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GREAT FALLS BREWERIES, INC., GREAT FALLS

When Writing to Advertisers, say

"I Saw It in
Montana Farmer-Stockman"

Which Haying Method Is Cheapest, Fastest?

	Average Investment in Equipment	Average Tons Per Crew Hour	Average Man-Hours Per Ton	Average Cost Per Ton
Load, unload by hand	\$ 158	.7	4.5	\$4.66
Buckrake, stacker	538	2.0	1.5	3.15
Bucker-stacker				
power combination	578	3.0	1.0	2.40
Automatic-tie pickup baler	2,253	2.6	2.0	4.33
Pickup chopper	2,342	3.5	1.1	3.34

These comparative figures on five common methods of putting up hay were compiled by the bureau of agricultural economics. All cost estimates include the cost of cutting and raking. Man-hours for baling include hauling and stacking. Among other things they show pretty conclusively that in terms of cost per ton the pitchfork is the most expensive of all haying tools.

How Much Is in a Stack Of Chopped Dry Hay?

HERE IS A formula worked out by the Colorado A & M college for measuring the number of tons in a stack of chopped dry alfalfa hay.

Tonnage equals width X length X overthrow X percentage factor divided by 270 (cubic feet per ton).

Here's the method used to arrive at the formula:

A 52-acre field of alfalfa was cut and single windrowed. When cured it was stacked, with two outfits working simultaneously. Every other windrow was gathered as long hay and taken to the stacker with a power sweep rake and each alternate row was chopped and hauled to the stacker in a truck. One stack of each type of hay was made. The stacks were measured for estimates of weight and then hauled to scales and checked.

The field chopped hay was found to have a density of 270 cubic feet per ton, but it was found that errors in calculation resulted from differences of width. It was necessary to work out percentage factors to vary the overthrows with the widths. Here are the factors for various widths:

Width	Factor	Width	Factor
13 feet	.25	17 feet	.19
14 feet	.23	18 feet	.18
15 feet	.21	19 feet	.18
16 feet	.20	20 and up	.17

As an example the tonnage of a stack 17 feet wide, 40 feet long and

with a 24-foot overthrow the calculation would be like this: 17x40x24x.19 divided by 270 equals 11.48 tons.

Buckrake Wastes Hay

A surprising revelation as to the wastefulness of handling alfalfa hay with a sweeprake came to light as a result of the tests to establish methods of measuring stacks of chopped hay to determine tonnage.

When the stacks were weighed it was found that the long hay stack weighed nearly 2 tons less than the chopped hay stack. A careful check showed the moisture content of the hay in the two stacks to be the same, so the only conclusion possible was that the difference was due to extra shattering as the hay was hauled to the stack by the rake.

At \$20 a ton this loss would amount to \$40 for half the field or \$80 if the entire field had been gathered by buckrake. Since most of the loss was of leaves, the feed loss would be more serious than the mere tonnage would indicate.

Study Montana Farm Methods

SEVEN YOUNG farmers, five from Denmark, one from New Zealand and one from Norway, are working on Montana farms and ranches this summer for training in American agricultural methods.

Each trainee has been assigned to a farm family that is engaged in the type of farming or livestock production in which he is interested. He will also be introduced to the activities of the community so that he may get a true picture of rural life in this country. The program is sponsored by the Economic Co-operation administration with co-operation of the extension service and the U. S. department of agriculture.

The trainees from Denmark and the families they are living with while in the state are H. H. Knudsen on the Esger Mikkelsen farm at Lewistown, Knud Jensen with the Don Tavenner family at Deer Lodge, Carl Lund with the Einer Olson family at Stanford, Erik Johansen with the Arthur Hansen family at Sidney and Ove Staun with the L. H. Andersons at Conrad.

Maurice Moffat, an international farm youth exchange delegate from New Zealand, is living and working with the W. W. Carr family near Creston. Knut Frogner, a trainee from Norway, is on the Kenneth Rolie farm near Billings.

Making Silage Without Silos

IF YOU DON'T have a silo of any kind just pile your grass silage on the ground.

That's what farmers in Iowa are reported to be doing and several seasons of experience have proved the procedure to be successful there.

First they level off an area of ground, leaving it slightly high in the center for good drainage. Then they pile the silage on this area making a rick of any length or width they want and about 12 feet high. The important thing, they say, is to pack the silage well by running over it with at frequent intervals with tractor or truck.

When the pile is completed they cover it over with a couple of inches of dirt—heat from silage keeps dirt from freezing even at 20 below—and that's that.

The above-ground piles keep well and are easy to feed from, the farmers report.