

FARM

Topics for Discussion

In recognition of the fact that valuable hints always are obtained from men engaged in actual farm work THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has adopted the "Topics for Discussion" column in order that our readers may see an open channel through which they may inform their brother farmers as to practices that are worth adopting and warn them against methods that prove unprofitable. Not only do we wish our readers to discuss the topics announced for the various issues, but also we desire that they suggest practical subjects on which it would be well to have discussion.

This notice appears under the "Farm" department, but the questions dealt with cover all branches of the farming industry. Letters should not exceed 600 words and should reach this office 10 days previous to the date of issue. They are read carefully and a first prize of \$3.00 and a second prize of \$2.00 awarded each week. Other letters used will be paid for at regular rates to contributors.

August 31.—*What do you consider the average farmer should have as a library to which to refer from time to time? Give your opinion of agricultural books, bulletins, reports, etc., and other available reading matter.*

September 7.—*Give suggestions on exhibiting field roots and garden vegetables at local fairs. Many exhibitors pay little or no attention to making their display attractive. What have you to suggest on collection of specimens and their preparation for the show table?*

September 14.—*Give suggestions on preparing poultry for market. Discuss specifically the fitting and marketing of old birds and this year's stock.*

September 21.—*What is the best means of tying cattle in the stable? Would you advise a man building a new stable to equip it with stanchions or chains?*

Some Suggestions on Stacking

Discussion this week is on the question of stacking grain. Several letters follow in which readers set forth their views. The replies received indicate that a majority of those answering the question favor stacking; yet, on the whole, it seems as if less stacking is being done each year despite the advantages of such a plan. The reasons are pretty well explained in the letters. The prizes are awarded in the order in which the articles appear.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Stacking

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The question of stacking grain is one on which there is a wide difference of opinion. Farmers who once stacked all their grain have now abandoned the practice altogether; in other parts farmers all stack. There are a great many things to be said in favor of stacking, especially if wheat is the crop to be handled. It is claimed that wheat should be stacked for at least three weeks before threshing, during which time the grain is cured so that it keeps better in large bins. When wheat is put together in large quantities, either in the stack or in the bin, it goes through a stage called "sweating." This rather improves the grain if it happens in the stack, where the surplus moisture is absorbed by the dry straw. If, however, the grain is threshed

as soon as possible after being cut, unless it is very dry, it is apt to heat in the bins.

The color of stacked wheat is usually very much better than that of wheat threshed in the field. It has not been darkened or dulled by the action of the weather while waiting for threshers. In short, it is claimed that stacked wheat will sell for a grade higher than the same wheat would if threshed from the stack. If machines are hard to get, the farmer who stacks knows that his grain is safe till the machine arrives, even if he cannot thresh till spring. Hundreds of farmers last year deeply regretted that they missed stacking their grain during the month of fine weather that followed the cutting season. Those who did not get threshed during that time had the misfortune to see their grain snowed up, and the weather was such that wheat so left was utterly spoiled.

In stacking we have the advantage of placing the straw where it will be of most use. It may be stacked near the stable, for use during winter, or it may be stacked close to a pasture, so that the straw can be blown across into the pasture for the use of animals that are running loose. In any case, it need not be left where it will interfere with the working of the land, either spring or fall.

The advantages of stacking are: Fewer men are required at threshing; threshing may be done when the weather is unsuitable for stook-threshing; the threshing season is lengthened

as soon as possible after being cut, unless it is very dry, it is apt to heat in the bins.

Now, start a circle at the outside of the stack. Allow the butts of the sheaves to extend six inches beyond the outside row of the foundation. Allow the next row to overlap the outside half way, and continue till the center is reached and well filled. As the sheaves are laid in place, each one should be stepped on to be sure it is firm. Never neglect to keep the middle of the stack full and firmly tramped.

Each layer after the first should project two or three inches outside the one on which it is laid, till the height of the bottom of the wagon-rack is reached at least. After that the sides of the stack may be kept perpendicular, if so preferred, till the stack is as high as the top of a load of sheaves. After that the outside row of each layer may be drawn in a little toward the center.

While laying the last two layers before starting to draw in the stack, do not step on the outside rows very firmly, and keep the center so high that it will seem as though the sheaves must surely slide off. Do not tramp the outside rows till the stack is drawn in to a point. Then tie two poles together with twine, and hang them over the top sheaf to keep high winds from uncapping the stack.

As the stack settles, the outside sheaves, being loosely laid on each other, will settle more than the inner rows, and thus all the sheaves will slant downwards toward the outside of the stack, making a perfect water-shed, which no rain can possibly penetrate. The longer such a stack stands, the less likely will it be to get wet by rain.

Sask. B. E. Dow.

Favors Stacking

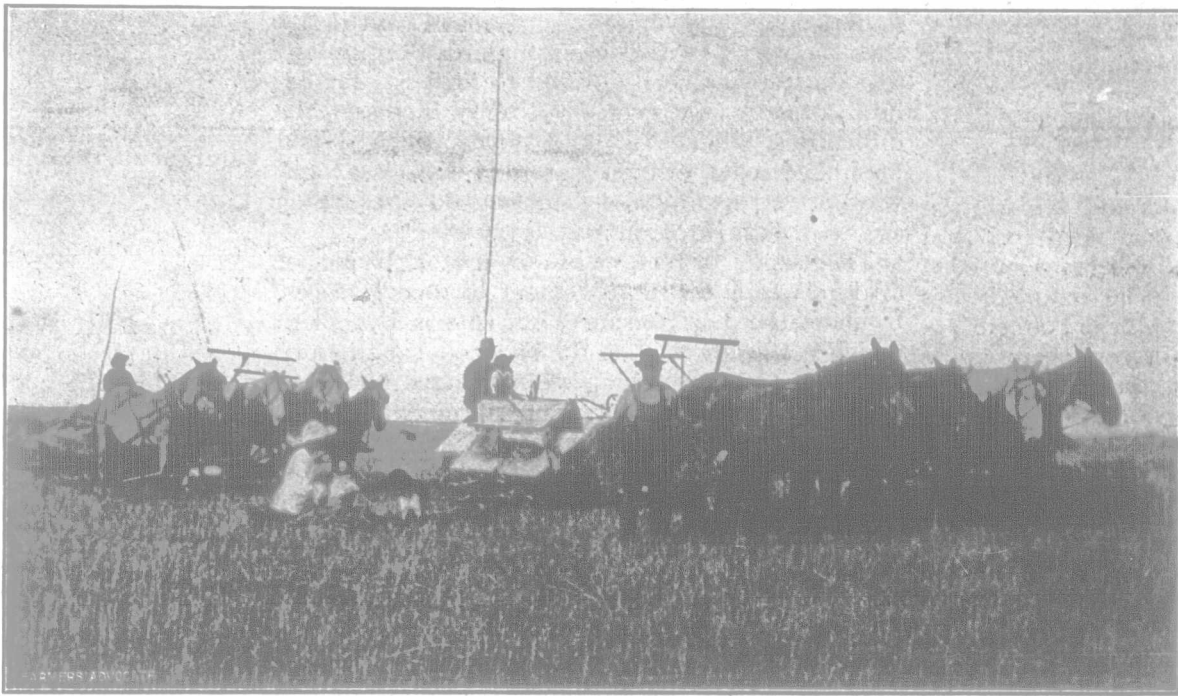
ED. FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

As the season for stacking grain is now approaching, a few words of caution, and may be advice, would perhaps not come amiss to many of our new settlers. What I am about to say is obtained from bitter experience, for, from formerly stacking my grain as my neighbors did, I had a very heavy loss in wet and spoilt grown grain in the stack. This taught me stack building very suddenly.

The proper way to build a grain stack is to have a good slope on every outside row of sheaves from the ground to the cap sheaf. Some still persist in building the butt of the stack with the outside row level and then putting on a "dry roof" from the eaves up. It is just as easy and quick to build a stack with the outside row sloping. Care should be taken never to tramp on the outside row, but every other sheaf that goes into the stack should be stepped on as the builder goes round and round with the different rows. To avoid putting any weight on outside sheaves I take two rows together, namely, the outside row and its binder, which I place so that the butt of the inside sheaf just catches the heads of the outside sheaf, treading on the inside ones which are placed as close together as possible, but the outside ones are put not so close. This gives them an additional chance to settle with more slope still after the stack is finished. The threshers may swear at the outside sheaves slipping off at threshing time, but the grain will be perfectly dry in spite of any driving rain or snow that I have ever experienced in the last twenty-five years.

If the grain to be stacked is close and handy a builder can keep two wagons going, and if his pitchers are good men he can stack for three teams.

The stacking of grain has its advantages and



LUNCH ARRIVES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AFTERNOON