THE EVALUATION OF CORN SILAGE

F. A. Pearson and W. L. Gaines

INTRODUCTION

The price of feeds is established, as a rule, by free sale transactions. The price of silage, however, is an exception to the general rule and its value must be established by other means.

Corn silage has come to be an important feeding stuff in our animal husbandry. It rivals pasture itself as a feed. Silage is perhaps especially important in the dairy industry, where it supplies from 20 to 50 percent of the nutrients in the ration. On a nutritional basis, in the more important dairy districts of Illinois, it represents about one-third of all the feed used in milk production, excluding pasture. An equitable basis of setting a price on silage is therefore a matter of importance. The question of how silage may be evaluated frequently arises in adjustments between landlord and tenant; in

1At the time the original material of this paper was prepared the senior author was on the staff of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. Publication was delayed in part, because the cost data in terms of dollars underwent such marked changes as a result of the war; and in part, because further work is needed to round out and complete the ideas and recommendation of the paper. Now, in 1923, however, the costs in terms of dollars are not so greatly different than at the time the data were collected. Further, the authors are not now in a position, at least cooperatively, to undertake the experimental work necessary to complete and round out the method of evaluation of corn silage as recommended. Consequently the paper is offered at this time for what it may be worth intrinsically and suggestively. Received for publication January 10, 1924.

2Professor of Agricultural Economics, Cornell University, and Professor of Milk Production, University of Illinois, respectively.