

SEED CORN MUST BE CAREFULLY STORED

Probable Shortage as Result of the Season's Backwardness; Necessary Precautions.

EARS NEED GOOD DRYING

Thorough Ventilation of Storage Room is Therefore Essential—Michigan Corn Best for Seed.

By J. F. COX,
Professor of Farm Crops, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—The favorite rallying cry of the city business man, whether he be an automobile manufacturer employing ten thousand men, or a grain boot-black holding forth on the curb, is "Patronize home industry." This spirit, crystallized, has borne fruit in the easily visible development of city enterprises.

The motto, while city-bred and city-bred, is one which the farmer can well apply to his own business, particularly with respect to seed corn. Michigan's best corn growers have found their greatest success has come from what may be said to be adherence to the motto "Use home-grown, field selected seed."

This fruit of their experiences as thus summed up is of importance just now for the reason that ears carefully selected this fall in the home field—if you have a variety of proved worth, are likely to give better results in 1918 than will seed brought in from elsewhere. Many a Michigan man has found to his sorrow that corn brought in from other states where it has done well will not necessarily do the same under Michigan conditions.

But home-growing and home-selecting is not enough. Good seed corn can only be secured by thoroughly drying carefully selected ears before they are exposed to freezing weather.

In late September or October, the corn as it comes from the field contains from 35 to 40 per cent of moisture. In order to retain its vitality it must be rapidly dried so as to pass through the winter with a moisture content of not more than 12 to 13 per cent.

Immediately after harvest, corn for seed should be placed where it will receive free ventilation. No two ears should be allowed to touch. The ears may be strung on binder twine, and hung from a rafter, or where large quantities of seed are to be handled, special drying houses are desirable with numerous windows or panels which will give free circulation of air, or a stove to furnish artificial heat to hasten drying and prevent freezing.

This fall is the time to select Michigan-grown corn for next year's crop. Corn from other states is often not well adapted to Michigan conditions. To insure a sufficient supply of good seed corn to plant Michigan's crop the coming spring, therefore, the concerted action of all Michigan corn growers in selecting and storing it is needed.

The important points to bear in mind are these:

By field selecting during late September and October the highest yielding ears can be saved.

About one corn grower in 100 in Michigan selects seed corn in the field before harvesting the main crop. If every farmer field-selected, a great increase in corn yield would result.

Seed corn of high vitality can only be secured by drying rapidly, immediately after picking, and storing in a ventilated room.

Good seed cannot be secured from the crib.

Good seed means a good stand. Planting poor seed results in frequently missing hills. It costs as much to cultivate a poor crop as a good one.

FEEDS SHOULD BE STUDIED

Not All Feed is What It Seems to Be—Investigation Saves Losses From Adulteration.

By G. A. BROWN,
Department of Animal Husbandry,
Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—There are times when it behooves the farmer to be wary in the matter of purchasing feed for stock, for with the present tendency towards adulteration among many of the less reliable firms, there are numerous feeds on the market which do much more than give a fair return for the money asked for them.

The farmer who has to lay in a winter supply will find it worth while before buying to become familiar with the comparative values of the various grains and prepared feeds on the market.

The factors which determine the value of a feed are its palatability, or nutritive value, which is its digestibility, and its physical effect on the digestive tract of the animal, such as a tendency to cause scouring or constipation.

The amount of fiber is also an important consideration. There are many prepared feeds on the market which contain as much fiber as the roughage grown on the farm and to purchase any of these means a distinct loss. As a general rule it is not advisable to purchase a feed containing over 12 to 14 per cent of fiber.

The three principal ingredients for which feeds are purchased are protein (muscle building material), and carbohydrates and fat (fat-forming material). The farm-grown feeds rich in protein are field peas, soy beans, clover and alfalfa. Those rich in fat-

forming material are corn, barley, and rye.

After deciding which class of feed to purchase the percentage of the above ingredients in the different feeds on the market should be carefully studied. The amount of protein may be given in percentage, in which case the figure given represents the actual number of pounds of protein per 100 pounds of feed. Often the amount of protein is given in terms of nitrogen. Protein contains 16 per cent of nitrogen, and in such cases the amount of nitrogen should be multiplied by 6.25 to give the amount of protein. For example, if a feed contains 7 per cent of nitrogen, the protein content would be 6.25 by 7, or 43.75 pounds of protein per 100 pounds of feed. Again the protein may be stated in terms of ammonia, in which case the amount of ammonia should be multiplied by 5.15. For example, if a feed contains 7 per cent of ammonia, it will have 5.15 by 7, or 36.05 pounds of protein per 100 pounds of feed. The amount of carbohydrates present are usually given as nitrogen-free extract, and the fat as ether extract. For feeding purposes fat is two and one-fourth times as valuable as carbohydrates. (Nitrogen-free extract, bodyfat, and ether extract are the same.) Thus if a feed contains 70 per cent of nitrogen-free extract and 2 per cent of ether extract (fat) the total amount of fat-forming material present would be 2.25 by 2 or 4.5, plus 70, or 74.5 per cent of feed. After carefully figuring the cost per pound of protein, carbohydrates and fat in a feed, it will often be found that the feeding value of the most popular feed will furnish food outlets at a lower cost per pound than other feeds that can be obtained at less cost per ton.

SELECT WINTER LAYERS

Hens, as Well as Pullets, Should Be Comfortably Established in Winter Quarters.

By C. H. BURGESS,
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Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing, Mich.—Just about this season of the year poultrymen are trying to decide just what hens to keep for winter laying.

The later moulter, as a rule, is the heaviest producer. The hens to be laying well in August and September are the hens to keep for another year's egg.

Those two years of age, but which are laying now can safely be kept for another winter. Hens at the college two, three and even four years of age that are producing many as 15 to 20 eggs in August, will be kept for another year. One hen, a Barred Rock with a record of 27 eggs in August, is nearing five years of age. She will be kept in our pens. Do not understand that we recommend keeping all old hens, but we do recommend the keeping of such individual hens as have the "comeback" in them and are vitally strong and in perfect health.

When selecting pullets, retain only the ones showing they have put in good use the food fed to them. Pullets should now be of good size. Never keep small, spindly individuals. To hope that this fall will come on, for they only serve to spread trouble in a flock. Make the flock as uniform in size as possible.

Do not feed pullets and old hens alike. To ripen up the pullets give them a mash of corn parts by weight of cornmeal, bran and middlings, to which has been added 15 per cent by weight of high-grade molasses. Molasses with sour milk, and feed one day in troughs all they will clean up in 20 minutes, but not more.

MUCH ALFALFA LEAF SPOT

Cutting Before Leaves Begin to Drop Is Remedy Recommended.

By J. H. MUNCIE,
Plant Pathologist, Michigan Agricultural College.

East Lansing.—Leaf spot of alfalfa, always to be found more or less in Michigan alfalfa, is unusually widespread this summer, chiefly as a result of the excessively wet weather early in the year.

Most growers, probably, give more or less well acquainted with this disease of the alfalfa crop. It first appears as small brown spots, either irregular or circular in outline, which extend through the leaf. As the disease progresses these spots become larger and the portion of the leaf surrounding them becomes yellow, shading off into the green of the healthy tissue. The spores, or seeds, by which the disease is spread, are developed under the skin of the leaf in the center of these spots. As the parasite grows, the epidermis of the leaf is broken and these spores are scattered to surrounding plants, infecting them also.

This disease does its principal damage by causing the leaves to fall and, in some cases, where it is unusually severe, the plants may lose all their foliage. Affected plants, also, are not so vigorous as those free from the disease, while weak and spindling plants, such as may be taken on poor soil, or where the soil has not become thoroughly inoculated, are more seriously spotted than are the healthier plants.

Leaf spot, in a dry season which has followed a wet one, frequently causes the death of plants through defoliation. The lower leaves and the leaves of older plants seem to be the ones most commonly affected.

The most effective remedy for the disease is to cut the alfalfa before the leaves begin to drop. This saves not only the diseased leaves and increases the hay production, but removes from the field at one time a fertile source of infection for the new crop.

PLAN TO KEEP CREAM SWEET

Cool Immediately After Skimming and Before Mixing With Older Cream—Keep in Cold Water.

Set the separator to skim nearly 50 per cent in hot weather. Cool the cream at once after skimming, and cool it before mixing with older cream. Stir it well to prevent the formation of lumps or curd. Keep it in cold water, stir with metal ladle, and have pails, cans, separator parts and all utensils and surroundings clean and sweet.

WARM WEATHER DAIRY HIN

Cleanliness is of Great Importance—Cream Separator is Essential—Wend Out Poor Cows.

Unclean milk is especially dangerous during warm weather. Remember that the sun is an excellent disinfecting agent. Sun the milk and cream utensils after washing.

No dairyman can afford to be without a good cream separator. A separator removes practically all the fat from the milk. By the ordinary skimming method from 10 to 25 per cent of the butterfat is left in the milk.

By carefully testing and selecting the poor cows you can increase the average production of each cow by more than forty pounds of butterfat per year.

No animal that gets only feed enough to support life can produce a profit. Feed your cows a balanced ration.

When a farmer makes and sells butter and feeds the skim milk to poultry, pigs and calves, he is not sending away a great deal of his farm's fertility. Keep the farm's fertility on the farm.

Some farmers would be better off if they sold their cows and bought milk and butter. Yet they don't realize that they are losing real money on every "boulder" in their hands. Test each cow.



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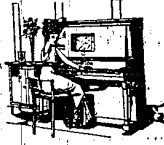
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The usual program of added attractions, including the latest news pictures and a George Ade comedy, are noted. Edmonds and Colvia will sing new songs.