

FARM MANAGEMENT

Fill the Silo Twice

Is it possible to refill a silo with dry shocked fodder corn? Will the ensilage thus made keep—J.O.G., Portage La Prairie Dist., Man.

You can refill your silo in a soft spell in the winter or when it has settled sufficiently after the first filling, with dry fodder corn, provided you use sufficient water. It would be almost impossible to use too much water. The corn should be well packed down.

When on a visit to the farm of Mr. R. E. Gunn of Beaverton, Ontario, an editor of Farm and Dairy was informed by Mr. Gunn that he makes a regular practice of filling his silo twice. The corn is shocked in a barnyard and the silo refilled in a soft spell in December or January.

Why Have Good Roads?

Some of the advantages of good roads over bad ones, cited by C. O. Raine, Master of the Missouri State Grange, are as follows:

1. The possibility of securing quick official assistance in the event of sickness in the family.

2. The ability of children to attend school regularly, although possibly living a considerable distance from the school house.

3. The possibility of the family attending church and enjoying social intercourse with their neighbors and friends, both in the country and in town.

4. The possibility of utilizing time during bad weather by attending to business and social duties away from home both day and night.

5. The enlarged rental value of the farm.

6. The ability to market produce when it is scarce because those living on bad roads cannot get to market.

7. The increase in the tonnage in the hauling of produce to market and the return haul of family necessities.

8. The increase in the value of the farms by many dollars per acre and the possibility of selling with a readiness not known to those holding lands not adjacent to good roads.

9. The importance given to the country by reason of its being inhabited by people who build and maintain good roads with pleasure and profit to themselves.

Underdrainage—Reasons Why

Jno. Fister, Macdonald College.
Underdrainage promotes filtration of water and so renders the soil more porous.

Underdrainage facilitates thorough cultivation.
Excess water is rapidly carried off through the drains.

*The soil, when drained, quickly dries, and in drying contracts. When it becomes wet again it expands, and the alternate contraction and expansion so caused separates the particles of soil from one another, and thereby makes it loose, friable and more easily worked.

Underdrainage warms soils by lessening evaporation. When land is well underdrained most of its surface water is carried off in the drains, and as a consequence, the amount left to be carried off by evaporation is greatly lessened. Hence, as evaporation is always accompanied by a lowering of temperature, the soil of well-drained land will not be so much cooled in consequence of evaporation as the soil of undrained land.

Drainage prevents the baking of the surface soil by carrying off the water by filtration. If the surface water is carried off by evaporation mainly, the fine mud occasioned by the standing water becomes hardened as it dries, and breaks into crabs.

Underdrains promote plant growth by permitting the air to enter into the soil by the little passages the water has made for itself in its descent to the under drains, and thus enabling the soil readily to extract from the air nutrient necessary to plant growth.

By lowering the water-table or line of saturation, and thereby deepening the foraging ground of plant roots, underdrainage enabled vegetation the better to withstand drought.

It promotes fermentation of manure.

It prevents the heaving of plants through the action of frosts.

By the quick removal of surface water it lengthens the season for cultivation and gives plants a longer time to mature; increased crops, therefore, are sure to follow.

Fuel Value of Wood

The following table gives the weight per cord of thoroughly air dried wood of the varieties named and their value for heating purposes as compared with coal. The coal with which the wood is compared is a good grade of anthracite.

Hickory or hard maple, 4,500 lbs.—1,800 lbs. coal.

White oak, 3,850 lbs.—1,540 lbs. coal.

Beech, red and black oak, 3,250 lbs.—1,300 lbs. coal.

Poplar, chestnut and elm, 2,350 lbs.—940 lbs. coal.

Average pine, 2,000 lbs.—800 lbs. coal.

Don't Waste Manure

Andrew Boss, Minn. Exp. Station
There is often time, during the late fall and early winter, to clean out the yards and sheds before stock is put in for the winter.

Experience goes to show that there is less waste of the fertilizing elements of manure when it is taken directly to the fields from the yards.

When spread in the fall, remaining frozen through the winter, there is very little loss of fertility, and time is saved in the spring in preparing the land for a crop.

It is a mistake to allow the manure to lie in the yards from early fall until after the crop is in the next season or until it is harvested.

Economy of labor and conservation of the manure elements demand that the manure be spread upon the land as fast as it accumulates about the barns and yards.

Value of a Root Cellar

A great many farm families have been and are being forced to sell their potatoes, at a very much lower than might otherwise be obtained, for lack of a suitable cellar in which to store them.

The supply in the country at large is so small that potatoes are likely to be worth a dollar or more a bushel a few months hence, and the possessor of a good crop and a good cellar can afford to bide his time before putting them on the market. Meanwhile, the men without storage facilities are forcing their supplies on the market, and temporarily keeping prices down, in their eagerness to realize what they may on their potatoes before it is too late to save them from freezing.

The situation affords another illustration of the utility of the permanent root cellar. The farmer who has a good crop, without "planning ahead" to take care of it when it comes. The difference between the October price of potatoes and that which they will bring a short time hence would often more than pay the cost of a root cellar, and the structure will add to the permanent value of the farm.

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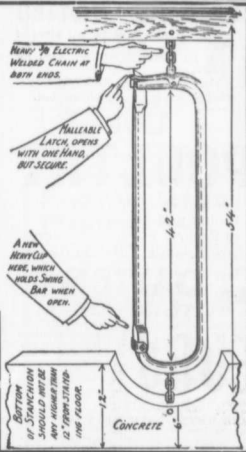
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