

MAGR  
GOVS  
MN 2000 EP-136

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

PAMPHLET 136

3

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
DOCUMENTS

SEP 17 1976

ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARIES

~~MAKE YOUR HAY BY THIS YARDSTICK~~

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.  
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>

make your  
**HAY**



HAY IS NOT TO FILL A *mow*  
HAY IS WHAT YOU FEED A *cow*

cut it

## EARLY

**P**ROTEIN richness and high palatability—these mainly mark **GOOD** hay from **POOR** hay. The protein percentage of all regular hay crops goes down fast after bloom starts, although tonnage is still going up. The trick in cutting, therefore, is to wait just long enough to get a good yield, but to beat a large drop in protein percentage.



Recommended cutting stages:

ALFALFA—1/10 to 1/4 bloom

CLOVER—1/2 bloom

SW. CLOVER—when buds show, or earlier

GRASSES—soon as headed, before bloom

SOYBEANS—earliest pods well filled, before lower leaves turn yellow

put up

## QUICKLY

**H**AY should be rushed into the barn, bale, or stack as soon as it is dry enough to put up. Over-drying will very quickly destroy color, vitamins, and nutrients; reduce palatability; and greatly increase shattering of leaves. Furthermore, dry hay suffers most from exposure to rain or dew.

These suggestions will help hurry in the hay:

- Cut while the dew is on and save the best hours of the day to put in the dry hay.
- Wilt the hay well in the swath and then windrow it to prevent over-drying.
- When hay is "tough," be sure to spread it well in the mow.
- A sweep rake will speed the job and save a lot of heavy tugging.
- Slings or a grapple fork save time.
- Hay for field baling must be drier than for putting up loose.

**REMEMBER:** By starting early, you have a chance to use all the good weather.

save the

## LEAVES

**T**HINK of the leaves when you make hay. The stems will take care of themselves. The leaves contain over twice as much feed value, pound for pound, as the stems, and they shatter so easily that fully half the feed value may be lost.

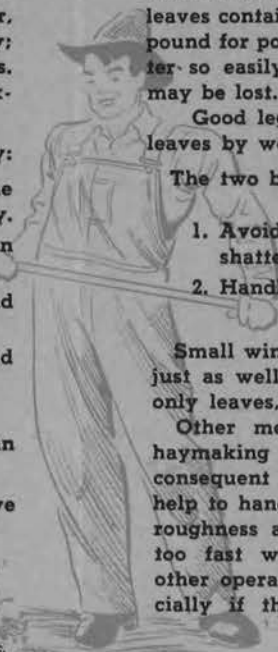
Good legume hay should be 50 per cent leaves by weight.

The two best ways to save leaves are:

1. Avoid over-drying which causes shattering
2. Handle the hay as little as possible

Small windrows, unless rained on, will dry just as well without turning. They save not only leaves, but labor and time.

Other methods that reduce handling in haymaking will also cut down labor and the consequent loss of leaves. And it will always help to handle hay without any unnecessary roughness and threshing about. Don't drive too fast while windrowing or performing other operations with cured hay, most especially if the hay has become rather dry.



MAKE HIGH PROTEIN

HAY WITH

MILK PAIL VALUE

# *We'll always need* **MORE PROTEIN**

Protein is the most important nutrient commonly lacking in livestock rations made up of farm-grown feeds. There never was a time when enough protein concentrates were available to provide adequately balanced rations for all livestock.

Since the war a very acute shortage of protein feeds has developed because farmers are growing more livestock and feeding them better. Production of by-product protein feeds cannot be expanded enough to supply the demand. Purchased protein is not only high priced, but often unobtainable.

The really big reservoir of protein for livestock feeding is legume hay and grass. Even a two per cent increase in protein on 10 acres of alfalfa or clover hay would be equal to 1¼ tons of linseed meal. And some farmers could easily double that increase.

Really good legume roughage will do wonders in milk production. Dairy Herd Improvement Association figures for 1941-42 show that a group of herds with extra good roughage and pasture averaged 245 pounds of butterfat per cow without any grain. Think it over. And when you make hay, Cut It Early—Put Up Quickly—**SAVE THE LEAVES.**

# *Oceans of Milk needed for War*



Milk and milk products are a war necessity. Despite every effort there will be a shortage. We must produce every pint possible.

Milk's high-quality proteins and fats provide better balance in the human diet than any other single food. It is almost equally important for minerals and vitamins.

Here at home we have reduced our use of fluid milk to keep up the supply of butter, cheese, and dry milk going abroad. Dried milk, especially, is a life-saver to the underfed children of liberated areas, as well as to our own boys overseas.

Through its vital role in milk production, our hay can contribute greatly to the building of sound bodies and minds among the liberty-loving people of all the world.

---

Extension Pamphlet 136

May 1944

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 8, MINNESOTA

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Division and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Paul E. Miller, Director. Published in furtherance of Agricultural Extension Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914: 150M-5-44

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
*Agricultural Extension Service*  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



3 1951 D03 470628 N