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September 21, 1011.

Production of Alfalfa Seed in Ontario

In some parts of Ontario the production of alfalfa seed is becoming quite an industry A. both a crop of hay and a crop of seed can be produced in the same season, many alfalfa growers and and production quite profitable. The production of alfalfa seed is important, not only to those who actually produce the seed, but also to the farmers who are thus enabled to secure seed which has been produced in a climate which is imilar to that under which the crop is to be grown. Realizing the importance of such an inlustry, last fall Prof. C. A. Zavitz of the Ontario Agricultural College made an inquiry regarding a be corresponding with a number of our principal farmers who are growing alfalfa seed quite ortonsively.

WHEN TO CUT

In response to the enquiry as to how it is known shan the crop is ready for cutting for seed, 30 out of 81 reported that they determine the maturity of the crop by the color of the pods. Fourteen stated

FARM AND DATRY

most instances, the crop, when cut with the mowing machine, is either raked immediately or shortly afterwards when the plants are toughened by the dew. In a few instances, however, the crop is allowed to lie unraked for several days In only a few cases did the farmers state that they placed the crop into cocks. Practically all of the farmers who cut the crop with the self-binder and placed the sheaves into shocks, reside in the County of Brant, and have had from eight to 13 years' experience in growing alfalfa seed, each having from 10 to 20 acres in a single year.

TITEBOUTERO

The threshing is done almost entirely with the clover machine, and any time from harvest until mid-winter. In the autumn it is preferable to have dry weather and in the winter to have cold weather, in order to obtain the very best satisfaction from threshing.

Twenty-three of the farmers reported that they have always obtained a good quality of seed, and the others have indicated that in one or more

A Group of Ayrahire Cattle Breeders Out for a Day of Pleasure and of Profit.

The mean of friends of the Meinh District Arribit Breeder's Club as they meet for a day toget and the source of the Meinh District Arribit Breeder's Club as they meet for a day toget a the stock from the District Recretentiative One, Assume 137d, are here above. The photograph was taken is Duncan, the District Recretentiative One, Assume 137d, are here above. The photograph was taken is the morning session. Above 110 Arribitive breedens and farmers Mr. W. F. Schoften had given his lock in the morning session. Above 110 Arribitive breedens and farmers Mr. W. F. Schoften had given his lock in the morning session. Above 110 Arribitive breedens and farmers Mr. W. Schoften had given his lock as Mr. Abay. Hume were used as subjects for the locking classes.

that they cut the crop when the pods were brown, 11 when the pods were black, one when three-quarters of the pods were brown, another when the pods were dry, and still another when there were no green pods. Seven reported that they determined the ripeness of the crop by an examination of the seed. One man cut his cr. p when the main stems became dead, and another when the leaves dropped off.

METHODS OF CUTTING

In regard to the method of cutting the crop, 21 mentioned that they used the mowing machine, 12 that they used the mowing machine with a table attachment, nine that they used the reaper, and five that they used the self-binder. In a few instances, a farmer had used, at least, two different methods. The method of cutting seems to be determined by various factors; such as, the length of the plants, the uprightness of the growth of the crop, the presence or the absence of steep hillsides, ecc. Some farmers speak of following immediately after the mowing machine with a rake so as to prevent the horses and the machine passing over the crop.

HOW TO CURR

The methods of curing the alfalfa seed crop in he field is determined largely by the method of cutting and the amount and the maturity of the ron. As a rule, the crop is cured in the windrow by those who use the mowing machine, in the unches by those who use the mowing machine the shock by those who use the self-binder. In years of their experience the seed has not been of the highest quality. It seems quite evident that alfalfa seed of very good quality is being produced in Ontario.

Top Dressing with Barnyard Manure E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S.

When it comes to making actual cash out of manure I do not know of any better place to put it than on the newly seeded clover fields. One load of manure judiciously applied with a manure spreader to the weak spots in the clover field will go further and bring greater results than three or four hauled out to the field and pitched around with a dung fork without any particular notice as to whether or not it is needed in that particular spot.

When riding the reaper at harvest time, I always notice carefully just where the clover plants are small and weak and in need of assistance. Shortly after harvest the manure that has been accumulating during the summer is spread at the rate of about three or four loads to the acre on these weak spots. If a rain comes soon afterwards, and it usually does in our moist climate, these weak and sickly clover plants get a new start and before the frost catches the clover in the fall the field will present a nice even stand.

This is the only top dressing that we do. We are getting away altogether from the old idea of spreading manure on old meadows that have been down long enough, in order to give them a year more of life. A more wasteful practice can not

well be imagined. The hard sod land is not in the best condition to make use of fertilizer of any kind.

The bulk of our manure goes to the hoe crop. mangels and turnips, except for the few loads in the fall that we use on the backward clover seeding. These are the two most profitable places on the farm to apply barnyard manure.

About Selecting Corn For Seed

(Concluded from page 3) A few ears of yeliow corn, in a field planted to white corn, means there is a mixture and that seed from that field will not be pure. Pure-bred corn, like pure-bred cattle, always sells better; not necessarily on account of superiority in the individual, but because it is well known that a pure-bred plant or animal will be likely to transmit its character to its ouspring, while scrubs or mixed varieties may not. Intelligent crossing of either plants or animals often brings good results, but it is seldom that an unskilled cross brings increased production. Field mixtures of corn (crosses) are usually associated with decreased yields and anything but uniformity.

THE GERM IN CORN

Each kernel of corn has in it, near the tip, a little corn plant called the germ or embryo when the kornel is placed in favorable conditions-that is, put in warm, moist soil-this germ will grow and produce a corn plant. The germ should be nearly white in color, and should cut free and clean with a sharp knife. If the germ is soft and cheesy, it indicates that the seed has not been properly stored; and, if dark, that it has been frozen. A germ containing a high percentage of moisture after October 1st indicates immaturity, and the seed will very likely be injured by cold weather. A desirable germ should be large on the surface, clear in color, and show indications of strength. Such germs are seldom found in kernels with pointed, chaffy tips.

After time has been spent selecting seed corn, it would be folly to store it in a place where it would not keep. Freshly-gathered seed corn should not be left in piles in a warm room, or on the floor. It will either sprout, mold or do both. Always store seed corn where there is a good circulation of air, so it will dry out quickly. Never leave it in boxes, in piles, on the porch or in the barn. It should be taken care of at once

THREE POINTS ABOUT STORING

There are only three necessary conditions for storing seed corn; and, if these are followed, one may be reasonably sure that 95 per cent. or more of his corn will germinate, provided it was properly matured. First, there must be a good circulation of air about each ear, to carry away the surplus moisture. Second, a temperature must be maintained above freezing, until the seed is thoroughly dry. Third, seed corn must be selected early enough, so that it may have plenty of time to dry before cold weather.

Numerous tests of seed corn have been made Of all the thousands of samples, those that were taken from a house attic, where there was a good circulation of air, gave the highest per cent. of germination. Second in per cent. of germination was seed corn stored in a cellar in which there was a heating plant. Cellars without furnaces are usually damp and undesirable for storing. Samples of seed corn stored in oat-bins, on porches, under the eaves of Larns, and in open sheds have also been tested; and they usually gave tests too low for the seed to be of value for planting. It is easily seen that seed corn kept in an attic or an unused second storey room can have the required conditions for drying, namely, good circulation of air, and an even temperature, above the freezing point.

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