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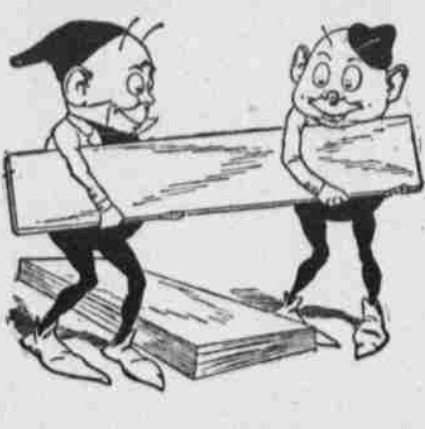


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LEGAL NOTICE
To Lizzie Jackson: You are hereby notified that on the 14th day of November, 1907, I, the undersigned, John Keefe, purchased at public tax sale of the treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, the following described premises situated in Box Butte County, Nebraska, to-wit: Lot No. 11, in Block No. 25, original town of Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska, for the taxes for the years 1905 and 1906, and C. W. Brennan, then County Treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, issued treasurer's certificate of tax sale No. 30, therefore, and I have since paid as subsequent taxes after same became due and delinquent, the taxes for the years 1907 and 1908; that said land was taxed for years 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908 in the name of Lizzie Jackson.
You are further notified that after the expiration of three months from date of service of this notice that I will apply to the treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, for a tax deed for said Lot No. 11, in Block No. 25, original town of Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska.
Dated this 7th day of July, 1909.
JOHN KEEFE, Purchaser and Owner of said Certificate.

LEGAL NOTICE
To J. B. Wyatt, W. N. Cornuel and Barney Riley: You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 14th day of November, 1907, I, the undersigned, John Keefe, purchased at public tax sale of the treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, the following described premises situated in Box Butte County, Nebraska, to-wit: Lot No. 10, in Block No. 27, original town of Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska, for the taxes for the years 1905 and 1906, and C. W. Brennan, then County Treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, issued treasurer's certificate of tax sale No. 34, therefore, and I have since paid as subsequent taxes after same became due and delinquent, the taxes for the years 1907 and 1908; that said land was taxed for years 1905, 1906 and 1907 in the name of J. B. Wyatt, and for the year 1908 in the name of W. N. Cornuel.
You and each of you are further notified that after the expiration of three months from date of service of this notice that I will apply to the treasurer of Box Butte County, Nebraska, for a tax deed for said Lot No. 10, in Block No. 27, original town of Alliance, Box Butte County, Nebraska.
Dated this 7th day of July, 1909.
JOHN KEEFE, Purchaser and Owner of said Certificate.

Making Money On the Farm

IV.—Oat Growing

By C. V. GREGORY,
Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture"
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NEXT to wheat, oats are the most widely grown small grain crop. It is a crop that is needed on every farm for feed, especially for young stock and horses. In the corn belt oats fill in a place in the rotation that cannot well be taken by any other crop. The work of seeding and harvesting fits in well with the work of growing a corn crop; hence oats are and probably always will be an important crop in the corn belt.

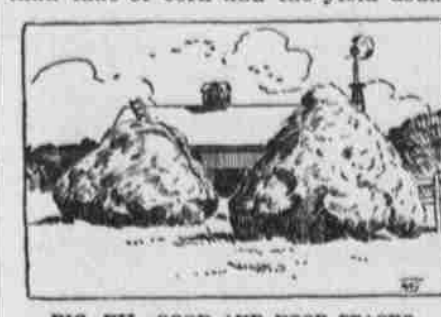


FIG. VII.—GOOD AND POOR STACKS.

In spite of these reasons for growing oats they are not usually considered to be a profitable crop. The price is less than that of corn and the yield usually considerably lower. Most farmers raise oats more because they have to than because they think there is any money in it. If handled rightly, however, oats can be made a money crop.

One of the most important points in oat growing is the selection of seed that is adapted to the locality. Oats are a cool weather crop. The hot midsummer weather of the corn belt is one of the chief factors causing low out yields. When the hot weather strikes the oats they blight and rust badly. Many times they crinkle down and do not fill well.

Advantage of Early Varieties.
The only way this can be avoided in the corn belt is to sow early varieties. These ripen before the hottest weather comes and escape many of the troubles that affect later oats. Early varieties are much less susceptible to rust than late ones are. The selection of rust proof varieties is the only way of combating this disease, since, unlike smut, it cannot be prevented by treating the seed.

Experiments at the Iowa experiment station show nine bushels more to the acre in favor of early varieties. The average of twelve years experiments at the Nebraska station gave the early oats fourteen bushels to the acre advantage. In good oat years—that is, those with a cool summer—the difference is not so marked. In such seasons the late oats yielded seven bushels to the acre less than the early, while the medium oats yielded a little more. In bad oat years—and in the corn belt four years out of five are bad from the oats standpoint—the early varieties yielded twenty-one bushels to the acre more than the late and thirteen bushels more than the medium.

The medium varieties are more convenient, as they do not crowd in on haying and corn plowing like the early ones do. The use of improved haying machinery is shortening the time required for putting up the hay crop, however. The advantage of early oats in yield will in most cases more than make up for the disadvantage of having the work crowded during the first half of July.

Early oats have another advantage in that they give the clover a better chance. Where the oats are not got off the ground until the last of July and dry weather follows, as it so often does, the clover makes little growth and is often killed out entirely. With the adoption of a systematic rotation clover will nearly always be seeded with oats, so that this is a point that cannot be ignored.

It is not advisable to ship in oats from a distance to seed the entire field. Often you can get good early seed from a neighbor at little more than market price. If there are no early oats in your community you can send away for a few bushels of a new variety and plant them in a corner of the field by themselves. If they give good satisfaction enough seed can be saved from them to seed the entire field the next season. In the northern part of the United States and in Canada, where the summers are cool, late varieties can be profitably grown. In such localities they give a greater yield and a larger, plumper oat.

Preparing the Seed.
After the seed has been procured the next step is to get it into shape to sow. This means a liberal use of the fanning mill. A large per cent of the oats sown are shoveled from the bin directly into the seeder. Most farmers who do fan their oats simply run them through once to blow out the sticks and dirt and sieve out the weed seed. It pays well to run the oats through the mill two or three times to blow out all the light seed. The work can be done in winter when there is little else to do. The light oats that are blown out are just as good for feed as the others, and the heavy ones that are left are worth several times as much for seed. In experiments carried on to show the comparative value of light and heavy oats the light seed yielded forty-seven bush-

els to the acre, the medium fifty-four and the heavy sixty-two. The difference may not be this great every time, but it will always be great enough to pay well for the labor of fanning. There is an objection to using the heavy oats for seed in that they tend to become a little later each year. This can be avoided by introducing some new seed of an early variety every few years. Directions for breeding seed oats will be given in article 7.

After the oats are cleaned and graded they should be treated for smut. Smut is a black fungus that grows from a tiny spore that lodges beneath the hull when the oat is in bloom and the kernel open. When the hull closes the spore is held inside until the next season, when it sprouts and sends a thread up through the stem to the head. There the smut grows, producing a black mass where the head should be. Often as many as 15 per cent of the heads will be affected in this way. These black heads are not easily noticed, so that the damage is usually underestimated.

The simplest method of treatment is to spread the oats out on a tight floor and sprinkle them with a solution of one pound of formalin to forty gallons of water. This amount is sufficient for forty bushels of oats. Shovel the oats over two or three times until they are thoroughly wet, and then pile them up and cover them with blankets or sacks. The fumes from the formalin will penetrate beneath the hull and kill the smut spores. In the morning the oats should be spread out again and shoveled over occasionally until dry. They can be sowed wet, but in that case the seeder should be set to sow about a bushel to the acre more, as they do not run through as readily. This work should be done on a warm day, as freezing while the oats are wet will injure the germination. This treatment costs only about a cent a bushel and is very effective.

Preparing the Seed Bed.
One of the most neglected points in oat culture is the preparation of the seed bed. Oats do better on a rather firm seed bed. If the field was in corn the year previous it will not be necessary to plow unless the ground is very hard. It should be disked thoroughly, however, to cut up the stalks and pulverize the upper two or three inches. It will usually be profitable to let the disk "lap half," as this does away with ridges and leaves the land in better shape. One barrowing after the disk leaves the ground in splendid shape to receive the seed.

Methods of Seeding.
There are several methods of seeding, of which the end gate seeder is the worst and the disk drill the best. The two main objects in seeding are to get the seed in evenly and at approximately the same depth. The end gate seeder fulfills neither of these requirements. The broadcast seeder scatters the seed evenly, but it is covered no better than with the end gate seeder since both depend upon the disk for covering. The disk drill is more expensive and does not get over the ground as rapidly, but it distributes the seed evenly and puts it at the same depth. The seed is dropped in furrows made by the disks and thoroughly covered, so that one barrowing is all that is necessary after drilling. Experiments show a considerable advantage in yield in favor of the disk drill.

At the Iowa station the average of four years' experiments showed nine bushels to the acre in favor of drilling over broadcasting. From half a bushel to a bushel less seed to the acre is required when a drill is used, as all



FIG. VIII.—HAVE GRAIN WELL SHOCKED.

the seed is put where it can grow to the best advantage. Clover has a better chance in drilled grain. The drill should be run north and south, so that the sun can shine in between the rows on the little clover plants.

Harvesting the Crop.
Preparation for harvest should be made by having the binder in perfect running order beforehand. If oats are not cut as soon as ripe they will almost surely go down and be lost. Great care should be taken in shocking to see that the bundles stand up firmly. If the straw is not too green the shocks should be capped, as a capped shock will shed rain better. A shock that stands up straight and is well capped will shed a great deal of rain without wetting in much. It is much better to stack than to thrash out of the shock. The oats will sweat somewhere, and they will be of better quality if they do it in the stack instead of in the bin. It has been proved many times over that there is nothing to be gained by thrashing oats from the shock. Oats that have been permitted to go through the sweating process in a well protected stack are always of better quality than those which have been hurried into the thrasher.

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