

## PRESERVATION OF WOODEN POSTS.

The following table indicates approximately the life of air dried posts of a few species:

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Red Cedar.....    | 30 years     |
| White Cedar.....  | 10 years     |
| Tamarac.....      | 8 years      |
| White Willow..... | 6 years      |
| Jack Pine.....    | 3 to 5 years |
| Cottonwood.....   | 3 to 5 years |

In order to prevent decay, wooden posts may be treated with creosote. This is done by companies who handle fence posts or it may be done on the farm. Creosote is a greenish brown oil, slightly heavier than water. It comes in 50 gallon barrels and costs 25 to 60 cents per gallon according to the grade. Two tanks are usually used. The tanks are made of 14 gauge sheet iron. The cylindrical tank should be 3½ feet in diameter and 3½ feet deep and the rectangular tank 4 by 4 by 8 feet. The cylindrical tank is the one in which the posts are first treated. The posts must be free from bark. All the inner coating should be completely removed. They should be perfectly seasoned in order to allow the oil to soak into the wood. The posts are stood upright with the butts down. The creosote is shoveled in so as to fill the tank and heated to 220 degrees Fahrenheit. The posts are left in this bath for 30 minutes to 3 hours according to the kind and condition of the timber. The object is of course to expand the pores and fill them with oil. The posts are then removed to the rectangular tank and treated to a bath in creosote at a temperature of 110 degrees Fahrenheit. The posts are held in place by a plank and lever. This fills the pores and renders the post much more durable. The process may be accomplished by the use of one cylindrical tank—first in oil heated to 220 degrees as above and then in cooled oil with fire drawn.

## POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND.

1. Make plan of farm showing boundary of farmstead and future inside fences.
2. Select material, suitable posts, wire, etc.
3. Avoid poor materials.
4. The end, corner, and brace posts constitute the life of the fence. Set them carefully according to directions.
5. Do not bruise wire or wood by driving staples too far home.
6. Use 1¼ inch staples in cedar posts.
7. Stretch all wires tight.
8. Make annual inspection and see that all parts of fence are kept in repair.