

# THE CANADA FARMER

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NEW SERIES.

## The Field.

### Barn-yard Management.

In the course of many visits we have paid to farmers throughout the country, one of the most noticeable defects to be found, even amongst those who may be fairly considered intelligent and progressive men, is the want of any proper system of managing their barn-yards. It does not seem to occur to them that the making and saving of manure is the main point in any system of husbandry, looking forward to a steady amelioration and improvement of the productive capacity of their farms, be they large or small.

Some have their yards trodden into quagmires of mud, for want of some absorbent material; while others locate them on a hill-side, from which every rain storm washes away all the richest and best qualities of the manure into some ditch or creek. Some again do their best apparently to save all the manure they can, yet allow it to lose much of its strength and value through being dispersed over a large extent of surface in the yard.

We propose to give a few general rules to regulate management of barn-yards.

First—The yard should be so located and constructed that none of the urine or salts in the manure can be washed away.

Second—It should be entirely cleaned out, and every particle of manure be applied to the soil before the stock are to occupy it for the winter, and again commence the work of making their own food into plant food.

Third—The bottom of the yard must be made hard and solid enough to prevent the liquid elements of the manure from leaching away into the soil on which it is located.

Fourth—The entire bottom should be filled up with muck or dry loam, to act as an absorbent of the liquids; over this should be placed a layer of straw several inches in depth.

Fifth—A mixen should be formed, if possible, under a shed; to it should be carried

all the droppings from the stables, byres, pigsties, etc., to be thoroughly incorporated together, and the straw and droppings of the yard mixed in as often as they can be got partially worked up by the treading of the stock. This mixen should be so managed that the manure, while being made, will ferment, yet not rapidly, so as not to become decomposed till near the time for applying it to the soil. This fermentation can be controlled by keeping the mixen moist, by adding water when too dry, and not allowing an excess of straw to get mixed into the manure.

Sixth—The entire yard, including the layer of muck or loam at the bottom, should be cleaned out and added to the mixen at least once every three months, and a fresh supply of muck or other absorbent applied to the yard and covered with straw.

By a proper course of management the amount of manure made can easily be doubled, and the yard kept sufficiently clean and dry for the comfort of the stock that are turned into it during the day time, when loosened from their stalls. It is better to keep adding fresh layers of straw, a little at a time, as the surface of the yard gets wet and dirty, than to put on a large bulk at once that will take all winter to be worked up, and then be of small value for want of composting.

To get water enough for use in the mixen, and also to wash out the floors of the stalls and byres once in a while, a cistern should be provided in the yard, to which all rain-fall on the roofs of the various buildings adjoining the yard can be conveyed by pipes, and afterwards pumped out as required to be thrown on the mixen, or used for watering the stock, if the supply is sufficient for both purposes.

This making of a mixen will cause some extra work to the farmer and his hands, but the labour bestowed upon it will be more than amply repaid in the increased value of the larger quantity and better quality of the manure manufactured by means of it. The object of having the mixen under cover is to prevent the too rapid evaporation by

the sun of its best constituents, during the warm bright days of spring and early summer, before the land for root crops, to which most of the manure is usually applied, is ready to receive it. The trampling of stock on the mixen tends rather to improve it, by making it more solid and better mixed; hence it may be open to the access of stock, but they should not be allowed to lie on it.

### A Backwoods Farm.

During the time that some of us were making potash, the rest were busily and constantly engaged in

#### LOGGING.

Here is almost the most important part of clearing a new farm. The work must go on continuously from day to day. Four rollers and one driver ought to log an acre a day, or say, unless hindered by bad weather, twenty-four acres each month. We always did this on good, dry, hard wood land, where the burn had been perfect; and subsequently, when we jobbed out five or ten acres to some hard-working young fellows, they logged nearly eight acres in one week; but the timber was hard wood, and no brush or chip whatever, and no large elm or swamp timber predominated. Where this was not the case, and the land was wet and covered with swamp timber, and consequently the burn not so good, and often very bad, half an acre would be good work to get through in a day. Where this is the case, then the trouble begins, picking and piling, chips and brush, until it seems as if you would never get through.

The last fifty acre piece that we logged was accidentally set on fire by a neighbour, before it was half ready to burn. The fire ran through it without burning one quarter of the brush, and it required twice the time to finish the logging; in fact, it was not finished until the following season, and by that time the piece that remained unlogged was covered with Canada thistles, which seem indigenous to our land, they spring up