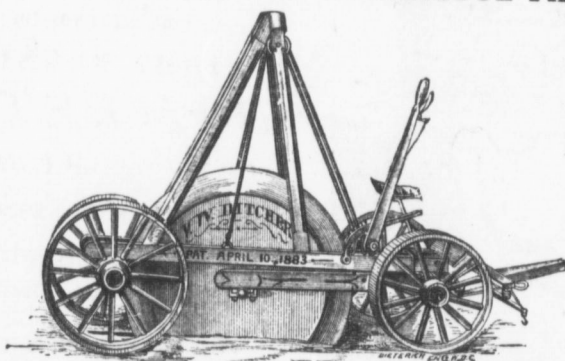


DRAINAGE THE BASIS OF SUCCESSFUL FARMING.



The Van Wert Tile Ditching Machine.

PATENTED APRIL 10, 1883.

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United States.

The prosperity of nearly every branch of industry in our country is assured when the farmers are successful in tilling the soil. It would be superfluous to go into a lengthy argument at this time to prove the great advantages of proper and thorough drainage of the soil for farming purposes.

The experience of every practical man has proven this beyond all controversy. Drainage is not only to carry off the surface water, but still more important to give or secure free circulation of air (the breath of life) in and through the soil to vitalize and replenish it. Now what we want is the best and cheapest way of performing this labor. We take pleasure therefore in introducing to the public, and more especially the farmers and land owners, our Tile Ditching Machine; which being a plain, common sense machine, every farmer or other person who has driven a wagon heavily loaded through the fields, after the frost is out of the ground in the Spring and noticed how soon the wheels cut down to the hubs, can understand.

Our ditching wheel is of cast iron, weighing from 2,000 to 4,000 lbs. (as desired) and from six to seven feet in diameter, to suit the depth, with sharp cutting edge (like this, V) so that the weight of the wheel as it rolls along, cuts and presses an open ditch, anywhere from the surface to centre of wheel or axle. It can be worked or run on mud boat, two or four-wheeled trucks, while ditching, as desired; but when moving from place to place, can be handled better on trucks. The ditching wheel can be raised or lowered at will, with lever and ratchet to grade the depth and regulate the ditch, by moving back and forth, two, three or more times in same track; being governed by nature of ground and depth of ditch, under favorable circumstances, when the ground is in proper condition for ploughing or ditching. The machine will cut from one to five miles or more of ditch per day with ease. We have gotten up a tile particularly adapted to the ditch made by this machine, being oval on-top and V shaped at the bottom. It is not only the most suitable tile for this ditch, but the best shaped for any ditch. It affords at least on an average, one-fourth more drainage surface to size of tile; and when a small quantity of water is running, will keep it cleaner, because the current will be stronger; besides, it is a stronger and cheaper tile. We can use any other shaped tile in common use, but prefer the tile above-mentioned for any ditch. We make a plain open ditch and can see and know before covering that our tile are all in proper position, which is very important.

After our tile are placed, if we want to plow and harrow the field, that will be all that is necessary to cover the ditch; but if not, we can use an ordinary barshare plow and turn a furrow on one or both sides into the ditch and it is covered. If we strike a large stone or root in ditching, raise the ditching wheel, pass over and go right on; remove the obstacle (which would have to be done in any case) go right on, back and forth until you have your ditch the required depth and grade. If an open ditch is required for drainage, setting fence posts, etc., you can make it rapidly. For further particulars enquire of

DR. W. M. SMITH,
Or THOS. B. FAGAN,
VAN WERT, OHIO.