

FARM MANAGEMENT

The Ensilage Harvest

In most parts of Canada, especially in Ontario and Quebec, the prospects are good for a heavy cut of corn for ensilage. The corn crop used for silage contributes probably more than any other, save possibly clover hay, to the success of dairying operations in Eastern Canada. From a small area of land a very large amount of superior forage is quite commonly cut. Cutting, however, is only a small part of the work of saving the corn for future use.

Much corn may be harvested, but if poorly handled, a very large percentage is certain to be lost. The present, just before the cutting begins, is the time to prepare in some measure at least for the proper conservation and economical handling of the crop. The silo of whatever description should be got in readiness. If a cement silo, then it should be set, so that good drainage is provided to carry off the extra juice that otherwise filters through the settling mass, finds its way to the lower layers of silage, and thus to cause extra fermentation, and hence cause material deterioration in no inconsiderable proportion of the silage. To obviate this loss, holes punched through the cement floor will usually allow most of the superfluous juice to soak away. If no floor has been constructed, and this source at the bottom still exists, it is probable that the soil is impervious, and tiles should be laid a couple of inches below the surface to carry off the extra moisture.

Not infrequently small breaks exist around the doors. The expenditure of 50 cents for a bag of cement, and a few minutes time, may easily save a considerable amount of silage, and help prolong the life of the silo.

The cement silo is not quite so subject to small defects as is the wooden silo. The man who possesses a wooden silo, of no matter what type, should overhaul it each year to see that it is in such shape as to effectually conserve the silage. Stave silos not infrequently go wrong at the doors; they should be carefully looked after. Sometimes, too, staves go bad; such should be replaced, as can easily be done. Hoops should be tightened, twisted, or starting staves driven into place, and the whole silo be made ship shape. A dollar's worth of work may easily save ten dollars or more worth of feed.

ATTEND TO THE BINDER

After the silo, the binder should be looked to. Heavy corn is a great tester of machinery, and any parts exhibiting much wear or any weakness, had better be replaced before operations begin. When the corn is being cut, is a poor time to have to spend a day at the shop, or to have to run half a dozen times to the express office looking for parts that should have been replaced before you began to cut.

The cutting box and the power of whatever description, should all receive careful overhauling. When cutting operations begin they should, if at all possible, be continuous to the end. The cutting box should be set to cut in as short lengths as possible. Somewhat more power will be required but the superior quality of the silage will much more than make up for the extra cost. In an average, 15 to 18 feet diameter silo, one man should be able to keep the material nicely placed and sufficiently tramped. Care is necessary to see that a fairly uniform mixture of leaves, stems and cobs maintains in all parts of the silo, else

uneven settling, poor curing, and bad results generally, may be expected. Tramp well around the edges. If corn gets very dry or is from the addition of a small amount of water around the walls, say a barrel every foot, will prove advantageous.

When filled for good and all, level, tramp thoroughly, allow to settle for two or three days, and repeat the operation. Wet the surface, if possible. Old Farmer.

Holidays and Hours for Working Man

Kindly answer the following:—(1) What holidays can a man claim when hired for several months? (2) I start to work about 5:15 in the morning. At what time have I a right to quit in the evening? (3) What are the number of hours that a hired man should work a day according to law?—An Englishman, Dunn, Ont.

(1) A man hired by the year is entitled to the following holidays: Sundays, New Year's, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Christmas, Dominion Day, Victoria Day (24th of May), Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day; but domestic servants may be required to do such work as may be necessary on the Lord's Day.

(2) This is largely a matter of agreement at the time of hiring. The prevailing practice in the neighborhood is also a controlling factor in most places.

(3) This is also a matter of agreement and is regulated largely by the practice in the neighborhood. A man should be able to do 8 days' work in 10 or 12 hours.

Right to Cut Wood

A buys a farm from B, paying \$100 down and the balance to be paid one year from next March. A will not move on to the farm till that time. Can B cut wood from the place in the meantime?—J. S. Victoria Co., Ont.

B. has no right to cut wood, unless expressly authorized by the contract. If he does, he must account to the purchaser for the value, and if the cutting is extensive, the purchaser will probably have a right to rescind the contract. He is also entitled to obtain an injunction to restrain the cutting.

A Noteworthy Record

Editor, The Dairyman and Farming World.—There is no district in Canada where dairy farmers have brought their herds to as high a standard as has been reached in the districts near Tillsonburg. This is a strong statement, but it is supported by the herds of eight farmers in Durham and South Norwich who send the milk from 121 cows to the cheese factories, from whom I have gathered the following facts:

The total amount of the milk sent to the factories by the eight farmers in June, after retaining all they required for their own use, was 15,195 lbs., an average of 1099 lbs. per cow. George Pearce, with 15 cows, sent to the factory, 17,361 lbs. of milk, an average of 1157 lbs. per cow. One cow of his herd freshened on the 10th of June.

Clarence Lowrie, with 11 cows sent 12,721 lbs. an average of 1157 lbs. This herd includes a two-year-old animal William Bell with 15 cows, sent 15,870 lbs., an average of 1058 lbs. Melbourn Haley, with 12 cows, sent 12,664 lbs. an average of 1056 lbs. In his herd was one farrow cow and two that came in last fall.

Wm. M. Pearce, with 15 cows, sent 15,281 lbs. an average of 1054 lbs. This herd was bought and brought home on May 7th. In it are one two-year-old and three three-year-olds.

C. J. Pearce, with 21 cows, sent 21,269 lbs., an average of 1012 lbs. This herd was milked nearly all the winter, and produced \$171 worth of milk in April.

John Chandler, with 15 cows sent 15,129 lbs., an average of 1008 lbs. Henry McIlhenny with 17 cows sent 17,115 lbs. an average of 1006 lbs. The above is a record that is hard to beat.—W. M. Pearce.

Cost of Telephone Lines

In a discussion at a meeting held recently to consider the building of a telephone line from Apsley to Mount Julian, Peterboro Co., Ont., the following interesting information was brought out:

The line would require 50 poles to the mile. As the distance is 12 miles, and as the posts cost 50 cents each, the cost of these would be \$180. Delivering the posts would cost \$50, and the placing of them in position \$150 additional. Then the guy poles and wires, insulators, etc., would cost \$18 a mile, making a total of between \$700 and \$750 as the cost of the system.

Construction of Silos.—The main point in building cement silos is, always be sure of the quantity and quality of your cement and sand. If the materials are not of the best, your silo is going to crack and peel with the first frost.

A silo on my farm, built by my father only six years ago, is cracked all over from top to bottom, necessitating steel bands around it every few feet, in consequence of the bad quality of cement, and not enough of it to the quantity of sand used. Have a silo by all means, no dairy farmer can afford to be without one, but be sure of the quality of materials.—H. Roth, Northumberland Co., Ont.

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