

DISTRIBUTER.

Most blowers are supplied with a jointed distributing-pipe. (Fig. 3.) If a distributor is not attached, more labour is necessary in the silo to ensure a thorough mixing of the heavy and light parts of the corn-plant.

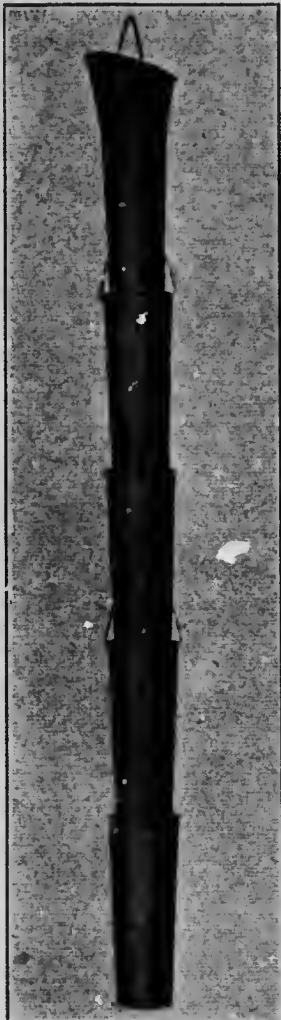


Fig. 3. Jointed-pipe silage distributor.

By using the jointed distributing-pipe shown in the accompanying figure, the presence of one man in the silo, distributing and tramping, is all that is required for that purpose. This one man may, with one hand on the distributor, direct the finely cut material to any part of the silo desired. The method most generally adopted by the man in the silo in such cases is to hold the distributing-pipe in front of him and walk around the silo, tramping the material into place as it leaves the pipe. In this way the need of extra labour, tools, etc., in the silo, to ensure the equal distribution of the corn, is eliminated.

As previously mentioned, the advisability of using water in the ensiling of corn, clover, or other crops has been much discussed. Ordinarily, the only times that water may conveniently be applied are either after the silo has been filled or after the cutting of each load. In the latter case it would necessitate a waste of time and additional equipment which the majority of farmers do not possess. The amount of water to add is a debatable question. The crop being cut for silage varies in moisture content according to the degree of maturity and wilting. Loads will often vary in moisture content, in which case it is obviously impossible to gauge the exact quantity of water which should be applied after the silo has been filled. In the use of a distributing-pipe lies the solution of this problem. A small stream of water just sufficient to moisten the cut material to the right degree of dampness may be run into the blower. By so doing the cut corn or clover becomes uniformly damp on its way to the silo, it is heavier, and packs more easily. The distributor controls the distribution of the wet material and adds to the comfort of the person inside the silo.

The cost of the jointed distributing-pipe is small, but to avoid even this additional expenditure one might make a distributor with canvas or jute sacks by ripping out the bottoms and joining them up to form a canvas chute.

The secret of making good silage is to have all the air excluded. For this reason the corn must not be too dry, and one or two men in the silo should be kept busy distributing and tramping. When filling, the material around the wall should be kept higher than the rest and thoroughly tramped. Otherwise moulding around the edge is apt to result.

The preservation of silage is due to three factors—pressure, heat, and acid. The pressure excludes the air. The heat due to fermentation pasteurizes the silage, killing many of the spoiling moulds. The acid is also detrimental to many of the spoiling moulds.