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Alfalfa the King of all Forage Plants.

Either green, or cured as hay, the nutritive qualities of alfalfa are surpassed by few other plants, red clover not exceeding it in protein or muscle forming elements. Farm animals of all kinds relish, and thrive, and, in many instances, actually become quite fat, upon dry hay alone, and cows kept upon it demonstrate its value for milk making in both quantity and quality of product. It is an admirable crop for soiling purposes.—F. C. Coburn Secretary Kansas State Board of Agricultural.

As regards its nutritive qualities, there are but few plants that can compare with alfalfa. Red clover is the best known and most universal leguminous plant. For the sake of comparison, I quote the following analysis of the two from Wolf's table. The figures refer to the digestible nutrients in each case.

Qualities.	RED CLOVER.		ALFALFA.	
	Hay.	Green.	Hay.	Green.
Crude protein....	8.5	1.5	12.3	3.2
Carbohydrates....	38.2	8.8	31.4	8.1
Fat.....	1.7	0.4	1.0	0.3
Nutritive ratio....	5.0	5.7	2.8	3.1

It will be seen that alfalfa, either as hay or green, contains more of the most valuable nutrient (protein) than red clover. The figures speak for themselves. Further argument on that point is unnecessary.

As a fertilizer of the soil, alfalfa has but few equals, and, although it is a perennial crop, the farmers are beginning to learn that it pays them, on poor soil, to plow a crop of alfalfa under, in order to enrich the soil.—Professor C. C. Georgeson, Kansas State Agricultural College.

In this place we insert the report of Professor Blount, formerly of Colorado Agricultural College.

"Alfalfa stands at the head of all clover in nearly all respects. It needs no comment. Its feeding value, and as a hay crop, is excelled by no other plant. As hay, its value may be seen in the experiments made last year. Four steers were fed one month on it, and one on red clover. They consumed each from 133 to 221 pounds more clover hay per month than alfalfa, and in no case was the per cent. of gain less in alfalfa months, but considerably more. The fact may be clearly seen in the feeding experiment

illustrated in the following table. Three steers were fed four months on alfalfa, clover, chop and roots. They consumed in

Oct. and Dec.	Gain.	Nov. and Jan.	Gain.
2805 lbs alfalfa.	270 lbs.	3558 lbs clover.	240 lbs.
558 lbs chop.		675 lbs chop.	
1275 lbs roots.		1830 lbs roots.	

"Each steer is credited the same amount of chop and roots inasmuch as they were given limited quantities, but of hay each had all he would eat.

"Taking the hay as a base, the alfalfa made a difference in gain of twenty pounds, and 1,053 pounds less of it was fed, showing clearly its superior value for a feeding plant."

Feeding Test with Sheep

The question of the comparative feeding value of wheat and corn for sheep is a long way from being decided. From 1891 to 1894 most of the grain fed to sheep in Colorado was corn, shipped in from Nebraska at about seventy-five cents per hundred. The partial failure of the corn crop of 1894 raised the price to over a cent a pound, while wheat could be bought for sixty-five cents to seventy-five cents per hundred pounds. Consequently, wheat was the principal grain fed from November, 1894, to March, 1895. Judged by its composition, wheat is well adapted to making growth on an animal, and feeders were well satisfied with the grain in weight made by their sheep during the earlier part of the season. The first shipments showed that the sheep were not so fat as they seemed to be. They had made a growth in weight, but their flesh was soft and watery. They lacked the hard, solid kidney fat that had been a distinguishing feature of Colorado corn-fed sheep. The shrinkage of weight in shipping was nearly twice as much as in previous years on corn feeding.

So pronounced were these results of exclusive wheat feeding that, during April and May, many carloads of corn were bought, and some feeders claimed that they could afford to pay \$25 a ton for corn to finish up their sheep for market. Several thousand old sheep were brought to Fort Collins and put on a heavy feed of wheat to fatten them rapidly for market. But, instead of fattening, the combination of wheat and al-

falfa, both rich in bone and muscle-forming elements, started them growing again and delayed for some weeks their marketing. The experiences of the past season have shown that, for lambs, it is probably best to feed wheat the first third of the winter, then half wheat and half corn for the next third, finishing off on clear corn. In feeding older sheep, corn is by far the best grain to use.—(Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station Report.)

Idaho Farmers Read This.

It is an old story now to tell how systematic dairying has redeemed farming communities that were well nigh ruined by years of exclusive wheat production. We doubt whether it has ever been more effectively told than by Hon. John Lushsinger before the Minnesota Dairymen's Association as follows:

I reside in county in Wisconsin where, 25 years ago, farmers were running a race each season with the clinch bugs, to determine which could first harvest the crop of spring wheat. It had been as good a wheat country as yours was, and perhaps yet is, and wheat had been for many years the main staple crop. But all this changed; the bugs, assisted by dry seasons and impoverished soil, regularly and completely captured the crop. Not even content with that, they overflowed with their crawling swarms, the adjoining fields of other crops, and stopped only when ruin was complete. Disastrous consequences followed; the young, the enterprising and hardy, moved in ceaseless trains westward to the virgin prairies of your state and the Dakotas, to begin anew. Our newspapers were filled with notices of sheriffs' sales, foreclosures, and tax sales. Once in debt, the wheat farmer's struggles to extricate himself, seemed only to cause him to become more deeply mired. Then when the outlook was darkest, our people—a few at first—betook themselves to dairying. Their partial success caused others to follow rapidly; we became dairymen; became so because forced by chinch bugs, which we then considered a curse sent by the Almighty to punish

the wholesale robbery of the soil, termed "wheat farming;" but now, in the light of the events following, we have reason to consider a blessed means to lead us to better farming. Green Connty, Wis., is to-day one of the greatest dairy counties in the northwest, if not in the United States; 240 cheese factories exist in that county, and nearly half as many more in the counties adjoining, mostly controlled by Green County men. Over 20,000,000 pounds of cheese are made annually, bringing a gross income of about \$2,000,000"

So much for Queen Cow! Do you wonder that thoughtful men desire to stop the fraudulent sale of "oleo," when such results as this can be rightly credited to the spread of legitimate dairying?—Rural New Yorker.

A Monument To A Famous Apple.

The Rumford Historical society of Woburn, Del., will erect a monument where, one hundred years ago, was discovered the kind of apples now known as Baldwins. Samuel Thompson of Woburn, Mass., while surveying a route for the Middlesex canal, discovered this apple. His attention had been drawn to it by a number of woodpeckers which gathered about the trees on account of the apples. Mr. Thompson thought it a new variety, and as it pleased his taste he called the attention of his neighbors to it, and he and his brother hastened to graft from it many trees on their own estates. It was first called the "Pecker" apple, then the "Butters" apple, from the owner of the land where the tree was found. The brothers Thompson were constant in their efforts to scatter it far and wide, and for miles around the people secured branches of it and grafted their trees.

The neighbor and friend of the Thompsons, Col. Loammi Baldwin, the eminent engineer, showed the fruit to his many guests, who came from distant parts of the country, and this did much for the spread of the apple's fame, which in a few years came to be known as the "Baldwin."

The granite shaft which is to be erected by the Rumford Historical association of Woburn is seven feet high and is surmounted by a representation of a Baldwin apple.