

FEED AVAILABLE FOR CATTLE IS WASTED



THRESHING SCENE IN NORTHWEST.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A vast quantity of feed available for cattle is now either wasted absolutely or put to some less profitable use, says a recent report which the department has just published as Part IV of a comprehensive survey of the entire meat situation in the United States. Failure to utilize the full value of this material has increased unnecessarily the cost of producing meat, has diminished the profits from cattle feeding, and has discouraged many farmers from engaging in an industry essential to their permanent prosperity.

According to the report already mentioned, the loss in grain, straw, and corn stover amounts to more than \$100,000,000 annually. Both of these products are disposed of most economically when fed to cattle in connection with some form of concentrated feed. Straw is especially valuable in carrying the breeding herd through the winter, in wintering stockers, and as a supplementary roughage for fattening cattle. Stover, too, is an excellent feed for wintering cattle, especially mature breeding cows. Nevertheless, in many sections of the country where these products are abundant, little attempt is made to take advantage of their value for these purposes.

Of an annual straw crop of approximately 120,000,000 tons, it is estimated that only two-thirds is put to its best use—live-stock production. Of the remainder, a little more than one-half is sold or turned under and the rest, 15 per cent of the total crop, is burned. Burning is practically an absolute waste, and although plowing under does contribute something to soil fertility, the benefit to the land is less than that which would be derived from the use of the straw to produce manure. "Of all systems of obtaining permanent soil fertility," says the report, "none is so practical or as easily available as that of feeding live stock."

The average value of all kinds of straw is placed at about \$5 a ton. In many sections, of course, no such price can be realized for it, and as a matter of fact only about 8 per cent of the crop actually is sold. The figure mentioned, however, may be taken as representing the value to the farmer of straw if he will use it properly in his farming operations as feed or bedding. In order to illustrate how this may be done the report gives three sample rations for wintering a breeding herd of beef cattle on straw combined with silage, shock corn, and cottonseed or linseed meal. Anyone of these rations, it is said, will prove economical. They are as follows:

Rations for Wintering Breeding Cows.

Ration 1:	Straw	10
	Silage	20
	Cottonseed meal or linseed meal	1 1/2
Ration 2:	Straw	20
	Cottonseed cake or oil cake	2
Ration 3:	Straw	10
	Shock corn	10
	Cottonseed meal	1

In this connection it is pointed out also that feeding straw in the winter will insure under certain circumstances the full utilization of summer grass. In a number of western states it frequently happens that grass goes to waste because feeders are unwilling to pay the high prices asked for steers in the spring. With an abundance of straw on hand to lessen the cost of wintering, feeders can take advantage of the lower prices for stocker cattle in the fall to secure on reasonable terms at that time enough stock to pasture all the grass the following year.

The production of corn stover is about twice that of grain straw, amounting to approximately 245,000,000 tons a year. A larger percentage (81.5) of this is fed than of the straw, but the waste is nevertheless astonishing. For this, poor methods of feeding are largely responsible. By far the most economical method of handling corn is by ensiling, but as a matter of fact only 8.1 per cent of the acreage was put in the silo in 1914, the year in which these investigations were made. About 11 per cent was cut for greenfeed and 81 per cent allowed to mature for grain. It is in the last portion of the acreage that the greatest waste occurs. Stripping the leaves from the stalks which are subsequently burned, removing the stalk above the top ear only, leaving the stalks to stand in the field until the loss of leaves and leaching have removed much of their fertilizing value, are all unthrifty methods. Furthermore, almost 4 per cent of the stover is burned, as though, instead of being a potential source of revenue, it was merely a nuisance to be gotten rid of as a percentage of stover that is thus thrown away is as high as 7 or

8 per cent and the total loss to the country from the practice is estimated at nearly \$15,000,000 a year.

To obtain satisfactory results from the feeding of farm roughages, such as straw and stover, they must be combined with some form of concentrated feed. At the present time large quantities of such feed, in the form of cottonseed meal and cake, corn, molasses, peanuts, and beans are exported for the use of European feeders. If the straw and stover that are now wasted were employed to feed more cattle, these concentrates could be consumed at home. The result would be a tremendous saving not only in the cost of producing beef but in the cost of enriching the soil as well. In 1914, for example, about 1,000,000 tons of cottonseed meal—half the total production—were applied directly to the soil as fertilizer. If this had been fed to cattle instead, three-quarters of the fertilizing value would have been returned to the soil as manure. The loss of the other fourth would have been far more than counterbalanced by the profit on the meat produced economically by the meal and the necessary roughages. Much the same thing is true of the other oil meals.

The value of these meals is far better appreciated in Europe than here. Denmark, for example, feeds annually 478 pounds of oil cake to each of her mature cattle, the United States approximately 24 pounds. Furthermore, the European feeder is aware of the fact that the high-protein meal, while more expensive to buy, is more economical to use. Meal of this quality is seldom sold on the domestic markets because the American farmer has not yet learned its value. Cottonseed and linseed are perhaps the best known of the oil meals, but there are other—the use of which as feed could be profitably extended. Both peanut and soy bean meal and cake, for instance, are in good demand in Europe.

The efficient use of these and other feeds discussed in the report is of the utmost importance to the American farmer, it is pointed out, because the day when close calculation in feeding was not necessary is, in all probability, past. Hereafter it is likely that success will depend upon ability to put to the best use all available products. A greater knowledge of what these products are and of the ways in which they can be fed will result in the elimination of enormous waste.

WORMS WORRY SMALL CHICKS

When Several Establish Themselves in Throat and Approach Maturity, They Cause Suffocation.

Gapes is caused by the presence of gape worms in the throat of the young chick. Probably the actual injury caused by the presence of the worm is very slight, but the chick's throat is so small that when several worms have established themselves and approach maturity they so far fill the throat of the chick as to cause suffocation.

In all probability these worms often exist in the throats of larger chickens, but because they do not noticeably deprive their hosts of air they reach maturity or are dislodged, and their presence is never detected.

CULTIVATING PEAS IN CORN

Remove Front and Rear Tooth From 14-inch Tooth Harrow and Straddle Row With Implement.

A good way to plant peas in corn is to wait until about two or three weeks before laying by. After cultivating the corn, plant a row of peas in the center of the middle. When the peas come up take a 14-tooth harrow and remove the front and rear middle tooth, and possibly raise the outside teeth next the corn so the roots will not be injured. Spread the harrow out so the middle will be pretty well filled and straddle the pea row with the implement. One or two cultivations of the peas will be a great help to them.

GOOD STORAGE IS NECESSITY

Place for Perishable Foods Often Lacking and Speculators Are Given Advantages.

Farmers lose much every year because their facilities for storing perishable foods are poor. Every farm home should have a cellar, storehouse and refrigerator so the surplus foods may be saved till such a time as they may be consumed. The fact that producers have inadequate facilities for saving perishable products gives speculators advantages.

TRAINING TODAY'S BOYS AND GIRLS

Their Misdeeds Seldom Evidence of Wickedness.

PLAYING HOOKY WON'T HURT

Parent Who Remembers How Things Used to Feel Is One Who Knows How to Manage His Boy.

By SIDONIE M. GRUENBERG.

AT THE club Jones was reading the paper to himself and making comments to all within hearing. Suddenly he sat up and put down the paper. "Was that Waite's boy," he asked, "that was mixed up in that affair down at the lake?" No one seemed to know. Didn't even know there had been an affair. In that case Jones had to read to them. It was the story of a boy who had gone over the edge of a pier and was pulled out by another boy who happened to be passing. The boy who happened to be passing was young Bob, and he happened along at a time when he was supposed to be in school. That was the point. Although no one denied that it was eminently proper for him to jump into the water and save the ragged stranger, all were agreed that he had no business there. He was obviously playing truant.

"If a boy of mine did that," said Saffron, "I'd let him take all the medals and fine speeches that were coming to him, and after the celebration was all over I would take him into the woodshed and give him the worst licking of his young life."

That sounded very heroic and very reasonable. After all, it's wicked to play truant. It was only a lucky chance that the boy came along in time to save the other child—perhaps this one had been a truant also. The chances were even that another time, he'd get run over by a fire engine. The boy's place is in the school, and he had no business along the lake front. He needed a lesson that would teach him his place.

It made Saffron real angry to think of a son of his committing an outrage upon law and morals. And the things he had in mind to do were—well, they were just the expressions of his anger. They were not thought out policies of applying force where it would do the most good. They were the instinctive appeals to violence, and had just about as much moral value as Bob's own delinquent.

And Brown, who had not been saying anything, could see that. And so he joined the conversation. He would not approve of truancy. He knew it was a bad thing and liable to lead to worse things. But there's no use get-



Remember That Boys Will Be Boys.

ting excited over it. Didn't we all do the same thing when we were young? Or at least we were all tempted to, and if we did not yield it was just our good fortune and not our superior virtue. Besides, it's the sort of thing a child will do just because he is a child. When he gets to be as old as we are he won't be tempted to go down to the lake. Remember that boys will be boys. Give him a chance to grow up and he'll be all right.

This did not sound so heroic, but it did seem reasonable. After all, a day out of school breathing the fresh air and taking good exercise won't hurt any boy. He could make up his school work just as easily as though he had been absent on account of sickness, and this was better than sickness. Thousands of boys play "hooky" and then grow up to be decent citizens—some of them even become teachers or ministers. Let him alone, and he'll grow up all right.

Young Blank, whose children had not yet reached the age of truancy, was interested, but bewildered. He had expected to lay up a supply of practical wisdom to use in possible emergencies in the future. But he did not find the conflicting counsel very helpful. Evidently ought to be punished, of course; otherwise there would be no premium on doing the right thing. But if a child does what we consider "evil" without malice, should he still be made to suffer—especially when he is very likely to outgrow the instincts that lead to such acts?

The trouble with Saffron was that he had not taken the pains to think out the right and wrong of playing truant, nor the right and wrong of

punishing children. He was just as impulsive as the truant himself, with this difference. Whereas the boy had an uncomfortable feeling that he was doing something that was wrong—because it was disapproved—the man had the assurance that he was in the right, for in the punishment of children he was countenanced by generations of parents and most of his contemporaries.

The trouble with Brown was that, whereas he had learned enough to know that the misdeeds of children are in most cases the outward expressions of perfectly healthy instincts, and not evidences of "wickedness," and whereas he knew that most children will outgrow these misdeeds, he had no idea that there was anything to be done about it except to permit the fates to finish the story.

It is well for all of us to know what Brown knew. But that is not enough. Children will outgrow their childish impulses, but what will take their place? One of the ways in which the grown-ups acquired that feeling of righteousness in the presence of childish misdeeds was through the impressive indignation of their parents on the occasions of their own childish errors. It may be wrong for Saffron to put so much stress upon the wickedness of truancy, but it is just as wrong to evade the issue and



He Was Supposed Be in School.

treat it like teething, as something that will pass away was something else to do besides whipping children; Brown needed to learn that there was something to do.

As we become more and more familiar with the development of the child's mind we realize that many of the symptoms that are so alarming to others are in no way indications of depravity. But there is the danger that in learning this we may become indifferent to all symptoms. A child is to be watched and understood; this will avoid frequently the resort to violence. But he is to be understood and helped; this will save us frequently from the sin of omission.

We must know not merely enough to improve on the methods of revenge and penalty; we must know enough to evolve a positive program of constructive assistance to the child at every point at which his instincts conflict with the requirements of the world to which he must adjust himself.

Something to Regret.

In a Washington hotel lobby the other night reference was made to the wonderful thoughts of the little folk, when this incident was recalled by Congressman J. Edward Russell of Ohio:

One afternoon little Bessie sat in the kitchen watching her mother weave a hot iron through the dainty frills of some white frocks. The day was warm, and mother looked somewhat weary.

"Mamma," finally remarked the little girl in a sympathetic voice, "isn't it very hard work to iron?"

"Yes, dear," answered mother, with a soft sigh, "sometimes it is very hard."

For a moment the little girl thoughtfully communed with herself, and then her face became brightly illuminated.

"Oh, mamma!" she enthusiastically exclaimed. "Wouldn't it have been great if you had married a Chinaman?"

—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Cheap Japanese Prints.

If you cannot afford expensive pictures, do not therefore put up with ugly ones. There are lovely prints that can be bought for a song, and if you do not wish to spend money on framing them, by all means mount them on gray, brown or black nuts and tack them unframed on the wall. Japanese prints can be bought, in a size a little bigger than postcards, for 10 cents each. There are many lovely designs. One, in black, gray-browns and yellow, is a rainy scene at night. A Japanese woman with a servant, bearing a lantern, is silhouetted against a background of lighted houses, moving rickshaws and other pedestrians. Everybody carries a flat Japanese parasol, and long slanting lines of rain cut across the whole print. Others of these 10-cent prints show water scenes, garden scenes and Japanese children and babies in charming attitudes of play.

Peanut's Many Uses.

The peanut is a much more useful product than most people think. Besides its use in the roasted form, there are other innumerable uses.

The nuts contain from 42 to 50 per cent of a nearly colorless, bland, fixed oil, resembling that of the olive and used for similar purposes.

More than 25 years ago there was begun in Virginia the manufacture of peanut flour, of which a particularly palatable biscuit is made. North Carolina has long made pastry of pounded peanuts. It is also eaten for dessert, and is roasted as a substitute for coffee.

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A Busy Murderer.

"Prisoner at the bar, do you plead guilty or not guilty of this murder?" "Not guilty, judge. I can prove an alibi. I was engaged in killing another man at the time and he wasn't the same man the indictment says I killed, as I can prove by this picture of him, which I drew myself from memory."

Few women are really afraid of mice, but they hate to disappoint the men, who seem to expect them to be afraid.

The Two Dimensions.

The temporary pulpit orator had preached a very long sermon. Even he realized that he had exceeded the modern limit of sermons, and he said to the gentleman to whose home he went for Sunday dinner:

"I hope I did not worry you by the length of my sermon." "Not at all," said the gentleman, "nor by its depth."

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LOBELIA USED AS A DRUG

American Indians Gathered Plant for Their Cheats—Called "Indian Tobacco."

American Indians found one plant growing in damp woods, handsome in spikes of pale blue flowers, which they used as medicine.

When the white man came the same plant won the favor both of the apothecary and the gardener, but the gardener has paid more attention to its cultivation than has the apothecary. Hence we know it more as a flower than as a drug. It is the lobelia, named for Matthias Lobel, a Flemish physician and botanist, says the Philadelphia North American.

The medicinal substance in the plant is called lobelin, an alkaloid, although the Indians probably didn't know it. The common use of the plant among the aborigines led the early settlers to call it "Indian tobacco."

When it is cultivated for commerce the seeds are scattered on the surface of the ground late in fall or early in spring. They germinate early in spring and send down roots.

When the flowers are blooming the plants are cut and dried in the shade. An acre of good soil will yield 1,000 to 1,200 pounds of herbs.

A man visits his relations when he has nowhere else to go.

What Impressed Her.

Shortly after Will Crooks, the labor leader, was elected to parliament, says an English weekly, he took his little daughter to Westminster. She was evidently awed at the splendors around her, and maintained a profound and wondering silence all the time. Mr. Crooks was much impressed.

"Well," said he to her at last, "what are you thinking so deeply about, dear?"

"I was thinking daddy," answered the little girl, "that you're a big man in our kitchen, but you aren't very much here."

Taken at His Word.

Sarcenic Father—Julia, that young man Riley has been here three nights in succession, and it has been nearly midnight when he left. Hadn't you better invite him to bring his trunk and make his home with us?"

Innocent Daughter—Oh, papa, may I? It is just what he wanted, but he was too bashful to ask you. He'll be delighted when I tell him this evening.

Bad Disposition.

"Bliggins gets up every morning at sunrise."

"So as to get more work out of the day?"

"No. So as to have the fun of spoiling other people's sleep."

The married man who waits for the owl car is sure to catch it when he gets home.

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