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FARM-MANAGEMENT FIELD STUDIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.  
 Iowa State College of Agriculture  
 Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture  
 and  
 Clinton Commercial Club, co-operating.

## REPORTS FROM CLINTON COUNTY SILO USERS.

by

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The following is a summary of the replies given by 24 men, one of whom had two silos, in regard to their silos and the feeding of silage. It should be kept in mind as these tables are studied that they are averages of the figures given by the owner of the silos.

## SIZE AND COST OF SILOS.

Average size of silo-	- - - - -	15 x 30.4 ft.
Average depth under ground-	- - - - -	3.3 ft.
Average cost of silo including labor-	- - - - -	\$341.76
Average number of years in use-	- - - - -	3

## COST OF SILAGE PUT IN DURING FALL OF 1913.

Average number of acres-	- - - - -	11.6
Average yield per acre -	- - - - -	49.4
Value corn at 60 cents per bushel-stalks at \$1 per acre-	- - - - -	\$343.89
Labor-\$2.00 per day for men-\$2.00 per day for teams-	- - - - -	42.52
Use of binder, engine and cutter and men to run them-	- - - - -	36.76
Interest, taxes and depreciation 10% of cost-	- - - - -	34.18
Total cost of silage-	- - - - -	\$457.35
+Average tons capacity of silo-	- - - - -	94.56
Average tons loss from moulding (mostly on top)-	- - - - -	1.94
+Average number tons of good silage-	- - - - -	92.62
Average cost of good silage per ton-	- - - - -	\$4.94
Average value of feed saved by use of silage-	- - - - -	\$817.83
Average profit for each silo-	- - - - -	\$360.48

+Estimate based on supposed capacity of silos of sizes given.



# VALUE OF FEED SAVED BY USE OF SILAGE.

	Fat Cattle	Milch Cows	Stock Cattle
Number of herds reported- - - - -	11	23	22
Average number per herd- - - - -	30	14	25.6
Average number of days fed silage- - - - -	103	152	143.6
+Average tons silage per herd- - - - -	37.8	48.32	38.37

## FEEDS FED WITH SILAGE

Corn - bushels- - - - -	1011.4	109.8	20.98
Hay - tons- - - - -	5.4	9.5	17.92
Corn - value at 60¢ per bu.- - - - -	\$606.84	\$65.34	\$12.59
Hay - Alfalfa at \$15 - other hay at \$10- - - - -	\$54.54	\$99.67	\$179.43
Other feed - oil meal, straw, fodder etc.- - - - -	\$47.72	\$64.35	\$12.89
Total value of feeds fed with silage- - - - -	\$709.10	\$229.36	\$204.91

## ESTIMATE OF FEED NEEDED FOR SAME TIME IF OWNER HAD NOT HAD SILAGE

Corn - bushels- - - - -	1338.2	371.6	266.44
Hay - tons- - - - -	13.1	25.63	31
Corn - Value at 60¢ per bu.- - - - -	\$802.90	\$222.96	\$159.86
Hay - alfalfa at \$15 - other hay at \$10- - - - -	\$134.10	\$266.96	\$313.41
Other feeds-oil meal, straw, fodder etc.- - - - -	\$58.07	\$84.90	\$17.11
Total value of feed-if no silage- - - - -	\$995.07	\$574.82	\$490.39

Value of feed saved by use of silage- - - - -	\$285.97	\$345.46	\$285.48
Average value of silage per ton- - - - -	\$7.56	\$7.15	\$7.44
Average cost of silage per ton- - - - -	\$4.94	\$4.94	\$4.94
Profit on each ton of silage fed- - - - -	\$2.62	\$2.21	\$2.50
Profit on each acre of corn (above 60¢ per bu.)- - - - -	\$30.39	\$25.63	\$29.00

+Estimate of amounts of silage fed made by owners.



# DAILY RATIONS FED EACH ANIMAL.

These daily rations as given below are figured from the total amounts of feed, number of animals fed, and number of days fed, as given by the owners.

FAT CATTLE	Pounds with Silage	Pounds without Silage
Silage	24.4	-----
Corn	18.3	24.2
Hay	3.5	8.5
Other feeds (mostly oil meal)	1.0	1.2
MILCH COWS		
Silage	45.4	-----
Corn	2.9	9.8
Hay	9.0	24.1
Other feeds (mostly oil meal)	1.9	2.5
STOCK CATTLE		
Silage	20.9	-----
Corn	3.2	4.1
Hay	9.8	16.8
Other feeds (mostly oil meal)	.2	.3

## REPORTS FROM CLINTON COUNTY SILO USERS.

The following are the names and addresses of the 24 men who gave the information contained in this report. With each name is the kind of silo owned and the kind he would build if putting up another.

No.	Name	Address	Kind of Silo	Kind if building again
1	C. A. Blake,	Calamus,	Stave	Stave
2	E. J. Mason,	Calamus,	Stave	Stave
3	M. Mason,	Calamus,	Stave	Stave
4	P. Mason,	Calamus,	Stave	Stave
5	John Eden,	Calamus	Stave	Cement (?)
6	J. F. Farrell.	Delmar,	Stave	Stave
7	F. J. Mc Dermot,	Clinton, R 1.	Stave	Stave
8	Andrew Petersen,	Clinton,	Stave	Stave
9	P. C. Hansen,	Low Moor,	Stave	?
10	Louis Kruse,	Goose Lake,	Stave	Stave
11	P. E. Eggers,	Bryant	Stave	Concrete stave (?)
12	P. W. Kruse,	Goose Lake,	Stave	?
13	L. C. Betle,	Goose Lake	Stave	Stave
14	W. A. Wilche,	Preston,	Stave	Stave
15	N. N. Ostergaard	Camanche	Wood panel	Hollow brick
16	J. W. Taplin,	Miles	Stave	?
17	Chris Soenksen,	De Witt	Stave	Cement stave.



No.	Name	Address	Kind of Silo	Kind if building again
18	Bahne Hansen,	Charlotte	Stave	Not wood (?)
19	Gus Paulson,	Camanche	Stave	Hollow brick
20	A. L. Powell,	Camanche	Hollow brick	Hollow brick
21	Wade J. Loofboro,	Welton	Stave	?
22	H.H. Christiansen,	Calamus	Stave	Stave
23	Henry Andersen,	Calamus	Stave	Stave
24	J. O. Shaff,	Camanche	Stave	Hollow brick

#### KIND OF SILO TO BUILD.

From the above table it will be seen that the tendency is to build with something more permanent than wood. While only one of the twenty-four men who reported has other than a wood silo, four of them would build of vitrified hollow brick if building again. Three would build with or at least investigate closely the solid concrete or the concrete stave silo.

A report from Scott County silo users is interesting in this connection. Notice the following table from a Scott County Report.

	Silos now in use.	Choice if rebuilding.
Wooden	73	33
Vitrified hollow brick	26	51
Brick	3	1
Concrete (solid)	1	5
Cement stave	1	6
Galvanized iron	1	0
Undecided	-	9

Notice that in Scott County where many of the hollow brick silos have been built, that nearly one-half of the men would build with them if rebuilding.

Notice, too, that whereas nearly three-fourths of the silos were built with wood, less than one-third would use wood if rebuilding.

#### TIME TO FILL SILO.

Nearly every silo user said that he preferred to fill when the corn was well dented and the lower leaves well dried. Most of them run a stream of water in through the blower while filling.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

1. A silo will pay for itself in a very short time.
2. Men who use silage are enthusiastic over its value for all kinds of cattle.
3. There is a strong tendency among men who have silos towards using hollow brick or concrete if building other silos.
4. Men who have silos can feed or milk at a profit when prices are so low that other men are working for nothing and can secure a splendid profit when prices are good.