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How Stokes Farmers May Save Thousands Of Dollars

STOP THE USELESS AND NONSENSICAL HABIT OF PULLING FODDER--THE MORE MODERN METHOD, ITS EFFECTIVENESS AS COM- PARED WITH THE OLD WAY.

In our discussion of "fodder pulling" we showed that nearly half the feed value of the corn plant is in the "stover"--that is, leaves, stalks, and shucks.

Since we grow corn for feed only, the above well-established fact is sufficient basis for the dictum that any system or method of harvesting the corn crop worthy of consideration must be such as will save and put into the best possible condition for feed the entire corn plant.

There are two methods of saving the crops which fulfill fairly well these requirements. Experiments--in other words, experience--have shown that the method which best fulfills our requirements is to put the entire plant in the silo. It is true that even by this method some feed value is lost, but this loss is not so great as by any method which involves the drying or curing of the plant, and a superior palatability and higher digestibility are undoubtedly obtained by the use of the silo.

THE SILO IS THE BEST METHOD.

Probably not at all, but certainly a part of the corn should be put in the silo, but it is not our purpose in this article to discuss this method of saving the feed value of the corn plant. At some other time we may do so, but for the present suffice it to state that any man having fifteen head of cattle or idle horses and mules to winter cannot afford to be without a silo.

The method which we wish to discuss at this time is one by which the entire plant is cured in a dry state and put in the best possible condition to be used as dry feed.

We have already shown that the pulling of fodder is expensive and wasteful; and the custom of allowing all the stover to remain in the field until after the ears are gathered late in the fall, is equally indefensible; for it has been shown by careful experiments (accurately measured experience) that under such conditions nearly one-half the feed value of the stover is lost, just as hay that is allowed to get over-ripe or weather in the field loses very largely in feed value.

ALL CORN SHOULD BE CUT.

From the foregoing we conclude that for the best results the properly matured plant must be cut and shocked so that it will cure with the least possible loss of feed value.

We may consider two methods of cutting the corn. One is to cut by hand and the other with the corn harvester or binder.

In a recent issue of the Progressive Farmer Mr. R. W. Scott, of Alamance county, stated that he cut fifty acres of corn, averaging fully 30 bushels per acre, at a cost of not over \$1 per acre. This he undoubtedly did, but it may cost most men a little more than this; therefore, let us allow from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per acre for the entire cost of cutting and shocking corn averaging 30 bushels per acre, which will include wear and tear on machinery.

The cutting and shocking may be done by hand for about the same, or slightly greater cost, say fifteen cents to twenty-five cents per acre, when man labor is reasonably cheap and abundant, but

the harvester has the advantage of substituting horse and machine for man labor, which is everywhere becoming scarce and high-priced. The binder also has the additional advantage of putting the corn in better shape for hauling and thereby lessens the cost of hauling to the shredder or barn.

BEST METHOD OF HAND CUTTING.

Much of our corn will for a long while yet be cut by hand, if at all; hence, it may be well to briefly consider some of the methods followed in doing this work.

To cut the corn some use a large corn knife, while others prefer a sharp hoe. The choice may safely be left to the judgment and ingenuity of the one doing or directing the work.

The important part of the work is the shocking of the corn so that it will properly cure and at the same time shed water and not blow down. When the cutting has been done by hand some plan must be devised to assist in keeping the stalks standing straight and in proper position while the shock is being started. In the North a favorite plan is what is called the "gallus-bill" method. A "stool" is made out of the corn itself by trying uncut stalks together near their tops. Four stalks about four feet apart, that will form the four corners of a square, are taken and their tops and leaves so tied or entwined as to form an entirely satisfactory support for the beginning of the shock. The cut corn is set up between and around these tied stalks until an even, round shock of sufficient size is obtained. A favorite method in the South (and one of perhaps equal value to the one described above), is to use a "shocking horse" to support the first stalks set up in forming the shock.

TYING THE SHOCK.

A very important point in the shocking of corn is the tying. Many use an iron ring and rope for pulling the stalks together in order that they may be tied tightly. There is some difficulty in drawing the shock tight enough by this method, and if the work is continued the rope may make the hands of the workman sore, which still further lessens the probability of getting the shock tight enough. Another implement for drawing the stalks tightly together for tying is described as follows:

"Take a strong stick three and a half feet long and, say, an inch and a half in diameter. Sharpen one end, and near the other end fasten at right angles to it another stick two and a half feet long. Tie a piece of half-inch rope, ten or twelve feet long, to the sticks, where they cross, and leave the other end of the rope free. The pointed end is thrust into the shock up near the top. The loose end of the rope is taken around the shock and fastened where the other end is fastened. Now, by turning and twisting by means of the cross stick, you take up the slack of the rope and twist it tight around the shock; then when tight enough, fasten a piece of binder-twine above where the rope is; then loosen your rope, take out the stick and pass on to the next shock."

ALL STOVER SHOULD BE SHREDDED.

The corn having been cut and

shocked, how is it to be handled so as to put it in the best condition for feeding at the least cost?

It the article previously referred to, Mr. Scott states that he hauled, shredded and put the shocked corn in the crib for \$2 per acre, averaging 30 bushels. This made the cutting, shocking and shredding of the stover cost Mr. Scott \$3 per acre.

Our experience has seen that it costs from \$2.50 to \$3 to harvest an acre of corn yielding 25 to 30 bushels.

Such an acre of corn will give on an average from a ton to a ton and a quarter of shredded stover. Now what is this ton of shredded stover worth? In our feeding work last winter we found that beef cattle wasted only twelve lbs. out of every hundred when each animal was given 30 pounds per day. These same animals made good gains with only this shredded stover for roughage. Other feeders have found that from one and one-fourth pounds to one and one-half pounds of shredded stover are equal to the one pound of the best timothy or other grass hay.

These facts give us the answer to our question, "how shall the crop be put in the best condition for feeding at the least cost?" If we can get an acre of corn, yielding 30 bushels, cut, shocked, hauled to the barn, the ears shucked and the stover shredded, and obtain a ton of feed, which pound for pound is nearly equal to grass hay, all for the small cost of only \$3, there ought not to be any question as to which is the most economical way of harvesting the crop.

Now, what are the objections urged against this method of harvesting the corn crop? We are of the opinion that the chief reason why it is not being more rapidly and generally adopted is the disinclination of most men to depart from old and familiar ways, but let us consider some of the objections offered.

WILL THE STOVER KEEP?

I.--A few having tried it have had some of the corn or stover spoil in the shock. This is due to a lack of knowledge in handling the crop in this way. Not more than two years' experience is necessary to overcome this difficulty. These unfavorable results are usually due to cutting the corn too green, shocking it improperly or trying it so the shocks will not shed water or not cure properly.

IS IT HEAVY WORK?

II.--Many object to harvesting the crop this way under an erroneous impression that it is too heavy work. The fact is, that where machinery is used the work is no harder and not so disagreeable as pulling fodder, and by fodder pulling only about one-third the feed is obtained, while the cost, if we include the loss in yield of corn, is greater.

DO STOCK EAT SHREDDED STOVER WELL?

III.--Others object on the ground that the stock will not eat the shredded stover well. As stated above, our cattle ate 88 per cent last year when the scales and not guessing was used to determine the facts, but if the stock only ate half of the shredded stover it would still be a cheaper and better method than to pull fodder or let the stover rot in the field.

NO CORN IS LOST IN HUSKING.

IV.--Still others have objected on the ground that the corn was not well shocked or too much corn was shelled by the husker. It is true that not all shredders do equally good work, and none but the larger and improved machines should be purchased, but most of

the shredders now sold shuck the corn well enough for all practical purposes, and the 3 to 7 per cent of shelled corn is not lost since it adds to the value of the stover.

MOULDING.

V.--Occasionally the shredded stover moulds in the stack or barn. This difficulty can be certainly and entirely overcome by allowing the corn to cure well in the shock and then being certain to have it free from the moisture from rain before shredding. Never shred unless the corn is thoroughly dry; there must be no exception to this rule.

CO-OPERATION IN BUYING MACHINERY.

VI.--There is one real difficulty in the way of a general adoption of this method of harvesting the corn crop, and that is the cost of the machinery--harvester, shredder, and the power for driving the latter. Fortunately, this difficulty can be overcome. In every wheat-growing section many farmers get their wheat threshed every year without owning a threshing machine. If there comes a demand for shredders, as there should, why can it not be supplied in the same way? In fact, those who now own engines to drive threshers will only have to buy shredders to be ready to do the work.

Or, the difficulty may be overcome in another way. It will pay any man with from fifty to seventy-five acres of corn to buy the machinery to save his stover. If it will pay one man with a crop of from fifty to seventy-five acres to buy the necessary machinery to properly save his stover, why will it not pay two, four, or six men whose combined acreage is seventy-five acres to unite in the purchase of the necessary machinery? It will, and they can and should do it.

IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I wish to state that to get the most out of the corn crop it is as necessary to shred the stover and utilize it to the best advantage as it is to thresh the wheat in order to get the most out of that crop. It is only a question of time until we shall recognize this fact, and then we will save the feed we already grow instead of buying hay at \$20 per ton from the Northern States.--Tait Butler, in Progressive Farmer.

Some of the farmers in this section say that they will have home grown watermelons ready for the market by August 3rd.

Mr. J. Spot Taylor on last Thursday moved with his family into the Taylor Hotel, and will in the future give the running of the hotel his personal attention. Mr. A. J. Fagg, who has had charge of the hotel since it was opened, has moved into the McCanness house, just south of the court house.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo } S.S.
Lucas County.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of Dec., A. D., 1886.

(Seal). A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.

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Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Smithtown Raided Again By 35 Revenue Officers

DAVE NELSON AND HOWARD LOVINS, CAPTURED--TWO STILL DESTROYED--THE MOONSHINERS GOT WIND OF THE RAID AND MANY ESCAPED--ONE OF SMITHTOWN'S MOST DESPERATE MEN IN THE TOILS.

Again have the officers of the law made a charge upon Smithtown.

Last Wednesday a band of about thirty-five or forty officers attacked the stronghold of the blockaders, arresting two men and destroying two stills.

The others escaped, having got wind of the coming of the revenues, and carried off their stills to places of safety. It is charged by the officers that an R. F. D. man warned the moonshiners in time for them to escape.

A few days before the raid was made it was printed in the Winston and other papers that a raid was being planned, and thus the blockaders were warned in time.

Dave Nelson, who was considered one of the boldest of the blockaders and one of the most desperate and dangerous men in the Smithtown region, was captured, and another named Lovins. Nelson is the same fellow who was in the battle at Lawsonville about two years ago, when Deputy Sheriff Jno. R. Smith was shot.

It is said that the revenue authorities are determined to break up the Smithtown blockading, which has been going on undisturbed for so many years, and that no expense or trouble will be spared till the law is vindicated. Twelve men are now in jail at Dobson and Greensboro under bonds of \$1,000 each, and will be tried before Judge Boyd at a special term of the Federal Court. Judge Boyd having said that he will break up the illicit traffic in liquor in North Carolina, it is a pretty certain thing that some of these prisoners are in for it right. Lots of them will doubtless spend some time in the Federal prisons, besides paying heavy fines.

Below we publish accounts of the raid taken from the Mount Airy papers. Mount Airy was the base of the operations:

Mt Airy, July 24.--Since the raid on the Smithtown settlement, in Stokes county, by revenue officers a few weeks ago, stories have been current that the blockaders have been preparing for a second coming of the revenue officers by ordering several hundred new long range guns and an abundance of ammunition. The revenue officers had reason to believe that the rumors were well founded and that the blockaders were not only ready for a second attack from the government agents but were continuing to make "firewater" in large quantities.

OFFICERS GATHER FOR RAID.

Revenue officers from all sections of the State gathered here yesterday for a second raid. Armed to the teeth as on the first raid 37 revenue officers left here at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon for the noted blockaders' abode. The officers drove in the Smithtown settlement, 30 miles from here, some time during the night and early this morning began the raid.

It had been reported to the officers that the blockaders had dug rifle pits around their stills in order to have an advantage

over the revenues. This was found to be untrue.

DIVIDED INTO FOUR SQUADS.

Arriving at Smithtown the officers divided into four different squads and began a search through the community. The community had been depopulated in a night. The people had fled to unknown sections. Even the women and children had gone. Only two men were found in the entire settlement and they were found near two stills. The men were placed under arrest and brought to this city. They offered no resistance whatever. The stills were destroyed. One of the men arrested is David Nelson, and a young fellow, and an older man named Lovin. No shots were fired either by the revenue officer or blockaders.

Mr. Thomas McKoy, of Asheville, had charge of 20 men and Mr. J. M. Baley, of Greensboro, had charge of about 10 men from the marshal's office. There were two different forces in the raid, one from the revenue agent's and the other from the marshal's force.

The officers were determined to break up blockading in the famous Smithtown settlement and failure to capture more of the men and stills is not their fault.

The revenue officers claim that a rural free delivery carrier, who left just ahead of them, circulated the report through the blockaders' settlement that the revenue officers were coming, hence the settlement was deserted.

MIZPAH ROUTE 1.

Mizpah Route 1, July 29.

Mr. Editor:

Will you please allow me a little space in your columns for a few words in regard to the Farmers' Institute.

I was raised a farmer and expect to die one and don't mind taking advice from farmers who have succeeded in working the way they teach others to do. But there is one member of the Farmers' Institute who teaches tobacco culture and has failed. To succeed this time although he goes far and near to tell the people how to raise tobacco. It looks like if he knew how to raise it, he would have raised a better crop this time. Only two years ago people wrote to him from all over the State for tobacco seeds and he had to go all over the neighborhood to find seeds enough to supply them. No doubt but what these people thought that the seeds were raised on Glenn View Farm by that great tobacco farmer when us little outside fellows raised them.

With best wishes to the Reporter and all its many readers.

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Mr. DeWit Nelson, of Danbury Route 1, was a visitor at the Reporter office last Thursday.

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