THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

plowed in the usual way. To prepare the ridgedup land in the spring, I first harrow with the ridges, and then cross them, and next put the cultivator over it. It is now in good shape for the seed, and, with another harrowing after sowing, put it into first-class shape. The early-sown grain is always the best, and this plan enables you to get on the land from three to five days earlier. The value of early-sown grain has been clearly demonstrated this season.

Just a word here to emphasize the value of careful and thorough preparation of the seed-bed. Too much time cannot be put on the land, and every bit of extra work will count. I find this year that the drilled grain is doing better than what was sown broadcast. One writer advises narrow lands, so that the water may get off early in the spring. When the land is ridged up, you have no trouble with water laying on the land. It will follow every furrow, and, if water furrows are addeed where needed, the water will be carried off the field in short order.

A word in conclusion re preparing for next year's corn crop. I like clover or timothy sod the best. This is plowed after the hay is taken off, and kept well worked all fall. If manure is available, it is applied in the fall, and the land plowed to a depth of about five or six inches. If manure is not to be had, the ground is harrowed last thing in the fall, so as to be level, and the manure can be then easily hauled out through the winter. If stubble land is to be used, the same treatment as used for sod is advised. If you have a warm fall, a large percentage of the weed seeds will germinate, especially in the early-С. Н. К. plowed sod.

York Co., Ont.

1312

[Note.—The prompt use of the roller after the plow, where the land turns up dry and lumpy, in order to make a firmer and mellower mulch that will better serve to retain soil moisture, is a point deserving of consideration, and upon which testimony based on close observation would be valuable.—Editor.]

### How to Finish Silo Filling.

#### Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

About silo-filling, I would say that corn should be past the glazed stage when it is cut. If cut too green, the grain is nearly all water, and the silage sours. A September frost will not affect the stalk or ears. The leaf is not of much value, and a light frost will not injure it to signify. Should the leaf get frozen, cutting should be done without delay. If no frost occurs, a few hours' wilting in the sun will be beneficial.

We cut with a corn harvester, and its only fault is that it leaves a rather high stubble. If cut by hand, I would use a short hoe, but I prefer the machine, as the sheaves are easier to handle than loose corn. We draw the corn from the field on a low wagon, with two sills for a rack, with stakes at the corners. If a low wagon is not available, take the hind wheels off the farm wagon, and get two very low ones made to fit the axle, and it will answer very well. I prefer an ensilage cutter, with blower. To run at full capacity will require an 18-horse-power engine, from four to six teams, according to the distance the corn is from the silo, three men in the field to load the wagons, one man to help the teamsters hand the corn to the feeders, two men to feed the machine, and two in the silo. Such a gang should fill a round silo, 14 feet in diameter

half full, I tramp next the wail, and let the center care for itself. I would advise planting the corn thin, so that it will grow large ears and stalks. Then let it mature well before cutting, and mix it thoroughly in the silo. And the siloowners will not regret having built a silo. JOHN M. HOULDERSHAW.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

# Faitor Spurge : A Pernicious Weed.

E. B., North Perth.—" I am sending by mail a weed that I would like to know the name of. I have" both it and bindweed all through a ten-acre field. Can you tell me how to eradicate them ?"

The specimen received is Faitor Spurge, called in botany Euphorbia Esula. It is a new weed to Canada, if absence from the official weed lists and weed books is sufficient to justify that designation of it. All the spurges have a more or less poisonous, acrid, milky juice. The one under notice is a smooth, erect, branching plant, with narrow, nearly linear, leaves on its stem and main branches, and yellowish-green, somewhat kidney-shaped leaves on its flowering branches. In a patch or field where the plants are growing close together they average about 15 inches in height, but in good soil, with plenty of room, a plant may send out several strong, nearly erect branches from near the root, and reach a height of two or three Before the flowering parts appear, it sugfeet. gests a stout specimen of toad-flax. It's yellow-ish-green flowers, which are so small that a lens is needed to see their parts, are borne on the summit of an umbel having from three to a dozen or more rays two or three inches long. The drawing shows such an umbel, with all the rays cut off at the middle except one showing the flowering



half full, I tramp next the wall, and let the center care for itself. I would advise planting the corn thin, so that it will grow large ears and rootstocks. J. D.

## Starting a Produce Market.

A young man with only about \$100 cash capital, in addition to personal effects, writes "The Farmer's Advocate" about starting a produce market in his local village. His idea was to have the farmers of the locality subscribe the capital, and pay him a salary of, say, \$1,200 per year as manager, the profits to be divided among them proportionately. If the village is incorporated, and the business promises sufficiently well, the municipality might properly undertake the establishment of a market to supply the needs of the place, the general progress of which it would help. It is doubtful if the proposal would appeal successfully to farmers in the locality. If it is to be a simple produce business, then it had better be commenced in a small way by our correspondent depending upon his own ability and resources. As he gains experience and the trade grows profitable, he will be able to extend his operations, as many others have done. But he should take his time, and avoid speculative plunging.

# THE DAIRY.

#### Good Cows and Poor.

Many grade cows are making good records this season in the cow-testing associations under the Dominion Department of Agriculture. One near Cassel, Ont., has given over 200 pounds of butterfat in three and a half months. In the associations at Warsaw, Ennismore, Cassel and Tayside, Ont., the average yield of all cows tested for June is over 35 pounds of butter-fat. Eight associations in Quebec average over 30 pounds of fat per cow, but a good many herds in Ontario and Quebec average less than 700 pounds of milk and 24 pounds of butter-fat during June.

In Prince Edward Island, the highest average yield for June is at Kensington, where the 150 cows included in the "dairy record center" there give 787 pounds of milk, 3.7 test, and 30 pounds of fat. Included at this center are several individual cows giving over 900 pounds of milk and 35 pounds of fat. One of the best yields is from a seven-year-old grade Shorthorn, giving over 1,120 pounds of milk and 40 pounds of fat. But hard by these good records are found poor yields of only 500 pounds of milk and 18 pounds of fat irom six and seven-year-old cows that freshened in April and May.

Between yields of 40 and 18 pounds of fat in one month there is too great a difference to be It is all the difference between a overlooked. very satisfactory return and no adequate payment whatever for all the energy, time, feed and care expended on cows that are not capable of making money for their unfortunate owners. Conserve your energy by keeping better cows. You cannot afford to keep a herd of only medium capacity. Cow-testing pays abundantly, for it shows which cows are making a good profit, and again, which cows cannot by any strength of imagination, be considered in the same category. C. F. W.

Ottawa.

FOUNDED 1866

and 30 feet high in a day.

To distribute the corn in the silo, make a long, three-sided trough, invert it over the silo, put hood of blower under one end, and the corn will shoot along inside and under the trough. Then block the trough by nailing a board in it over the center of the silo. The corn striking the board with the force of the blower will split the short lengths and make it more palatable for stock than if elevated with a carrier.

I would prefer to co-operate with the neighbors and buy an outfit for filling, but my nearest neighbors haven't silos. I pay about the same price as I do for a threshing machine. It is sometimes difficult to get them, as it has to be done during the threshing season. If we had our water-powers developed, and electric power on the farms, each farmer could have his own cutting and filling machine, and do it with his own help. A silo thirty feet high will settle seven or eight feet. If the pastures are short, I would start to feed as soon as filled; between feeding and settling, the silo will soon hold another half-days' filling. Then feed off the top again and there will be no waste. If the silage is not required at once, let it settle for a few days, pitch off When the silo what is spoiled on top and refill. is finally filled, go up every day for a week and level and tramp the silage. A few inches of straw on top, sprinkled with water, will save the corn. If there is no trough or other arrangement to deliver the corn properly in the silo, the blower will send the leaves to one side, and drop the corn on the other. It must be mixed with a fork in that case, or it will not keep. The weight of corn will settle it, except close to the wall, where the friction prevents it. After the silo is

Faitor Spurge.

leaves and the two seed pods. The seeds are lodged in a hard, three-celled capsule about the size of a small pea. This, on ripening, splits elastically, and shoots out its smooth, white seeds a considerable distance.

The owner of a ten-acre field badly infested with both faitor spurge and convolvulus bindweed has a large weed contract on his hands. Both the weeds named have perennnial, running rootstocks which the cultivator and harrow are liable to spread throughout the field. The roots of the bindweed may be the worse of the two for spreading by cultivation in damp weather, but the spurge seeds more freely, and its stems are a greater nuisance in the crop. The problem of eradication, however, is not double, for the treatment that will eradicate or control the one will have a similar effect upon the other.

Smothering has proved an effective means of dealing with bindweed. In small patches, compost, straw or tar-paper may be employed for this purpose; but areas whose size puts smothering out of the question, summer-fallowing, followed by hoe crop, is recommended. The summer-fallowing is begun in favorable weather in May, by shallow gang-plowing, followed by harrowing. In a fortnight or thereabout, another crop of the weed will be showing, upon which the wide-toothed cultivator and harrow are to be used. Repeated cutting with the share-cultivator, followed by harrowing that drags the roots up and exposes them to the sun, will weaken the weed so much that a well-cultivated hoe crop in the following year will complete its eradication. In our present knowledge, the lowest price of clean-

# Dairy Farm Investigation. II. STABLING.

Many different styles of stables were found among those on the twenty-one dairy farms which are the subject of this write-up. Cement forms the floor of every stable visited, and many of them are also fitted with cement feed troughs or Eleven of the stables were partitioned mangers. into stalls, and ordinary chain ties were used. The owners claimed that the cows seemed to be quite comfortable with this kind of tie, and that the only trouble they had was a little difficulty in keeping the cows clean, the chains allowing them to back up and go ahead, often permitting them to lie down in the filth and excrement. This seems to be the only great disadvantage of the chain tie. Swinging iron stanchions were found in only two stables, and a swinging wooden stanchion in one. The three owners praise them strongly, claiming comfort and cleanliness as their strong features. They make a very neat and attractive stable, and keep the cows a little cleaner than chain ties. Seven of the stables were fitted with rigid plank stanchions and no partitions in the stable. More cows can be sta-bled in the same space by using this method, but it has the appearance of being rather an uncomfortable tie, although the owners stated that they were entirely satisfactory, that the cows did not seem to experience any discomfort, and that the rigid stanchion was an economy of space, as well as a tie which kept the cows from getting down in the excrement. A few of these men reported some injury to cows' udders from being trampled upon by the cows standing beside them.