

### The Farm.

#### Experiments on Muck Land.

In general the result of the muck experiments indicates a uniformity in the requirements of the various crops and that stable manure meets those requirements in fuller measure than anything else. It appears that the legumes tried, garden peas and soja beans are the only exceptions to this rule.

Air slacked lime, which in the past has been highly recommended as a treatment for muck land, acted on even slightly acid muck, in opposition to our expectations, for on a plot where it was applied at the rate of two tons per acre the yield is generally less than where nothing was applied. An increased yield is indicated as the quantity applied is enlarged.

Sand has given contradictory results, though frequently its yield is higher than the adjacent "nothing" plot. These results are in no measure the entire benefit to be derived from this one application, but it is still a problem whether it will pay to send a muck field at the rate of 140 loads per acre.

Leached ashes gave results similar to those from sand, and though yet inconclusive, we believe that where this material may be had for a few cents per wagon load and is within four or five miles it may be applied with profit.

So far the complete fertilizers do not give results that will warrant their purchase in considerable quantities for muck land.

Unleached wood ashes gave very satisfactory results as did also the mixture of phosphate rock and potash salts, indicating the lack of mineral manures and an abundance of nitrogenous manures in this soil.—Michigan Experiment Station.

#### Winter Manuring.

An early and heavy snow fall, while tending to diminish natural losses of plant food, is apt to favor artificial losses. It is apt to deter the farmer from hauling out his manure supply.

Too many farmers hold to the mistaken notion that spreading manure upon the snow is a wasteful practice, that much of its value is lost by leaching and by running off of the surface in the spring. They point to darkened snows, to discolored waters and to greener meadows at the base of the hillsides as proof of these losses. It is probably true that some loss occurs in this way, but it is less than is usually supposed. Those who are frightened by this, however, should study the barn losses, should know that, as ordinarily kept, manure deteriorates more in the barn cellar or in the manure heap than it does in the field; that it is better for manure to leach on the soil it is meant to

fertilize than in proximity to the barn and the family well; that it will ferment less outdoors than it will indoors; that, in short, experiment and experience alike show that the housing of manure in the winter for spring hauling is seldom better and generally worse than spreading it upon the snow as fast as it is made. Some will be lost if spread; more, however, will be lost if kept at the barn, and the spring's work will be just so much the further behind.

Experiment station bulletins preach this doctrine, institute speakers propound it and farmers are yearly practicing it more extensively. It is the modern notion and the right one.

The winter manuring of a steep side hill may not be advisable, but moderate slopes or level pieces of not too leachy land may be safely fertilized any day in the year, according to the Vermont station.

#### Oiling the Harness.

Very few farmers take the proper care of harness. It is a simple matter, and with two washings and oilings a year it may be kept pliable and presentable. There is generally some weather when outdoor work is impracticable, and on such a day or days the harness might be attended to profitably.

To clean harness it should be unbuckled and washed in warm water, and not too strong a soap. Castile soap is preferred by some, but any common soap will do. Any dirt or gummy substance should be scraped away. When the harness is washed, lay it somewhere in the shade to partly dry; never put it in the sun. When nearly dry oil with some good oil. Neat's foot oil is preferred by some, but there are two things against this oil being used exclusively—it makes the leather very soft, too soft, in fact, and it is liked by mice; so if troubled with these use some other oil in combination. Fish oil is excellent and clean. I give below some formulas for preparing different oils for oiling harness:

Neat's foot oil, three quarts; one pint castor oil, two pounds mutton tallow, ten ounces ivory black, two ounces Prussian blue, eight ounces beeswax, four ounces resin, two ounces Burgundy pitch. Mix, boil, and strain. This is a good oil, but is a little more complicated than some others.

One gallon neat's foot oil, one pound beeswax and one pound mutton tallow, lampblack to make a good black.

Liquid blacking and neat's foot oil applied separately, the oil put on after the blacking.

Three parts neat's foot oil, one part fish oil, and lampblack to make good color.

Coal oil and neat's foot oil, applied separately, the coal oil first to soften and clean; the neat's foot oil afterwards.

Hog's lard and lampblack.

Equal parts neat's foot oil and crude castor oil with lampblack.

After the harness has been cleaned, mended and oiled, and the drying is done, then rub all over with a cloth, and the harness will shine like new.—Ex.

When you once halter a colt or horse never let him get away. To secure this result, make beforehand such mechanical arrangements as you know will secure it. First catch your horse or colt as gently as possible but—catch him! Next securely fasten a strong halter or hackamore snug on his head, then with about twenty feet of rope strong enough to hold the dead weight of the colt, tie a bowline snug around his body just back of his forelegs, passing the long end through between his forelegs, and through the halter ring; tie this to a post or manger that he cannot run around or break, and let him pull. To lead him tie the rope securely to a strong, well-broken horse; lead the broken horse and the wild one will be mighty apt to come along. Lead and tie him always with a halter, and never with a rein strap from the bit. Always be kind and gentle with him, but never let him get away from you.—Ex.

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