

Agricultural News

P. E. I. Department of Agriculture

GRASS SILAGE

This article is the second and final one dealing with the findings of the Committee appointed by the Dominion-Provincial Agriculture Council to make a survey of silage operations in the Province. In the previous article such matters as How to Judge Moisture Content, Preservatives, Covering the Silo and Feeding Silage were discussed.

70% moisture, 5.7 lbs. it will contain 65% moisture, 5.0 lbs. it will contain 60% moisture. If it is alfalfa or clover in bloom or grasses heading out it will contain about 75% moisture at the start—when it weighs 8.3 lbs. it will contain 70% moisture, 7.1 lbs. it will contain 65% moisture, 6.3 lbs. it will contain 60% moisture.

The Moisture Content

The moisture content of the grass should be around 70% for proper fermentation and for best packing in a trench silo. Little or no outside moisture from rain or dew should be in evidence. If the silage is too dry it will heat and turn brown or even black, and may mold as thorough packing is difficult. Heated silage loses much of its feeding value, including all of the vitamin A. If material which is too dry must be used it should be chopped before packed evenly and thoroughly, have water added or mix with very green, freshly cut material on alternating loads. It would be better to make this dry material into hay than to try and make silage.

If the silage is too wet it will not heat and will have a good appearance, but it will develop a strong disagreeable odor and the cows will not eat it with relish. Losses of dry matter from seepage will be considerable and the lower portion of the silo is likely to be waterlogged and spoiled.

In general loss is greater when the silage is too dry than when it is too wet.

For early cut forage the proper moisture content can be obtained by wilting for one to three hours in the swath on a fine day. As the season advances and the forage matures little if any wilting will be necessary. When cut in the proper stage, and in fine weather, it is safe to cut what can be put in, in half a day and start baling immediately. The first few loads will be quite wet but these will be put on the drier silage which was last placed on the silo.

Judging Moisture Content

One test is to take a representative handful of the forage and cut it into 1/2 inch pieces. When a handful of this chopped material is squeezed together tightly and then released, the ball of green material should expand slowly and break apart into several sections. If it fluffs up at once and falls apart completely the crop is too dry. If juice is squeezed out and it remains in a compact ball, it is too wet.

Here is another test that is reasonably satisfactory for alfalfa, clover or fine grasses but not for coarse grasses. The crop should be twisted so that the stems may be twisted without breaking, but the leaves should show no sign of becoming dry.

Various pieces of equipment have been devised for testing moisture. The simplest way to judge proper moisture is by observing the feel of the grass by twisting or squeezing as described above. With a little experience the condition of the crop can be judged reasonably accurately.

Here is a good way to get the "feel" of crops for grass silage: Weigh out 10 pounds of the freshly cut crop using an ordinary milk scale and a small piece of canvas. Spread the grass out on the canvas to dry and then weigh it from time to time as it dries.

If it is alfalfa or clover before the bloom stage the 10 pound sample will contain about 80% moisture at the start. When it weighs 8 lbs. it will contain 75% moisture, 6.7 lbs. it will contain

100 lbs. This is lower in T.D.N. but higher in protein than corn silage. The protein content depends on the crop ensiled and how well it is preserved in the silo. Silage made from grasses is similar to corn silage in protein content, while straight legume silage may contain from two to three times as much protein as good corn silage. Legume grass mixtures fall in between. One will not be far off in estimating the protein content of grass silage by taking 1/3 of what it would be if the crop were made or as hay.

As grass silage is not high in T.D.N. grain must be fed to maintain heavy milk production or to fatten cattle. When good grass silage is made from legumes or heavy legume grass mixtures if fed as the only roughage or with good quality hay made from the same crops, the grain ration may be made up entirely of farm grains. Rations of cows on all home grown feeds may be a little low in phosphorus. Allowing cows free access to home meal or gylking one per cent in the grain mixture will take care of any deficiencies of this mineral.

Silage may replace all the hay in the ration if desired. If so or if hay is fed very lightly it would be well to mix 1/2 to 1 lb. of irradiated yeast per ton of grain to insure enough vitamin D. Vitamin D is very important for young stock. Cows like some dry roughage and will consume more total dry matter if hay is fed with the silage. The more roughage consumed the less concentrates will have to be fed to meet the requirements of the cow. Grass silage should not be called the equivalent of summer grass but it is an excellent feed and as such can fill a very important place in the winter ration of cattle.

If you plan to feed grass silage heavily do it shortly after the morning or evening milkings. Cows eat grass silage slowly and must be allowed adequate time (two to four hours) to consume heavy feeds. All silage should be cleaned out of the stable some time before milking to prevent off-flavor in the milk.

Observations
No matter what type of silo is used there are several important points to remember in making good quality silage. These are—
1. Cut early, as the timothy is heading out, for greatest yields of digestible dry matter.
2. Put in at the proper moisture content—70%. Be careful not to over-wilt, it is better to have the forage too wet than too dry.
3. Pack thoroughly while filling for 5-7 days after filling is completed.

Covering The Silo
The top of the silo should be well rounded and high in the center. The last foot or so of grass should be very wet and green and thoroughly packed. After packing daily for 5-7 days the silo should be sealed immediately with limestone, sawdust or clay. Two to three inches of limestone makes a good seal that is easily removed when feeding. A good layer of sawdust or clay is also satisfactory but more difficult to remove. A layer of one to two feet of old hay or straw over the seal will help prevent freezing. If desired, a temporary removable roof made of boards may also be used. The main thing is to keep the rain out and prevent freezing. Properly made grass silage will contain 15 to 17 pound of T.D.N. per 100 lbs. of silage and from 3.5 to 5 lbs. of total protein per

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RUMMAGE SALE—Aid of Central
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LITTLE THEATRE — Aladdin and His Lamp, Community Center, Thursday and Friday, at 8:15 P. M. Membership tickets honored at door. Public: Adults 75c. Children 35c.

ENGAGEMENT — Mr. and Mrs. John D. MacLean, Iris, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter Irma Charleena to Ivan Alexander son of Mrs. Alexander Blue and the late Alexander Blue of Hopefield. Marriage to take place July 3rd.

RETURNS FROM COURSE — Miss Audrey MacMillan, B.Sc. (Agr.), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allison E. MacMillan, Fairview, has arrived home from Vancouver, B.C. where she has successfully completed the Diploma course in Public Recreation at the University of British Columbia.

ISLANDER PROMOTED — Mr. Fred Mallett of this City recently had word of the promotion of his son, Gerald, from that of assistant for designer with Holt Renfrew and Co., Quebec City, to first designer in the same firm's larger Toronto establishment. Mr. Mallett has been with this well known fur house for six years and will now present his own creations on the Canadian market.

FUNERAL AT KELLY'S CROSS — The funeral of the late John William Murphy, who died in the Charlottetown Hospital on June 14, was held yesterday morning from his late residence, Kelly's Cross, to St. Joseph's Church, Kelly's Cross, where requiem high mass was celebrated by Reverend Kenneth McMillan, who also conducted the service at the grave. Pallbearers were Louis Hagen, Emmett Hagen, Peter Campbell, Sterling Waddell, Louis Sherrin and Bert Trowsdale. Interment in the church cemetery.

Personals
Rev. Father Henry J. Maloney and Mr. Gary Ogilvie, who have been visiting with Mr. Louis MacAulay and family, have returned to their homes in Eganville, Ont.

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WINNER
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Story Of 105th Battalion In The First World War

The following sketch of the 105th Highland Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, — 1st Great War, was given by Major T. E. MacNutt, M. B. E., V. D., at the reunion of the Battalion members last evening:

"When Great Britain declared war against Germany on the 4th of August, 1914, it caused a wave of excitement over this Province. The people of the Province, determined to some extent, were perhaps slow at first to realize that a great world struggle had been entered upon, and that it would require every available man to enter the field to insure the safety of our Empire and all that it stood for.

"Notwithstanding this, some small bodies of Infantry were recruited as follows:
"Towards the end of August some thirty Infantry officers and men left Charlottetown for Valcartier Camp for service with the 1st Contingent.
"In November over fifty men were sent to Saint John, N. B., for service with the 26th Overseas Battalion.
"During the spring and early summer of 1915 over one hundred men were recruited and sent to Sussex, N. B., for service with the 55th Overseas Battalion.
"It was felt that small drafts of Infantry such as outlined could not represent this Province in a distinctive way, and it was decided at a meeting on the 6th of August of the P. E. Island Patriotic Society (which was organized on the 20th of May, 1915, for the purpose of creating an interest in further recruiting for Overseas service) that something on a larger scale must be undertaken by the Island.

Recruiting Started
"A strong resolution was therefore at once sent to Ottawa urging that the Island be given permission to recruit and organize a complete Company of Infantry for Overseas Service. The request was granted and recruiting was

started in September. Colonel J. R. Allan, Officer Commanding the 82nd Regiment was given command of the Company, with Captain R. H. Campbell as second in command.
"Recruits came in at such a rate for this Company that it was decided to raise an Island Battalion. After much representation by the Patriotic Society to Ottawa a Highland Battalion was authorized.
"The Battalion now being authorized the next question was who was to command it. The names mentioned from several sources were Lieut. Colonel J. R. Allan, Major V. L. Goodwill, both of the 82nd Regiment and Captain D. A. MacKinnon of the P. E. I. Heavy Artillery.
"It was found difficult by the authorities, for unnamed reasons to settle on a Commanding Officer. Just at this juncture Lieutenant L. H. Beer, who had been in France with the Canadian Cavalry returned to Ottawa, and he was suddenly given command of the Battalion, which command he took over on the 23rd of November, 1915. More difficulties arose, and on the 1st of December the command was given to Captain R. H. Campbell, who was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and who at once proceeded to organize and recruit the Battalion.
"The Battalion was recruited to full strength by 15th March, 1916. In fact by that date 1142 men had been enlisted.

Col. Ings In Command
"Colonel Campbell handed over command of the Battalion to Lieut. Colonel A. E. Ings, who had previously seen service in France with the 6th Mounted Rifles. He assumed command of the Battalion from 25th April, 1916. On his arrival in Charlottetown he issued his first Battalion Order No. 119 on 18th May. Lieut. Colonel Campbell reverted to second in command.
"The Battalion embarked on board the Car Ferry Prince Edward Island on night of 12-13

June 1916 for Valcartier, and then entrained for Valcartier Camp, where it arrived on the 15th. Here hard training took place until the morning of 13th July when the Battalion entrained for Halifax, where it arrived at 7:30 P. M. 15th July and embarked 1,120 strong on board His Majesty's Transport "Empress of Britain", and sailed at 6 A. M., the next morning — Sunday — accompanied by the Transport "Lapland" and H. M. S. Drake, which latter took the lead just outside the harbour, and we now put our trust in God and the British Navy for a safe voyage to the Motherland.
"The weather during the voyage was all that could be desired, but the ship with 4,500 men on board was overcrowded. All remember the dining quarters with hammocks swung closely together over the tables at night. The rations provided were of the whole good and wholesome, but even those who delight in eating rabbit stew lost some of their desire for it, when rumours spread that instead of being served with rabbit in the stew — the meat portion consisted of rats — eyes and all.

Submarine Precautions
"The course followed during the voyage was far off the usual one, due to risk of enemy action, especially submarines — or "Banana Boats" as Captain Lou Moore called them. Precautions were taken aboard ship by mounting armed guards at night and machine guns were mounted along the ship's sides. During the last two nights men who had been sleeping on "B" deck away down on the water line were now ordered to sleep on deck.
"The ship which for some time had been moving slowly, at five o'clock Sunday morning, 23rd, began to speed at 15 knots, but about 10:30 ran into a dense fog and had to slow down, and the fog horn came into action, but it continued its zig zag course in a very dangerous zone.
"At 5 o'clock that day three Destroyers raced towards us, and shortly after the Drake and Lapland left us with an Escort of two Destroyers, and we proceeded in company with Destroyer No. 70 which steamed about our ship at a terrific rate of speed.
"Passed Tory Island light house

on north coast of Ireland at 3 A. M. Monday 24th, and at 6 A. M. ran into a dense fog as we approached the entrance of the Irish Sea, which almost brought the ship to a dead stop, in a dangerous position.
"Passed the Giant's Causeway and Rathlin Island in a fog which lifted and we passed the Isle of Man about 3 P. M.
"The ship dropped anchor in Liverpool harbour about 8:15 p.m. 24th July, and the Battalion disembarked the next morning, and entrained at noon. Detained at Cheriton and marched in a down-pour of rain to Lower Digby, where it arrived at 10:15, when after a bite to eat all rolled into wet tents for the night.

Training In England
"At once hard training began. Musketry started immediately after daylight at Hyde Ranges, which were about 2 1/2 miles from Camp, which necessitated early rising, dressing, breakfast and march to be on the range to open fire on the dot.
"At Digby there was for a time a great shortage of rations — all will remember seeing the three or four marble sized potatoes floating about in the stew in the messline. A poor sample of potatoes for Spud Islanders to put up with during hard training.
"While at Lower Digby, which was part of Shorncliffe Camp, a draft of 280 men was ordered to be sent to the 13th and 14th Montreal Battalions in France. After

(Continued on page 11)

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