains a large amount of water, and only a comparatively small portion of nutritive (nitrogenous) constituents, the best results can be obtained from the use of ensilage only when it is fed with some grain food, such as bran, or ground peas and oats; and especially is this true when it is used as a food for beef-producing cattle. It is also a good practice to feed a small quantity of hay (preferably, clover) along with it. Ensilage may also be used as a part of the ration given to young cattle, sheep, and horses.

**479. Size of Silo Required for an Ordinary Farm.**

—A silo 18 feet by 20 feet, and 18 feet high, inside measurement, will hold about 100 tons of well-preserved corn ensilage. This allows the ensilage to settle, so that its depth is about 14 feet. Every farm of 100 acres, that is devoted to general farming, should have a silo upon it of at least this capacity. Twelve tons of corn ensilage may be counted upon with certainty as producible per acre; and two tons of ensilage, *prepared from corn that has been sufficiently matured*, have a feeding value for the production of milk, or for the maintenance of cattle, horses, and sheep, equal to that of one ton of ordinary hay.

**480. Importance of the Process of Ensilage.**—The importance of converting green-crops into ensilage has incidentally been more or less brought out in the preceding sections, but it may be well here, in conclusion, to summarize its chief advantages as follows: (1) It enables green fodder to be supplied to dairy cattle the whole year round, and thus makes possible the practice of winter dairying, one of the most profitable departments of farm work that the farmer can enter upon.

(2) It enables the farmer to raise a larger quantity of food, suitable both for dairy purposes and for beef, mutton, and wool production, than he could otherwise do, and thereby permits him to stock his farm much more heavily than he could otherwise profitably do, and thus it increases his profits per acre.

(3) It economizes the labor of the farmer, since the preserved ensilage can be more easily got at, and, moreover, be more easily carried to the stock feeding upon it by means of trucks or baskets, than an equivalent amount of other fodder.

(4) It economizes storage room. Especially is this true of