

MODERN SILAGE METHODS

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Modern silage methods by William L. Wright

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WILLIAM L. WRIGHT

**MODERN SILAGE
METHODS**

MODERN SILAGE METHODS

LATEST REVISED EDITION
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

An entirely new and practical work on Silos, their construction and the process of filling, to which is added complete and reliable information regarding Silage and its composition; feeding, and a treatise on rations, being a

FEEDERS' AND DAIRYMEN'S GUIDE

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WILLIAM L. WRIGHT

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PREFACE.

This book has been written and published for the purpose of furnishing our patrons and others with accurate and full information on the subject of silo construction and the making of silage. It has been our aim to present the subject in a clear, matter-of-fact manner, without flourish or rhetoric, believing that the truth concerning the advantages of the siloing system is good enough. The testimony presented, which is purposely kept close to the experience of authorities on feeding subjects in and outside of experiment stations, will abundantly prove, we believe, that the equipment of a dairy or stock farm in almost any part of the world is no longer complete without one or more silos on it.

The new chapter on "Silage Crops for the Semi-Arid Regions and for the South" will be of widespread interest to thousands in the Great Southwest, and the chapters on "The Summer Silo," and "The Use of Silage in Beef Production," will be found especially timely. Chapter III. covers a great variety of silos made of material other than wood. In all other respects the book has been revised and brought up to date.

In order that a work of this kind be accurate and reliable, and bear the scrutiny of scientific readers, the use of a number of scientific terms and phrases is rendered necessary, and in order that these may be more readily comprehended by agriculturists, a comprehensive glossary of such terms is included, following the last chapter, which can be referred to from time to time, or can be studied previous to reading the book.

In the compilation of certain parts of the book and in the revision of the "Feeder's Guide" we have had the valuable assistance of Prof Woll, of California Experiment Station, formerly of Wisconsin, author of "A Book on Silage" and "A Handbook for Farmers and Dairymen." Free use of the former book has been made in the preparation of this volume, as well as of experiment station publications treating the subject of silage.

Hoping that this latest revision of "Modern Silage Methods" will prove helpful to our patrons, and incidentally suggest to them that the "OHIO" Silage Cutters and Blower Elevators are manufactured by us, we are,

Very truly,

THE SILVER MFG. CO.

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Modern Silage Methods.

INTRODUCTION.

Thirty years ago few farmers knew what a silo was, and fewer still had ever seen a silo or fed silage to their stock. Today silos are as common as barn buildings in many farming districts in this country, and thousands of farmers would want to quit farming if they could not have silage to feed to their stock during the larger portion of the year. Thirty years ago it would have been necessary to begin a book describing the siloing system with definitions, what is meant by silos and silage; now all farmers who read agricultural papers or attend agricultural or dairy conventions are at least familiar with these words, even if they have not had a chance to become familiar with the appearance and properties of silage. They know that a **SIL**O is an air-tight structure used for the preservation of green, coarse fodder in a succulent condition, and that **SILAGE** is the feed taken out of a silo.

We shall later see which crops are adapted for silage making, but want to state here at the outset that Indian corn is pre-eminently the American crop suited to be preserved in silos, and that this crop is siloed far more than all other kinds of crops put together. When the word silage is mentioned we, therefore, instinctively think of corn silage. We shall also follow this plan in the discussions in this book; when only silage is spoken of we mean silage made from the corn plant; if made from other crops the name of the crop is always given, as clover silage, peavine silage, etc.

History of the Silo.—While the silo in one form or another dates back to antiquity, it was not until the latter part of the seventies that the building of silos intended for manufacture of silage began in this country. In 1882 the United States Department of Agriculture could find only ninety-one farmers in this country who used silos. During the last twenty-five years, however, silos have gradually become general in all sections of the country where dairying and stock-raising are important industries; it is likely, if a census were taken of the number of silos in this country today, that we would find between a half

and three-fourths of a million of them. Wisconsin alone, according to a report issued by the Orange Judd publications, had 41,555 silos on Jan. 1, 1914, and figuring the same ratio of increase for 1914 as for 1913, would have 52,534. The same report showed 150,505 silos in thirteen dairy states of the Mississippi valley and the 1914 increase figuring as above would indicate a total of 170,857. The most rapid strides in silo building, however, have been made in the Southwest. On Sept. 1st, 1914, there were 8,560 silos in Texas and 4800 more under construction. In Kansas there were 7,137 silos in March 1914 and taking the report as authentic that there were only 60 silos in the state in 1909, the increase in the five years amounts to 11,800 per cent. Oklahoma silos increased 50 per cent. in 1913 alone. Not only has the use of silos spread to every section of the United States, but the corn belt has been pushed steadily northward, with the result that the building of silos is making headway in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Canadian Northwest generally. During the past two years there has been a wonderful increase in the interest taken in the subject, an interest fostered by the example set by the Canadian Government Experimental Farms and the literature available from them.

The silo stands today among the most important, practical and profitable adjuncts of the farm. It is a big dividend-paying investment—not an expense. It has long been considered a necessity on thousands of dairy farms and we find most of them in the states that rank first as dairy states, viz.: New York, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, etc. The farmers that have had most experience with silage are the most enthusiastic advocates of the siloing system, and the testimony of intelligent dairymen all over the country is strongly in favor of the silo. Said a New York farmer recently in one of our main agricultural papers: "I would as soon try to farm without a barn as without a silo," and another wrote, "I wouldn't take a thousand dollars for my silo if I could not replace it." The well-known agricultural writer, Joseph E. Wing, says: "No stock feeder who grows corn can afford to ignore the silo." "Buff Jersey," an Illinois dairy farmer and writer on agricultural topics, declares his faith in silage as follows: "I am fully satisfied that silage is a better feed, and a cheaper one, than our pastures." Another writer says: "The silo to my mind presents so many advantages over the system of