

**THE BOOK OF ENSILAGE;
OR, THE
NEW DISPENSATION FOR
FARMERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649077915

The Book of Ensilage; Or, the New Dispensation for Farmers by John M. Bailey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN M. BAILEY

**THE BOOK OF ENSILAGE;
OR, THE
NEW DISPENSATION FOR
FARMERS**



Yours Respectfully
John M. Bailey
" "

X

THE BOOK OF ENSILAGE;

OR, THE

NEW DISPENSATION FOR FARMERS.

EXPERIENCE WITH "ENSILAGE" AT "WINNING FARM."

HOW TO PRODUCE MILK FOR ONE CENT PER QUART; BUTTER
FOR TEN CENTS PER POUND; BEEF FOR FOUR CENTS
PER POUND; MUTTON FOR NOTHING IF WOOL
IS THIRTY CENTS PER POUND.

By JOHN M. BAILEY,

PROPRIETOR OF "WINNING FARM," BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS, AND VIRGINIA STOCK
FARM, SUSSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

FARMERS' EDITION.

"I beg to express my gratitude to you for the noble efforts you are making in behalf of the cause of agricultural science. Ensilage is to prove a great blessing to the world. . . . I am very glad that you have given us the results of your experience in so neat a volume, and in so clear a manner, that *he who runs may read.*"—MARSHALL F. WILDER.

"A work of incalculable importance to American farmers."—LEVI STOCKBRIDGE, *President Massachusetts Agricultural College.*

"Your 'Book of Ensilage' is received and read through. You seem to have covered the whole subject and lapped around it,—Alpha and Omega. It will be greedily read."—J. B. BROWN, *Translator of H. Goffart's "Ensilage of Maize."*

NEW YORK:

ORANGE JUDD COMPANY,

245 BROADWAY.

1881.

504

COPYRIGHT, 1886,

By JOHN M. BAILEY.

Printed by Mills, Knight & Co., Boston.

SB195
B3

INTRODUCTION TO NEW EDITION.

WHEN, in the winter of 1879-80, I took the liberty of dedicating the first edition of the "Book of Ensilage" to the "farmers of America," the system of ensilage, so far as related to its adaptation to America and to American wants and methods, was in that state of uncertainty that no one could be found who dared to thoroughly try it, partly on account of the expense involved, and perhaps more through an unwillingness to run the risk of failure, and consequently be compelled to bear the ridicule of those who stand ready, whenever a progressive man takes a step in advance of the old methods, — in hopes that something better may be found which shall serve to elevate humanity, or lessen the toils and improve the condition of his fellow-man, — to say, until complete success silences them, "I told you so." Could these doubters, these dispensers of ridicule, always have had their own way, and prevented progressive men from *trying*, every farmer would to this day have carried his grist to mill slung across his horse's back, with a stone in one end of the bag to balance the weight of the corn in the other.

The success of my experiments was, however, so complete, the results were so startling, but so conclusive, that thousands of the most intelligent and progressive farmers and businessmen with a taste for agriculture, came to "Winning Farm," and examined the practical workings of the system of ensilage for themselves. So convincing was the exhibition of what they saw, that I can truly say that there is to-day, not a State in the Union which has not a silo constructed in all material points after the "Winning Silos." Nebraska — one of the last we

would suppose to economize forage — can boast of having the largest silos in America, if not in the world. Dr. Eager of Middletown, Orange County, N. Y., visited "Winning Farm" early in the winter of 1879-80, and has constructed at West Point, Neb., four silos, each 60 feet long, 20 feet deep, and 16 feet wide, — capacity about 2,000 tons. California has its silos, as have Florida and Texas. In New England and the Middle States, hundreds have been built. At this date (Dec. 1, 1880) I am in receipt of many letters daily, announcing the openings of silos. *In every case the success is absolute.* Hundreds of successful experiments in 1880 from the one seed sown by me in 1879! No more doubting. Every farmer is considering how he shall build, and where he shall locate, his silos. I do not claim the credit of originating the system of ensilage. No man can claim that; for it is older than the Christian era. We are all under great obligations to M. Auguste Goffart, a distinguished member of the "Central Agricultural Society of France," and "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur," who spent years in patient experimentation before success crowned his efforts. I have carefully tested it, and by my success have made "Silo" and "Ensilage" household words in every part of the land. One of the earliest Latin writers speaks of subterranean vaults (silos), wherein the ancient Romans used to preserve fruits, grain, and forage in its green state, in very much the same manner as is practised at this time by Mr. O. B. Potter of Sing Sing, N. Y. The Mexicans have practised the same process for centuries, and to this day preserve the bulk of their forage in the same manner. Probably the idea was carried to Mexico by some learned Spanish monk or priest of a practical and agricultural turn of mind, who, filled with a religious zeal, accompanied the Spanish adventurers in their crusades, which resulted in the subjugation of Mexico, and nearly all the American continent south of it.

If the system was thus introduced into America, whether he was successful or not in teaching the heathen how to save their souls, he certainly taught them how to save their forage.

Upon the discovery of America, the Indians in the southern part of our country preserved their stores of maize in pits in

the ground. As the earth is the common mother of us all, so is she the great preserver of all things. The first idea which occurred to the primitive man when he wished to preserve any thing valuable or which he prized was, without doubt, to bury it in the earth.

So that, after all, the *system* of ensilage is not so much a new dispensation as one of the "lost arts," which, after the lapse of centuries, has just been re-discovered, improved, adapted to the requirements of modern civilization, and which is destined to be the means of producing a revolution in our agricultural methods. Allow me, in this introduction to this NEW EDITION, to express my cordial thanks and appreciation of the by far too-flattering notices which "The Book of Ensilage" has received from the press. Editors and reviewers have, with scarce an exception, spoken only to commend, touching but lightly, if at all, upon the faults of style and diction, which are many, realizing that it was a book written by a working farmer in order that that which was hard and perplexing for him to accomplish, with none to advise or instruct, might be made plain and easy to his fellow-farmers. Also to the many gentlemen, eminent in all the walks of life, for the kind and grateful letters in which they have shown their appreciation of my humble efforts to improve the condition of the farmers of America, upon whose prosperity depends not only the well-being of all other classes, but the very stability and permanence of our democratic institutions.

I am grateful also for the success, I see by accounts in the papers, which has attended the efforts of so large a number of those, who, in the early stages of their experiment, solicited and received all the help my experience could render. The possibilities of ensilage can hardly be over-estimated. When I said in my first edition that 40 to 75 tons of green-corn fodder could be raised upon an acre of land, provided proper seed was used, sufficient manure was applied, and the right kind of cultivation bestowed, many doubted, and some ridiculed the statement; "but he laughs best who laughs last;" and I am happy to be able to state that one of my neighbors has raised corn-fodder this year weighing at the rate of 72 tons to the acre, and that his whole

crop averaged over 50 tons to the acre. Some of the stalks were 19 feet 6 inches tall, and weighed 12 pounds each. I have not done as well; but it should be borne in mind that I am experimenting upon an old, run-down farm, which, in 1877, could keep but 6 cows and one horse. I have now in my barn (Dec. 1, 1880) sufficient hay to keep 6 horses, and forage in my silos ample for the sustenance of 40 head of horned cattle, nearly 200 sheep, and 60 swine. I may state also, that, during the past three years, I have bought no hay or manure. This much ensilage has benefited me; and there is no reason why it should not benefit every farmer in like manner. That it may do so, is the earnest wish of my heart.

