

FEEDING OF NEW GRAIN

Is Apt to Cause Trouble to Live Stock.

Horses More Susceptible Than Cattle
—Pigs Do Better on It Than the
Other Stock—Best Methods in
Preservation of Hay.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of
Agriculture, Toronto.)

Each year brings a certain amount of trouble through the feeding of new grain to live stock, and consequently greater care should be exercised to avoid digestive derangements.

The horse is generally considered a little more susceptible to digestive troubles following changes in feeding practice than are other classes of farm live stock. It is always well to make changes very gradually and carefully. The main grain feed of the horse in this country is oats, and new oats should always be fed with great care. Hard-worked horses should, if it is at all possible, be fed old oats, and the new grain left to dry and cure for a few weeks after threshing. At any rate to avoid colic, acute indigestion and inflammation new oats should at first form only a part of the grain ration, being mixed with old oats and possibly a little bran and the percentage of the new grain gradually increased until the horses are on full feed. Sudden changes from old to new grain are especially dangerous with the horse and particularly with the horse at heavy work and on a heavy concentrate ration. There is, of course, a difference due to the time of threshing. Grain which remains in stack or mow for several weeks and thus becomes dry and cured is not so dangerous as that threshed directly from the field or immediately after harvesting.

As a rule heavy feeding of grain is not practiced with cattle and sheep on pasture. Where such is the case, however, changing from old to new grain should be done with care and the substitution should be, if possible, gradual. If the ration must, of necessity, be composed entirely of newly-threshed grain it should at first be comparatively light and increased very gradually.

Pigs usually handle newly-threshed grain without much trouble, although if on very heavy rations when finishing for market a little care should be taken that they be not thrown off the feed. Newly-threshed grain is difficult to grind fine and is not easily stored in large quantities of the ground grain may not be stored in bulk as heating and musty will result, lowering the feeding value of the grain by rendering it unpalatable and less digestible. Musty grain is more dangerous than clean, new grain.

These points should be kept in mind. First make all changes from old to new grain gradually. Secondly, if no old grain is fed as part of the ration start the new grain in small quantities, gradually increasing until the desired quantity is reached. Feed no heated or musty grain.
—Wade Toole, O. A. College, Guelph.

Best Methods in Preservation of Hay.

In a season of labor scarcity haying is a problem on the average farm. It is necessary to make use of all the modern machinery available in order to expedite the saving of this important crop. First, then, we must emphasize the use of machinery in curing and storing. Men are not to be had in plentiful supply, but, in most cases some form of co-operation may be resorted to in order to obtain the use of tedders, hay loaders and horse forks to handle the bulk of the crop. By all means plan to use machinery in place of men this year or otherwise considerable of the crop will not be harvested in the best possible condition.

It is usually safe to cut after a rain when the weather appears to have cleared. Red clover should be cut when about one-third of the heads have turned brown. The tedder should then be used until the crop is dry enough to rake—a period which will vary according to the weight of the cutting, the weather and the amount of sap in the stalk. Gather with a side-delivery rake if possible, or in small windrows with an ordinary dump rake. The hay loader works best with a small windrow. By all means use a loader if possible and to facilitate matters a sliding rack may be used so that when one-half the rack is loaded it may be pulled ahead and the remainder loaded. In a pinch this will save a man. The horse fork and slings save much time in unloading.

We mention red clover because it is the commonest and most satisfactory hay crop, and is used in all general farming hay mixtures. Timothy should be cut either after it is out of the first blossom or after the second blossom has fallen—generally the latter. It will require less tedding than clover, is more easily cured, and may be drawn in sooner after cutting. Do not let it get too ripe and woody.

Alfalfa should be cut when the young shoots are noticed starting out from the axils of the lower leaves on the stalks, and should be handled much like red clover, only greater care is necessary to preserve the leaves, a very valuable portion of the plants.—Wade Toole, O. A. College, Guelph.

Good seeds are uniformly bright colored, whereas seeds that have been exposed to moisture, or that are dead, are duller and darker in color. Some good disinfectant such as creoline, zenoleum, or carbolic acid solution applied to the navel of foals immediately they are born and each day for a week or more will often save the colt from navel ill.

Western Farmers Building Silos

Field of
Sunflowers
in
Alberta



It is to be anticipated that before many years have elapsed almost every farm in the Canadian prairie provinces will have its silo. The growth of the dairy industry would naturally bring this condition about in course of time, but the movement is being expedited by the success farmers are having in growing sunflowers. Small fields of from three to thirty acres have been planted in various parts of the three prairie provinces of Canada. The yields are proving more satisfactory than the farmers generally dared to hope, and each acre yields on an average from fifteen to thirty tons of ensilage.

Many farmers have erected silos on their farms during the summer to take care of this crop, but most of them have underestimated their requirements and will have more crop than they can put in their silos.

Sunflower silage is due for a more extensive trial this winter than it has had before. The results in previous years have been very satisfactory, but only comparatively few farmers have grown the crop for silage previous to this year. If in its more extensive use the crop proves to be as satisfactory as it has already proved in the few cases where it has been tried, it is safe to say that in a few years the farm without a silo will be an exception in Western Canada.

Since last year's results have become known, considerable interest has been shown in silos and ensilage in Western Canada and several hundred silos have been erected during the past summer. Typical of this movement is the Cardston district in Southern Alberta, where eight silos have been erected this year and where about fifty acres of sunflowers were planted. The crop has proved

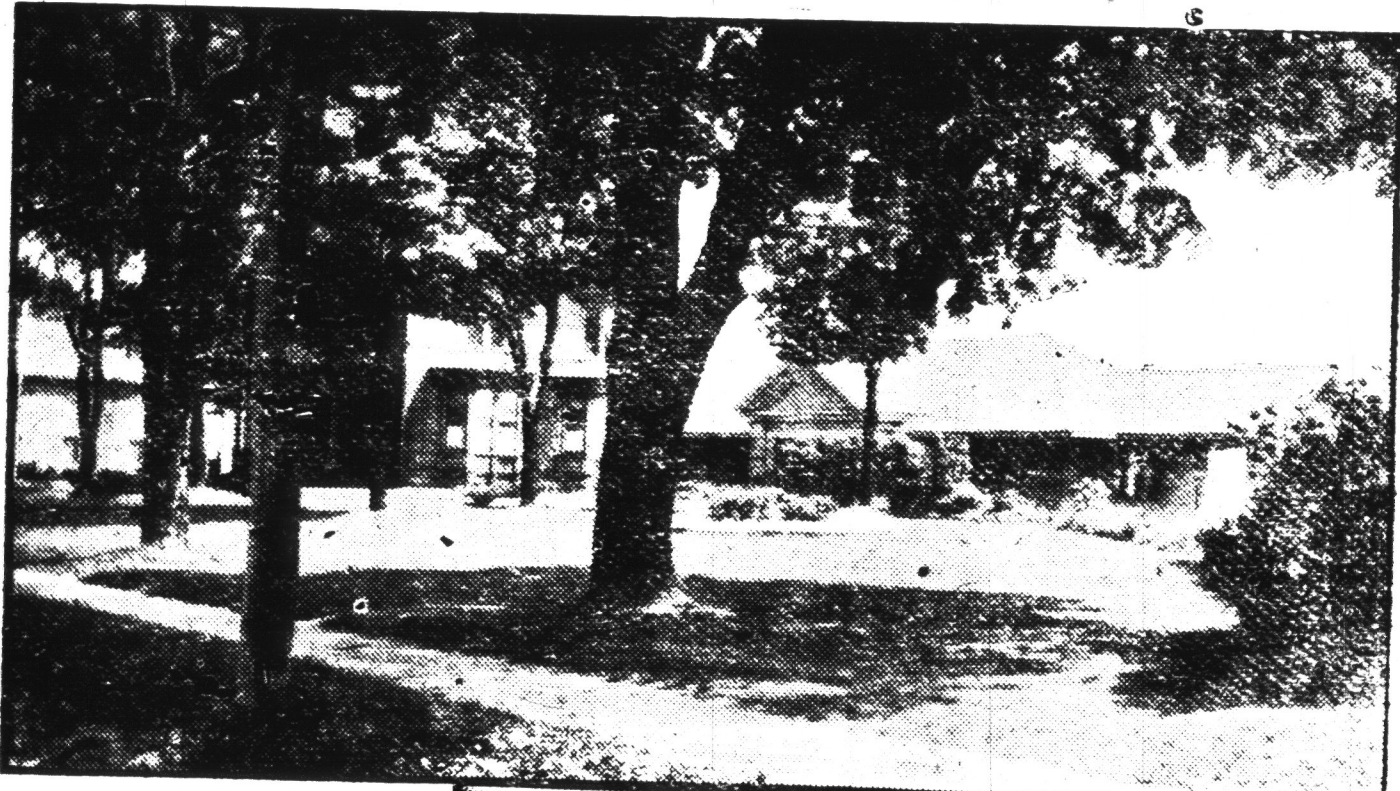
so successful that it is predicted that one hundred silos will be built in the district next year and more than a thousand acres of sunflowers planted.

Similar plans are being made in other parts of Western Canada, and the already rapidly growing dairy industry promises to grow much faster with the general acceptance of the sunflower as a silage crop. Another evidence of the value of sun-

flowers as a forage crop will be the big gain in finished steers. Many of the larger livestock raisers are growing sunflowers and erecting silos for this purpose. This will be considerably increased the finishing areas of Canada, which, hitherto, have been somewhat restricted, compared with the large feeding areas throughout the country, and the livestock industry in the West will be placed on a sound basis.



Strewing the Way With Flowers



General Offices and Station,
Woodstock, N.B.

Flowers are amongst the assets of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Flowers bloom in C.P.R. gardens at most of the principal stations from one end of the country to the other. There are flower knots outside the Algonquin Hotel at St. Andrews, on the Atlantic coast, and one of the most beautiful flower gardens in America blooms around the Empress Hotel in Victoria.

In the old days most of the pioneers were too busy opening up the untrodden ways to give much attention to the cultivation of flowers. Yet flower cultivation along the C.P.R. seems to have progressed with the commercial prosperity of the railway system itself, for it is now thirty-one years since one of the C.P.R. employees produced a few varieties of flower seeds in his own plot and distributed them amongst his friends at some of the stations—with the object of starting flower gardening along the line. The start was auspiciously made, and now the C.P.R. has a floral department with headquarters at Windsor Street Station, Montreal. Mr. B. M. Winnipeg is the horticulturist and forester.

Every year thousands of packets of flower seeds, bulbs, trees, shrubs, grass seed, and large quantities of fertilizers are distributed free of charge to station agents, section foremen, caretakers of round houses and employees living on the property of the company. The seeds that will

North Bend, B.C.

flower along the railway in the summer and autumn are sent out in March. Full particulars for cultivation are printed on each seed packet. Bulbs for spring flowering are sent out in the fall.

Seeds and plants of the best kind are always provided. Standard flower seed packets contain nasturtiums, alyssum, mignonette, sweet peas, phlox and kochia. Ferns and house plants are sent to large stations. An endless variety of perennials are distributed, and amongst the varieties of trees supplied are maple, birch, beech, poplar and catalpa. Shrubs include laurel leaf willow, sumac, berberis and weigelia.

In all cases the cultivation of flower beds is done by the employees of the company, many of whom have become expert gardeners. On each

division of the C.P.R. prizes are given every year for the best display of flowers, and some of the products of gardens kept by the railway amateurs have won prizes at Canadian and United States floral exhibitions.

During the last thirty-one years the encouraging influence of the C.P.R. flower growers has materially assisted in the inauguration of floral societies all over the country. Many of the railway officials are members of these societies. Flowers have improved the appearance of the railway stations, and inspired by the beauty of the stations, residents of the towns have planted flowers that beautify their homes. A little flower fame along the C.P.R. has often thrown the spark that ignited a fire of flower.

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