5. THE BETTER UTILIZATION OF STRAWS

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Straw is the dried stalks or stems and other parts of various crops from which the seed has been removed in the ripe or nearly ripe stage. Straw refers especially to the remnants after threshing of the small grains, wheat, oats, barley, rye and rice, but is also properly applied to threshed buckwheat, peas, beans, flax and other crops handled in the same way.

The ripening processes of the plant consist largely in the transfer of soluble materials from the leaves and stem to the seed. So it is found that seeds, in general, are rich in protein, fat, and carbohydrates, while the remaining portions—the straw—are comparatively poor in protein and fat, although retaining considerable amounts of carbohydrates. The larger part of the carbohydrates, however, usually is not digestible, being tough and woody in character.

The fertilizing constituents of straw are not notably high. The content of potash is usually highest of that of the three constituents, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. Thus, a ton of wheat straw

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