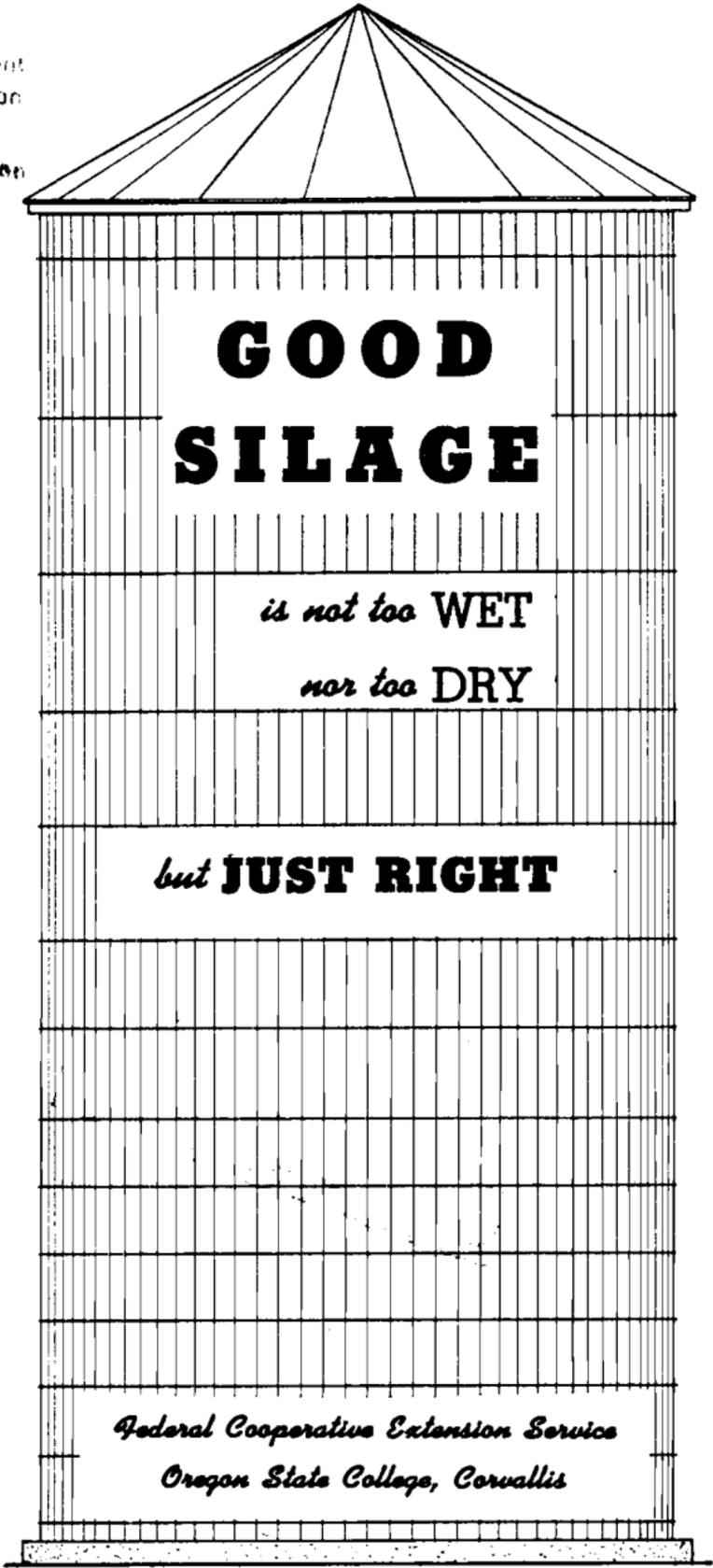


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Equipment
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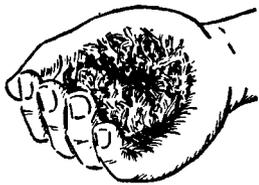
◀ Too Wet

This might happen with 50 to 100 per cent legume silage. Wilt longer in the field or alternate filling with some loads drier than this.



◀ Still Too Wet

This sample will make silage but is still too wet. Molasses at 60 pounds per ton will improve quality of silage made this wet. Wilt longer or mix with drier loads.



◀ Just Right

Will make good quality silage. The material packs in the hand but springs slowly apart when the hand is open. There is a slight feeling of moisture on the hand. This has about 30 per cent dry matter and will make good silage.



◀ Too Dry

Will not pack—will mold—probably is too mature or has been allowed to lay in the windrow too long. Can be improved by adding water or mixing load for load with material like that in Illustration 2.

These are the

3 most **important**
points

in making **GOOD** *silage*

1. *Stage of growth. Cut early.*
2. *Control of moisture. About 60 to 70 percent is best.*
3. *Cut fine for tight packing.*

Control of moisture requires experience just as good hay making does. A simple way is to check the silage as it falls in the silo by squeezing a handful.

Use of Preservatives

Good legume or legume-grass silage may be made by wilting properly. The addition of from 30 to 80 pounds of molasses per ton of silage will insure better quality. Quantity of molasses increases with the percentage of legumes in the silage.

LEGUME-GRASS SILAGE

Why make silage?

Because you can:

- ▶ Save 5 to 20 per cent more dry matter per acre.
- ▶ Save 10 to 20 per cent more protein per acre.
- ▶ Produce 10 to 15 per cent more milk per acre.
- ▶ Substitute good silage for good pasture.
- ▶ Store more feed in less space at less cost.

What to store silage in

Upright silo is best for average operator.

Metal, concrete stave, tile, or wood stave silos are all satisfactory.

Wood silos last 20 to 30 years or more and are the lowest in cost.

Crops to use

- ▶ Any crop that might be used for hay.
- ▶ Alfalfa, clover, oats and vetch, grasses.

Time of Harvest Very Important

Silage can be no better than the original crop at the time it is put up.

For greater palatability and feed value per acre, crops must be ensiled at right stage of growth.

You should cut:

- ▶ *Legumes* when clover and alfalfa are in the early bloom or 1/10 bloom.
- ▶ *Cereals* when in early milk stage.
- ▶ *Grasses* when heads begin to show.