

SKINNING AN ANIMAL

How to Get the Best Out of a Hide.

Skin While the Carcase is Warm—Have the Knife Sharp—Avoid Wrinkling—Cut Carefully About the Legs.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

During the autumn season, considerable farm butchering is done, and in the operation many good hides are spoiled in the skinning. To do a good job easily select a clean hard spot in the shelter of a tree or in a building if the floor is good. A block and tackle or other hoist arrangement should be rigged in a convenient position.

Skin While Carcase is Warm.

The animal should be clean; if not it will be difficult to keep the hide and carcase in proper condition. The skinning should start immediately the animal is dead, and the more quickly it is done the more the animal is warm the more easily the hide will come off. Make sure that the knife is sharp. After stunning and sucking the animal it should be suspended to facilitate bleeding. When in the suspended position the operator should begin skinning the head, necks and face. When skinning over the face leave the head on the hide as an objection. The head is removed from the neck at the atlas joint, or end of the spinal column. The horns should not be removed from the skull. With the head out of the way the animal should be completely lowered and placed breast up, being held in this position by a spiked stick between brisket and floor. The legs should then be skinned out and the feet removed.

Avoid Forming of Wrinkles.

After removing the feet the hide should be ripped down the belly from the sticking cut to the tail. The sides should then be skinned by working forward to the brisket and then back to the inside of the hind leg, close to the tail. The free hand should be used to pull away, pulling outward and upward against the knife. Care should be taken to prevent the formation of wrinkles under the hide as it is being removed. The hide should be skinned off nearly to the back bone, leaving it attached at the thighs and shoulders. Change the prop over to the other side of brisket and skin the other side in the same manner. **Cut Carefully About the Legs.**

For the cut at the front legs start in the center, cutting the skin well forward at the brisket and in advance of the front legs, cut back to the union of the fore leg and body and on down the inside of leg to meet the cut made when skinning the shin. In skinning the hind legs start at the center line about six inches from the tail and split the skin in straight line to the hock. Skin over the rump and thighs. At this stage it is best to insert a gambrel above the hock joints and raise the carcass so that the shoulder will still rest on the floor. Split the skin on the under side of the tail and skin out the tail bone to the end.

Skin Away From Tail and Legs.

Split the hide carefully away from the base of the tail and strip from the legs and back, using the flat or a blunt instrument such as a knife handle, skinning stone or the back of a cleaver. Be careful and do not cut the hide, since each cut reduces the value. When skinned down to the shoulders the carcass is hoisted clear of the floor and the skinning completed down over the neck. Split the ears by cutting lengthwise and fold the hide flesh side in. Tie for shipment.—Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Cheap Ice For the Farmer.

Farmers who have not already done so should prepare to lay by a store of ice for cooling milk and for household use next summer. The cost of harvesting and storing ice is low when compared with the saving effected. Ordinarily, it is safe to harvest two tons of ice for each cow in the herd. This will allow for melting and leave enough for family needs. Where cream only is sold, about one-third of that quantity of ice will be needed.

Did you ever try co-operation in ice harvesting? It works like a charm. Get one or two of your neighbors to go into such a scheme. One pond or stream and one set of tools will answer for all. The equipment necessary for harvesting and storing ice consists simply of saws, tongs, and iron bars for pushing the blocks of ice around.

A rough board enclosure ten feet square and eight feet high will hold sufficient ice to provide fifty pounds per day for 130 days after allowing for a reasonable amount of wastage. An important fact to be remembered is that the smaller the quantity of ice stored the larger is the proportion of waste. The bottom of the enclosure should be covered with a foot of sawdust, and a foot of space left between the boards and the ice, which should also be filled with sawdust. The ice should be similarly covered. The drier the sawdust the better. If the soil beneath the enclosure is impervious clay, a layer of gravel under the sawdust is advisable.

If sawdust is not obtainable, planer mill shavings will serve. If neither is to be had, two feet of marsh hay or any wild hay will answer. The roughest kind of a shed that will resist the weather is all that is required.

If you are not making money on the farm, scratch your head and do some hard thinking. Keep feeding the hens or they'll stop laying. Keep feeding the pullets or they'll stop growing.

ABOUT SWEET CLOVER

Hints Regarding the Cutting, Curing and Siloing.

Should Be Cut Before Blooming—In Filling the Silo Tramp Well—Some Farmers Recommend the Use of Salt—Old Dobbin Steals a March on the Tractor.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Sweet clover should be cut for hay in the green sappy state just before blooming. If cut for hay, great care should be taken to properly cure it. It would seem that the best method is to cut it in the field and dry it thoroughly before drawing it to the barn. Wet, damp or poorly-cured hay provides ideal conditions for the development of mould.

As sweet clover hay is difficult to cure under the best conditions a very good means of preserving it would seem to be in the form of silage. The experience of the last year, however, has revealed the fact that certain precautions are necessary in making silage if it is to come out of the silo green, succulent, and free from mould.

When to Cut for Silage.

Sweet clover for silage should be cut at the same time as for hay, i.e., just before blooming. The binder should be followed as closely as possible with the wagons and the sweet clover put into the silo at once. It should not be left lying on the ground for even a day, especially during hot, dry weather. The knives of the cutting box should be set to cut the sweet clover as fine as possible. If for any reason the feed seems dry a stream of water should be run into the cutting box, for it is essential to have the sweet clover well moistened so that it can be well packed in the silo.

Clover Should Be Carefully Tramped.

One of the most important steps in the making of good silage is to be sure that it is spread evenly and tramped thoroughly in the silo. Seventy-five per cent. of the failures in making first-class silage last year were due to insufficient packing. At least two men—preferably more—are necessary to properly tramp sweet clover in the silo. Great care should be taken to see that it is particularly well tramped around the edge. Neglect to properly pack the silage was quite apparent throughout the country this spring, and it was not always in ratio to the number of men in the silo. One farmer said he had two men in his silo while it was being filled last summer, and he could not explain why one half of his silage was rotten from the top to the bottom, and that on the opposite side

from the blower pipe. The common error was easily explained, however, when it was realized that the two men had stood on either side of where the cut food was blown in, and had simply forked it over to the other side and did not bother tramping at all. Because sweet clover has a hollow stem and has not the weight that cut corn has it requires to be packed more firmly to prevent the development of mould.

Some Farmers Recommend the Use of Salt.

The use of salt either in curing the hay or in the silo is strongly recommended by some farmers, and if the sweet clover is not being handled under the most favorable conditions it would probably help in curing of the fodder.

In conclusion, it may be well to sum up the four important steps that must be followed if the sweet clover is going to be ensiled in the best possible manner.

- (1) It should be cut before blooming.
- (2) It should not be allowed to lie in the field after being cut.
- (3) It should not be cut fine.
- (4) It should be tramped well.

Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Remember the Young People's Drive for the Hospital. Leave your money at either banks.

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Help burned Ontario over the Winter

MEN and women of Ontario—it is time that we should all realize the terrible completeness of the fire calamity that devastated Northern Ontario in the early days of October. Fires and calamities we have had before, but never such complete destruction as this.

Over 1,200 square miles laid desolate, town after town nothing but a bleak expanse of ruins, hundreds of farms swept bare, thousands of your fellow citizens "cleaned out" and thrown abruptly back into man's primeval struggle against nature and her grim forces: fire, hunger, ice and the stark northern cold.

Give 1,800 families a fighting chance to get on their feet. Temporary relief must go on. We must not fail the North.

Winter—the relentless foe

Coming as this terrible fire did, in the autumn, with the harvests in, with the townpeople already preparing for the rigors of winter—the complete destruction wrought is the harder to overcome.

Thousands of people at first had literally no place to lay their head, little to wear and nothing to eat. They had to be taken care of at first, somehow, and then, desperately as the days went by, and the cold grew more intense, rough but serviceable standard shacks, 16' x 20', have been replacing tents, old street cars, packing boxes and sheet iron—a regular food supply has been established, and rough clothing is being distributed.

What can a man do with his house a blackened hole in the ground, his barn a charred heap, his work shop a twisted pile of rubbish—and a northern blizzard raging over all?

To give immediate relief the Committee must secure actual cash without delay. If each municipality or county would devise some means of raising an amount equal to one half mill on the total assessment the relief can be continued. The raising of relief funds could be undertaken by public spirited citizens, clubs, churches or councils and provides a most deserving cause for Christmas giving. Now it is up to every community in Ontario to help a neighbouring district in its hour of trial. Make cheques payable to—

The Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee, Royal Bank Building, Toronto

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All for One—One for All

Here is a portion of our Province in ruins, and for the sake of the whole Province as well as for its own sake, this section must be restored to prosperity and happiness. We need the North, we need its vigorous, pioneering spirit so one and all, let's "give a hand into the saddle"—and do it NOW.

Money is needed. The Relief Committee can buy in large quantities, get big discounts, and often free gifts of merchandise from the many manufacturers who are generously co-operating with the Committee. The exact needs are now known.

The Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee

has been enlarged and now is thoroughly representative of the Province of Ontario. The Provincial Government is co-operating to the fullest extent and is doing everything that a Government can properly do to assist in temporarily relieving the fire sufferers.

