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To the Farmer:

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THE FARM CISTERN

A Good Supply of Soft Water a Household Boon.

The Farmer's Wife and Daughter Will Appreciate It—Location of the Cistern — Advice Given for Local Installment.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Lucky indeed is the farmer who can boast of a never-failing supply of pure and fresh water from well or spring on his premises. Its value spring on his premises. Its value cannot be reckoned up in dollars and cents. Another source of water supply on the farm is the rain water supply on the farm is the rain water caught on the roofs of the buildings and stored in large underground tanks, called cisterns. It is com-monly called soft water in contrast to the hard water of wells and springs.

Supply of Soft Water a Boon.

Springs.

A Supply of Soft Water a Boon.

Every housewife who is fortunate enough to have a plentiful supply of soft water for washing dishes, clothes and woodwork, and for use in the bath, knows well how much superior it is to nard water. It suves a lot of seap, and the operations are more easily carried out and the results more satisfactory. This valuable supply of water comes down from the clouds in fairly copious amounts month by month, and costs nothing except a small outlay, probably \$150, once in a lifetime for eave-troughing and a s.orage tank or cistern.

Over Ontario the average rainfall from April to December is about 2½ inches per month, and if all the buildings of an average-sized farm were provided with eave-troughing, no less than four barrels of water per day on the average over the whole year would be coilected. This quantity of water will serve efficiently a family of six living in a home equipped with modern plumbing fixtures. The only draw on the well, or hard water, supply would be the amount required for dricking and cooking purposes.

A Good Cistern a Necessity.

To safeguard against a shortage

A Good Cistern a Necessity.

A Good Cistern a Necessity.

To safeguard against a shortage of soft water in times of drought and during the winter scason when rains are scarce, the cistern should be large enough to hold a two or three months' supply. This would require a storage tank at the very least 10 feet square and 10 feet deep, or its equivalent in different dimensions, or two smaller tanks having together this capacity. It is well to remember that the tank built in the cubical form, say 10x10x10, is more economical than one of the same size but oblong in form (6 2-3x15x10) for example. The cylinder form takes even less material than the cubical, but it may be a little slower and harder to build. Sometimes the bottle form is constructed. Either the cylindrical or bottle type is usually built of brick laid in a rich concrete mortar and finally well coated on the inside with a rich mixture of cement, preferably super cement, and fine sand.

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The 10x10x10 size will hold 6,250 Imperial gallons, or approximately 200 barrels. In U.S.A. gallons the capacity would be 1-5 more, or 7,500 gallons. To build the cube-shaped cistern (10x10x10) it would require 12 cu. yds. of concreie, the walls, bottom and top being six inches thick. Using a 1-6 mixture it would take approximately 18 barrels of cement and 15 loads of gravel. For the cylindrical shape it would take about 11 cu. yds. of material, and for the oblong shape (6 2-3x15x10) about 13 cu. yds. With a knowledge of local prices of material and labor, it would be an easy matter to estimate the cost of a 6,000 to 7,000 gallon cistern.

The Location of the Cistern.

The Location of the Cistern.

The Location of the Cistern.

The house cistern may be located in the cellar, or outside underground, according to conditions. If the cellar be large and provided with good drainage for the overflow of the cistern, there can be no serious objection to having the cistern in the cellar. If the roof of the house is not large enough to collect sufficient rain water for the water service of the home, the roofs of barns and other buildings may be connected up to another cistern at these buildings and the two cisterns connected for joint service if necessary. In this case probably the best arrangemen, would be to build one very large underground tank. 12 or 15 feet square and 10 feet deep, at a point where rain water from both house and barns would gravitate and collect. Between the barns and this cistern it would be advisable to build a

settling basin to intercept dirt from roofs. The water system would be connected to this large cistern to supply the house or barn as required. The same water system could be used to supply the house or barn with the water from the well or other source used for drinking and cooking purposes.

used for drinking and cooking purposes.

In building a cistern do not make the serious mistake of making it too small. Then install some form of water system in order to have the soft water, both hot and cold, on tap throughout the house. In subsequent articles I will describe various types of water systems for the farm home.

home.

The Department of Physics,
O.A.C., Guelph, Ont., is prepared to
advise you without charge regarding
installation of water systems, plumb
ing, sewage disposal, etc.—R. R
Graham, O. A. College, Guelph.

Speedy Birds.

Speedy Birds.

The swallow is a strong flyer and is estimated to fly at at least 66 miles an hour. Relative to its size, the tiny humming bird has also great powers of flight, and is thought to go from 30 to 50 miles per hour. Of course absolute proof of the average rate of speed of any species is impossible to establish. Birds make long sustained flights in migrating, but it is reasonable to suppose that steady, rather than rapid passage is then desired; while bursts of speed would be characteristic of sudden flight in pursuing prey, or escaping an enemy.

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