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Farm Problems

Any reader of The Guide who wishes an answer to any problem on the farm can have them answered in this column. These questions are valuable to all farmers, and should assist them to a more profitable return for their labors. All questions are answered without charge. Answers by the Correspondence School of Scientific Farming.

ALFALFA AND THISTLES

W. T. C. Hazel, Man.—Would you deem it advisable to attempt raising alfalfa on land where plenty of the adjacent farms are badly infested with Sow Thistles? These Sow Thistles are allowed to seed every year.

Ans.—Under the above conditions it would be advisable to leave alfalfa alone for the present. You cannot get at the Sow Thistles in the alfalfa crop and consequently it would be rather dangerous to devote a field to this crop at present, as it might result in the field becoming infested with one of the worst pests that the farmer has to contend with. If you could prevail upon the Weed Inspector to have those thistles cut on the adjacent farms, and have some security that they will be cut in the future, then it might be well to try alfalfa as danger would be eliminated. Until you are certain of having these weeds cut before they seed, however, careful consideration should be indulged in before running any chances.

ENSILAGE CORN

I. D. P., Dugald, Man.—Is it profitable to raise corn for fodder or ensilage when it must be cut just as it silks to escape frosts? Would not sweet corn which nearly matures be better?

Ans.—If it is essential to cut your corn just when it is beginning to silk to escape frost we think that undoubtedly sweet corn would be more preferable, but the serious objection is that sweet corn is very short and you consequently get a very light crop. As you know, for both fodder and ensilage purposes we endeavor to get as much bulk as possible in conjunction with the crop maturing to a certain extent. The best plan would be to adopt an intermediary course and select a flint variety, like the North Dakota, from which you will get the required bulk and at the same time it will be far enough advanced to lay up a supply of sugar. For silage or ensilage purposes corn is always cut in the early dough stage and this stage is generally reached by the flint varieties before frost, if it has been planted about May 24. If the weather should become threatening before this stage is reached and you find that it would be expedient to cut early on account of frost, almost as good results will be obtained if you leave the corn to wilt for a few days in the shock in the field. This wilting gets rid of superfluous moisture in the leaves and the corn can then be stored in the silo without much danger of its souring. Should the ensilage be stored immediately this green corn is cut it is liable to become sour in the silo and unfit for food for dairy cattle. Good results are being obtained from the use of early flint varieties in various sections, not only in Manitoba, but also in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

VENTILATING STABLE

A. D. K., Lloydminster, Sask.—I would be very much obliged if you could give me through the columns of your valuable paper some information regarding the best methods I could employ to ventilate my stable?

Ans.—From the information given we presume that you have your stable already built and that it is not your intention to build a new one. We are, therefore, suggesting some remedies which certainly could be improved upon if you were building a new stable.

First—If you have sufficient doors in your stable, that is, a fairly wide door every 10 or 15 feet, insert transoms over them opening inwardly and upwardly and set at angle of 65 degrees. This will shoot the air up towards the ceiling and as the cold air is heavier than the warm air of the stable it will gradually sink down like a spray on the stock below, becoming warm as it descends, consequently when it reaches the backs of the stock it will be warm enough not to cause any injury.

Second—Another plan is to insert old boiler tubes of from 2 to 3 inches in diameter through the wall near the ceiling

every 15 feet. The most convenient place, if possible, is right under the joists.

Third—Yet another way which is termed the "Rutherford system" is to take in the air under the floor through tubes, drain tiles or old boiler tubes. The tile is laid from the outside under the wall and brought up through the floor to the top of the same, generally in the passage or feedway between the stalls. These tubes can be inserted about the same distance, 15 or 20 feet, apart and give good results. The foul air being warm naturally rises up to the ceiling where it should be let out through a square box in the centre of the roof which goes right up to the cupola or ridge of the barn.

As stated above more up-to-date methods could be given if you were

building a stable, but when a barn is once built it is hard to insert air shafts on the inside of the walls and consequently the best remedies must be made use of

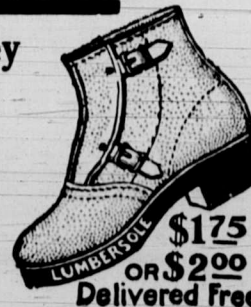
In Illinois, says a noted investigator of social conditions, it was recently shown that the state expends \$1,187,000 on educating (?) children who die of tuberculosis before reaching the twentieth year. Here, in Canada, the death rate is very high from the same cause. The time has now arrived when we must take up the question of what is a practical educational system for our schools; why not use the columns of your own paper to arrive at what is a practical education for both boys and girls?

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