COMPARATIVE VALUES OF SUNFLOWER SILAGES
MADE FROM PLANTS CUT AT DIFFERENT
STAGES OF MATURITY, AND THE EFFECT OF
SALT ON THE PALATABILITY OF THE SILAGE.¹

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During the time that sunflowers have been used for silage there
has been considerable difference of opinion as to their value for this
purpose.

Lack of palatability has been the chief argument against sun-
flower silage. Some animals refuse to eat it, some consume only
a portion of it, while others clean it up readily. Not all of the
unpalatability, however, is directly due to the plant itself; storage in
poor silos, insufficient moisture for proper fermentation, or improper
trampling, often result in poor silage.

Extensive trials conducted by experiment stations and by farmers
have shown that sunflowers put into the silo at the proper stage
of maturity, with enough moisture to insure adequate fermentation,
and well tramped to exclude air have usually made a silage not
objectionable to most animals to which silage is ordinarily fed.
Cases are on record, however, where all these conditions were
apparently fulfilled and yet the result was a silage of poor quality,
much less palatable than corn silage.³ When sunflower silage is
in the best of condition there are nearly always animals that refuse

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³ Hansen, Dan. The work of the Huntley Reclamation Project experiment

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