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We were temporarily put out of business by the fire which destroyed our stock of cigars and tobaccos, but have re-opened our factory in the old Valley County Abstract Building, just north of the Courier office, and will have a nice fresh line of cigars ready to deliver to the trade on October 1st.

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GLASGOW, MONTANA

Practical Farming

Helpful Facts Gathered from Reliable Sources
Of Interest to Montana Farmers :: :: ::

(NOTE) If you have any idea to offer to the other readers or wish anything to appear in these columns kindly send it in.

VALUE OF ALFALFA FOR STOCK

The following conclusions are based on the results of tests in feeding baby beef, made by the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, Lincoln, Nebraska, and published in Bulletin No. 143:

1. The ration composed of alfalfa hay, corn silage and corn gave the largest gain, the cheapest gain and most profit of any ration used.

2. If silage is valued at \$5.50 per ton, the profit from the ration of alfalfa hay and corn would be about the same as the profit from the ration of alfalfa hay, silage and corn.

3. The two rations containing alfalfa gave larger and cheaper gains and much more profit than any of the rations not containing alfalfa.

4. The two rations containing cotton seed cake gave about the same rate and cost of gains, but gave a much smaller profit than the rations containing alfalfa.

5. The ration composed of prairie hay, cotton seed cake and corn gave the same average rate of gain and about the same cost of gains as the ration composed of prairie hay, cotton seed cake, corn and silage. The relative profits from these two rations depend on the price charged for silage and the relative selling prices of the two lots of calves. The results of these two tests indicate that silage as fed herein was not worth the value usually given it.

6. The ration containing neither alfalfa nor cotton seed cake nor any other feed having a high protein content gave much the slowest and most expensive gain and the least profit of any ration.

7. When silage is fed with alfalfa, the silage was worth much more than when it was fed with prairie hay and cotton seed cake.

8. Cotton seed cake was profitable when added to a ration of prairie hay, corn and silage.

9. Cotton seed cake was not a profitable substitute for alfalfa.

10. The ration of prairie hay, corn and silage gave only one-third as much profit as the ration of alfalfa, hay, corn and silage.

11. The rations containing cotton seed cake gave only two-thirds as much profit as the rations containing alfalfa.

12. The results of this experiment again emphasize the high value of alfalfa in a cattle-fattening ration.

SMALL THRESHING MACHINES

(By Prof. Thomas Shaw.)

The year 1912 has been repeated again. There has been a bumper crop in all the northwestern states. This crop in the Dakotas and Montana has been phenomenal. No sooner, however, was the crop reaped and put in shock or at least soon after, the rains began. The outcome has been that threshing was greatly delayed. Expensive threshing outfits were idle in some instances for two weeks at a time. The threshing crews had to be kept in line meantime. The farmers were kept virtually idle and also the horses, when both should have been busy turning over the ground for the next year's crop. This they could not do, although the ground was nicely moistened with the rain, for the shocks which might have been in the stack were yet in the field.

It is peculiarly unfortunate when such a condition meets the farmers of the Northwest. In 1912 the farmers lost heavily or at least very many of them did, because of the rainy weather after harvest, while the proceeds of that crop helped many it did not help them nearly as much as if they had saved it all. Now in 1915 there is another grand crop, but it is much damaged by rain. This means a lessened value in proportion to the damage done. This year again the crop will not mean to these states what it ought to mean. It does not mean to them what it would have meant had the grain been stacked or threshed before the bad weather came on.

Many will answer stacking was impossible owing to the scarcity of labor. In some instances it was impossible to stack it all, but a part could have been stacked. In other instances and these are greatly in the majority, it was possible. It is not because of the impossibility of stacking that so much grain was left unstacked, it was because the farmers felt that it called for less work to thresh from the shock. Because of this belief, which of course is well founded, they preferred to take the risk.

Can this risk be avoided? Assured-

ly it can. How, it will be asked. It may be avoided first, in the case of small farms, by stacking, or second, by threshing with a small machine. Machines for threshing are now on the market that may be obtained at a cost of not more than \$450.00. They will thresh, say, 500 bushels a day. They can be run with but a few hands, probably not more, in some instances, than half a dozen. Two or three farmers could run such a machine. They could well afford to own it and also to own the power to run it, which need not be more than, say, 8 to 10 horse power. In this way but little of the crop need be lost.

That is one way of saving the crop, but there is another and a better way. It is to get much of the land put into alfalfa, and to lay a considerable proportion of it down to suitable mixed pastures of comparatively short duration. A considerable area should be put into corn to be hogged off or eaten down by sheep.

Some corn also should be grown for the silo, in fact a goodly acreage every year. In this way the acreage of the wheat will be cut in two so that not more than half the harvesting and threshing would be called for. But it may be asked, would not the revenue be cut in two also? I answer, emphatically, no. The revenue from the live stock in such an instance would be much more than the revenue from the wheat. A moist autumn instead of destroying much grain would be favorable to the growth of grasses to sustain the stock.

With so much grain standing in the shock until late in the season, the plowing has been greatly delayed. This is unfortunate for the next year's crop. It will call for much plowing to be done in the spring. That means late sowing of at least a part of the grain, which is always hazardous.

SILAGE IS ECONOMICAL

The silo saves a large part of the corn crop that would otherwise go to waste, in the form of stalk and fodder. When corn is cut for silage it is all readily eaten by the farm animals. It is economical to store silage as it requires less than half of the space taken by the hay.

According to various experiments conducted by the dairy divisions of the bureau of animal industry, at Washington, D. C., and experiment stations of the United States and other countries, silage will greatly reduce the cost of feed for dairy cows and increase the milk production. Silage is a palatable food stuff. It is more conveniently fed than hay or corn fodder. It keeps the stock thrifty, and young stock growing all winter. Eight to ten tons of silage can be grown to the acre of land that would produce two tons of hay. About three tons of silage is worth one ton of hay in feeding value. The acreage production of feed units is, therefore, twenty-five to thirty per cent. greater in silage crops than in hay crops.

Silage enables one to keep a larger number of livestock on a given area of land than may be kept on forage crops cut for hay. It furnishes succulent food during the summer when drouths frequently occur. Silage prevents waste of corn cobs, stalks and over ripe fodder that will not be eaten by the animals.

The effect of silage on the flavor of milk has been a disputed question among some farmers, but it has been proven beyond doubt that good silage will in no way affect the flavor of milk.

The improvement in silo construction and better machinery for preparing the ensilage for even distribution and packing in the silo have made it possible to secure a better quality of silage with less loss than was secured a few years ago.

THE MORE WE THINK OF COWS

A cow of commerce is a suffragette of the bovine variety.

She has four protuberances that give forth adulterable material in varying quantities.

There is great rivalry between owners and breeders of various makes of cows.

Some dairymen keep cows.

The Jersey men say a Holstein is a cow that gives a tubful of milk through which you can see the bottom of the tub.

The Holstein breeder says the Jersey doesn't give enough to cover the bottom of the tub.

The Holstein is a mulatto cow—part black, part white.

The Polled Angus is a brunette cow

without horns.

The Jersey is a fawnish-looking critter with streamline body.

The male Jersey cow has a temperament like a cross between tabasco and muriatic acid.

In our youth we used to try to drive, under yoke, a Jersey bull.

He was black, with a towney line down his spine, and a mealy nose.

That bull had a disposition like Champ Clark's since the Baltimore episode.

We worked him along with a brindle steer of phlegmatic, standpat disposition.

And the way those two got along reminded one of the political harmony that prevails just after a party has got into power after a long fast.

If it were not for cows we would practically have no calves at all.

The calves need the cows for mothers.

It was once our job to teach the young and inexperienced cow who had never been a mother how to stand and be milked.

Many a time we have been buffeted in the expression by the cloven hoof of such young and giddy cowlets.

And when a cow of any age gets ready to kick one in the smile, she does not stop to disinfect, or even wipe off her hoof.

Cows, like other females, establish a leadership among themselves by various kinds and degrees of fighting.

And when the supremacy is once established, the others do not horn in until they are ready to fight for the leadership once more.

The more we see of some folks the more we think of cows.

—Strickland Gillilan in Chicago Post.

HE WANTS TO KNOW

An observing farmer says: There are some curious things about corn and one is, where do the red and speckled ears of corn come from when you don't plant any but white corn? Why don't we find an ear with an odd number of rows in it? You can find a four-leaf clover but never find an odd row on an ear of corn. It is always 14, 16 or 20 or some even number. We'd like to know about corn mathematics and what objection nature has to odd numbers.

A teacher tells this story as illustrating the curious association of ideas in children's minds.

"I do love Bruce," one of her small pupils exclaimed in ecstasy. "He's so awfully dastardly. There's nothing under heaven that he doesn't dast do."

THE VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S JUDGMENT IS CONFIRMED.



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