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tent in which good silage can be made. Furthermore, if silage is tested for moisture and is found to be a few percentage points too high or too low there is little that can be done about it. Hay that is cut and raked for silage requires a long time to cure for stacking or baling and it is much more practical to proceed with the silage program and maybe add water at the silo if the material gets too dry and do a more thorough job of packing. I think packing thoroughly is more important than exact moisture content.

I do not use preservatives of any kind. I have used both sugar and molasses and will have to admit that they do make a better flavored and a more pleasant smelling product. However, it requires more equipment to mix a preservative with the silage in the field while chopping, and it's a lot of extra work and bother to add a preservative with each load of silage as it is dumped. I have come to the conclusion that cattle will readily eat all the silage they need without the use of preservatives and so have eliminated their use in my program.

Most Value

Making grass silage is one of the best ways to get the most value from a hay crop. All the leaves are preserved and they contain the big percentage of protein. Last year my alfalfa silage tested 15 per cent protein in the winter time after it had been cured. We think of a dairy ration which runs 16 to 18 per cent protein as being about right, so with silage at 15 per cent it is not necessary to feed a heavy grain ration. I also think the vitamin and mineral content of silage is just about as high as it is in the freshly cut feed.

One thing, however, is certain. The quality of feed preserved by the silage method is no better than the original materials which go to make up that feed. Making silage from rough, over-ripe hay with a low feeding value will not make a first class feed. It may be more palatable and you may be able to get a greater percentage intake, but the amount of the feed which can be converted into milk or meat is not changed in the process of making it into silage.

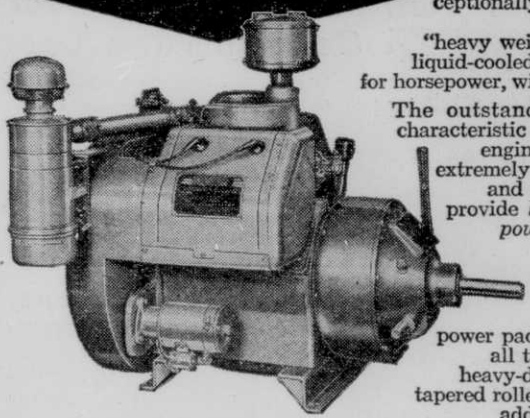
Yesterday we made silage while it was raining. Any other haying operation would have been stopped. We had a shower which dropped .4 inches of precipitation and this morning the fields are too wet to even permit traveling in them. The sun is bright, however, and by noon we will be going full force again and more of that good quality grass silage will be pouring into the pit for next winter's feed supply.

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