

Largest Circulation in Red Willow Co.

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The Pennsylvania railroad since 1886, has paid \$31,000,000 from it relief funds.

There are 100 vacancies in the class to enter the United States military academy at West Point, next June.

With the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, America almost reached the billion dollar mark in her exportations of manufactured goods.

The new apportionment bill gives Oklahoma as many congressmen as Kansas, and two more than Nebraska. A remarkable development, Oklahoma!

The senate by a vote of 38 to 28 Tuesday night adopted the conference report on the wool tariff revision bill already adopted by the house. The bill will now go to the White House for the expected veto of President Taft.

President Taft has vetoed the statehood measure, drafted to admit into the union the states Arizona and New Mexico. He bases his objection to the bill on its recall of the judiciary provision. Is it, however, a violent assumption to claim that the power to recall is no greater nor less great than the power to call or create?

\$1.00—The Tribune—one year.

**GRANT.**

Modrell and Ebert of McCook were over in this section buying cattle last week.

Harry Rathburn of Traer, Kansas, was over this section this week with a Yost stock buyer.

J. H. Wesch has purchased a fine driving team for which he paid \$250.

Wesch brothers are overhauling and repainting their 20-horse power tractor engine. They are going to grade roads with it on the Omaha-Denver auto route.

John A. Hoffman had a fine two-year-old colt badly cut up in a barb wire fence during the electric storm one night last week.

Jacob Wesch is giving his buildings a new coat of paint this week.

Tom Momsby has a brother here visiting him from the east.

Edwin Carfield is expected back from Missouri soon. He has been there looking after his timber land.

**INDIANOLA.**

E. E. Thompson and daughter Mrs. Harry LaBaron spent Thursday in Bartley.

Several people were poisoned with poison ivy while attending the D. of H. picnic on Coney Island, Wednesday.

Quite a number from McCook came down Wednesday to attend the picnic.

There will be a union Sunday school picnic in Randel's grove Thursday.

Hiram Rankin of Cripple Creek is here this week on business.

W. A. McCool was called to Indianola, Iowa, this week, by the serious illness of his sister.

Hazel McKinney spent Saturday in McCook.

Relatives from Plattsmouth are visiting at the Toogood home.

Word was received this week of the marriage of Viola Sawyer and Willis Orket at Stockville, last week.

The Beatrice ball boys played the Indianola team here Saturday the result being a victory for the Beatrice team.



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**INSTRUCTIONS ON FILLING THE SILO**

**Corn Well Along Toward Maturity Makes Best Ensilage.**

**MAY BE CUT ALMOST ANY SIZE**

By C. W. Pugsley, Professor of Agronomy and Farm Management, Nebraska Experiment Station.

Formerly it was thought that the corn should be quite green when used for ensilage purposes. It is now realized that the best ensilage is made from corn which is well along toward maturity. When the ears are glazed and beginning to dent is probably the best time. If cut before this period there is not so large a proportion of digestible nutrients in the plants. If cut very much later, some of the digestible nutrients have been transformed into crude fiber, which is not so digestible. The plant has, also, a certain amount of that substance which gives to ensilage the thing sometimes designated as "palatable succulence." Succulence is, of course, one of the chief assets of ensilage, and corn should always be cut early enough to insure this condition. The silo can be filled with corn which is quite mature. In fact, at the Nebraska station, one year the corn was past the best stage by one or two weeks and was quite dry, due to lateness of cutting and dry weather. A small stream of water was kept running in the blower and this gave the dry stalks and ears sufficient moisture to make a very good class of ensilage. It was probably not as valuable as if it had been cut at the proper stage, but it was worth a great deal more for feeding than the fodder would have been, especially when used for dairy cows.

The machine used for filling may be of any type, although the blower type gives the best satisfaction. One great advantage of the blower comes in distributing the corn in the silo. There is a certain force resulting from the blast of air which enables the silage to be packed to better advantage if a distributor is used. It can be purchased for from \$12 to \$25, and in many instances will pay for itself in a single season's use. The distributor is merely a series of joints of pipe fastened together with snaps in a manner to make it flexible. The ensilage is thus evenly distributed all over the silo, which is not the case when the cut corn merely falls from the top of the silo either with a blower or chain carrier. The heavier portions of the ensilage, such as the kernels and pieces of the ears, will fall closest to the distribution point, while the lighter portions, husks and stalks, will be scattered farther away. This makes it necessary to fork over the ensilage, and with the greatest care the corn and stalks are not evenly distributed. Success in feeding depends to quite an extent upon the uniformity of the feed used. The distributor will give an absolutely uniform distribution and will save the labor of one man in the silo.

In filling it is well to keep the out edges a little higher and to do most of the packing at the outside of the silo. In tramping, the foot should be placed next to the staves and the entire weight of the body thrown on it. This will pack the ensilage on the outside in a manner that will prevent the loss of a good many pounds. The packing is best accomplished by men constantly tramping. Very often it will pay to keep an extra man in the silo for this purpose, although with a distributor it is probably not necessary to have more than two. One man can do the work better with a distributor than two can without it.

The ensilage may be cut in almost any size desired. From one-fourth to one-half an inch is probably the best size. The customary size is about one-half an inch. If much larger than this it is not quite so palatable, and pieces are often left in the mangers, especially if the corn is rather mature and the pieces happen to include a joint of the stalk.

It is well to have everything in readiness for filling the silo by the first of August. It is much better to be a month too early than a week too late. A drought may come, and in order to save the corn crop it will have to be put in the silo. An early frost may also come, and if everything is in readiness the ensilage can be made. If, however, it will take several days to prepare after the frost, and especially if another one follows with some severity, the corn will be greatly damaged. From the farm management standpoint it is always a great deal better to have things all ready long before they are needed. It doesn't take any more time to see that the knives of the cutter are sharpened and that the binder is in good working order at one period of the year than it does at another, and it may mean a good many dollars to the farmer. No money is saved in filling by attempting to get along with too little help. Filling the silo at the best is rather heavy work, and, as a rule, farmers do not like that part of it which demands the handling of heavy bundles of corn. If teams and men enough are on hand to complete the work in a short time, less trouble will be experienced in getting help. One of the heaviest expenses in connection with filling is the cost of an engine and engineer, where one is

hired. It is hard to get a man to come with his engine for less than \$8 or \$10 per day. If the cutter is of large enough capacity to fill a 100-ton silo in a day, every effort should be made to do so. Very often by the addition of one extra man and team in hauling from the field this can be done.

Some farmers favor getting a smaller cutter and letting the filling period extend over more time. In some instances this is probably an economical arrangement. I know of one man in Iowa who uses a small cutter with a chain carrier, the type that demands the least power, and runs it with his farm gasoline engine. He uses the help of the farm, with perhaps the addition of a few men, and will extend the period of filling a 100-ton silo over a week. This, of course, has the disadvantage very often of allowing a portion of the corn to become too ripe, while the portion which was put in first may be a little green, especially if some bad weather intervenes.

There is no need of getting a cutter with an extremely large capacity if the purpose is to fill one or two medium sized silos on one's own farm. I have a 12-inch cutter with a traveling feed table and a rated capacity of ten tons, and the boys reported last year that the cutter was plenty large and would take care of the corn as fast as they could get it to the machine. I made a trip to the farm at the season of filling and was surprised at the manner in which the cutter would handle the bundles without cutting the bands. In no case were the bands cut and the cutter would take the entire bundle. I am satisfied myself, however, that if I were purchasing another machine I would get one a little larger, to enable the man at the feed table to get along with a little less work and worry.

The cost of filling will vary a great deal upon different farms. The value of a ton of ensilage will depend to quite an extent upon the methods employed in growing the corn and in filling the silo. If a man is a good farmer and raises a large crop of corn and the cost is based on the cost of producing an acre of corn, it will be seen that this ensilage will cost a great deal less per ton than the ensilage produced by his neighbor who uses a small amount of corn. Last season I saw one farm where eight acres filled a 100-ton silo, while on another farm not more than three miles distant it took twenty-five acres to fill a 100-ton silo. The market value of the land was about the same. It can thus be seen that estimates on the cost of production will vary greatly, probably due more to the amount of ensilage produced per acre than to the cost of filling, although that is no small item. The variation in estimates will not be so great if it is figured on the basis of the bushels of corn produced per acre, at market value. Professor Mumford of Illinois states that corn yielding forty-two bushels per acre, and worth 35 cents on the market, will give ensilage at \$2.75 per ton. In my own instance last year, where it took eighteen acres to fill silos of 110 tons each and with an estimate of the corn at sixty bushels per acre, at 35 cents per bushel, and with the labor of filling extended over a period of four days, and costing \$110, and allowing the stalks to be worth \$1 per acre on the market, the cost of ensilage per ton was \$2.59. Mr. Rusk of Union county, Iowa, produces ensilage at \$2.49 per ton for a 100-ton silo. Professor Haecker of the Nebraska station bases his estimate upon the cost of growing the corn, and states that ensilage can be grown and put in the silo at \$1.95 per ton. Mr. Richardson of Scott county, Iowa, says that it cost him for growing and filling \$1.15 per ton. I have no doubt but what careful farmers can easily produce ensilage, figuring the cost on the market value of the corn if it had been harvested and sold, at \$2.50 per ton, and at this rate it is one of the cheapest and best foods, in connection with alfalfa or clover hay, that can be produced in the corn belt.

**OFFSETTING THE EFFECT OF DROUGHT**

**Farmers Shou'd Have Plenty of Land in Alfalfa.**

By E. A. Burnett, Director Nebraska Experiment Station.

The disastrous effects of the present drought can only be checked by rain, which must come soon. Cultivation may help some cornfields. Those having a good soil mulch can be but little benefited by further cultivation except as they are cultivated following a rain like the one of July 9. With the recent rain and others which may follow, the corn crop may yet be about the average. A large part of the state will probably have enough corn to make good silage, even without further rains. On most of these farms other forage will be scarce and hard to get. Where the farmer can put up a silo, he can overcome a good part of this loss by putting the corn crop into the silo. Every farmer who keeps over twenty cows, whether for beef or dairy purposes, should investigate the silo and probably should build one.

Small-grain fields are now ready to plow if we get sufficient moisture to permit plowing. These fields should be plowed at once. Every farmer who does not have plenty of alfalfa should prepare from ten to forty acres for alfalfa and sow the seed between August 15 and September 15. The land should be worked thoroughly to make a good, firm seed bed. A good

alfalfa field will protect the farmer against next year's drought. Farmers having plenty of land in alfalfa are not particularly short of forage at this time. Good alfalfa hay and silage will make as cheap beef or butter in summer as fairly good pasture. Every dairyman should have both these kinds of forage.

The first crop of alfalfa was good this spring over most of the state. A small second crop has been cut and we have a chance for two good crops yet. The rain of July 9 and 10 will start a new crop. We are almost sure to have sufficient rains to keep the alfalfa growing. Alfalfa is one of the crops which is not killed by drought. It simply waits for rain and immediately begins work when moisture is available. Get ready now for next year.

With July and August rains, some pasture for hogs, sheep and beef cattle can be got from sowing Dwarf Essex rape. Sow three pounds per acre broadcast on plowed land. Harrow the land thoroughly after sowing.

Sorghum sown at this time will make a fair to good crop if we get rains immediately. This makes fairly good pasture for hogs, but is not safe pasture for cattle. Sorghum is most valuable as hay in winter.

If rains come soon, a large acreage of winter wheat will be sown, in hope of recuperating our losses next year. For winter wheat, plow as early as possible. Do not trust to plowing late in August or September, as good stands of wheat are generally found on land which has been plowed early and prepared well.

Farmers should take a careful inventory of their live stock and determine whether they are paying expenses. Young cattle, especially calves, made money last winter in the feed lot. Many heavy cattle did not. Do not sacrifice the young stock. Get them ready to go to market fat rather than sacrifice them at this time.

Feed the dairy cows well, no matter how scarce your forage is.

**RED-TAILED HAWK NOT FOE TO FARMERS Does Not Deserve to Be Under Ban of Poultry Raisers.**

By John T. Zimmer, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska. Among several of the birds of prey which are popularly, or unpopularly, termed "chicken hawk," and which



RED-TAILED HAWKS.

are therefore shot at every opportunity, is the red-tailed hawk. It is a rather large bird, about two feet in length, in color a mixture of blackish-brown and fulvous above and below, streaked with dusty brown, and with the tail rusty brown, crossed by a black subterminal band. The young have the tail gray, with numerous darker bars and without any of the rusty coloration.

The hawk is a strong, but slow flier, and loves to sail around in the air without apparent motion of the wings, and will often soar to such heights as to be invisible from the ground. Its note is a shrill, high-keyed whistle, which has been likened to the sound of escaping steam.

Although supposed, on account of its size and occasional depredations, to be an active foe of poultry raisers, the red-tail is quite the opposite. Small mammals, such as field mice, woodchucks, squirrels, rabbits, ground squirrels and even skunks are preferred to other kinds of food. When these are scarce the bird will feed on insects of various kinds, reptiles, batrachians, poultry and other birds, and sometimes carrion. It is very probable that most of the poultry and game birds which are eaten are the sick or disabled individuals which are unable to elude the pursuer, and if such is the case the hawk is conferring a benefit by reducing the chances for the increase of such stock. In any case, the amount of this sort of food taken is less than one-tenth of the total diet, while the harmful rodents comprise about three-fourths of that sum, and the insects, reptiles, etc., the remainder.

As may thus be seen, the red-tailed hawk does not deserve to be under the ban of the farmers and poultry raisers because of the work of a few other species, which are true "chicken hawks." It should therefore be protected and not universally condemned if occasionally seen near a poultry yard.

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