

The Sanitary Privy.

Of great importance to human life is good health, which cannot be preserved if the sanitary conditions in and about living quarters are bad. Among the worst conditions to be found about any home is a soil that has become polluted. The Secretary of Agriculture has published a bulletin which treats of soil pollution and certain simple plans for avoiding it.

Soil pollution by human excreta endangers the health of a family. It is possible, by the expenditure of a few dollars for a sanitary privy, to prevent this soil pollution, enabling the family to live, year after year, on the same premises, without endangering its members' health.

A number of widely prevalent diseases have been spread by means of polluted soils, simply because the facts have not been widely known, and it is to bring needed information on this subject to the dwellers on all farms and the residents of every village without a proper sewage system, that United States Farmers' Bulletin 463 has been issued, and is now ready for distribution to anyone who makes application to either the Secretary of Agriculture, a Senator, or Representative in Congress.

Full information, with illustrations, estimates of cost, and plans for constructing the sanitary outhouses, is contained in the pamphlet. Directions are given as to how to keep a privy sanitary, and how to properly dispose of night-soil.

In the United States, about 400,000 persons suffer from and about 35,000 die from typhoid each year; over 2,000,000 persons have hook-worm disease. Thousands of these deaths and many thousands of these cases of disease might be prevented by the use of sanitary privies.

Although there may be no soil pollution upon one's own premises, his children may be exposed to all the dangers at the schools which they attend, and the entire family may be so exposed when they attend church, unless these schools and churches are provided with these sanitary conveniences. Lack of sanitary privies on neighbors' farms may also be responsible for cases of typhoid and infections on farms which are provided with proper outhouses, because disease germs may be carried for considerable distances by flies, by animals, by the feet of persons, by wagon wheels, and by drainage from one farm to another.

In view of these well-established facts, it is evident that among the highest duties that rest upon a farmer, or dweller in a country village, is not only to have a sanitary privy on his own premises, but to insist that the pollution of soil be prevented throughout the entire neighborhood.

Too Much Haste in Stooking.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, when we used to do all the binding in the harvest fields by hand, it was a common practice to start cutting the oats before they were altogether ripe—a little on the green side—and let the sheaves lie unbound for a day to let the straw wilt, before binding them up. They not only dried out a good deal, but the straw was softer to handle after drying a while, and then another day would usually be taken up before they were shocked up. The consequence was that the sheaves were pretty well dried out before they were set up, and, by putting the dry side in, they were ready to draw in a day or two.

Since the advent of the binder, the almost universal custom seems to be to hurry the shocking through as quickly as possible, as though the grain would receive serious loss if left unshocked. The fear that the sheaves may get wet while lying down, and the further reason, also, that they may dry out more quickly, are no doubt the causes for this haste. But it is a clear case of misplaced anxiety. This is a practice that in ordinary average harvest weather effectually defeats the object in view. It is a striking instance of the truth of the old saying, "The more hurry, the less speed." If oats were let lie for a day, or, better still, for a couple of days, before being shocked up, they would be ready to draw in half the time it would take if set up directly they are cut. Of course, if a thoroughly wet time sets in, the sheaves would have to be set up; but that does not often happen, and judgment and common sense should be used in this, as in other farm operations. I think I may safely say that in nearly every case it would be a wise rule to let low, on no account to shock up immediately after the binder. Let the sheaves lie for a longer or shorter time, as circumstances will permit two days, if possible. The harvest would not only be finished more quickly, which is quite an advantage, but the grain would be in far better condition.

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When to Cut Corn.

The information contained in the following, quoted from an American exchange, has often been published before, but will stand repetition:

Numerous experiments have shown that the nearer corn is to maturity, the greater the amount of food value produced per acre. In the Maine Station report for 1893 is given quite as complete a test as has been conducted by any station, Dr. W. H. Jordan being the author. On each of 10 different plots of corn, one-fifth of the area was harvested at five different dates, beginning August 15th, when the ears were just beginning to form. The harvesting was continued at intervals of 7 to 13 days, until all the ears of corn were well glazed. The following table gives the results in so far as the yield of green corn and dry matter per acre is concerned:

Date of cutting and condition of crop.	Days in each period of growth.	Green corn per acre.	Dry matter per acre.
August 15, ears beginning to form.	13	26,166 lbs.	11.71%
August 28, a few roasting ears.	13	29,777 lbs.	17.50%
Sept. 4, all roasting ears.	7	31,000 lbs.	19.55%
Sept. 12, some ears glazed.	8	28,833 lbs.	23.17%
Sept. 21, all ears glazed.	9	27,777 lbs.	25.34%

It will be observed that the maximum yield of green corn per acre was found when the crop was all in the roasting ear stage, but the yield in dry matter, both in per cent. and per acre, goes on increasing at a good rate until the ears are all glazed, making the remarkable increase of 149 per cent. in the 37 days between August 15th and September 21st. It is interesting to note the character of this dry matter, as reported by the Maine Station:

TABLE II.—YIELD PER ACRE OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF NUTRIENTS, HARVESTED AS ABOVE.

Date of cutting.	Ash.	Protein.	Fibre.	Nitrogen free extract.	Fat.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Aug. 15	285	158	812	1,128	80
Aug. 28	339	612	1,211	2,892	151
Sept. 4	376	690	1,192	3,621	182
Sept. 12	372	610	1,291	4,177	200
Sept. 21	416	650	1,309	4,157	208

While the protein content of the corn is at the maximum in the roasting ear stage, there is but slight loss on to the well-glazed stage, and this is much more than can be good by the increase in the nitrogen-free extract. It is quite interesting to note that, while the total pounds of fibre increase slightly on to maturity, as shown in the table, the percentage of fibre (as shown in the table) was less in the corn harvested Sept. 21st (all ears glazed) than at any earlier date of cutting. It remains to call attention to the fact that a summary of American digestion experi-

ments bearing upon this point shows a higher percentage of digestibility in the more mature corn, both as fodder corn and as corn silage. Fodder corn cut before glazing, upon the average of thirteen experiments, has shown 65.7 per cent. digestible, while that cut after glazing showed 70.7 per cent. Corn silage, when cut before glazing, gave 67.4 per cent. of digestibility, while that cut after glazing gave 73.6 per cent.

There are those who take exception to the advice to let corn mature well, pointing to the cattle excrement as proof that much hard corn passes through the alimentary canal unmastered. Granting some degree of force in their contention, it is to be remembered that this loss is an observable one, whereas the escape of a much larger amount of undigested nutriment in the form of stalks or soft corn would never be noticed; for, whatever the method of preservation and feeding, a considerable proportion of the food fails of utilization by the animal that consumes it.

Speed and Weight Combined.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I read your article on taxing automobiles in "The Farmer's Advocate," also reply to it in The Advertiser by County Engineer Talbot, that the autos did not hurt the road so very much, and that the most harm is done by teamsters hauling logs and wood. If the autos did not run any faster than a traction engine, they would not hurt the road very much—not any more than hauling logs or wood, or any heavy load. I would like to ask Mr. Talbot if there is any difference to the road between a horse walking or running over it? A horse walking lifts his feet comparatively slowly; put him into the run, and then the dirt flies. So with the auto; if it is going slowly, it leaves the track of studs or chains, or whatever they have on the wheels to make them grip, but put on the speed at which a great many people run their cars, and then examine the track. You do not see the same marks, but a trail of loose dirt or gravel, or whatever the road-bed is composed of; the loose dirt dries very quickly. In a few hours another auto comes spinning along, and drives the dirt, which is now dust, up into the air, leaving another trail of stirred-up dirt. This operation is repeated, till the road-bed is worn down to the cobblestones.

Now, we do not want to blame the autos for what they do not do, but if they were run at a moderate speed, such as horses are mostly driven at, we do not think the damage to the road would be so marked. When they are run at thirty or forty miles an hour (or more), they soon leave their track. We have seen the dirt and small stones flying out from behind the wheels.

Too heavy a load or fast travelling are wearing on a road, whether drawn by horses or traction, as witness a load stalled, and see the marks of either horses or engine. The most of the teamsters use very wide-tired wheels in dry weather; they do very little harm, if any; they have a tendency to smooth and press the surface hard, providing the load is not more than the road will carry.

Those large cars are heavy, as anyone who has had to haul one out knows. They seem to draw as hard as a load of logs; and to run so heavy a load on four wheels, at high speed, with the weight mostly on the driving wheels, must be very wearing on the roads.

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Maturity of Corn—Speed and Wetting Cement Silo Walls.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To obtain the best and greatest feeding value of the corn crop, it is necessary that much care should be given to have it properly matured and properly placed in the silo. Maturity is perhaps of the greatest importance, as it is possible, after taking great care in the preparation of the seed bed, in the selection and planting of the seed, and in the cultivation of the crop, to have a quantity of silage of very low feeding value. Filling the silo may be regarded as the climax of the season's operations, and upon the way this is done will depend whether or not we obtain the greatest returns for our season's work. Most men, filling their silo for the first time, will be in too great a hurry to get the crop safely housed before frost, with the result that they are likely to have on hand sour silage not properly matured. Do not be in too great a hurry; have the corn well matured—almost ripe, in fact—rather than considerably frozen than cut before maturity. Start the corn binder going the day before you intend filling. Some prefer the hoe for cutting, but it is a slow, tedious job. Men may start with good intentions of cutting the stubble short, but before long the length of it is gradually increased until in many cases stubble a foot long is cut in the corn. No, use a binder; have it bedded well, then it is much easier handled. The best way to save as many low down wagons as