

FARM AND DAIRY

Farm Management

Storage of Seed Corn

THE chief problems in storing seed corn are to provide a means whereby the moisture content can be reduced to such a point that the germ is not injured by freezing, and then to maintain this condition until planting time. The minor problems are to afford protection against the ravages of vermin, to reduce the work of storage, and to have the ears so placed that they are accessible when the germination test is made.

The two prime necessities for successful seed storage are ventilation and heat. Ventilation provides a means for removing the excess moisture. Heat prevents freezing and hastens the drying process. In many years proper ventilation is all that is required. However, some artificial means for heating should be provided in case it is needed. Kiln-dried corn possesses strong germination usually. The seed ears should be dried in a room having a temperature not above 110 degrees. Corn containing less than 14 per cent of moisture is not easily injured by cold weather, but seed containing more moisture should not be exposed to freezing temperature.

The Wisconsin Experiment Station has reported some very definite facts in this connection. In tests by that station corn kept in a warm, dry room or attic, gave a germination test of 98

to 100 per cent; corn well dried before freezing germinated as well; when the seed was left in the shock or in the open crib during the winter months, the germination and vitality were so low that the product was unfit for seed.

A large amount of the trouble experienced with seed corn in 1917-18



could have been prevented by heating the storage rooms, if no more than just enough to prevent freezing. The protection against vermin can generally be secured by using a form of construction which offers no harbors for mice and rats; or, if this is not sufficient, wire netting can be used to line the seed room. The presence of cats also helps to reduce this trouble. Seed corn should never be stored in sacks, piles, or even by placing one row of ears immediately on top of another.

other. The individual-ear method of storage is the only safe one to use, at least until the moisture content has been reduced to 15 per cent or lower. This method of storage facilitates ventilation, which hastens the drying process, tends to prevent molding, and lessens the trouble caused by mice and rats.

There are several systems of storing seed corn which are practiced successfully by corn growers in all parts of America. No matter which method is followed, seed corn should be stored at least one foot off the floor. Lath racks may be made by nailing laths on either side of two 2x4s. When stood on end the laths will provide shelves on which the ears will rest. Another method is to drive nails into the wall of the storage room and drive the butt end of a cob room and drive the butt end of a cob over each nail head. A system that is very simple and very generally practiced is illustrated by the drawing herewith which appeared in the Farm Journal. The method explains itself. Binder twine is used, about one-fourth pound of twine being required per bushel of cobs. The main point is to keep all cobs separate from each other and permit of free circulation of the air around them.

October Retrospect

THRESHING throughout Canada is in full swing and the final estimates of the crop will soon be available. The yield per acre will vary greatly in the different provinces according as the weather conditions have been favorable or otherwise. In contrast, if the returns from a series of farms in any locality were compared, it would be found that the yield per acre would vary from 10 to 20 bushels.

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