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HAYMAKING.

It is not uncommon for farmers to make serious mistakes in answer to the question when to mow, and it is safe to say that nine times out of ten they err in mowing too late. When the bloom is on the majority of the plants is the correct time to mow, thus the sweet, nutritious qualities of the herbage are ensured, and the crop is secured at its highest value. About this time the buttercup or ranunculus will be shedding its leaves, and the red clover flowers will be at their full, while the smaller white clovers will be coming into bloom. Hay got at this stage, if well harvested, is good

for every kind of animal, and the less it is heated in the stack the better. Over-heated hay causes more injury to animals than the stock-keeper dreams of. Equally injurious is over-ripened grass, and scarcely one good end is attained by delaying the cutting. Even extra quantity cannot always be depended upon. If a showery time prevail, certainly extra bulk may be reckoned on; but if, on the contrary, a dry, hot time set in, the bents already ripened die away, and the under grass makes but a poor show. In any case, over-matured grass loses much of its valuable fattening and nutritious qualities. The stems become woody and indigestible, while the seeds are left on the aftermath, having been either beaten out by the wind before the machine commenced its work or knocked out in the ordinary process of making the hay. Again, the aftermath is rendered far less valuable in the late cut meadows than when the crops are mown at proper time. The ergot fungus that abounds in the grasses in wet seasons, and which proves so productive of abortion in cows or mares, is avoided by cutting early, as the spur has not had time to mature; but in the late cut grass this spur is ripe, and is gathered in with the hay to be dealt out to animals in the winter season, when they are not over nice as to what they take.

As to the curing of the hay it is not necessary to enter into details, though to the beginner one or two hints may not be altogether out of place. It must be understood that even in fine weather hay may be partially spoiled either by allowing it to lie too long exposed to the sun, or by carting it too soon. The secret of making good hay is to keep it moving, so that under the action of the sun it dries of a uniform pale green color; and if it be fairly made this color will to a considerable extent be retained in the stack. The delicious odor in the hay field too will adhere to the fodder as it is dealt out to the hungry stock in winter. Grass that is cut and only occasionally turned is longer in making, more risk also being run of rain falling; and while the outsides are burnt up the insides are only just made. Again, without well working hay about some wet locks are almost sure to escape the action of the sun and wind; and mould is bound to result.

An excess of sap in plants will cause the stack to heat, and the hay will, to use a common expression, "die a good color;" but if an atom of rain or dew be on the hay when carried, mould will follow and the hay will "die white."

As regards the mowing machine it is necessary to observe two or three things: First, keep the knives sharp, as the delay in changing a knife every hour or so, and the extra labor in sharpening, is well repaid. A dull knife does its work badly, works the poor horses fearfully hard, and, as a finale, usually breaks some part of the machine. In the mowing machine nothing must be allowed to get out of order, not even to the breadth of a hair, or it will lead to a breakage later on. The ear of the driver will detect in the change, from the merry jingle of the different parts when anything is wrong, and if he be wise will promptly seek out the cause, and so save time and the expense of repairs later on. Of course the horses must be often changed, and the machine kept well oiled.

In spite of all the instruction that can be given, however, beginners will make mistakes, no matter how thoroughly they may be posted as to the theory of haymaking. To be thoroughly successful in this branch of his business the farmer must not only know how to manipulate his grass and judge accurately when it is sufficiently cured to warrant him in transferring it to the mow or stack, but he must also be enough of a weather prophet to take advantage of every hour of sunshine, especially if he happens to fall upon "catching weather" during the period of hay harvest.

THE CLYDESDALE STUD BOOK.

The seventh volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book, which has recently made its appearance, contains 321 more entries than the previous volume. There is a total entry of 2,956, as against 2,575 in the former. This increase is mainly in the foal and stallion records. Brood mares show an increase of 85. A new feature in this volume is found in the portraits of the winners of the prizes presented by the Clydesdale Horse Society in 1884.

The animals photographed include the cele-