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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

CEMENT FOR PIGPEN WALLS AND FLOORS.

1. How do you mix concrete for walls, and would you mix it the same for floors? Do you use sand? If so, how much?

2. Would it be any cheaper by mixing in stone in wall? What consistency should it be?

3. How thick should the wall of a pigpen be in a building 15 x 60, and what depth for the floor? INQUIRER.

Ans.—1. Concrete for walls is mixed in about the same proportion as for the lower layer of floors, viz., one part Portland cement to ten of gravel; or one part rock cement to six of gravel. With gravel graded in size from a grain of wheat up to a hen's egg, no sand is necessary; with very coarse gravel an admixture of clean coarse sand would be advisable, using say 1-4 or 1-3 sand and the balance gravel.

2. With field stone available, as they are on most farms, it is much cheaper, and makes quite as good a wall to work in all the stone possible, taking pains, however, to keep them a couple inches from either outside or inside of the wall, and to have each stone surrounded with mixed concrete.

3. The thickness would depend upon the height. We presume it is proposed to build the wall all the way up with cement, making it eight feet high or more. In this case, we would suggest making it 10 inches thick at the bottom, tapering to 6 or 7 inches at the top. The floor should be three inches thick.

FEEDING VALUE OF RYE AND BUCK WHEAT.

1. How is rye grain as a milk-producer?

2. Would it be better for me to sell the rye and buy other grains? If so, what kinds?

3. How is buckwheat grain as a milk-producer?

4. How is buckwheat straw for feed? Cattle seem to be fond of it. C. M.

Ans.—1. So far as chemical analysis is concerned, rye does not differ materially from wheat. Prof. W. A. Henry states, however, in "Feeds and Feeding," that, it is thought, rye imparts a characteristic flavor to milk, and may cause bitter butter, though he adds that the limited use of rye will probably prove satisfactory. In the writer's somewhat limited experience with rye, he never found it objectionable.

2. Rather than feed more than two or three pounds per head a day we would exchange some of the rye for wheat bran and shorts, oil meal, pea meal, and, perhaps, buckwheat middlings.

3. Buckwheat grain is not often fed to stock, but it has a very fair feeding value, its nutrients running somewhat lower than those of the leading cereals. The black, woody hulls of the grain have little feeding value, but the middlings, or the portion immediately inside the hull, is rich in protein and fat, and has a high feeding value. The miller wishing to sell as much of the hulls as possible mixes them with the middlings; designating the compound buckwheat bran. The intelligent feeder will buy little of the hulls and much of the floury portion. Buckwheat bran and middlings have the reputation, deservedly, in our opinion, of producing a large flow of milk.

4. Buckwheat straw is coarse and contains so much crude fibre as to render it of comparatively little value for feeding; but cattle will eat almost anything for a change, and if they are receiving a fair ration of more nutritious feeds, it is a good plan to let them pick all they like at the buckwheat straw.

OLD HORSE IN POUND.

An old, worn-out horse is delivered to the poundkeeper, who is afraid to take it out and shoot it in case the owner, who at present is not known, may turn up and demand the animal. According to the township by-law, the poundkeeper must keep the horse for 28 days and advertise it before he can sell it, and then quite likely he won't be able to realize half enough to pay the expenses incurred. Will the township council who appointed the poundkeeper be obliged to make up the amount lacking to pay the poundage fees and expense of advertising? If the owner can be found, and it could be proved that he turned the animal out to die, could he be prosecuted for cruelty to animals? If so, how should the pound-

keeper proceed to prosecute, or who should be the prosecutor?

AN OLD AND CONSTANT ADMIRER. Ont.

Ans.—In connection with the township by-laws on the subject, you should read the Act respecting pounds (Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1879, Chapter 272). We could not safely answer your first question without seeing the by-laws. But we would say that in such a case, the prudent course on the part of the poundkeeper would be to consult the reeve of the township at once, and so be in a better position to make a claim upon the council in case it should turn out to be necessary to do so later on. As to the other questions, we would say that the owner of the animal would certainly be liable to such a prosecution. It would be properly commenced by the laying of information before a justice of the peace. Anyone at hand, having knowledge of the facts, could prosecute, and it would certainly be regular and appropriate for the poundkeeper to do so.

SEED CORN.

What variety of field hill corn do you consider the best, being early and productive? Do you know anything of the merits of Early Massachusetts? Is white corn any better than yellow?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—There is no best variety of corn; what does best in one locality is not the best in another district, and what has been found best in one section up to date may be entirely superseded in a few years by another one found still better. Prof. Zavitz, Experimentalist of the Ontario Agricultural College, recommends the three flint varieties, Salzer's North Dakota, Compton's Early and King Phillip, and one dent variety, North Star Yellow Dent, for Central and Northern Ontario. A somewhat later, but more productive corn is Wisconsin's Earliest White Dent. This is a good sort for ensilage, and where the frosts are not too severe would be good for husking. At the college, it produced the largest yield of ears among sixty-seven varieties grown for five years in succession. Whitecap Yellow Dent is another good early kind for husking, and a standby with the writer has been the old eight-rowed yellow flint corn. White corn is not to be preferred to yellow, although certain varieties of white corn may happen to be superior to certain varieties of yellow; but the color doesn't make the corn. We are not familiar with the Early Massachusetts variety mentioned.

ROUTE OF G. T. P.—MIXED OR GRAIN FARMING IN THE NORTHWEST.

Has the route of the G. T. P. Railway through the Battleford district been definitely decided upon, also that of the Calgary branch? If so, what is their exact location? If not, when is it likely to be known for certain, and to whom should I apply for information? I am intending to homestead in that district, and should like reliable information on this point before doing so. Do you consider the Battleford district the best for mixed farming, taking into consideration the large amount of good land available for homesteading, or would some other part, in your opinion, offer a better field for investment? How does it compare with the Edmonton district? From a money-making standpoint, which would you advise: (a) Taking up land in the above districts with a view of raising oats, etc., for settlers and railway construction and gradually changing to mixed farming; or (b) purchasing land in one of the wheat districts and going in for grain-raising alone? I have been successfully engaged in mixed farming here, and could go out with everything necessary for working on either plan.

Ont. A CONSTANT READER.

Ans.—Construction work has been begun on the G. T. P. in Manitoba; but, as yet, nothing but surveys attempted in the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. It is not definitely known where the new line will touch the Battleford district, although conjectures have been very freely made. For information regarding the new transcontinental's Western lines, apply to G. T. P. Ry., Winnipeg, Man. The Battleford country is good beyond the shadow of a doubt, but not any better than a number of other localities. You had better purchase land, and go at first into grain-growing, then develop as rapidly as possible the different revenue-producing ends of mixed farming.

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