

To Get Maximum Value from Hay

A. Macdonald, Glengarry Co., Ont.

"Follow the methods common in the locality where you are going."

This may be good advice on general matter to give a farmer when moving into a new district; but in the matter of hay making it is decidedly bad advice. I would not be afraid to wager that not one man in three is straight on the hay making proposition, either in his ideas or his practice. The common method is the wrong one.

So badly cured is most of the hay, in this part of Ontario at least, that a few years ago a dealer brought a car load into the section from another part so that people might have an opportunity to examine that hay and find out just what the number one article is. The farmers around here are big raisers of hay, and they always ship it.

If hay were sold by weight I could understand them letting it get ripe, as timothy weighs more with age and cures easier. But we are not paid by weight altogether. The range in quotations between Nos. 1, 2 and 3 hay makes the weight consideration unimportant. Most of the hay from this section, I need not say, is classed as either No. 2 or No. 3.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

The hay that is not sold is cured in exactly the same way as the hay that is sold. This is certainly the height of folly. To me it looks almost like a case for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Dumb Animals, when I see cattle and horses trying to eat ripe, tough timothy and clover that more resembles sticks.

I do not advocate the growing of timothy on the dairy farm for home consumption. When owing to the clover having been killed out I do have a crop of timothy. I cut it in its first bloom. I may not get a maximum of digestive nutrients from hay cut at this time, but I am sure that I get a maximum of palatability. The cattle like it, and considering its low protein content, do wonderfully well on early cut, well cured timothy hay. Mark you, by well cured I do not mean dried or burned up until there is no life in it.

"WELL CURED" TIMOTHY

My plan is to start cutting about three o'clock in the afternoon and lay down as much as I can handle nicely in the next day. The hay will not be sufficiently wilted by evening for the dew to do it any harm. Early next morning we start the tedder, running it over every row and two until noon, when we run it up with the side delivery rake. About three o'clock in the afternoon, or perhaps earlier, we start to draw in; that is, if the weather permits. If the weather is threatening we put it up in neat coils. Never do we allow the hay to be burned. When it goes in the mow it looks quite green and fresh.

Clover, however, is my standby. We can grow fine clover in Glengarry, but the most of us fear loss a lot of its value through improper methods of curing. I did myself until I started to study the subject in Farm and Dairy, and for the last three years I have been getting great results.

According to the testimony of all authorities clover is at its maximum value when in full bloom; that is, just before the heads start to turn brown. There is more protein, carbohydrates and fat in an acre of clover hay at that stage of growth than immediately before or immediately after.

I grow too much clover, however, to get it all cut just at that stage. Consequently it is necessary to start a little before full bloom and finish a little later. I would rather make a mistake starting a little early than of finishing too late.

It takes longer to cure the early cut clover than that harvested last. I start the mower in the morning as soon as the dew is off and drop four or five acres. In the meantime another team is covering it with the tedder. Our aim is to allow the clover to cure by the natural method, that is, through the pores in the leaves. When the leaves are allowed to burn in the sun this natural eva-

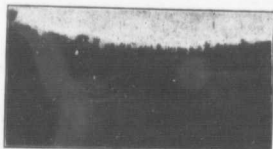


One Girl and a Mower Replaces Several Men

This scene on the farm of Mr. Wm. Thorn, Norfolk Co., Ont., shows how Mr. Thorn's little daughter, with two horses aged 10 and 17 years, can do the work that several men at one time did with scythes. Modern haymaking machinery also gives us an opportunity to make better hay than was possible under the old system of scythes, rake and pitchfork.

poration is stopped and the quality of the clover decidedly injured. I aim, therefore, to shake up the clover frequently enough to prevent scorching. Early in the afternoon the side delivery rake is got out and the clover run up in windrows.

The side delivery rake is one of the finest im-



We'll All Have Them Soon

The best argument for the hay loader is its growing popularity. The one here seen in operation is on the farm of J. E. Moore and Sons, Peterboro Co., Ont.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

plements ever devised for making good clover hay. In fact, I doubt if the tedder is necessary where one has a side delivery rake, but as I have my tedder first, I still use it.

CURING IN THE WINDROWS

Once the hay is up in coils, but not yet completely cured, we still follow the same precaution



An Implement Regarded as Essential by its Users

One of the principles of hay making is to prevent scorching. Allow the grass to dry out by natural evaporation. Frequent tedding enables the farmer to accomplish this purpose at minimum expense. A side delivery rake makes a fair substitute for the tedder as well as doing the work of the old-time horse rake.

—Cut, courtesy J. E. Moore Service Bureau.

of not allowing the leaves to become burned. This is easily attained by running the side delivery rake up the windrows and turning them over. This turning achieves a double purpose. It exposes a new lot of hay to the sun, and at the same

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A Discussion of Abortion

We don't hear a great deal about abortion; that is, in proportion to the loss that it causes. A breeder who gets the disease in his herd doesn't like to put a ban on his sales by making the fact too generally known. The breeder of grade known to be subject to abortion, might have difficulty in securing the service of neighboring bulls. Occasionally we do receive inquiries, such as the following:

THREE CASES OF ABORTION

I have just read an article on infectious abortion tests by M. H. Reynolds, V.S., in Farm and Dairy, May 22nd. I should like to know how as may know infectious abortion from ordinary abortion caused by any of the many natural causes of injury, incorrect feeding, etc.

I purchased two pure-bred cows at the beginning of the year and had to ship them by rail 200 miles. One (milking and due again in May) slipped her calf February 1st without any previous indisposition or warning. The other, was lying down (a month before she was due to freshen and two or three weeks after the other had calved) would protrude membranes from the vulva as large as a man's fist, as if about to calve. Two weeks before due she seemed sick for a day or two and then calved. The calf seemed O.K. at first, but never got on its feet, and died in about half an hour.

About three weeks later a cow calved on the farm, about 12 years old, freshened 17 days before due, and the calf lived and seems all right. Not one of the three discharged the afterbirth without veterinary assistance.

"The feed had been a liberal supply of oats and barley chop mixed, about three of oats to one of barley, chop at sheaves. In my absence the man ran out of oat chop and fed the same quantity of barley chop. This was just previous to the first abortion. Now you think my loss was due to feed or from contagious abortion?" E.H.L.

The query was submitted to Dr. J. H. Reed of the Ontario Agricultural College. He deals with the subject of abortion quite fully in the following letter:

TESTS ARE NOT PRACTICAL

"A careful reading of the article by M. E. Reynolds, V.S., re infectious abortion will reveal the fact that the three tests referred to are by no means accurate or reliable. The first two require an expert bacteriologist with first-class laboratory equipment, while the third test is still only in its experimental stage.

"It is not possible for a breeder or a veterinarian to say whether an abortion has been accidental or infectious. A bacteriologist, in most cases, can find the abortion bacilli in the discharge or foetal membranes in a case of infectious abortion, but no person other than a bacteriologist is able to detect them. Either form of abortion may occur at any period of gestation and in either form there may or may not be premonitory symptoms.

EARLY ABORTIONS SUSPICIOUS

"In cases that occur towards the latter months of gestation there is more probability of premonitory symptoms than in those that occur in the earlier stages. In most cases of abortion of either form occurring at six months or longer after conception there is a great tendency to retention of the afterbirth; hence this cannot be considered valuable as a diagnostic symptom.

"It is quite possible that the three cases the E.H.L.T. has had were accidental, especially as two of the animals had been shipped 200 miles

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