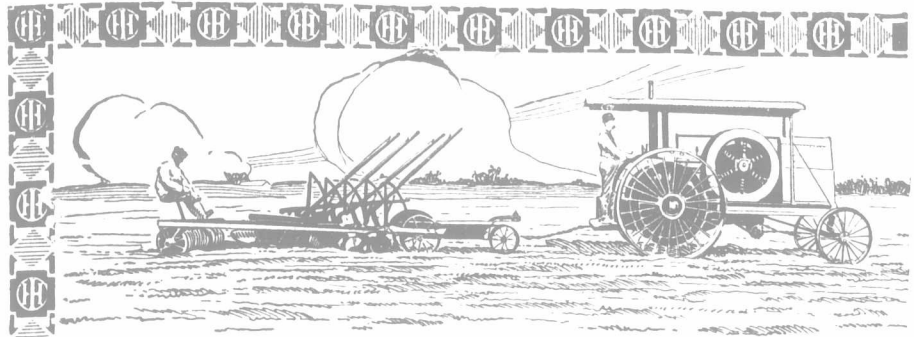




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The purpose of this Bureau is to furnish, free of charge to all, the best information obtainable on better farming. If you have any worthy questions concerning soils, crops, land drainage, irrigation, fertilizer, etc., make your inquiries specific and send them to IHC Service Bureau, Harvester Building, Chicago, U. S. A.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

SILO FOR BREWERS' GRAINS.

I have been thinking of building a small silo and filling it with brewer's grains, as we can get them in the months of July and August for the drawing, and would like your opinion as to whether they would keep, and be fit to feed to dairy cows in the winter time.

A. M.

Ans.—Before building a silo for the purpose, we would suggest that you try it on a small scale in a silo already up. Get someone who has a silo to put a small quantity in, and if they keep well it might be tried on a larger scale. We are doubtful whether it would be found successful.

ABSENCE OF OESTRUM.

1. I have a valuable pure-bred Short-horn heifer 22 months old that has never shown signs of being in season, though closely watched. Could an amateur, by a manual examination per vagina, determine if she will ever breed? If so, in what condition will the female organs be found? In a heifer, should (in normal cases) the os (I think this is what you mean by it, a cartilaginous organ perhaps two inches long and about ten inches from vulva) be tightly closed? Is this the only entrance to the womb? A neighbor was over and stated, after examining this heifer, that she would never breed, as this (the os) was firmly closed. Was he right?

F. H.

Ans.—The os being closed should not have any effect upon the heifer's coming in season. Allow the heifer to run with a bull for some time. This may induce oestrus. The administration of 2 drams of nux vomica three times daily has often apparently had the desired effect by stimulating the nervous system. It is worth a trial. If the os is closed, get a person who understands the anatomy of the parts to open it, and if she shows signs of oestrus, breed her about an hour after opening. Feed liberally.

CEMENT FLOOR.

1. Would you advise me to put in cement floor in old henhouse which has earth floor? The hens keep scratching up the dirt in the litter, and in three or four hours the litter is mixed with half dirt, so that they don't scratch as much as they should.

2. How much gravel and cement, for henhouse 12 x 16 feet, and cost of cement?

3. How long would it take one man to cement it? Also give directions as to mixing cement, and laying of the gravel, etc.

G. E. L.

Ans.—1. Cement floors are the cleanest, and give good results. The only serious objection to them is cost. Ground floors are more in favor than board floors.

2. About two-thirds cord of gravel, and about 3½ barrels of cement.

3. This depends on the man. It would not be a long job in any case, as it is all straight work. Mix the gravel, sand and cement for the floor about one of cement to eight of gravel and sand, and put on a thin putty coat, one to two or three. Mix on a platform, use plenty of water, and shovel over thoroughly.

ANNUAL PASTURE.

Would you please give me what information you can regarding the sowing of Amber sugar-cane, or sorghum, with oats and wheat for pasture. Do you know of anyone who has sown any quantity and pastured it continually. I had about half an acre last year, and turned the milk cows on it every evening with good results, and would like to sow about eight acres this year for pasture, as grass land is very scarce, and soiling the cattle in the stable all summer incurs considerable labor, and help is very scarce and dear.

L. A. M.

Ans.—We can recommend nothing better than Prof. Zavitz's annual pasture mixture of 51 pounds of oats, 30 pounds of Early Amber sugar-cane, and 7 pounds of red clover. Sown the first week in May, this mixture is usually ready for use about June 20th. The oats are early and rapid in growth, the sugar-cane is later, stools well, and thrives in hot weather, and the clover forms the chief autumn pasture. Good seedlings of clover for hay the following season have been obtained in this way. An acre will a little more than feed one cattle beast continuously throughout the season.

MANY A GOOD FARM HORSE IS RUINED

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Shorthorns—Nine bulls and a number of heifers for sale at very reasonable prices.
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Jay Green—"Hang it, man, I can't! I'm bow-legged, an' am trying to hold my knees together so's it won't show. When I smile I forgit all about my knees, an' when I pay attention to my knees I forgit to smile."

