

# For More And Better Silos in the Northwest

Prepared by J. G. Haney of the Agricultural Extension Dept. of the International Harvester Co., for The Grand Forks Herald.

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ARTICLE NO. 2

Advantages of the Silo—Saves All the Crop

By J. G. HANEY, Agr. Ext. Dept., I. H. C.

It matters not what is put into the silo it is all saved. In the corn belt more than one-third of the value of the crop is left in the field in the stalks. This loss in the United States totals a billion dollars a year. This, to a large extent, is practically true of small grains, which are used for feed. Nearly one-third of the feeding value of the oat crop being actually in the straw. This could all be cut together and put into the silo, and fed with practically no waste. One seldom talks to a bunch of farmers, but that someone remembers that in the "Old Country" they cut up the oat straw, mixed a little chop with it, put it into a tight box, and in the winter time poured boiling water over this, covered it with heavy butylap or something to hold the heat in, left it over night, and fed it to the cattle. The silo gives practically the same results. However, corn is the crop usually thought of for filling the silo, and it is true that in feeding fodder under the very best conditions, there is a large waste, often amounting to nearly one-half.

### More Livestock Can Be Kept on the Farm at a Greater Profit.

Very often the amount of livestock kept on the farm is limited by the area available for pasture, and frequently by the number of cattle that this area will pasture during the hottest, driest part of the pasture season. In many instances the silo is now be-

ing looked to as the means of tiding over these dry periods, and provision made for feeding silage at such times. However, in this region it is probable that the silo will prove of greatest value for preserving winter feed.

To those who have already experienced the use of silage there is little that can be added. During the past winter, owing to the poor corn crop that year, many have had the experience of trying to do without. This valuable feed, and they realize what the silo means to them. Silage is in reality the green feed, preserved in its original palatable form, and it is well known that green grass or practically ripe corn cannot be improved upon as feed, especially for cattle. There is no feed that will produce greater growth or a larger milk flow, and consequently greater profit.

### Preserves the Feed in the Best Possible Form.

All of the feeding value and succulence of the practically ripe green feed put in the silo is preserved until feeding. There is no other possible means of securing such results in this region, than by the use of the silo.

### Silage is Easily Fed, Without Waste.

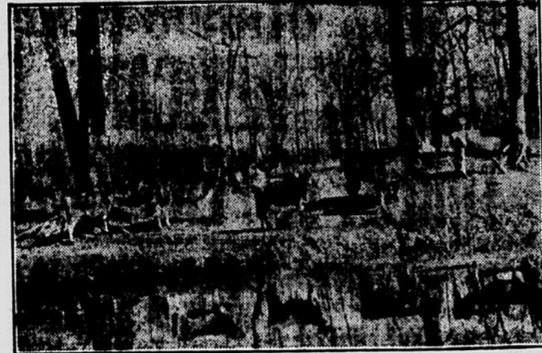
Silage is in a most convenient form to be fed. It requires only a comparatively small bulk, and as this is easily gotten out of the silo the feeding of silage is a great pleasure. It is also true that if usual care is taken in feeding good silage, there is practically no waste whatever. There is no building that will house an equal amount of inexpensive feed that can be fed out with as little waste, as the silo.

### With Alfalfa or Clover, Silage Makes an Ideal Balanced Ration.

A comparison of the feeding value of silage and green grass, which is nature's most perfect feed, will show that the only deficiency of silage is in the protein or nitrogenous part. The addition of a small amount of alfalfa or clover hay will make up this deficiency, and at the same time add variety that is most acceptable to the cattle. Good corn silage and alfalfa hay make a nearly an ideal balanced ration for the dairy cow as can be secured. With the addition of grain for one or two months, at the close of the feeding period, this makes an almost ideal feeding ration for the best steer.

### The Corn Crop, Put in the Silo, Furnishes Two to Four Times as Much Feed as When Fed as Dry Fodder.

This statement is seemingly somewhat exaggerated, but experience will bear it out as true. In the first place,



Some of North Dakota's Cattle.

### tion of refilling the silo with dry fodder will be considered further later. Silage Primarily a Cattle Feed, But is Valuable Feed for Horses, Sheep and Hogs.

Silage gives its best results when fed to cattle, because of the fact that they demand a more succulent feed than other farm animals. However, this does not mean that they are the only ones which it should be fed. Cattle, especially, may be fed a small allowance of silage to good advantage. Sheep also make good use of some silage, and hogs will relish it as a change from the dry feed in winter time. When available it should be given to all of the stock in small quantities.

### Any Crop, Corn, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Peas, Sweet Clover, Weeds, etc., Will Make Good Silage.

With many it is doubtless thought that corn is the only crop that can be used for silage. However, it is true that any crop that may ordinarily be fed to stock can be put in the silo with advantage. In fact, all the crops mentioned have been used with success, even the Russian thistle is used with corn, and makes excellent feed. Some of these will be mentioned later, separately.

### Dry Corn Fodder, Cut Into the Silo, Carefully Tramped and Wet With Water, Makes Feed Almost Equal to Green Corn Silage.

This use of the silo is relatively new, but nevertheless has proven of great advantage. At Aberdeen, S. D., 70 acres of corn which was frost-killed before it was ripe, in 1915, was cut immediately and has all been put through the silo and fed to fatten steers during the past winter. This corn, put into the silo in April, and wet as it was put in, has made practically as good feed as the first filling, which was put in before the corn was dry. This has been a great surprise, and may mean more to those who have only a small silo.

By changing work with my neighbors, I could fill a 100-ton silo in about three days. But I couldn't do that with my dry feed, as I am cutting and hauling about two months. I have been here 13 years, but there hasn't been one winter that my cattle have not had what they should have had—but I was always afraid I wouldn't have enough. You know one cannot always get the feed up in good shape, as it ought to be.



NORTH STAR, JENNIE, SIR BETA, WANDA, IVY, M. ENRIGHT, BONNEVILLE FARM, GRAND FORKS, MINN. PHOTO BY G. W. WOOD

Some of it will be good, some poor—so how is one going to tell when he is going to have enough? This job of telling you why I want a silo is some job for me. I could tell it to your face better. But then I am going to have that silo just the same—Robert Nelson, Campbell county, S. D.

Saves Buying More Land. A few weeks ago a neighbor offered to sell some land so cheap that I was

## OUR PRESENT PROSPERITY SHOULD NOT BLIND US TO FOREIGN TRADE

Washington, June 17.—"I hope that the present prosperity which we are experiencing in the United States will not blind you to the importance of foreign trade," said Dr. Edward Ewing Pratt, chief of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, in an address before the Business Men's league of St. Louis here recently. "We in the United States must not get the idea that foreign trade will come to us without our seeking it, nor must we get the idea that we can afford to devote ourselves exclusively to the increasing amount of domestic business and forget entirely foreign trade."

Dr. Pratt's address was concerned principally with the importance of foreign trade and with the assistance his bureau is in a position to render to any American who is selling or wants to sell goods in foreign countries. To prove the practical nature of the service rendered to exporters by the bureau numerous examples of actual results were cited, ranging from a \$1,800 order for road machinery to orders that run into millions of dollars, including textile machinery for the Chinese government, four for Turkey and hydroplanes for Spain. These orders came to the

American exporters as a direct result of the activities of the bureau and its representatives in foreign countries. "The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce," said the speaker, "should be judged by its deeds. If we are not accomplishing definite, practical business results it is time the bureau was discontinued. If, on the other hand, we are accomplishing definite, concrete business results, it is in the midst of their very great difficulties, the European nations are taking steps to promote their future trade. They recognize, as we must recognize, that the war will be followed by a period of intense international competition. France and Italy especially are making every effort to prepare themselves for this period of economic competition. We have already, I believe, made a good beginning, but we should leave no stone unturned in preparing ourselves and in equipping our commercial agents to meet the situation. The practical services rendered American manufacturers and exporters are not confined to the specific trade opportunities, confidentially secured, and so on, that result in the definite orders for goods. We render a great many special services that result more indirectly in increased business. Recently there came to the United States a group of Chinese merchants and dealers. Our commercial agent met them in San Francisco. We had selected him because of his knowledge of China and because he could talk Chinese. He accompanied the commission on its trip through the United States. He was able to put them in touch with American manufacturers and merchants and a large amount of business was consummated as a direct result. Other merchants coming to this country are met at the dock or are invited to our district offices and are given such information as they desire with reference to conditions and manufacturers in the United States. They are placed in touch with the manufacturers who will sell the things they want to buy and they are sent to the district offices and to the chambers of commerce in the large manufacturing cities in the United States. Our consuls and our own commercial attaches and special agents when they return to the United States make their headquarters in the district offices and there meet the Chinese manufacturers and exporters, giving them the latest information which is obtainable. During six working days last week there came to our New York office 311 persons seeking information. The district office is a comparatively recent addition to our facilities for assisting the information we gather from our consulates, ten commercial attaches and our corps of traveling special agents."

At the close of his address Dr. Pratt called attention once more to the importance of getting all the new and permanent foreign trade possible at this time and urged that business community make fuller use of the facilities of the bureau in their search for new markets. "The bureau is at your service and our motto is 'We aim to serve.' Sometimes it is difficult for us to get permission to serve. Our would-be clients are often slow to get the idea that we are not reluctant in making use of our bureau, for it is your bureau, and



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Every Farmer Owning a Quarter Section of Land Should Own a Silo.

there is absolutely no waste in feeding silage, and on account of its palatability the animals apparently get more value from it than they would from an equal amount of dry fodder. This was observed quite closely on the I. H. C. farm in 1914 and 1915, and we were satisfied that our corn fodder, when cut and put into the silo and fed out as silage, gave us at least four times the amount of feed that it would had we fed it out as dry fodder. The ques-

### You May Think You Cannot Afford a Silo, But the Fact is, You Cannot Afford to Be Without One.

On every quarter section there should be enough cattle to consume such crops as cannot be profitably sold. This will doubtless vary considerably, but if any cattle at all are kept, there should be enough to warrant the use of a silo, and we believe that even with as few as 10 head no farm can afford to be without this essential improvement; and there is no question but that the added value of feeding silage will every year pay for the cost of building a silo.

### Reasons Why I Am Going to Build a Silo—Must Have a Silo.

Yes, I must have a silo, and there are a number of good reasons. I spend too much time putting up dry feed, and then there is so much waste. By having a silo I could have a No. 1 feed and wouldn't have to have it stacked all over the yard; also I should judge it would take longer to feed dry feed than it would silage. As most of my neighbors and myself feed the stock outdoors, we are out in all kinds of weather; but with a silo, it would be fed inside and would be much more pleasant for both man and stock. And another very important thing is that our pastures are good here for only about three months in the year, so we ought to have some silage to feed. Also the flies would not bother the cattle so much if they were in the barn eating silage, and I wouldn't need to worry about fire taking all I had, as I have seen it do.

tempted to borrow part of the money to pay for it and buy it. I wanted it because in dry years I did not have pasture enough to feed as many cattle as I wanted to keep. But now I am going to use the money on hand to build a silo, and buy the machinery to fill it. Then I can keep more cattle on the land I now own, and I will also have other advantages.

First—I will have green feed for my cows in the fall and winter, which will increase the flow of milk and increase the cream shipments. I can have my cows fresh in the fall and winter, and produce the heaviest flow of milk in the winter when I will have the most time for milking, the flies will not suck the cows before I can milk them, and the price of cream is highest.

Second—I will have silage to feed my beef cattle. When feed is dry I can give them silage and lay on more pounds of beef in less time, and so save in the cost of production—which gives me more money for my labor and money invested in beef cattle.

Third—And to my mind very important. I will have more manure dropped where I can get it and haul it on my outworn land. This manure applied to the ground will increase the fertility of the soil and add humus which holds moisture. So that I will be able to produce more feed even in dry years and I will receive more pay for my labor in cultivating my land—W. E. Wrapp, Meade county, S. D.

### HORSES ARE POISONED.

Mohall, N. D., June 16.—What proved to be a costly experiment in gobber poisoning happened to Frank Yale when eight of his horses ate some of the poisoned oats and died from it in a few minutes. It seemed that precautions had been taken in order to keep it up in the granary so as to keep it up in the granary and feed against the possibility of new stock getting near it, but the horses broke into the sheds with the gobber mentioned above.

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