

FARM AND HOME

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Wintering Orchard Fruits—Don't spread out winter apples and pears on shelves in the cellar, removing the decayed ones from time to time. When exposed, the apple rapidly loses its moisture and becomes shriveled, which also causes deterioration of quality. Apples and pears in cool storage should be kept tightly closed and they will open up plump and fresh. The great secret for keeping apples and pears is a cool temperature, 35 to 40 degrees being most satisfactory. Apples are very often left to hang on the trees too long and become too much ripened, then they lie in piles or are stored in barrels in hot places, perhaps right out in the sunshine for weeks until the hot weather is over, then they are shut up in a warm, close house cellar, with a temperature about 50 degrees, and then the farmer wonders why his apples do not keep.—L. Woolverton, Ont.



A Homemade Prairie Reservoir.

All Around the Farm. RESERVOIR BUILDING.

To build a reservoir for irrigation purposes, first lay off the ground, designating the location of the embankments. The best size for a windmill plant is 100 ft square. Build the reservoir on the highest ground, and if this should be on a slope, it should be plowed up and removed; if the sod is left and the embankments are built on it, it will create a seam for the water to seep through. If there is sod on the inside it should be removed. It should not be used for constructing the banks, but may be used after the banks are completed for sodding them on the inside. Plow up the inside and with a common slip scraper move the soil onto the banks, making them 5 ft high above the level of the ground outside. It will only take about 8 or 10 in of earth from inside to make banks. Make banks 12 ft wide at bottom or base of slope, and slope upward, drawing in from both sides until the bank is left about 3 ft wide at top, which leaves a convenient walk.

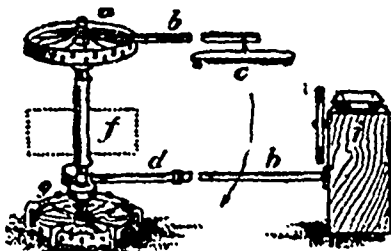
The slope may be left steeper perpendicular on the outside than on the inside, as there are no waves on the outside to wash the banks, while on the inside they should be as sloping as possible, and the more so the less the waves will wash them. The inside of these banks may now be lined up with rough grass or any tough sod which will be a protection from washing or cutting away. It can be done cheaply and will make the banks look neat and clean. Labor is all it costs to do this; it will also assist in preventing the seepage of water through the banks. Brush laid loosely along the banks and weighed or staked down helps to break the waves. But where stone can be had to riprap the inside it will pay to do it, and is better than any other plan yet known to preserve the bank, and makes necessary less repairs to keep it up afterward. I used stone on one end of one of my reservoirs 2 yrs ago, and have had no repairing to do on that part since.

It will take two men and one team 8 or 10 days with plow and scraper to build one of these reservoirs. When the banks are completed stir the bottom of reservoir 3 or 4 in deep and harrow it as fine as for a garden, then begin to pump water and as soon as the bottom is covered, tramp with horses or cattle until the entire bottom is covered with a sloppy mud, this will then settle into and close the pores of the soil and the loss by seepage will be comparatively small. Do not stop pumping now, but keep it going and fill up the reservoir as fast as possible. Taking the soil from the inside to build the banks spoils no soil on the immediate outside, where the garden and orchard should be; also the closer the supply of water to the ground to be irrigated, the better work can be done and the greater the area that can be covered with a given quantity of water.

The box for outlet can be made from 2x10 or 2x12 plank. Cut off the inside end at an angle of 45 degrees; put the long end down and put a 2 in plank on this end, fastened at back on top with hinges, having under side of plank lined with rubber or leather as a pump valve, and when this is closed

it should not leak, as the weight of water will keep it closed; if not, then add a weight; this can be opened by a rod or wire and put back at pleasure from the top of bank. Where parties can procure gypsum in their locality, it would greatly help to cement the bottom of reservoir if put in before tramping is done, say 2 in deep.—[Q. L. Diegen, Finney Co, Kan.

A Homemade Grinder may be made by setting on end an old mowing machine. A tongue, b, is bolted to the upper wheel, a, to which a horse is hitched



UTILIZING OLD MACHINERY IN GRINDING.

as at c, the horse walking in a circle around the frame of mower, and stepping over shaft h. A tumbling shaft is attached to plowman, d, where the sickle drive is attached. The lower wheel, g, is fastened securely to hold machine solid. Tumbling shaft, h, connects with the grinder, j, by cog wheels. A belt or pulley from shaft f can be used instead of rod, b, if desired.—[F. E. Hoffman, Butler Co, O.

For the Rye Crop plow the ground 4 or 5 in deep. Then harrow at once both ways to level so the subsoil will be well protected from dry winds. Keep harrowing once a week until seeding time. Then go over the ground with roller or float to pack soil down hard. Then use a drill requiring 1 1/2 bu p a and prepare the soil the same way as for winter wheat. Sow Sept 1 to 20.—[C. E. Chambers, Buffalo Co, Neb.

Does Nitrate of Soda produce an injurious effect? Many are discontinuing the use of it, claiming that continued application injures their soil. Two theories are put forth to explain this, (1) that the excess of nitric acid gradually stops nitrification by killing the nitrifying bacteria, and (2) that the easily assimilated nitrate causes the crop to make such luxuriant growth as to gradually exhaust the potash and phosphate in the soil. Let us hear the experience and opinion of others on these questions: Does nitrate of soda produce an injurious effect? If so, why? Is it due to too heavy application or improper methods of application?—[A. H. Prince, N. C.

Thistles can be killed with relative ease by cutting when about in bloom. They rarely have sufficient vitality to recuperate and throw up new stalks. This is particularly the case if they are in sod ground so that the grass competes with them and tends to crowd them out.—[Prof. L. H. Bailey, Cornell Exper Sta, N. Y.

For a Foul Field an excellent treatment is to plow thoroughly in late summer or early autumn and seed to rye or

some other forage crop to be pastured off during the fall, winter, or early spring. When the crop has been pastured sufficiently and before the weeds have produced seed, plow again, plant rape in drills and give thorough cultivation. There are few weeds that will survive such treatment and the land will have given profitable returns in forage in the meantime.—[J. A. Williams.

To Drive Fence Posts get a seasoned hard-wood beetle of 20 lbs weight, as wood does not split posts like a sledge. When the ground is wet and soft, load one length of well-sharpened posts, with the upper ends well rounded, into the front end of the wagon box. Drive so that the proposed line is lengthwise of and underneath the wagon. Then, standing in the rear of the wagon, set up the post and drive to required depth. By standing in the wagon I am above the post and can strike a much heavier blow than if standing on a level with or below it. [E. J. Collins, Clark Co, Wash.

To Destroy Woodchucks or skunks put 1/4 or 1/2 lb powder in a bottle and insert a fuse. Cut a notch in one side of cork and thus hold fuse in place. Have fuse long enough to place the bottle as far down in the burrows as you can, then fill the hole with dirt and light the fuse. The effect will be to both shock and smother the inmates. If there is more than one entrance to the burrow have it filled.—[J. C. Fenn, Ct.

Lime on Gumbo, or heavy, sticky clay soils, often called heavy adobe in the southwest, is seldom necessary, as many soils of this character contain an abundance of lime carbonate. The application of quick-lime to them sometimes has a beneficial effect in rendering them friable in cultivation, which, however, lasts only a few years. The use of lime on such soils will usually pay in the case of grain crops, as it renders the fertility more available. The use of lime in large scale cultures is not common in Cal, as the soils are extremely rich in lime carbonate and do not respond to liming, except when used for correcting its physical defects. [Director E. W. Hilgard, Cal Exper Sta.

Sweet Potatoes in Europe are almost unknown, but the U. S. Dept. of Agri. after a trial shipment, believes a trade can be built up if the tubers are covered with paper and packed in ventilated barrels lined with tarred paper, and shipped so as not to become chilled.

To Bale Hay or straw, one of the most simple yet durable machines placed on the market is that of the George Ertel Co of Quincy, Ill. Ertel balers have been on the market for years and are well-known for their substantial work, making a neat, well-pressed bale. They last for years and a machine will soon pay for itself in any section where considerable amounts of hay are raised. The manufacturers will place them on five days' trial where satisfactory arrangements can be made. A neat catalog illustrates the balers and describes the parts. It is sent free to all readers of F & H, who write to the Ertel Co for it.

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