

Steer Feeders

(From page 6)

dry corn. The corn is picked at a 40 per cent moisture and of the approximately 40 per cent moisture needed for storage. The high-moisture corn is stored in whole or ground shelled

experiments at Purdue, Iowa, Colorado, and Dakota showed that the soft corn and slightly higher average

daily gains, but it took more corn to put on a pound of gain.

King said feeders were shifting to the soft corn because they could harvest the corn earlier and had less harvesting waste; storage costs may be reduced and mechanical feeding is easily installed; silo storage is rodent free

However, he pointed out, soft corn is harder to market if it is not all fed to livestock on the farm; there may be less flexibility in the feeding program, there may be some warm weather spoil

age, and slightly more storage space will be needed for the same amount of corn.

Corn silage continues to furnish more total nutrients per acre than any other crop King said. He pointed out work at the Illinois Experiment station which showed steers fed large amounts of corn silage for 140 days made more economical gains than those fed no heavy amounts of silage or those fed heavy rations of silage for longer periods of time.

"About 80 per cent of all cattle fed in this country

last year utilized some kind of hormone, either in the feed or as transplants," he said. He recommended the use of hormones saying, six years ago packers would not buy cattle treated with "stilbestrol", but now it is approved by the Food and Drug Administration and buyers do not discriminate against treated cattle.

Louis Moore, Extension marketing specialist said four things have happened in the past month to make the livestock market situa-

tion look brighter. Demand for beef is good, feeds are cheap; cattle numbers are lower than was believed, and the federal government has passed feed grain legislation.

He listed all these as "plus factors" for 1961, but said, over optimism, drought consumer switch to other meats or bunched sales during the summer could throw the business into a panic

"Things look a lot more favorable than they did two months ago," Moore said. He revised his earlier estimate of \$2.00 lower prices this fall to a drop of only \$1.00 from last fall

The series of meetings, which drew a total of 36 farmers, was held by the agricultural extension service and scheduled by M M Smith, County Agent

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Hay Drying
(From page 1)

150 tons per year will not warrant the expense

For smaller operators, McCurdy suggested mow drying with air. He recommended an "A" shaped duct and random packing of cube shaped bales.

"For a 20 ft by 40 ft mow, you will need not less than a five horsepower motor and a 42 inch fan," he said.

McCurdy said most of the artificially-dried hay at the Pennsylvania State University is mowed in the afternoon and baled the following day. He recommended the use of a hay conditioner, but said there is little difference in the efficiency of a crusher or crimper.

"The object is to keep all the leaves on the plant," he said, and this means raking before the leaves are completely cured or in the morning while there is dew on the hay.

With second and third cuttings, he said, it is often possible to cut in the morning and bale later in the same day

County agent M. M. Smith cautioned farmers not to use heptachlor for insect control on forage crops. He said Dieldrin used last fall would take care of the insect problem on the first cutting of alfalfa but if Dieldrin were not used, Methoxychlor at the rate of three pounds per acre should be applied when insect damage begins (when the crop is 12 to 14 inches tall) or when spittle bug masses begin to form.

He suggested planting several varieties of forage crops with different maturity rates. in order to prolong the harvest season.

Smith said he feels band seeding in August will give a better stand of alfalfa than trying to start the crop in the wheat field Lancaster county farmers plant to raise big yields of wheat, he said, and this situation is not ideal for starting the legume crop.

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