

culty has been that it is not known from what farm the slaughtered animals come. The suggestion, therefore, that hogs be tagged to show the name and post-office address of the producer. Then when the veterinary inspector at the slaughter locates a hog suffering with tuberculosis, he can refer to the tag, and readily locate a farm upon which to test the cattle for tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis statistics, compiled from the United States Bureau of Animal Industry Reports, show that inspectors have "retained" an increasing number of slaughtered hogs and cattle each year for the nine years from 1900 to 1908. In 1900, only 5,440 hogs and 4,289 cattle were found to be tuberculous; in 1903 the numbers had increased to 72,305 hogs and 8,848 cattle; in 1906, 208,887 hogs and 14,662 cattle were retained; and in 1908 the figures were 706,046 hogs and 51,838 cattle. For the past two years, it is said that 2,000 tuberculous hogs are located each day.

It is evident, therefore, that the tuberculosis problem cannot be neglected longer. Pure air and absolute cleanliness will keep sound herds free from the disease.

## THE FARM.

### Dipping Grain in Fungicide Solution.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

I have often received valuable help from your paper, and can perhaps send a few ideas that will help someone. I worked for a farmer in Manitoba some years ago, who sowed three hundred acres of wheat, and treated all his seed with bluestone. This method was the most satisfactory that I have seen, and can easily be adapted to the needs of any farmer. He had two ordinary sheet-iron feed boilers, such as can be procured at any hardware. The bottoms and sides for about ten inches up were punched full of holes. A coal-oil barrel cut in two furnished two tubs. A bar was fastened across each tub high enough to hang the bucket on, so that it was clear of the tub. The tubs were filled as full as required with the bluestone solution, then a can of wheat dipped in, held a second or two, and hung up to drain, then the other one the same, and so turn about as fast as a man could handle the buckets. It was easier and quicker, a great deal, than the sprinkling and shoveling method, and I think it should work as well with the formalin treatment as with the bluestone.

A. L. M.

Bruce Co., Ont.

### Storing Seed Corn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

I have noticed a couple of cuts in "The Farmer's Advocate" recently showing the single-string method of hanging corn. I am taking the liberty of enclosing a couple of cuts showing the double-string method, and explanations stating the method of procedure. Although this method requires two persons to operate it, it can be done much more quickly, and the corn is left in much better shape both for handling and for air circulation.

Both methods are in use here, but the double-string method is rapidly taking the place of the other. I am also sending you a cut of the method employed on the farm of Walker Sons, Walkerville, for hanging seed corn. This method is quicker, and there is not even a string to prevent air circulation. This cut, I think, is self-explanatory.

#### CORN HANGER

A 2 x 4 scantling ripped down the center is used for the upright; this may be dressed down to 1½ in. square, and cut into lengths of 2½ feet. Twenty-eight 4-inch spikes, with the heads clipped off, are driven into the uprights at an angle. The first two at the top on opposite sides are driven in 2 inches from the end, and the first two on opposite sides from these are started four inches from the end. Seven spikes are placed on each side.

A screw hook is screwed in the top and bottom of one hanger, and in the top of the next, so that two hangers may be suspended from one point, if necessary. One of these hangers will hold 28 ears, or enough dent corn to plant two acres.

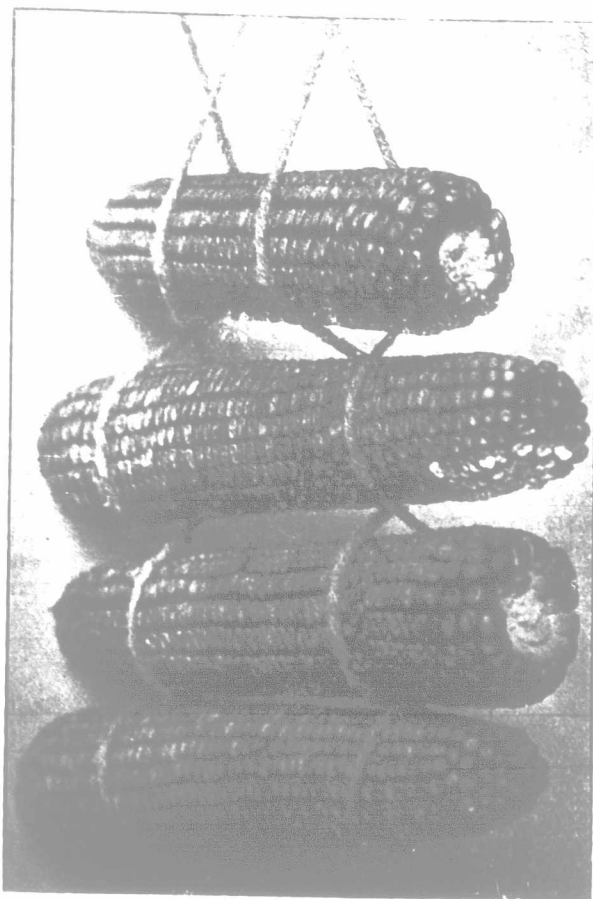
#### THE DOUBLE-STRING METHOD OF HANGING CORN

Cut off ten feet or binding twine, tie the ends together, hold both ends of the doubled string, and allow the center to rest on the floor. The first ear is laid on this, and the string crossed, by passing one double end through the other. For convenience, the string held in the left hand should be about three inches shorter than the other. The man holding the string grasps the first ear firmly by placing his feet on each side of the ear, the assistant places the next ear on the crossed strings, turns it end for end. This is continued until two ears are placed, or the string is

used up. Then the long end of the string is hoisted through the shorter, and it is ready for hanging.

The advantage of this method over the single-string method of hanging corn is that it can be done much more rapidly, and the ears are prevented from touching at all points, giving a free circulation between each ear.

A. McKINNEY.



The Double-string Method of Storing Seed Corn.

### Local Packing Houses.

A contributor to Wallace's Farmer suggests as a cure for the present unsatisfactory conditions, both in the marketing of live stock and in the supplying of meats to the consumer, the establishment of a local packing-plant in every county. He declares that "All of the live stock sold for packing purposes could just as well as not be packed within the borders of the county. A co-operative

packing plant could be managed as well as a co-operative creamery, or an insurance company." He suggests that each plant could be provided with an inspector, his salary to be paid by a tax. All meats killed for packing, or refrigerated at the plant and sold fresh, would thus have a State guarantee of their wholesomeness. Such an arrangement would save the long haul to distant markets and return. The farmers would get at least as good prices for their stock as now, and both they and the townspeople would pay far less for the finished products. The county packing-houses would have as little difficulty in disposing of their meats as the creameries have in disposing of their butter, for they would equally have the confidence of the consumers. All the economies in the use of by-products, etc., could be as readily practiced in the county establishments. So many reasons can be cited, in fact, why a system of local packing-houses should be preferred to the present system, that apparently only the inspiration of a good leadership is necessary to bring about the establishment of local concerns in large numbers.

### Preservation of Poultry Manure.

Fresh poultry manure has approximately twice the fertilizing value of cattle manure, if a comparison of the two products is based upon their nitrogen content. The nitrogenous compounds contained in poultry manure, however, are very unstable, and decompose readily into ammonia and volatile ammonium compounds. Consequently, unless proper care is taken, large quantities of nitrogen, which might be used for fertilizing, are lost.

Several methods have been suggested for retaining this nitrogen. They consist in mixing with the excrement either an absorbing substance or an acid compound which will chemically combine with the ammonia as fast as it is formed.

Experiments carried on at the Maine Experiment Station showed that poultry manure, untreated, as well as that mixed with sawdust, lost half of its nitrogen in the course of six months. Where the manure was stored with half of its weight of gypsum (land plaster), it lost a third, while that mixed with an equal weight of gypsum and about one-fifth of its weight of sawdust retained all of the original nitrogen. Equally good results were obtained by using from one-third to one-fourth of the weight of the manure of either kainite or acid phosphate.

From the standpoint of the mechanical condition, the mixture with land plaster gives the least desirable product, although the addition of sawdust aids materially in preventing the formation of hard cakes.

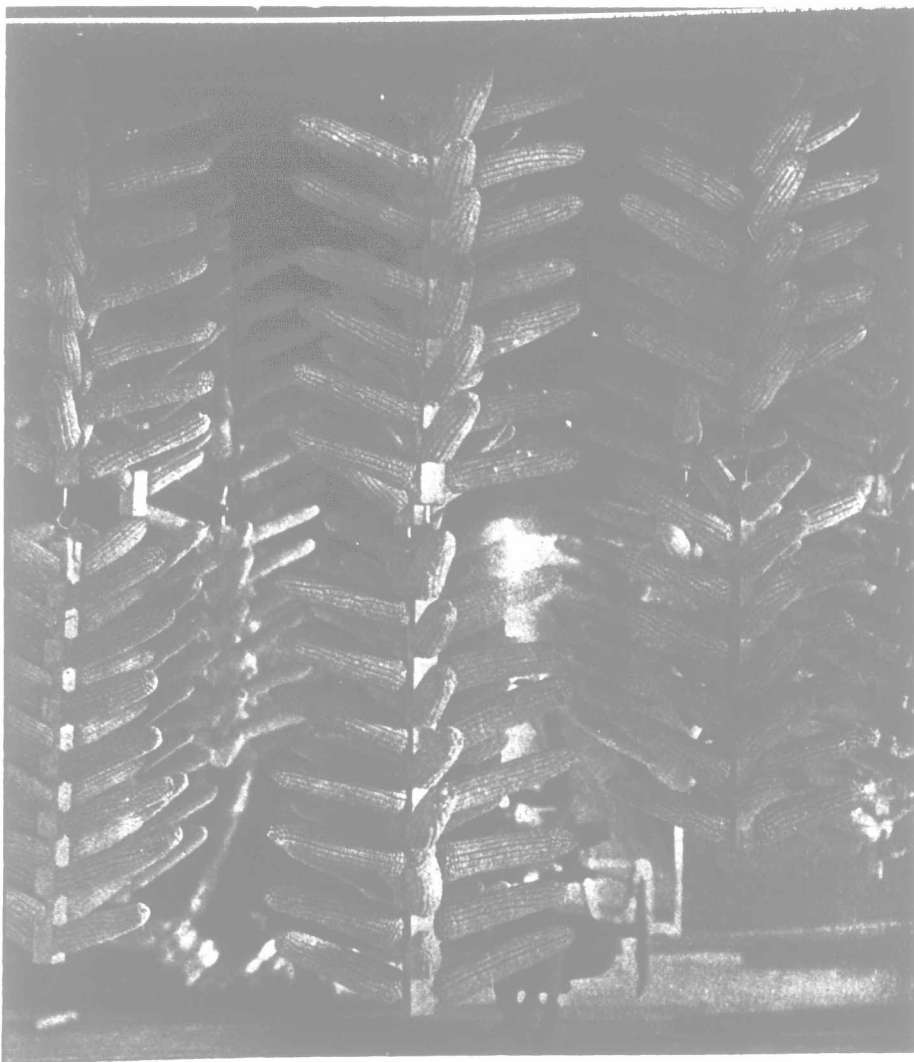
When the manure is to be kept only a few days before applying, good results may be obtained with dry loam or peat as an absorbent.

The absorbent used should be sprinkled daily, in the required quantity, on the floor of the henhouse, from which, in combination with the excrement, it may be removed when desired.

The difficulties experienced in spreading poultry manure may be obviated by mixing with loam, peat or common stable manure. For economical use, it should be spread in relatively smaller amounts than other manures.

The admixture of lime or wood ashes is not advised, since decomposition is sufficiently rapid without their use.

It should be borne in mind that each of the absorbents suggested is in itself of value as a fertilizer, the least valuable being sawdust. Consequently, the requirements of the soil should govern to some extent the choice of the absorbent used.



The Hanger Method of Storing Seed Corn.