Aside from texture and purity, the qualities which go to make up a good grade of alfalfa hay depend largely upon the curing operations. The practices of a successful curing system are planned in most regions to facilitate rapid drying of the forage, without undue loss of leaves. This shortens the interval between cutting and storage and thereby reduces the likelihood of rain damage.

Hay is cured in the field, either in the swath, windrow, or cock, or by some combination of these methods. It has been the purpose of these investigations, extending from 1921 to 1926, to establish the effectiveness of the various systems and also to determine the extent to which the leaves, through normal transpiration processes, may function in withdrawing moisture from the cut stems.

HISTORICAL

The literature contains very few comparative data pertaining to hay-curing methods. Of the many recommendations found, however,