

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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Why Not Build a Silo This Year?

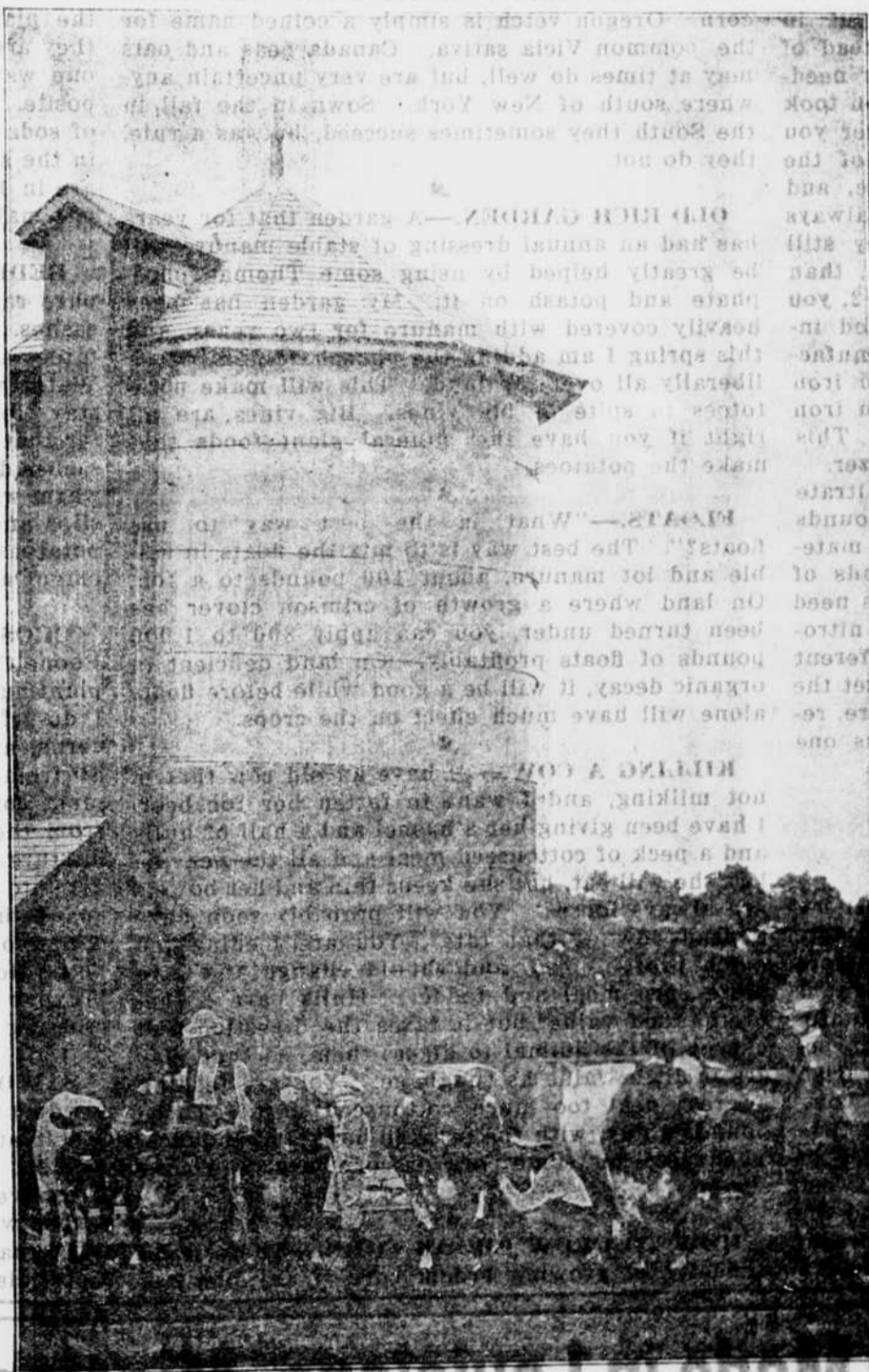
LAST year we published detailed reports of the cost of a number of silos built in the South, which showed that the average cost per ton capacity of stave silos was \$1.50 and of concrete silos \$2.17. In some cases stave silos have been built for as little as \$1.00 per ton capacity and concrete silos for as little as \$1.75. These figures should dispel the idea held by many people that a silo is a very expensive affair and can be afforded only by the big farmer. In fact, when a silo enthusiast begins talking—and the man who has one is generally an enthusiast—he is likely to say that the silo should be regarded as a necessity on every farm. We have been saying for a long time that every farmer who has ten dairy cows or a proportionate number of other cattle should have a silo; but just a few weeks ago we published a little note from Mr. D. S. Harris, of Virginia, who gave as his experience that it pays to have a silo for only three cows. Mr. Harris has a silo only 7 feet in diameter, so that he can feed out the silage fast enough to keep it sweet.

Mr. Harris is an enthusiast, of course; but just listen to Mr. A. M. Worden:

"The silo is no more an experiment, it is a scientific, proven factor in modern farming and tens of thousands of successful men voice its praise and it is now considered a prime necessity on well ordered farms. In fact, the man on \$100 or \$250 an acre land can hardly exist as a profit-making producer without silos.

"It solves absolutely many problems. First, the farmer can save all his crop perfectly in wet seasons or damp climates or windy seasons and locations. I had two-thirds to three-fourths of my corn rot one year because it stood out in the shock during a long, warm, wet spell. In a silo it would have been saved perfectly, and all made fine feed for all kinds of stock. Second, it makes the entire crop into finest of feed; corn stalks, corn cobs, tassels, etc., if only put in wet and well packed in and kept from all air. Even corn that has stood in shock all winter, if thoroughly wet and finely cut up, will make good ensilage and be relished and eaten clean if sound. Third, it makes far more and a far better quality of manure and that makes more and better crops than the old method of dry feeding, and converts the entire plant as soon as fed and digested into the best kind of fertilizers. Dry cobs and dry corn stalks may take years to decay and liberate the plant food contained. The silage is partly predigested in the silo and is relished and digested perfectly by all kinds of live stock.

"Not a single head on my farm that does not get a ration of it twice daily from grass to grass. Horses, hogs, mules, jacks, hens and turkeys, all but



(Courtesy International Harvester Co.)

the goats, and the does are fed a little for four to six weeks before kidding time. I have two 100-ton silos and will build more this season. Corn and soy beans in the silo make a well balanced ration and will make more and richer feed than any other crop we raise. Plant alternate rows or alternate hills of each side by side.

"One man in Virginia says his silo, gasoline engine and cattle costing \$600, have more than doubled the carrying capacity of his farm, and so earn as much for him as \$5,000 invested in the farm, and it is improving the land also. A man in South Carolina says he kept three horses and 14 cattle before taking a silo. Now he keeps five horses and 45 cattle on same land, all due to silos. Will keep more later. Dozens of men say the silo paid for itself in one season of five or six months."

Then, there is that other silo enthusiast, Mr. A. L. French; he feeds silage to cattle and horses and hogs and sheep, and openly declares that no man can get the full value out of his corn crop if he doesn't put part of it, at least, into a silo.

We believe, too, that there should be fifty silos in the South where there is now one. That is why we feel impelled to call special attention to the matter just now and to urge every reader who has any considerable number of stock to investigate and see if it will not pay him to build a silo this year. He need not do it right now, of course; July or August may suit better, but right now he must be starting the crops to go into it. Let's double the number of silos in our territory this year and see if there is not a great increase in profits next year as a result.

The man who is sure he does not need a silo should also investigate silo possibilities. Many of the things which we supposed a few years ago were for the "big" farmer only are now recognized as good for, and in the reach of, the "average" farmer, and as the years go on this average farmer is going to have more and more of such things. The silo is one of these. So, Mr. Small Farmer, why not a silo this year? Or if not this year, why not next?

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