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SELECTING SEED CORN

Matter of Great Importance to
the Farmer

Field Selection of Seed Corn is the
Keynote to Successful Corn Breed-
ing—Select the Ears in the Field
(Reply to Jacob H. Marshburn, Cath-
erine Lake, North Carolina.)

We are delighted to know that you
are interested in the breeding of good
seed corn. Next to the better and
more thorough preparation of the soil,
the proper selection and production of
seed corn is the work most needed in
the south. The variety tests at the
Experiment Stations show that of
twelve of the leading varieties of corn
tested, the difference between the
highest and lowest yield per acre on
the same kind of soil with identical fer-
tilization and cultivation was 15.2 bu.
We fully believe that the average yield
of corn in the south can be increased
more than twenty-five per cent by
planting prolific seed instead of seed
that has run out. "Like produces
like."

It will probably be best for you to
buy the best seed from some reputable
breeder in your section and then
learn the best scientific methods to
further improve the seed. The buy-
ing of the best seed from some reput-
able breeder in your section will save
you several years of labor and expense
in breeding up the seed. However,
you can, by following instructions,
rapidly breed up your own corn.

First, select stalks that bear the
ears at a moderate height on the
stalks for the reasons that it is diffi-
cult to gather ears too high and the
stalk is apt to be top heavy and easily
blown down by winds.
Second, select stalks of medium
size, gradually tapering from base to
tassel.
Third, with large eared varieties,
no stalks that have more than two
ears should be selected, and an effort
should be made to select some stalks
that have two ears and some that have
one.

Fourth, the leaves should be broad
and strong, from twelve to sixteen in
number, and well distributed on the
stalk.

Fifth, the stalks should be well
anchored by numerous strong base
roots from one to two joints above
the ground to enable to withstand
winds. Stalks free from suckers
should be selected as far as possible.

Sixth, detassel all weak stalks and
stalks growing only nubbins or no
ears at all just before the silks begin
to show in good number. This will
prevent fertilization by inferior stalks.

Seventh, the ear should be cylindrical
or nearly so. It should be full
and strong in the middle portion and
the circumference should be approxi-
mately three-quarters of its length.
The shuck should be heavy and well
extended over the end of the ear and
closely gathered about the silk. The
shank that bears the ear should be
long enough to permit the ear to droop
at maturity.

Eighth, from ten to thirty times as
many ears should be selected as will
be necessary to plant next year's
crop.

Ninth, it is best to select and pick
the seed corn in the field before the
first frost. The seed ears should be
placed where they will be kept dry,
and where they will be protected from
damage by weevils, rats, etc.

Tenth, during the winter remove
the shucks from the ears of corn and
select the necessary number of the
best ears to plant in the spring. The
rows of kernels should be straight,
and not less than sixteen nor more
than twenty-two in number. The ear
should be from eight to ten and a half
inches long. The color of grain
should be true to variety. White corn
should have white cobs and yellow
corn red cobs. The tip should not be
too tapering. It should be well covered
with straight rows of regular kernels
of uniform size and shape. The rows
of kernels should extend in regular
order over the butt end of the cob,
leaving a depression where the shank
is removed. The tips of the kernels
should be full and strong, leaving no
space between them near the cob.
The kernels should be about five-
sixteenths of an inch wide by five-
eighths of an inch long, and about six
to the inch in the row.

It is a good plan to have a special
seed patch and plant say twenty-five
of the best ears in this patch. Each
ear should be planted in a row without
mixing with any other ear. Twenty-
five rows planted in this way will be
sufficient for the average farmer. At
maturity, harvest each row separately
and weigh the yields. Select the ears
for next year's seed patch from the
rows that give the highest yields, and
the remaining portion of the rows of
highest yield are used for planting the
field crop. And so the work
should be continued from year to year.
Yours very truly,
I H C SERVICE BUREAU.

DISK HARROW; BERMUDA GRASS

The Disk Harrow is indispensable and
Should Be on Every Southern Farm
(Reply to F. J. Webb, Lee Hall, Va.)
You can not invest the same amount
of money to better advantage than by
purchasing a good disk harrow.
The difference in the working of a
cutaway and a solid disk is that the
cutaway penetrates the ground much
deeper and throws it up in a much
coarser condition than the solid disk.
The solid disk pulverizes the soil
much better.
The double disk harrow is desirable
for farmers who wish to do two disks

at the same time. The front
harrow can be set to out-throw and
the rear harrow to in-throw. This
will thoroughly pulverize the soil and
leave the field level. The main ad-
vantage of the double disk harrow is
that if you desire to use the regular
disk, you can remove the rear attach-
ment very quickly and easily.

This will depend on the nature of
the soil, the angle given the disks,
and the weight of the man on the
harrow. As a rule, it is not advisable
to purchase a disk harrow with more
than eight 16-inch disks for use on a
three-horse farm.

Bermuda grass will probably make
a good pasture on your land. The
Rhode Island bent (Agrostis Canina),
creeping bent (Agrostis Stolonifera),
and common reedtop (Agrostis Vulgaris),
form one of the most dense sods
known. The chief value of these
grasses is for pasture. They are
especially valuable for making pas-
tures in sandy, moist places. The
following mixtures are frequently
used in your section of the country:
(1) Timothy, 16 pounds; reedtop, 16
pounds; red clover, 4 pounds—per acre.
(2) Reedtop, 15 pounds; orchard grass,
18 pounds; meadow fescue, 9 pounds;
and red clover, 4 pounds—per acre. (3)
Tall oat grass, 28 pounds; and red
clover, 8 pounds—per acre.

The arsenical solution is used by the
United States Department of Agri-
culture and is probably the best solu-
tion to use. Write Dr. A. J. Kiernan,
Federal Building, Nashville, Tenn.,
for bulletins on the eradication of the
cattle tick, the extermination of
fleas, lice, etc.

The mangels should be pulled before
heavy frosts, the leaves cut off to with-
in an inch of the crowns and the roots
stored in a cool cellar or in pits in the
ground, and covered over with straw
and earth deep enough to prevent
freezing. It is not advisable to feed
your stock on frozen mangels.

FEEDING CORN FODDER

Experiments Show that Corn Stover
Is Valuable in Beef Production—
Corn Stover is One of the Many
By-Products of the Farm.
(By J. E. Waggoner of the I H C Ser-
vice Bureau)

Profit is a stimulus which causes
men to engage in some one or more of
the many phases of business. It may
be commerce, the industries, banking,
farming or some other activity, yet
when all is said, the profit from that
particular line of work is usually the
attractive feature. Competition has
become so strong that profit in many
undertakings is made only by practis-
ing the strictest principles of economy
and exercising unusual care in looking
after the small things and what might
be termed "by-products." For in-
stance, one of the sources of the bank-
er's income is the small increase in
the rate of interest on money loaned
over what it cost him. The same is
true of the farmer. The increase in
the value of land has necessitated
putting farming on more of a business
basis in order to realize a profit on the
investment.

Much has been said and written re-
garding saving and utilizing the waste
products of the farm, and it is en-
couraging to note that more farmers
are making better use of all the prod-
ucts of their farms than ever before.
One of the most serious wastes has
been the neglect to save and utilize
the entire corn crop. The principal
market demand has been for the
grain. This, combined with an abun-
dance of hay, has not been conducive
to the use of corn fodder as a rough
forage. Conditions have changed the
past few years; among other things,
hay has advanced in price to such an
extent that it is only good business
practice for a farmer to supply his
rough forage in the form of corn fod-
der and put his hay on the market.

Every grower of an acre of corn
should know the feeding value of the
entire crop. It is quite generally
known what returns can be expected
from the grain, but few farmers know
the feeding value of the corn stover
(stalks without the ears). Reports
from the Nebraska Experiment Sta-
tion on experiments made comparing
combinations of shelled corn, snapped
corn, alfalfa and corn stover show
that when stover is used as half
of the roughage it reduces the cost of
gains on two-year-old steers from 40
to 48 cents per hundred. The stover
was found to be actually worth \$3.55
per ton as compared with alfalfa fed
alone at \$6.00 per ton. The farm value
of alfalfa and other hay crops reached
a mark of more than twice this amount
the past year, thus increasing the
value of corn stover from \$5.00 to
\$12.00 per ton.

With these figures before us, it is
plain to see that the corn belt farmer
is neglecting one of his important
sources of income by letting his corn-
stalks stand in the field. Considering
the small yield of only one ton of
stover to the acre, the returns of the
American farmer would have been
increased millions of dollars last year
if this what might be called by-product
had been saved. Coming back to the
individual farmer, he would have
realized his proportion of this profit.
During this summer is the time to
plan on cutting the corn for fodder
this fall and utilizing to the best ad-
vantage the entire corn crop. We find
that the Nebraska bulletin No. 109
says: "By feeding corn fodder, we
utilize the stalk and yet are put to no
extra labor husking it. In fact, corn
can be cut with a harvester and put in
the shock cheaper than it can be
piled and cribbed, inasmuch as three
men with a team and harvester can
cut and shock seven acres per day.
Records from the farm department

of this experiment station show that
it costs \$1.18 per acre to cut and
shock corn, which figure does not
allow for the wear and tear on the
machine. Three cents per bushel
should cover the cost of harvesting
corn with a machine and putting it
in the shocks."

The logical way of saving the corn
crop is to shred the fodder. Extensive
experiments at the Wisconsin Experi-
ment station show that about 24 per
cent of the feeding value of fodder is
lost if left exposed to the elements.
By shredding and storing, this loss will
be prevented. The fodder is also in a
much more convenient form for hand-
ling, and is relished more by the stock.
Shredded fodder does not occupy as
much room for storing as the un-
shredded, and the stable manure is
much easier handled.

In summing up the results of vari-
ous feeding experiments with corn in
all forms it is found that the best
way to utilize the corn crop is to save
the stalks either in the form of ensil-
age or shredded fodder. The records
of the Nebraska Experiment Station
dispel any doubt as to the economy of
harvesting corn by the use of the corn
binder as compared with husking the
standing corn in the field. Under the
latter condition the stalks would be
lost. The value of the stalks as a
rough feed, considering hay at the
present price, is at least \$8.00 per ton.
An ordinary yield of corn will produce
two or three tons of stover to the
acre. Compare this value with the
price of fifty cents per acre, which is
usually paid for stalks standing in the
field. When corn is fed as shredded
fodder, the loss of stock due to corn-
stalk disease is entirely prevented.
Every farmer that has stock to feed
should plan to supply the most of his
roughage in the form of shredded corn
fodder, thus utilizing in the best possi-
ble way his entire corn crop.

Forty per cent of the feeding value
of the corn crop is found in the stalk.

DESTROYING GRASSHOPPERS

Reply to Jacob Mathlason, Walnut
Grove, Minn. "Please send me by
mail directions for killing grasshop-
pers."

Before attempting to give a remedy
for the grasshopper plague, a few
words in regard to its early stages of
growth will not be out of place. In
order for the grasshopper to multiply
to any extent, the soil in which the
eggs are laid must be undisturbed and
there must be an abundance of food
available. The most favorable condi-
tion for grasshopper development
seems to be found in the alfalfa sec-
tions of the west. Where it is possible,
one of the best preventive measures is
to cultivate the ground. The soil need
not be disturbed below the first two
inches of surface, for most of the
eggs are deposited very shallow. We
fully realize that in many cases this
cannot be done so as to completely
destroy the grasshopper, but where it
is possible to plow and cultivate in the
fall, the number can be greatly de-
creased.

There are two ways of destroying
the adult or grown grasshopper. One
is by the use of the hopper dozer.
Various forms are in use, but one that
has given very good satisfaction can
be built of sheet iron, ten or twelve
feet long, and about twenty-six inches
wide, with a board across the back,
against which the grasshoppers will
fly and then fall into the bottom of
the hopper dozer. The bottom of the
hopper dozer should be made water tight,
so that a quantity of water may be
poured into it, also a small quantity of
kerosene. The hopper dozer should be
mounted on low skids or small wheels
and drawn by one or more horses.
The grasshoppers will be collected in
the hopper dozer and killed by coming
in contact with the kerosene. This
whole structure is rather inexpensive
and has proved a very good method of
destroying the grasshopper.

The bureau of entomology of the
United States Department of Agri-
culture has recommended a poisoned
bait, which is known as the "criddle
mixture," and has given very good
results in some sections. The mix-
ture is made as follows:

One-half barrel fresh horse dropp-
ings, in which is mixed one pound
each of salt and paris green. If the
droppings are not fresh, the salt is
dissolved in water and mixed with the
manure and poison.
Then this mixture is scattered freely
about, where the grasshoppers are
abundant. Dr. Fletcher, entomologist
for the Dominion of Canada, cites an
instance where this poison mixture
was scattered around a portion of the
field, with the result that this portion
stayed green while the grasshoppers
seriously injured other parts of the
same field. The criddle mixture has
been preferred to other brands of poi-
son because its effect on other forms
of animal life is not so serious.

**SEVEN COMMANDMENTS OF AL-
FALFA GROWING.**

Thou shalt not sow alfalfa seed on
wet or undrained land.
Thou shalt not sow alfalfa seed on
acid or sour land, but shalt apply
calcium in the form of lime, or ground
limestone rock.
Thou shalt supply alfalfa land with
an abundance of stable manure.
Thou shalt thoroughly prepare the
alfalfa seed bed.
Thou shalt sow only good alfalfa
seed, free from noxious weeds.
Thou shalt inoculate the soil if thou
wouldest reap the best benefits from
the alfalfa crop.
Thou shalt not sow in late fall, if
thou wouldest obtain a creditable
stand.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

"WE STAND AT ARMAGEDDON."



—From New York World.

Two more British army officers,
Captain Patrick Hamilton and Lieu-
tenant Stewart, lost their lives when
the wings of an aeroplane in which
they were riding collapsed at Steven-
age. They fell 250 feet.

Funeral services for Dr. W. J. Mc-
Gee, the scientist who bequeathed his
body to Dr. Edward A. Spitzka, the
noted brain specialist of Jefferson
Medical college, were held at the home
of Gifford Pinchot in Washington.

A masked man boarded a Missouri
Pacific passenger train at Osage City,
Kan., held up the conductor, six men
in the smoker and after obtaining only
\$20 for his pains, jumped from the
train when it stopped at a water tank
and escaped.

With the head nearly severed from
her body and arms frightfully slashed,
Lydia Berger, known as the most
beautiful woman of the night life in
San Francisco, was found in her bed.
Thousands of dollars' worth of jewels
worn by the woman are missing.

Digging for victims of wholesale
murders in West Hammond, Ill.,
remains of whom are said by Frances

Ford to have taken their death
draught from a "black bottle" kept in
a notorious resort, may be decided on
as a result of his investigation, said
Coroner Hoffman.

An autopsy on one of the horses
which died of the mysterious disease
that is killing thousands of horses in
Kansas revealed a bucketful of tiny
worms in the intestines. Horse own-
ers are dosing their horses with tur-
pentine and other oils in an effort to
kill the intestinal worms.

American Ambassador Wilson was
instructed by the state department to
urge upon the Mexican government
the dire need of federal troops in
northern Mexico to protect Americans.
Frautte appeals to the state depart-
ment tell of dangers threatening
Americans and call for help.

Nathan Allen, a retired merchant of
Kenosha, Wis., paid the government
\$100,000 to compromise his civil liabil-
ity in a smuggling case at New York,
1909, which also involved Mrs. H. D.
Jenkins in an alleged attempt to es-
cape duties on thousands of dollars'
worth of jewels and wearing apparel.



A Distinction With a Difference

YOU may not always get what you pay for.
It takes a good judge of values to do that,
but if there is one sure rule in business it
is—you pay for all you get. You may not be
able to see the difference between engines of
similar appearance at different prices, but if
you buy from a reputable firm you may be sure
the difference in quality is there.

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cost more than some others because they are
more carefully made, and more thoroughly
tested. Skillful designing, better material,
better workmanship, more careful assembling,
and more thorough testing, tell in the long
run. Given equal care an I H C engine costs
less per year of service than any other engine
you can buy. If an I H C engine is given all
the work it will do, pumping, sawing wood,
running the grindstone, feed grinder, hay press,
silage cutter, repair shop machines, cream
separator, churn, washing machine, etc., etc.,
it will pay for itself in a very short time in
money and labor saved.

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tillate or alcohol, in sizes from 1 to 50 H. P.
Kerosene-gasoline tractors, 12, 15, 20, 25 and
45-H P.
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logues and full information, or write

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of charge to all, the best information obtainable
on better farming. If you have any worthy ques-
tions concerning soils, crops, land drainage, irri-
gation, fertilizers, etc., make your inquiries specific
and send them to I H C Service Bureau, Harvester
Building, Chicago, U.S.A.