

Alsike Clover for Seed

Arthur W. Smith, Brant Co., Ont.

In the growing of alsike clover for seed it is necessary to have a suitable soil. The best results are to be obtained from a good heavy clay loam, in a fairly rich condition. The soil should not be too rich, as there is a great probability, in a good year, on strong land, of it producing too heavy a growth of straw. It will then lodge early in the season, and a lot of it may rot at the bottom. In such cases it will not fill well. The land should be naturally, or artificially, well drained, as alsike, like all kinds of clover, is liable to heave with the spring frosts when there is much water in the soil.

The field must be free, or nearly so, from false flax, sorrel, common dock and timothy. These are the only bad things that I have to contend with in growing alsike. Have the land plowed late in the fall. Then just as soon as the soil gets in a good condition in the spring, work it up to a fine tilth. When all is ready, I drill it with a mixture of 2 bushels oats and barley per acre. If the land is extra strong a little less of the mixture will suffice. This gives the clover a little chance for light and air. Be sure to use only perfectly clean seed. Sow in front of the drill tubes, at the rate of about 4 pounds an acre. I sow with a mixture of oats and barley, as that is the only spring grain we grow. Barley would be a better

grain to seed with, if one were growing that grain. By seeding with spring grain I have nearly overcome the flax nuisance. Never seed with fall wheat if there is any false flax in the land. If there is flax in the field, I go over the area carefully, and pull or cut out all that can be seen, at the same time, taking out all dock. This work should be done again about the time thistles are in bloom. With a sickle, nip off the tips of thistles if you choose, also clip the heads off all timothy that you can find. Timothy is a seed that cannot very well be cleaned from alsike. Look sharp this time for dock and flax that may have been missed the first time. Dock seed can be cleaned out, but the flax is one thing that will stay right with the alsike.

At the harvest time, be sure not to cut too green, as is frequently done. Wait until it is well ripened, though not too ripe. When ready to cut, harvest with a good 3 ft. mower, one that will shave the ground. Start in when the clover is dry. If you have much to harvest, have three good, careful men to follow and roll the clover up into small bundles, laying out the bundles carefully. Then, when the machine comes around again, it will not run over the cut swath. With such an outfit one can handle 6 or 8 acres a day. I would not use a pea harrow or drag-tale. Small bundles are preferable as they dry much quicker after a shower.

As soon as the clover gets dry, get it under cover, or in a good stack, well covered with hay, or something else that will turn water. If the crop has been handled carefully, and everything has been favorable, you may expect from 4 to 9 bushels an acre. Much is often lost by careless handling. I have been growing from 8 to 15 acres of alsike a year for the past 8 or 9 years. I have never had less than 4½ bushels an acre, but once, when a 10 acre field gave just 15 bushels. This was due to some hot weather just before it was ready to cut. At one time a 9 acre field yielded me 83 bushels of No. 1 seed, for which I got \$7.30 a bushel. Last year one field of 10 acres yielded 67 bushel of No. 1 seed. I sold this for the sum of \$600.

One thing I have found from experience is, one need not expect a good crop of well colored seed, unless there are lots of honey bees with-

in close range of the clover field. This factor, and the careful handling at harvest time go a long way towards getting a full crop.

Cement Silos the only Kind to Erect

A. E. Hodgson, Huron, Ontario

The up-to-date dairy farmer of today has a silo in which to house his corn. The amount of corn that is stacked up in fields throughout the country, however, is large. When exposed in this manner to all the storms that blow, to the mice that infest it, and to the crows that constantly hover about it, the loss sustained is great. This could be all saved had it been placed in a silo. Though fodder corn deteriorates much when exposed in the shock, it makes good feed until Christmas time. After that, the stalks become dry and hard, and owing to their woody nature, are of very little use for feed. Herein the silage has the advantage, for it is succulent and new the best of feed throughout the winter.

Farmers that raise corn for the ear could make use of a silo for the stalks after they have taken the ears off in the fall. The corn stalks, if taken at this time, cut up and placed in a silo with plenty of water upon them, will come out in the winter time well cooked, and sweet. They will be much richer feed than when left out in the winter, exposed to all the storms that blow and the other agencies that tend to deteriorate it. If farmers would experiment with this, they would soon be convinced that I am right.

In regard to the kind of silo to build, the cement silo is the most satisfactory. Wooden ones must take second place at the present time. An up-to-date farmer would not have a wooden silo if he could procure gravel suitable for the purpose of erecting a cement one. Cement can now be had at a price that is within the reach of all. We have lots of farmers in this neighborhood that have both wooden and cement silos. They state that they would not build a wooden silo again if a contractor would build one for them free of charge. The cement silo is ahead of wood in this way; the cement silo is always air tight; it is always ready; it never blows down; and it never has any spoiled silage around its edges if it is built right. The cement silo will not burn down as will the wooden ones. Therefore, you do not have to keep the cement silo insured. Looking at the question from every viewpoint, the cement silo is the best and will not cost much more than a wooden silo.

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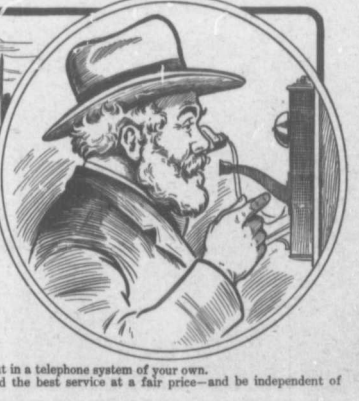
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**The Shorthorn can be made a Profitable Dairy Cow**

Ed., The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World.—By breeding and selection the Shorthorn breed can be made as profitable for milk production as any other dairy breed. We have evidence of some cows that have been bred in that direction for some time. The trouble in the past has been that the average Shorthorn breeder had no stability about his breeding principles. When the beef type became popular and brought more money than the milk type he invariably mixed his herd with the beef animal and when the milk type became more popular he mixed his herd with the dairy type. As a result, the average Shorthorn breeder has nothing but a scrubby animal which is neither profitable for beef nor for milk.

If the Shorthorn breeders can be conscientious enough to be staple for four or five generations of breeding, and with good selection and good principles connected with it, I believe