

Ontario Department of Agriculture

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The Farm Water Supply and Sewage Disposal

WHY PURE WELL WATER PAYS.

The desirability and importance of an ample supply of pure water on every farm can hardly be over-emphasized. Perhaps more than any other food element, it determines the healthy and robust development of the body. Inversely, deadly disease germs finding access to poorly protected or unfortunately located wells may bring death, with little warning, into the family circle. Without great expense the water supply on the average farm may be so protected as to prevent contamination and it surely seems the part of wisdom in every case to ensure an abundant supply of pure water for man and beast—and to have lavish use made of it.

But even though the water be pure there are obstacles in thousands of cases, which prevent its convenient use. Where the household supply is drawn from a well or a stream at some distance from the dwelling the physical labor involved is great. It may be assumed that when no plumbing is installed ten gallons per person per day for all purposes is necessary. With a family of four, some one—often the housewife—must carry 400 pounds of water a day, or over one ton a week. Considerable danger from exposure during inclement weather is also involved, especially when in the haste of the housework, womenfolk leave hot kitchens to carry in water without taking sufficient precaution against the cold.

In the stable much the same conditions exist. The task of pumping water by hand for a large number of live stock is slow and arduous—wasteful of time and trying to the temper. And in cold, stormy weather the stock, when driven to an outside tank or an ice-covered stream, will rarely drink sufficient for their best performance or development. Indeed, so generally are these facts realized, that thousands of stables have been equipped in latter years with modern water systems which provide the stock with an abundant supply under the most favorable conditions. It is unfortunate that far fewer houses than stables are thus equipped. Water systems in each case pay their way in dollars as well as in convenience, comfort and health.