

ALFALFA INSTEAD OF PART OF GRAIN RATION.

Alfalfa was put on test against oats and barley chop in the experiment conducted in 1911. The steers that were stall-fed that season were divided into two equal lots. One lot got the usual ration. The other lot was fed exactly the same during the first six weeks, but during all the rest of the feeding period, received 3 lbs. less chop per day and in its place got 3 lbs. of cut alfalfa. Both lots were fed 8 lbs. of straw, 35 lbs. of corn silage, and 15 lbs. of roots daily. One lot started with 2 lbs. of grain apiece which was gradually increased to 13 lbs. The other lot started on 2 lbs. of grain apiece which was gradually increased to 10 lbs. of grain and 3 lbs. of alfalfa. The grain was mixed oats and barley and was charged against the steers at \$20 per ton; the alfalfa was charged at \$12 per ton.

RESULTS.

	Profit per steer	Average gain per day.
Without Alfalfa.....	\$23 86.....	1.34 lbs.
With Alfalfa.....	24 84.....	1.3 "

These results would lead to the conclusion that as part of a feeding ration alfalfa hay is practically equal to the same weight of oats and barley chop.

TIED VS. LOOSE AND THE EFFECT OF DEHORNING.

During the seasons of 1900 and 1901, an experiment was conducted in which a comparison was made between feeding steers tied-up and feeding them loose in box stalls. At the same time the effect of dehorning was tested.

One lot of steers was left horned and kept tied up. One lot was dehorned and kept tied up. A third lot was dehorned and kept in a box stall.

AVERAGE RESULTS—2 YEARS.

	Profit per steer.	Average gain per day.
Horned (Tied).....	\$4 47.....	1.5 lbs.
Dehorned (Tied).....	3 19.....	1.3 "
Dehorned (Loose).....	4 38.....	1.5 "

Mr. Bedford makes this comment on the experiments. "This experiment would lead us to the conclusion that dehorning has very little effect on the fattening of the animals".

This experiment was repeated in 1909, but the dehorned tied lot was not included in the test.

RESULT IN 1909.

	Profit per steer.	Average gain per day.
Horned (Tied).....	\$ 5 79.....	1.2 "
Dehorned (Loose).....	10 45.....	1.7 "

This test shows a decided advantage in the practice of dehorning steers and feeding them loose in a box stall. As this result is confirmed by the results of the experimenters elsewhere, we believe that the loose feeding of steers may justly be advocated as the better practice.