

to feed cottonseed hulls if they cost more than 45 percent as much as snapped corn or 70 percent as much as peanut hay unless the hulls are used merely to start cattle on feed.

Many feeders like to mix cottonseed hulls with ground snapped corn and cottonseed meal for starting cattle on feed. The bulk of the cottonseed hulls makes it possible to increase the grain to a full-feed more quickly. However, if hay of even fair quality is available, cattle can be started on feed satisfactorily without the hulls. If cottonseed hulls are fed, the proportion of hulls should be decreased as the fattening period progresses.

Toward the end of the feeding period it is advisable to eliminate the hulls from the ration entirely. Their bulk will prevent cattle from consuming enough grain to make maximum gains and to finish satisfactorily. It should be remembered that cottonseed hulls are a roughage and not a concentrate like corn. Older cattle can make better use of bulky feeds such as cottonseed hulls than can calves.

Silage.—Silage is not popular with steer feeders in North Florida. Reporting the results of 33 experiments, Morrison (17) states that one ton of corn silage and 14 pounds of protein supplement saved an average of 247 pounds of corn plus 580 pounds of legume hay. This would be equivalent to about 353 pounds of snapped corn and about 474 pounds of peanut hay. With snapped corn at \$40, peanut hay at \$15, and cottonseed meal at \$80 per ton, corn silage would be worth approximately \$10 per ton. A yield of 5.5 tons of corn silage per acre would be equivalent in feed value to a corn yield of about 30 to 35 bushels per acre.

Grain sorghum silage is worth about 90 percent as much per ton as corn silage, and sweet sorghum silage is worth approximately 67 percent as much per ton as corn silage (17).

If silage is fed to fattening steers it is generally advisable to feed some hay in addition to the silage and grain. Three pounds of silage contains about as much dry matter as one pound of hay.

PASTURES

Fertilized Grass-Legume Pastures.—Cattle make good gains and fatten on fertilized grass-legume pasture in North Florida. Gains on pasture cost less than dry lot gains. Consequently, it would seem advisable that a cattle fattening program be based on maximum use of improved pasture. Young cattle placed on highly improved pasture in the spring will gain from 200 to