

FARMERS DEPARTMENT.

Corn and Cobmeal.

The riter assumes or takes it for granted that the question as to the value or use of cobmeal has been definitely settled. Not being fully satisfied in my own mind, and there being quite a diversity of opinion on the subject in this region, I propose to give a few figures for the consideration of your readers.

In the "Patent Office Report," for 1855, page 163, I had the analysis of several varieties of corn-meals, by Charles T. Jackson, M. D., of Boston, Mass., which was undertaken with the view of ascertaining how much nutritive matter is contained in the cobs of Indian corn.

The specimens vary a little, but average a little below 31 per cent of the cob.—The "Dutton" cob yielded an analysis of matter soluble in ether, alcohol and water, about 31 per cent of the cob. For convenience, and to give it all it is entitled to, say 31 per cent. is about the average of our common kinds of Indian corn. The amount of nutritive matter contained in Indian corn, as shown by the analysis of Sir Humphry Davy, which are relied upon as accurate in the average of numerous experiments, is 77 per cent. These figures would show that one pound of corn is worth as much as twenty-two pounds of cobs, or one bushel of corn is worth as much as twelve hundred and thirty-two pounds of cobs for feed. Allowing corn to be worth fifty cents per bushel, which is all it will bring here now, and allowing fourteen pounds of cobs to a bushel of shelled corn, the cobs from a bushel of corn would be worth, nearly two thirds of a cent.

What cow, or ox, or horse, if he could reason, would not revolt at the idea of eating twelve hundred and thirty-two pounds of cob meal to get as much nutriment as is contained in one bushel of corn? It is the opinion of many, that corn-cobs are worth more for fuel than for feed, and I confess, I incline a little to that conclusion. The cobs from one hundred bushels of corn will go about as far as a cord of wood. I always calculate that the cobs will pay for shelling the corn, for fuel, and the increased facility with which corn can be handled to take to mill or market is no inconsiderable item. As to the digestion of cobmeal, I should suppose it would require a cast iron stomach, or something as strong, to do it.

Why use cut Feed? An intelligent farmer asks for the philosophy of cutting hay. He can understand that it is useful to cut corn stalks, and coarse fodder, because the cattle will eat them better. But when cattle will eat up good English hay perfectly clean, why should it be passed through the hay cutter? Our friend evidently supposes, that the stomach does its work upon everything that passes into it, with equal facility, and without any tax upon the rest of the system. This is manifestly an error.—All food has to be ground up before it can be assimilated, and pass into the circulation of the animal. If food is not artificially prepared by cutting, grinding, or steaming, the animal has to prepare it himself, so far as he is able. Certain kinds of food will pass through the system, imparting to it only a part of their nutriment, because the teeth of the animal have not perfectly masticated it. Whole kernels of corn or oats are frequently seen in the feces of an old horse.

The more perfectly food can be prepared, the more completely will the system appropriate its nutriment. If the whole labor of grinding up the food is thrown upon the animal it is a serious tax upon the vital energy, which every good farmer wants for other purposes. In the case of the horse and the ox, you want the strength applied to locomotion and to draft. Whatever strength is applied to grinding food, is so much taken away from their capacity for labor. If three or four hours of strong muscular labor are spent in working up hay and straw into a pulp, there is a great loss of strength and of time.

In the case of fattening animals, you want the aliment to go to the formation of fat and flesh. This process goes on successfully, just as the animal is kept quiet, and comfortable. No useless labor should be expended in the grinding up of food. The straw-cutter, working up the hay into fragments of half an inch in length, or less, performs a good part of the jaws, and makes the feeding of the animals a light matter. If the hay could be ground up into a fine meal, it would be still better; as it would make the work of the animal still lighter, and would more completely yield up its nutriment. If it could be steamed it would be best of all it would then be wholly appropriated.

We have no doubt that it pays quite as well to pass hay through the machine, as the coarsest fodder. A root-cutter is also an indispensable adjunct to the barn, and the more perfectly it comminates the roots the better. The farmer who has ever experimented with these machines, and marked the results of feeding with hay, and roots prepared in this way, can have no doubt of their utility. Laziness, we apprehend, has quite as much to do with the neglect of these machines as ignorance. It is worth to turn the crank to cut up hay enough to feed twenty head of cattle, and in prospect of spending the elbow grease, it is very convenient to believe that it will not pay. Sixth, however, is a poor counsellor in this case, as in all others.—We should as soon think of feeding cattle in the open field in the bleak winter weather, as of feeding them with uncut hay. A warm stable and a straw cutter are both good investments.—American Agriculturist.

NEW YORK LINES.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR. Circulation over 100,000 Copies Weekly. 25 Witnesses, OR, THE FORGER CONVICTED.

JOHN R. DYE is the Author and Compiler of a series of Reports of the Proceedings of the Grand Jury, in the case of the FORGER CONVICTED, which are published by J. R. DYE, No. 111 N. 3rd St., New York.

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OF HIGHLY CONCENTRATED COMPOUND FLUID EXTRACT OF BARK. For Diseases of the Throat, Lungs, Pleura, Bronchitis, Catarrhs, Stricture, Gleet, Gonorrhoea, Chloritis, Stricture, Gleet, Gonorrhoea, Chloritis, Stricture, Gleet, Gonorrhoea, Chloritis.

From whomsoever they may have originated, and no matter how long standing, giving health and vigor to the frame, and restoring the system to its normal condition.

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