

\$500 More a Year Farming: How to Get It

BY NOT PULLING CORN FODDER.

Reasons Why This Unprofitable Practice Should Be Abandoned
—How to Handle the Corn Crop.

By Tait Butler.

THERE MAY BE some difference of opinion as to the best methods of harvesting the corn crop, but no one who has made a real test of the cost of pulling corn fodder has any doubt as to that practice being unprofitable. We think the corn crop ought to be put into a silo, or if that can not be done, cut and cured for forage. Our reasons for this opinion are that we need feed, that corn stover can be obtained for less than half its feeding value compared with the price of the other feeds which we buy, and that our lands need more stable manure. But the habit of wasting our corn stover, which contains from one-third to one-half the feeding value of the corn crop, has become so firmly fixed in our agricultural practice that it will be many years before the corn crop is put into silos or cut and shocked and cured for forage.

The first step toward the proper harvesting of the corn crop is to induce farmers to stop the expensive practice of fodder pulling. This practice exists practically no where else except in the South. We do not know the reason for the practice here, but possibly it is because hay is always scarce and corn fodder, when well cured, is good forage.

Why It Does Not Pay to Pull Fodder.

There are two reasons why it does not pay to pull corn fodder either of which should alone be sufficient to stop the practice. (1.) When the fodder is pulled sufficiently early to be of the greatest feeding value, the removal of the leaves from the plant decreases the yield of corn nearly enough to pay for the feed value of the forage obtained. (2.) It costs as much to pull and save corn fodder at the present prices of labor as the fodder is worth after it is saved, and if the same time, money and energy that are put into fodder pulling were put into the growing of hay, double the quantity of feed would be secured.

To the boys who are raising an acre of corn for the Corn Club prize we wish to say, don't pull the fodder, but if you will not take our advice, then we ask that you pull the fodder only from every other row, leaving half the fodder unpulled. When gathering time comes gather the corn from the rows where the fodder was pulled, separately, and weigh the corn, and then gather the unpulled rows and weigh the corn from these.

Experiments made in practically all the Southern States indicate that with corn yielding 30 bushels to the acre the loss from pulling the fodder is not far from five bushels to the acre. It may vary from practically no loss at all up to 20 or 25 per cent, depending probably on the state of maturity at the time the fodder is pulled. If the corn is green when the leaves are pulled, the yield in weight of ears will be greatly lessened; whereas, if the corn is nearly ripe the loss will be very little. The corn grains are largely made up of starch and this can only be made in the green leaves of the plants, hence, if the leaves are pulled before the corn is fully made the yield must be cut off.

What to Do With the Corn Stover.

If no forage is needed from the corn crop—that is, if there is no

sale for forage in your neighborhood or you have no live stock to consume it, then we can only say that you ought to have the live stock to eat this feed, for it has a feeding as well as a fertilizer value, and it is scarcely likely that any of your land would not be benefitted by a little more stable manure. If, however, the feed can not be used, or sold and feeds richer in fertilizer value which to store our seed corn." All bought, then we advise leaving the

lot better than none at all, and much more satisfactory than cottonseed hulls at \$8 or \$10 a ton.

Don't pull corn fodder, it is too expensive a "luxury" for the average farmer; but if you need the feed, harvest the whole crop and get three times as much feed at very little extra cost.

of the building so there was plenty of room for the cats to get all about in behind them. Then when the weather got fair again we brought in the entire crop of seed corn and corded it up on these shelves, so before we had any frost of any account the seed corn was dry as a bone.

A. L. FRENCH.

A PLACE TO KEEP THE SEED CORN.

Messrs. Editors: One rainy day, early in September, 1909, the writer brought his hammer, saw, etc., into the Madam's summer kitchen and began to saw and pound away at a great rate. Pretty soon the door opened and some one asked what I was doing in her kitchen. Without looking up I said as pleasantly as possible, "Just making a rack on which to store our seed corn." All I heard was "Well!!" Then I was all

TEN THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH.

1. Begin sowing winter oats. Keep on working all land intended for winter grains, making it as fine and firm as possible.
2. Sow cover crops, rye, vetch, crimson clover, rape, etc. whenever you can. Sow some pasture lots for the hogs, and one for the chickens.
3. Cut up the corn when ripe, shock loosely and shred the stover if a shredder comes your way. This, of course, if you haven't a silo to put it in.
4. Save the cowpeas, soy beans and other hay crops. Don't neglect even the crabgrass. Too much hay in the South is a thing unknown.
5. Save seeds—make the best possible selections in the corn field before cutting, and in the cotton field before picking. Insure cowpeas and soy beans for planting. Save also a supply of garden seeds.
6. Plant fall garden-stuff—lettuce, radishes, onions, etc. Prepare land for setting fruit trees and small fruits.
7. Keep the hogs going their best. Add some grain to what they get in the pastures. Give the cows some grain, too, if pastures get dry.
8. Get next winter's supply of wood ready, and put it under a conveniently located woodshed where it will keep dry.
9. See about your roads; if they need improvement, talk it over with your neighbors and decide on a plan. Make a road drag some rainy day.
10. Visit your schools; help the children all you can; consult with the teacher, and then co-operate with her.

stalks in the field, cutting them up and plowing them under; but never burn them nor pull fodder. On the other hand, if moore feed is needed, why not save the entire plant instead of just the leaves? The whole plant can be saved for about half its feeding value, while it costs the full feeding value of the fodder to save the leaves alone.

From 40 to 50 per cent of the feeding value of the whole corn plant is in the leaves, shucks and stalks, which constitute the stover, while from 50 to 60 per cent of the feeding value of the whole plant is in the ears. Of the feeding value of the stover, about 10 per cent is in the shucks, 30 per cent in the leaves, and 60 per cent in the stalks.

As labor becomes more scarce and high-priced, to pull fodder, or harvest any part of the crop by hand, will be too expensive. When that times comes, and it has already come in some sections, it will be found that the easiest way to harvest the corn crop will be to cut it by machinery and either put it in a silo or shred and husk it by machinery.

Fodder Pulling a Luxury.

The man who pulls fodder; or depends upon corn fodder for his long forage, is the fellow who is always out of forage along in April and May; but who ever heard of a man who saves the entire corn crop being out of roughage? We have heard it stated that corn stover was "mighty poor feed." It is not as good as some other kinds of forage. We may even admit that we have seen inferior corn stover that was really, "mighty poor feed;" but even that was a whole

alone again. But I knew it would wear off after awhile, so kept right at work until I had a nice set of shelves with all the way across the end of the building. The shelves were spread far enough from the end

In our subscription-raising campaign, prizes of \$1 each have been awarded as follows: Aug. 22, C. A. Wyche, 19 subscriptions; Aug. 23, Thos. W. Kirton, 16 subscriptions; Aug. 24, A. T. Aiken, 10 subscription; Aug. 25, Dr. Geo. H. Ross, 102 subscriptions; Aug. 26, Robt. Jiggett, 10 subscriptions; Aug. 27, C. A. Wyche, 60 subscriptions; Aug. 29, Mat Lucas, 11 subscriptions.

Prize of \$5, week ending Aug. 27, Dr. Geo. H. Ross, 102 subscriptions.

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