ion of a few which occurred on second growth sorghum. There is also reason to believe that plants producing this disatrous effect have not made a healthy growth, and are yellow and wilted, a condition easily detected by the farmer. It would therefore seem reasonable to conclude that no danger is to be encountered in pasturing sorghum of healthy growth in eastern Nebraska.

Again it would appear that no danger is incurred if the sorghum is fed after cutting and allowing to lie for some time. A sample of sorghum was recently received by the Station with a letter accompaning it stating that the plants were parts of a very few partially eaten by a cow which was killed by them in two minutes. The sample was fed to a cow on the Station farm without injuring her in the least. This together with the fact that no poison has been detected in samples sent to the Station for analysis would indicate that any toxic substances which the plants might have contained have become dissipated after cutting. The length of the time required for this is not known, but it is certainly accomplished in a few days.

As sorghum is undoubtedly the best annual midsummer forage crop for this region it is important that its limitations should be well defined. The use of healthy sorghum for pasturage with the ordinary precautions in eastern Nebraska, and of sorghum hay, may be considered safe.

T. L. LYON.

Nebraska Experiment Station.

HANDLING MANURE.

ED. Hoard's Dairyman.—I have been milking about 100 cows for the past ten years, and do not feel quite satisfied with results received from manure. As we feed cotton seed meel, you know it must be good. Would you kindly give me some advice as how to best care for it in this open climate, to produce best results. Is cement floor essential if one has tight floor and drop, with good absorbent as cotton seed hulls, sawdust, etc., to take up the liquid? Please explain, if it is necessary to have a building or shed to keep it in; if so, how should it be constructed, and ought it to have a cement floor? J. S. D.

Atlanta, Ga.

The best method of handling manure depends somewhat on locality and condition.

In the north, good authorities advocate hauling

the manure directly from the barn to the field and spreading immediately, claiming less loss of fertilizing material, but of course the practicability of such methods depends on local conditions.

It would seem that in the south where weeds are an ever presence, the returning the manure directly to the land would only increase the trouble from this source, and that composting the manure would give the best results. As our correspondent uses large quantities of absorbents, he will have a material resembling horse manure, and on this point, Prof. Roberts advises as follows:

Horse manure may be fully exposed for six or eight months if piled two to four feet deep, with edges nearly perpendicular, il properly cared for. It may deteriorate as fast or faster during the summer in a covered shed, if not cared for as when fully exposed. Horse manure—by which is understood the solid and liquid droppings, mixed with more or less straw or other similar absorbents—is quite porous, contains considerable quantities of potential nitrogen, and hence heats and ferments very rapidly. In doing this, a large portion of the nitrogenous compounds may be driven off, if no pains are taken to arrest them.

One of the following methods, or better, all three of them, may be used to arrest the escape of these compounds, while the manure is being broken down, and its constituents made more readily available. If the manure is solidified or tramped, too rapid fermentation may in part be arrested. Adding water to the pile also serves to keep the mass cool, and to drive out the air, in the absence of which, fermentation goes on slowly. And, thirdly, absorbents, such as muck, soil earth or gypsum, may be used to absorb the escaping gases. Since horse manure is too dry for best results, the urine should all be added, and usually in addition water should be added to the heap, until it begins to ooze out a little around the small trenches at the base of the pile. Whatever oozes out, and there should be some, should be be thrown on top of the pile with a scoop shovel. As the pile is formed some earth should be sprinkled through it, and water added as the judgment dictates. Finally, earth may be used to the depth of two or three inches to arrest and absorb the gases. If fermentation tends to go on too rapidly, add a quart of salt for each load and put on more water.

Once during the time it might be well to overhaul the pile, in order to place the outer edges of