

Silos—Cement or Wood—Which?

J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist, Ottawa.

Cement silos, if properly constructed, are a most excellent means of conserving corn. They should, however, be well reinforced by using considerable quantity of wire when constructing. They should be built, using first class cement, good coarse, gritty sand and clean, sharp broken stone or gravel. The proportion in which these materials are mixed is also a most important factor.

The proportion likely to give the best results is one part of cement, two and a half parts good sand and eight parts clean, broken stone or gravel. If sandy gravel is used, then one part cement to about five parts gravel is necessary. When the walls have been erected it is necessary in addition to coat them with pure cement in order to prevent absorption of liquids or juices from the ensilage by the cement. Further, if a cement bottom is put in the silo, provision should be made to allow the escape of juices, which are sure to settle, and which will spoil more or less of the lower layers of ensilage.

Ensilage is not likely to freeze any worse in a cement silo than in a wooden silo, but it is not likely to freeze so much as to give trouble in either silo, provided one is careful to keep the ensilage lower around the wall than in the centre of the silo.

The stave silo, when well constructed, will last many years and will give perfect satisfaction in the way of quality of ensilage conserved therein. I am not prepared to say that either one of the two kinds of silo is better than the other, since both have been very satisfactory where well built, and both have proven most unprofitable investments where badly constructed.

Unfortunately, too many would-be silo owners hesitate to spend a few extra dollars at time of construction, thinking that by so doing they are saving, whereas by faulty construction or by not quite completing the work, the silo being imperfect comes considerably short of giving such good results, as would have otherwise been the case.

In my opinion, based upon observations made in all parts of Canada and on all kinds of silos, a farmer should construct either a stave or ce-

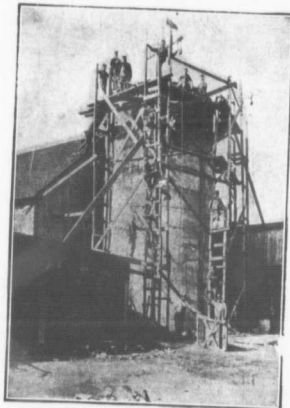
ment silo, and the one to construct is the one that pleases his fancy, or that can be constructed with the least difficulty, but, whatever kind it is decided to build, it should be built as nearly perfect of its kind as is possible to get it.

Pointers for Orchard Men

Prune fruit trees regularly every year.

A little wood ashes around the fruit trees is a good thing. Spread it thinly as too much may do injury.

When setting out a new orchard number the rows and record in a book the name of the variety.

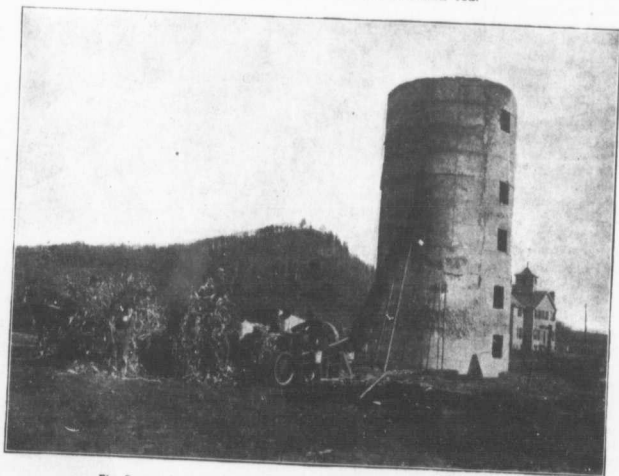


A Cement Silo in Course of Erection

The other and larger illustration on this page shows this same silo only a few months after. Fire had destroyed the buildings adjoining but the silo remained unharmed.

ies in each, and the name of the nursery firm from whom the trees were purchased.

An idea is prevalent that the height to which a spray can be thrown depends only upon the power of the apparatus. It depends more on the height of the apparatus, the length of the hose and the extension rod.



Fire Destroyed the Adjoining Buildings but the Cement Silo Remained Unharmed

A cement silo when properly constructed, is a thing of permanence. Even fire cannot harm it materially. These points should receive consideration when deciding on what type of silo to build.

How To Select a Stock Bull

Malcolm H. Gardiner, Delavan, Wis.

It is an old saying that like begets like, and inexperienced breeders may well accept the saying as a rule. In the choice of a bull three points are to be considered, his individuality his progeny, and his breeding, the last usually including ancestry and collateral relatives. If the bull has progeny, the inexperienced breeder has a basis to work from, largely rating the sire upon the merits of his progeny; but a young bull has no progeny to show merit, and one is limited to individuality and breeding, of which I place individuality first.

A bull with a pedigree is a much to be desired acquisition. But as between a bull without a pedigree and a pedigree without a bull, I would quickly choose the former, trusting that the unproved excellencies probably existing in his ancestry would appear in his daughters. If the sire be lacking in individual excellence, how can we be sure that he has the potency that is necessary to pass along the good qualities of his ancestry to his progeny? By all means let the inexperienced breeder get the bull first. Don't forget the vast importance of the pedigree, but be sure to get the bull.

More Flesh and Early Maturity in Meat Animals

If the fat stock shows have shown anything, they have shown, by the premiums awarded and the decisions of butchers, that the thick fleshed animal that finishes up as quickly as possible is the one that is in greatest demand by the meat world.

Both in sheep and cattle, breeders have striven first of all for size, regardless of the thickness of flesh and the ease with which these animals fatten into prime condition for slaughter. Awards seem to indicate that this has been a great mistake. Size, of course, is important; and, where economical growth is made, a certain amount of this quality is essential; but what is equally or more essential, is that the animal be covered with thick flesh; that it be "meaty," and that when cut it shall give satisfaction.

With this thickness of flesh has been and is usually associated comparative early maturity. It is possible, of course, to get the animal too small and to have the maturity come too soon in life; but, on the other hand, it is possible to do just what people have been doing when they have selected for size, without regard to thickness and early maturity. A medium-sized animal, that shows these desirable qualities, is rather to be preferred.

Whether it is a mutton sheep or a beef animal, the entire top part is a general indication of what the animal is. It should be of equal width through the chine, through the ribs, through the loin and through the rump, from side to side. This sort of an animal indicates that the thick muscle runs from one end of the animal to the other. Those that are narrow over the rump, wide over the loin, narrow in the chine, long in the neck, are not heavily-muscled. If they are wide in front and narrow behind, they are not thick-muscled. Those that have protruding rear ribs are not thick-muscled, and if they are not thick-muscled, they are not early maturers either. Of course, with thickness through the top part of the body, we like to see an animal that stands near the ground and that has the curved rib extending from the top of the body to the bottom. This formation usually goes with thick muscles and with the early maturity for which we are looking.

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