

In the Field of Agriculture

REDUCING THE COST OF BEEF PRODUCTION

Silage will be one of the greatest factors in the future in reducing the cost of producing beef, according to A. A. Burger, an Iowa agriculturalist, and only within the last few years have we found that silage was necessary for the ration of the beef animal. Mr. Burger says:

"The best feeder that we have are now feeding silage to their fattening cattle. At the Indiana station an experiment including a ration of 16 pounds of shelled corn, 3 pounds of cotton seed meal, and 30 pounds of silage was compared with a grain ration containing 15 pounds of silage and 5 pounds of clover, and also with a third ration containing 10 pounds of clover, but no silage. The price per steer was respectively: \$21.50 for the full feed of silage, \$15.80 for the half feed of silage, and \$12.79 for the lot receiving no silage. And the returns per bushels of corn fed in the same order were: 97 cents, 86 cents and 79 cents. In the feeding of silage to beef animals, it must be remembered that it is rather bulky and hence must be fed in largest amounts during the early part of the feeding period, and the amount gradually decreased as the cattle reach a market condition.

"Many feeders feed silage to all classes of live stock. If fed in proper amounts there can be no danger when the silage has been properly preserved. Oftentimes corn is put into the silo rather dry and in many cases the good fodder is not properly distributed nor properly tamped. It is possible to make good silage even out of the driest fodder by adding water. Cases have come to our ob-

ervation recently where even the fodder corn which was left standing in the shock during the winter was run through the silo cutter and with about three times its weight of water added placed in the silo, with very satisfactory results. It is doubtful whether such practice would be profitable, but it indicates the possibilities in producing good silage and it shows the feeding value of our corn crop when so handled."

"HOGGING DOWN" CORN

Investigations at a number of state agricultural experiment stations during the last few years have proved the practice of "hogging down" corn to be both practical and economical. These experiments have shown in all cases that greater gains in the weight of hogs are secured by this method than in dry-lot feeding, providing the essentials for profitable production in this system of feeding are held in mind. The advantages of this method of feeding are the labor saved in harvesting, husking and cribbing the corn crop and in the feeding of the corn to the hogs; saving of space for storing and freeing the corn fields from weeds; the fertilizer value of the crop in the form of manure is completely returned to the soil without waste; less corn is wasted by the hogs than by the corn binder; the hogs develop vigorous constitutions, robust health and keen appetites. The objections frequently cited against the hogging down method, as proved by various experiments, do not offset the value of the practice.

B. O. Severson, of the Pennsylvania experiment station, in a recent issue of the National Farmer and Stockman, calls attention to the es-

entials necessary to success in this method, as follows:

"If the corn crop is to be harvested in this manner it must be rightly managed. Hogs should be given access to a limited portion of the corn field. The area should be adjusted so that the hogs will clean up the corn in two or three weeks and then be moved to a fresh area. In this way the corn will be cleaned up better.

"During the seven trials the Missouri station found that one acre of corn would pasture 14 hogs for 36.4 days. The Iowa station reports, ordinarily on 50-bushel corn land 13 hogs averaging 135 pounds would clean up a field in 40 to 50 days." The Pennsylvania station showed that more than 12 pounds of pork per bushel of corn was produced by hogs in standing corn while a check lot in dry quarters produced slightly more than 10 pounds of pork from each bushel of corn fed.

"Hogs of the same size should be used, preferably hogs averaging between 100 and 170 pounds apiece. Pigs weighing less than 100 pounds or sows should not be pastured with the fattening hogs. These may be allowed to follow up the area passed over by the fattening hogs.

"The fences used for enclosing the corn area should be of a portable nature. Woven wire fence 26 inches high is generally used. The corner posts should be strong and well set. The wire may be tied up to the corn stalks when they are sufficiently strong. Small posts should be driven in with a sledge wherever necessary to make the fence stable. The wire should be stretched tight.

"Hogs are turned into the corn after it has dented. Before being placed in the corn the hogs should be brought gradually to a full feed of the green fodder corn. One week's time should be given the hogs in gradually accustoming them to this new feed.

"The corn must be supplemented by other feeds. Some sow a forage crop with the corn at the last cultivation to furnish the necessary protein in which corn is deficient to make a well-balanced fattening ration. Such crops are rape, cow peas, soy beans, pumpkins, Canada field peas and hairy vetch. Even with these crops tankage, skimmilk or buttermilk is fed with profit.

"Provided a forage crop is not planted in the corn or that buttermilk or skimmilk is not available to supply the protein to the feed, then tankage should be fed. The amount of tankage recommended is one pound per 400 pounds of live weight of the hogs daily. Water should be given at least twice daily and the tankage allowance fed with it. It is extremely important that some feed rich in protein be fed and that water be regularly supplied in abundance.

"Another thing that is often neglected is proper shade for the hogs. It is necessary to construct temporary structures that will protect the hogs during the heat of the day."

HESSIAN FLY CONTROL

The most effective way of making away with this pest is the destruction of the stubble shortly after harvest, says the Nebraska experiment station. Almost all of the flaxseeds are left in the stubble after harvest, and these should be destroyed by early, deep plowing, done so carefully that

the stubble is thrown to the bottom of the furrow and completely covered, thus entrapping the flies. This plowing should be done very soon after harvest, before any of the flies emerge, and should be followed by a sufficient number of cultivations to maintain a fine, weed-free soil mulch until the field is seeded. Such treatment makes for the highest yields, while the keeping down of volunteer grain serves to scatter any summer brood. Where for any reason mid-summer plowing is undesirable, the flaxseeds may be destroyed by burning the stubble.

In years of Hessian fly infestation, the wheat should be seeded late enough so that the wheat plants do not reach a sufficient size to attract the flies until the bulk of these insects have emerged from the flaxseeds and died without having found cultivated wheat upon which to lay their eggs. Of course, during those years when the Hessian fly is not present in large numbers, wheat may better be sown earlier.

Rotation of crops is a practicable Hessian fly control measure, for not only does the bringing in of corn, oats, alfalfa, or clover tend to starve out the pest, but if the wheat field is changed the fall brood of flies must migrate to more or less distant fields to find wheat, and this results in a large mortality among them.

WHY DIVERSIFIED FARMING?

Why is it better for the farmer to raise more than one main crop rather than depend upon one is seen from the yields obtained by the department of experimental agronomy at the Nebraska experiment station:

1910—Corn yield, 52 bu.; wheat, 48.
1911—Corn yield, 45 bu.; wheat, 51.
1912—Corn yield, 48 bu.; wheat, 9.
1913—Corn yield, 9 bu.; wheat, 50.

It would appear from these figures that the farmer who sowed the larger portion of his land to wheat in 1912 would have done far better if he had planted corn. In 1913, his wheat would have done far better than his corn, on the average. Since at the beginning of the season, the farmer has no means of knowing which crop will give the largest returns, it would be better for him to avail himself of two chances, or more if possible, rather than to risk one.

GOVERNMENT SALE of Indian Timber Lands

There will be offered at public auction at the places and times herein named at not less than the appraised value, about 967,000 acres of timber lands with standing timber thereon, which includes about 841,347,000 feet of pine, as estimated in 1911, and approximately 14,275,000 feet of hardwood, located in the Choctaw Nation, southeastern Oklahoma. The sale of the lands in Pittsburg County will be held at McAllister, November 3; in Latimer County at Wilburton, November 4 and 5; in LeFlore County, at Poteau, November 6 and 7; and in Pushmataha and McCurtain Counties, at Huxar, November 9, 10, 11 and 12, 1914. Bids may be submitted in person or by agent with power of attorney, or by mail. Land and timber will be sold together. Land will be offered in tracts not exceeding 160 acres. One person can only purchase one-quarter section of agricultural land, but is not limited as to the number of acres of non-agricultural land. Terms, 25 per cent cash, balance in three annual installments of 25 per cent each, with interest at 6 per cent, but payments may be completed any time. Immediate possession given after approval of sale. Residence on land not required. Removal of portions of timber permitted as paid for. Improvements on land, consisting of a few scattered houses, will be appraised and sold with the land and the owners reimbursed where they are not the successful bidders. The right to waive technical defects in advertisements and bids, and to reject any and all bids, is reserved. Detailed information, including descriptive lists showing the quantity and the appraisement of timber and land in each tract, will be furnished without cost. Maps showing location and accessibility to railroads of each tract, will be furnished at a cost of 50 cents each. Application for both descriptive lists and maps should be made to the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Remittances for maps should be made payable to George N. Wise, Disbursing Agent, Muskogee, Oklahoma. C. A. T. SELLS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

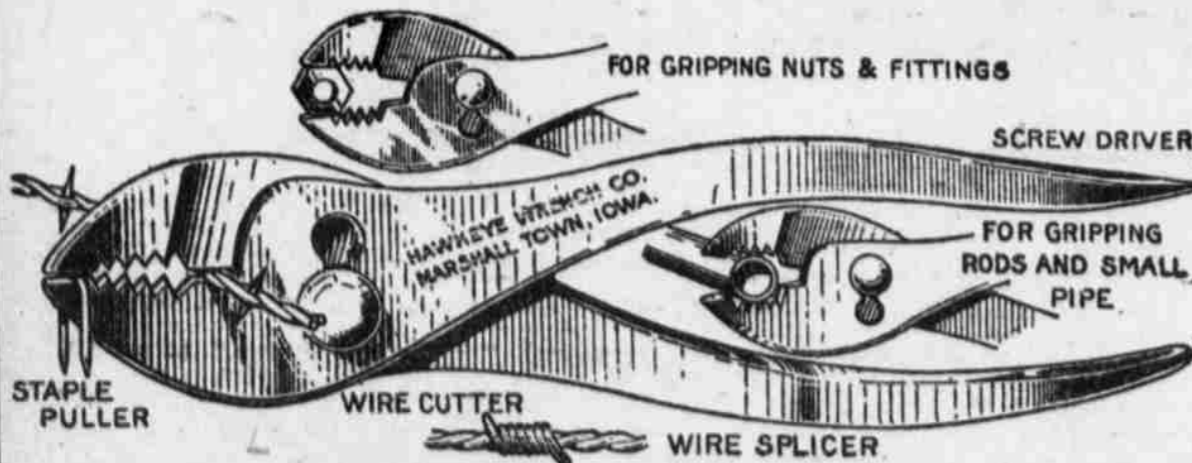
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