

Select Your Seed Cotton Now By Dr. W. J. McLendon.

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## THE RIGHT WAY TO HARVEST THE CORN CROP.

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—or 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 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. In this connection the first point to be considered is the stage of development of the plant, or the time when the plant as a whole contains the greatest feed value.

### Corn Crop Usually Harvested Too Soon.

This question was also referred to in our discussion of "fodder pulling," but its importance is such that it should be stated again in this connection. After considerable experience, accurately measured and interpreted, the Iowa Experiment Station came to the following conclusions on this point.

(1) The stover of a crop of corn seems to reach the highest yield and the best condition at the stage of growth indicated by a well-dented kernel and the first drying of the blades.

(2) The grain of a crop of corn seems to reach the highest yield and the best condition of utility at the stage of growth indicated by a well-ripened ear and a half-dried blade.

(3) The time for harvesting the crop with reference to the highest utility of both corn and stover is at a stage of ripening between the two periods stated above.

This best time for harvesting the crop so as to obtain the greatest feed value the plant is capable of furnishing, may be stated as from one to two weeks after the usual time at which fodder is pulled in the Southern States.

The next point to be considered is the most economical way of saving and utilizing this great

est feed value of the entire corn plant. 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 thirty 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 thirty 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

(Continued on Page 9.)

## TWO WAYS OF HARVESTING CORN.



I.—Cutting the Entire Stalk By Hand is Infinitely Better Than the Wastful Practice of Fodder Pulling.



[Courtesy of Rural Magazine.]

II.—Still Cheaper, Less Troublesome, and Still More Satisfactory in Every Way is Harvesting With a Binder—Farmers Should Combine to Purchase Improved Machinery and Co-operate in Harvesting Corn Just as They Do in Threshing Wheat.