

FARM AND FIRE SIDE



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Ensilage.

BY R. H. DULANEY, OF LOUDOUN CO. (From the Southern Planter and Farmer.)

For more than two years I have been reading of success in using ensilage for feeding cattle in France but could not determine to try the experiment until I read a letter from Mr. Haxall, of Richmond, Va., on the subject.

I at once prepared fifteen acres of sod land, by top-dressing it with all the manure from the cellar of my cattle barn, where I had fed eighty-two cattle and twelve horses four hundred and fifty barrels of corn, besides their long food, during the winter. After the land was plowed and thoroughly harrowed and rolled, I drilled in three bushels of corn and 400 lbs. of bone to the acre. By stopping alternate tubes of the drill the rows were eighteen inches apart, and there were from eight to twelve to the foot in the row. I had intended to plow this crop three times; but after one plowing with single-shovel plow there came several hours of rain; after which the corn grew so rapidly that soon met across the row, and could not be plowed again.

I dug a pit 78 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 12 feet deep, and lined it with a two-foot stonewall, which was continued for three feet above the ground, and cemented the sides and bottom.

I should have cut the corn, which was the heaviest I ever saw, as soon as the ears began to form, but had to wait until I finished the pit.

When I commenced, some of the corn was too old for roasting ears, and the blades near the ground had lost their green color. The field was four hundred yards from the pit. It required three and sometimes four first-rate hands to cut the corn; two ox carts and one four-horse wagon, with an extra hand to assist the drivers to load, to haul the corn, which was being cut up into five-eighth inch pieces by two 18-inch cutting-boxes. It required one man at each box to feed, and two men to keep each supplied with the fodder.

The boxes were at the side, equally distant from each end of the pit, and driven by an 8-horse engine. The ensilage was kept equally distributed over the floor, and six large farm horses were ridden over it from 10 to 12 and from 5 to 7 o'clock, to pack it. As the horses could not pack that against the walls and at the angles at the ends, that had to be trodden down by the men when the engine was stopped.

We were fourteen days with fourteen men in filling the pit to within three feet of the top. I then ran enough straw through the cutting-box to cover the whole mass three inches deep; then covered with two-inch boards laid across the pit, and the boards with stone two feet deep.

On the 10th of January, I opened the pit by taking off six feet of the stone and plank. When I saw the straw black and rotten, I feared that the prophecy of my neighbors, 'that I would have an immense quantity of rotten fodder to haul out in the spring,' had been fulfilled; but on getting to the fodder, I found only an inch deep a little moulded, and all the rest, except in the angles of the building and against a part of the wall (from which the cement had fallen), in perfect order. Eighty-two cattle are eating with great relish 37 lbs each a day, and 200 ewes 1 1/2 lbs each.

I have now fed for three weeks, and have only used about one sixth of the ensilage. At this rate it will keep my cattle and sheep until April 20th, at which time I usually turn on grass. From a flock of 100 sheep that had fed on ensilage since the pit was opened, I have lost but one; whilst from 250 fed on corn, straw, and fodder I lost 37 in two weeks. These ewes were heavy with lambs, and the change from grass to entirely dry food caused constipation, and that inflammation, which caused their death. For the last week I have been feeding most of my sheep on ensilage; and, except some that were sick when I commenced, I have lost none.

The 15 acres of ensilaged corn would have fed 80 cattle 125 days, the usual length of our winter, with

the addition of one gallon of corn a day to each steer. If 50 cubic tons make a ton, then I had 283 tons, which cost to cut, haul and pack away, \$200—less than \$1 a ton.

What Shall we Eat.

The paper by Dr. Cutter in the last issue of the Journal, upon the chemistry effects of fine flour, has awakened much interest and inquiry among our readers. There can be little doubt that the questions asked by the writer are of much importance to every one, and that the exclusive use of bolted flour in bread-making is opposed to the science and knowledge of the age in which we live. We grind that noble grain, wheat, in our powerful mills, and then with the bolter remove from the powdered grain everything that resists the action of the stones, so as to retain for use only the starchy portion, which is elegant to the sight. In the rejected portions are found the most important nutritive principles, and these, in the form of 'shorts' and 'fine feed,' we give to our horses and our cows. As we have looked into the 'bins' at the farm, filled with these rejected articles of human food, the exclamation has been 'often forced from us, 'What a pity.' Pity indeed, it is that 'fashion' should over ride interest and physical well-being; for nothing but fashion holds the snow white wheat loaf in its place upon our tables.

If this must continue, we would suggest to those who desire to obtain all the elements in food necessary to health, to procure the wheat phosphates and nitrogenous compounds by a free use of milk. If a generous milk diet is associated with the white bread, the evils of imperfect nutrition may be avoided. Nothing excites the lactical secretion in cows like miller's 'fine feed,' and we find in the milk-pail in new associations the rich elements we reject in the grains of wheat. Very few indeed can obtain pure milk and cream, but every family ought to be able to obtain whole wheat flour, in its best condition. At the present time, it is the practice to a large extent among millers, to grind the finest, soundest wheat into fine flour, and the poorest into what is called 'Graham flour.' This term 'Graham flour' ought no longer to be used. It is a kind of general name given to mixtures of bran and spout flour, to a large extent unfit for human food. What we need is good, sweet, whole wheat flour, finely ground, and securely put up for family use. This article we do not find in the market, and the Western miller who will give his earnest attention to furnishing such flour will realize a fortune speedily. The crown loaf made from whole wheat is to our eye as handsome as the white. It can be made with all the excellences of the white, so far as lightness is concerned, and it is sweeter and more palatable. With this loaf we secure the important nutritive principles which the Creator for wise reasons has stored up in wheat.

Journal of Chemistry.

Rice Fritters.—Soak two-thirds of a cup of rice three hours in enough warm water to cover. Put as it is into a farina-kettle (or tin pail), set in an outer vessel of boiling water. When it becomes dry, add two cups of milk and cook until it is all absorbed. Stir in a spoonful of butter and take from the fire. When cool mix in two well beaten eggs, three tablespoonfuls of corn starch or flour, a little salt and nutmeg. Flour your hands, and make into flat cakes, dip into flour and fry in hot fat. Eat hot or cold with hard or liquid sauce. Very nice.

Puff Puddings.—One pint of new, rich milk, the whites of four eggs beaten to a froth, one coffee-cupful of flour, a large teaspoonful of yeast powder, a small cup of powdered sugar, a little salt and the grated peel of half a lemon. When the whites are beaten stiff, whisk in the sugar and add, by degrees, to the milk with the flour (the yeast powder sifted with it). Beat hard for a few minutes, and bake in buttered cups. Try with a small spinster. When done, turn out, sift sugar over the top and eat with sweetened cream or lemon sauce.

APPLICATION OF LIQUID MANURE TO ROSES.—Mr. George S. Wales tells of an experiment he made last season which proved highly satisfactory. About June 1st he planted out 12 small sized plants of different varieties, about a foot apart each way, in rich, heavy soil. After every heavy rain he took from the barnyard the leavings of the manure pile; with a pointed stick he punctured four to five holes in the ground a few inches from each plant, and poured in the water; the next day, or as soon as the ground was dry enough, he stirred the ground

face with a hoe, and kept it loose by frequent hoeings until again watered during the season. He applied the liquid manure probably eight or ten times during the season. The result was wonderful. They began in five or six weeks to bloom, and until October the 1st, when they were taken up, there was hardly a day but the beautiful buds might have been picked.

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Canvases always out to take orders. Prices to suit the times. Satisfaction guaranteed. Don't fail to call.

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Dec. 8-1v.

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Dec. 8-1v.

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