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THE TIME TO CUT HAY.

The aim of our farmers in growing forage crops is to produce from a given area as large a quantity as possible of the digestible nutriments in a palatable form. The time at which a forage crop is harvested may effect the crop in three ways, viz:—in the quantity of material harvested,—in the composition of the crop, and in the palatability of the fodder. As a general rule it has been found that the greatest amount of dry matter is secured where forage crops are allowed to fully mature and ripen. The only exception is in the case of clovers and other legumes, there the leaves rattle off and are lost, either before or during the process of curing.

It does not follow that when a plant increases in its yield of dry matter that its nutritive value has proportionately increased. It is quite possible that changes in texture and composition of the dry substance may offset the greater yield. The dry matter of mature grass contains a larger proportion of crude fibre than the immature. The plant hardens in texture and loses, in both palatibility and digestibility. It is, therefore, usually advisable to begin cutting hay early, and where there is a large crop to be gathered work should begin early in order that it be completed before the grass seeds are ripe enough to shell from the heads of the late cut grass. Chemical analysis has shown that plants are richer in protein in the earlier stages of growth than when fully grown or nearly mature. The chief with which our feeders have to contend, is the lack of protein in the rations made up of our common feeding stuffs and they should recognize the fact that by cutting early, they can get two crops highly nitrogenous fodder, where they only get one by late cutting. Cutting the first crop even before the heads are fully grown will tend to cause a vigorous new growth and in this way a good crop of rowat is secured.

The two crops are more valuable, especially for feeding dairy cows, than one mature crop on account of the increased proportion of protein. The early cut hay seems more palatable to stock, and weight for weight, more satisfactory. On the other hand by late cutting we secure a considerably larger quantity of carbo-hydrates, which are valuable for feeding, and of crude fibre which is of low feeding value.

For the Dairy cows and sheep, grass should be cut early, since these animals do not relish hay that is woody and lacking in aroma, as is the case with late cut hay. For horses and fattening cattle later cutting is allowable, as these animals subsist mostly on concentrated feed and hay serves more for "filling", as horsemen say. In tests made by Professors Sanborn and Henry in fattening steers with early and late cut hay, it was found that late cut hay gave the best results. If cutting is delayed too long the stems of the grass become tough and stringy and the seeds scatter from the heads. Such hay has little aroma and lacks palatability if not nutrients. Though an indefinite quantity, the aroma of grass has real value in rendering hay more palatable. When the sun dissipates the dew from the drying grass in the meadow, we defect the escaping aroma, because the dew in rising, carries some of it into the air. This is one reason why hay should not remain scattered over the field at night. Green colored, sweet smelling hay is really the best, and prudent farmers will not overlook such seemingly small points as preserving the aroma and preventing bleaching.

F. W. HODSON,
Live Stock Commissioner.

CURING CLOVER HAY.

In a recent article I called attention to the desirability of cutting hay at a comparatively early stage of maturity. In this connection it may be of interest to have some notes from that well known farmer and Institute speaker, Mr Henry Glendenning of Manilla, Ont., in regard to his experience with a new plan of curing clover hay. Mr Glendenning says that he prefers to cut clover hay when it is in full bloom, or when the blossom contains the greatest amount of honey. Cut in the morning after the dew is off, that which is cut in the forenoon may be raked up immediately after the noon hour, and put in cocks. The mower should not be run later than four o'clock p. m., and all put into cocks before the dew falls. This hay should be put into the barn next day, and well tramped into the mows. This plan can be continued from day to day until all is stored in the barns. Three things must be borne in mind in curing hay by this method :—

First,—Do not cut the grass until dry in the morning.

Second,—Do not allow the fresh cut hay to lie on the ground overnight, exposed to dew or rain.

Third,—If any hay should get wet with rain, let it stand in the cocks, until thoroughly dry before taking to the barn.

Last season Mr Glendenning put up some 75 to 80 tons of hay in this way, and reports that it came out of the mows, in the finest condition he ever saw. It was as green as when put into the barn, and the leaves and blossoms were all attached to the stalks. It appeared to have dried out without much heating, as all of the alsike blossoms were pink, and the red clover blossoms were from a pink to a light amber color. If any great heat had developed in the mow the blossoms would undoubtedly have been of a dark brown color. No signs of mould were visible and the hay was very free from dust. No salt, lime or other preservative was used.

Two of the mows in which the hay was stored are 22x25 ft., with an average depth of 30 ft of hay. These mows are tight floored with double inch boards over basement stables. Another mow is 24x36 ft., with depth of about 24 ft., and the floor on the ground.

The outsides of all the mows are of inch boards without battens, with cracks between the boards averaging about three eighths of an inch, just such as are usually found in the ordinary barn. The sides of the mows next the drive floor were open. The hay which consisted of red clover, alsike and a little timothy, was equally good in all parts of the mows. Mr Glendenning says that he knows of three other farmers, who have followed this system for several years with equal success, and it would seem well worthy of trial by our farmers generally.

Among the advantages of this method of curing clover are :—(1)The saving of time between cutting and storing in the barn : (2) The fact that all of the leaves and blossoms, which are the most valuable portion of the plant, are left on the hay, instead of being lost in the field as is often the case when the ordinary manner of curing is followed : (3) The hay is much cleaner and brighter than when cured in the old way.

F. W. HODSON,
Live Stock Commissioner.

THE DELINEATOR FOR JULY.

The great world event of June, the coronation of King Edward VII., of England, will picture scenes that have had no parallel in the lives of the present generation, and for this reason an article by Sir Edwin Arnold on the Coronation Festivities, and a description by the late Sir Walter Beasant of the Pageants of London, in the July DELINEATOR, are especially timely and interesting. Another of Miss Laughlin's charming stories of authors' loves appears this month, telling of the pitiful passion of John Keats; and the concluding paper in the series on pictorial photography treats of genre picture, the illustrations being remarkably fine. There is an interesting description of the life of Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross Society, in her picturesque home near Washington. To the series on athletics for women is added an illustrated article on bowling, by a New York woman who has won many honors in this sport. The house-keeping department has been adapted to the many difficulties of the hot weather season, and the recipes for summer drinks and inexpensive desserts will be welcomed. In fiction there are two high-class stories: The Unpromising Land, by Julian Van Boskirk; and A Daughter of the Wilderness, by Francis Lynde.

Live Stock Market Toronto.

The receipts at the Toronto Cattle Market to-day did not include the choicest grades of exporters, and so, although the market was very stiff, the highest prices were not so good as those of yesterday. The best price obtained was 10c per cwt lower than yesterday. The trade, however, was brisk, with a strong demand for all the best offerings. Stall fed cattle predominated, although grass cattle were in greater evidence than formerly, and from now on are expected to come in increasing numbers. There was nothing worthy of note in the other classes of cattle beyond the good demand, resulting in everything being sold early in the day. Receipts amounted to 57 loads, which included 668 cattle, 861 sheep and lambs, 1,999 hogs, 32 calves and 13 horses. The trade in sheep and lambs was good at stationary prices. Hogs showed no change, but had an easier feeling in the face of the large receipts.

Export Cattle—Were steady in price, but not of the choicest grades. The price of choice exporters ranged from $5.5o to $6.65 per cwt, and medium cattle brought $4.5o to $5.5o per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle—Were in good demand, selling at steady prices. Picked lots equal to exporters sold at $5.65 to $6 per cwt. Choice ones were worth $5 to $5.65.

Feeders and Stockers—Were steady at $4 to $5 per cwt for short keep feeders and $3.75 to $4 per cwt for heavy stockers.

Sheep and Lambs—Sold well at steady prices. Export ewes brought $3.75 to $4.1o per cwt and spring lambs sold at $2.5o to $4.75 each.

Hogs—Were steady at $6.87½ per cwt for choice and $6.62½ per cwt for lights and fats.

WOOL.

As this is the season of the year when farmers are interested in wool news, we quote from the daily press the prospects of the wool market :

"Now that the season for the new clip of Ontario wool is at hand, increasing interest is being manifested in this important staple product of the Province. Wool is the lowest staple product the farmers have to sell, 12 cts. per pound is about the present market value of washed fleeced wool. The increasing demand for meats and the raising of sheep for mutton offer great inducements to grazing countries to produce the coarse wool sheep, directly competing with Canadian wool. New Zealand, Australia and South America produce sufficient coarse wool to supply the world, but the over-production of coarse wool is not alone responsible for the present low price of Canadian wool. It is partly due to the high tariff of the United States of 12 cts per pound.

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GRAND EXCURSION
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MODEL FARM AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, WILL BE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
S. Grey Farmers' Institute
on
Wednesday June 25, 1902.

The excursion will start by regular morning trains from the following Grand Trunk Stations, and Tickets can be had at the following rates for the round trip, leaving Guelph at 5.45 p. m., will reach Hanover and Durham about 8.30 p. m.

DURHAM	$1.15	ELMWOOD	$1.25
VARNEY	1.15	HANOVER	1.15
HOLSTEIN	1.15	NEUSTADT	1.15
MT. FOREST	1.05	AYTON	1.10
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Children from Durham, Varney, Holstein, Hanover and Neustadt, 60c. Mount Forest, Ayton and Alsfeldt, 55c. Elmwood 65c. Tickets good to return on any train on the 26th.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE FARM.

ALL ARE INVITED and should take this opportunity of visiting the Farm, which, in all its different departments, is well worthy of a visit. Bring your wives and daughters and give them a pleasant and profitable holiday.

JAS. ALLAN, GEO. BINNIE,
President, Varney, Sec'y Bunessan.
Durham, June 10, 1902.

GREY BOYS AND GIRLS ENROLL.

All former residents of Grey Co. living in Toronto or vicinity are urged to send name and address to C. W. Chadwick, 6 Temperance St., Toronto, before the 20th inst, so they may receive particulars of the Excursion to Owen Sound on the 26th and 27th. Be prompt and do not miss this grand rally,

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—Mr. J. P. Whitney, leader of the opposition was honored by the Senate of Toronto University with the title of L. L. D.

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