

Poured posts are not so porous as the tamped ones and are therefore more nearly waterproof, thus making them better able to withstand the action of frost and alkali.

The poured post is enough better in every respect to justify its construction and use in preference to the tamped one.

Most commercial molds make a post which tapers from the base to the top, but the most economical mold is one which casts a post as large as the ground line as at the base, tapering from the ground line to the top.

The best form of post is one which is equally strong from all directions. The square, or round post, fulfills this requirement. The triangular post does not meet the requirements because it cannot be economically constructed so as to be equally strong from all directions.

To be economical the amount of reinforcement should be in proportion to the size of the post and strength of the mixture.

The material used for reinforcement should be strong, light and rough enough to permit the mixture to get a firm grip upon it. It should be very rigid, with little or no tendency to spring or stretch.

The smooth reinforcement tends to slip, even if hooked at the ends.

Two or more wires twisted together make as satisfactory a reinforcement as can be obtained.

Crimped wire tends to straighten and thereby breaks pieces out of the post at the point of greatest stress.

The reinforcement should be placed in each corner of the post at a depth of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch from the surface.

The posts should be cured in the shade for at least 60 days, the first 30 days of which they should be sprinkled daily.

Rye Culture

Rye is a cereal crop very infrequently found in the Canadian Northwest. The attention not given to wheat has gone first to oats and then in some sections to barley and flax. However, where an attempt has been made to grow rye, the result has not been failure. Some now grow it for pasture or forage crop.

The agricultural Experiment Station of Minnesota recently sent out a bulletin prepared by the department of agriculture and farm management in which this crop was treated at length. Since conditions in prairie Canada do not differ greatly we give excerpts so that if any of our readers think of growing rye they can guide themselves to a certain degree by what has been done in the state to the south.

The bulletin says:

Two classes of rye are recognized, namely, "Spring" and "Winter." The spring rye is but little grown in Minnesota, owing to the fact that it does not yield well, and also because other

spring grains are more popular. Winter rye is grown quite extensively, and the discussion here offered relates to that crop.

Rye is sometimes called the "grain of poverty," because better adapted to poor soils and unfavorable climates than the other cereals. While rye will thrive on poor soil, and yields well on light, sandy land, it should not be assumed that it does best on that kind of soil. Rye will respond as readily in yield to good tillage and good soil as any of the grain crops. A black loam, clay loam or sandy loam is especially favorable. Good drainage is necessary to successful rye growing.

The seed-bed should be prepared by plowing the land as early in the summer as the previous crop can be removed. August 1st is none too early. After plowing, the land should be immediately gone over with a harrow, disk or other suitable implement. It is important that the furrow slice be made compact and reduced to fine tilth before it has had time to dry out. The surface soil should be stirred frequently enough before sowing to prevent the growth of weeds.

The seed should be sown with a disc or shoe drill, rather than with a broadcast seeder. If sown 2 to 2½ inches deep there will be less danger of winter-killing. For a grain crop, 1½ bushels per acre is regarded as sufficient seed; although if the variety used is a large-kernelled one, 1½ bushels is advisable. Where the crop is desired for fall pasture, 1½ to 2 bushels per acre should be sown. It may be put in any time, from August 20th to October 1st, depending on the location and the purpose for which it is to be used. For fall pasture it should be sown between August 20th and September 10th, the earlier seeding being preferable. For grain only, September 1st to 15th is regarded as a more favorable time. Seldom should the crop be sown later than September 20th for any purpose.

After sowing, the rye crop will need but little care until harvest time. If the crop has been sown early, for pasturage during the fall and is to be left for a grain crop, it should not be allowed to make fall growth enough to form heads. Close pasturage will prevent such a tendency. On land that is likely to be dry, it is good practice to go over the land in the spring with a light slant-tooth harrow, breaking the crust of the soil and forming a light dust mulch. No other crop serves better as a nurse crop than rye, and grass seed sown in the spring and covered with a harrow, as suggested, and protected against evaporation by the dust mulch it is almost sure to make a stand the following season.

Rye ripens in Minnesota between July 10th and 25th, slightly earlier than winter wheat or barley. It is handled with a self-binder, in the same fashion as other grains, and shocked in good sized round shocks. To secure the best quality of grain and straw, the shocks should be capped,

although this practice is not always followed. The rye straw sold for collar stuffing purposes in Minnesota is prepared by flailing out the grain. Where special markets for straight rye straw are being catered to, special threshing machines have been devised, which keep the straw straight during threshing without breaking it badly. Where the straw is used for bedding, the crop is threshed in the same way as other cereal crops.

Ordinarily, rye takes the place of wheat, oats or barley in the rotation of crops. It is a grain crop, and calls for about the same class of elements as other grain crops, and with practically the same effect on the soil. It is one of the best crops with which to seed down land to grass or clover, on account of being removed from the land so early in the season. It is especially useful in rotations designed to restrict or eradicate noxious weeds. Rye is removed from the land by July 20th to August 1st, thus giving the months of August, September and October for the bare fallow and cultivation found so effective in killing quack grass, Canadian and sow thistles. Followed by a corn crop, it is especially effective where thorough methods of cultivation are practiced.

Dairy

Big Prices For Raw Cream

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In my opinion dairying can be carried on in the winter at a good profit. At that period of the year labor is cheap and dairy products are high and there is no work to be done on the land. This last fact enables a farmer to give practically his whole attention to his cows, so that dairying will thus be carried on as a part of the routine of the farm and not just as a chore. Cows, too, that have been milking during the winter usually give an increased flow of milk when they get on the grass in the spring.

As to whether it is advisable to make butter at home or to ship cream, there surely cannot be any hesitation in saying that the best method is that which produces the greatest returns and requires the least labor. Whether it is better to go to the trouble of ripening cream and of churning it, and selling the product for 25c., or even as high as 30c. per pound of butter, or merely, on the other hand, to separate the cream, keep it sweet and get from 30c. to 35c. per pound of butterfat? The writer well remembers last year visiting with a prominent man from one of the large creameries some dairy farmers who had just shut down their cheese factory for the winter. One of these farmers, living within two miles of the railroad, on being asked whether he would ship in cream replied that he was going to make butter, and no amount of reasoning would change him from this purpose. He was being offered 32c. per pound of butterfat, and yet, however, preferred to get his wife to churn the cream into butter, which he sold for 25c. per pound. Thus on every 100 pounds of butter made by his wife he lost at least \$1.90, to say nothing of the labor of ripening and churning the cream.

The creamery is able to pay these higher prices for the raw material, because it turns out practically a uniform grade of butter, and butter, too, which is generally superior to that made by the average farmer. Some dairy butter, however, is sold for just as high prices as is creamery butter, but this is usually to private customers. In these cases it pays rather to make and sell butter than to ship cream.

In summing up, therefore, in favor of winter dairying, a farmer should grow as much of his feed as is possible and should feed his cattle good milk-producing foods. Find out the price paid for butterfat by any of the big creameries; compare it with the price obtained for one's butter, and if the creamery will pay 5c. more per pound of butterfat than one can obtain for a pound of butter, then patronize the creamery and make greater returns with less labor.

Man.

A. B. D.



HOME OF CHAS. M. JONES, A PIONEER OF THE CARMAN DISTRICT