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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Pig-pen Construction.

I purpose building a pig-pen 24 by 24 feet, divided into 4 pens. I would like suggestions as to the best way of putting up frame of 2 by 4-inch scantlings and covering with lumber. How many windows are necessary?

S. Ans.—In the stock department of this issue the question of housing of hogs is discussed and suggestions given relative to size of building, pens, etc. A stone or concrete foundation should be built on which to set the frame. This could be two or three feet above ground. If no loft was required, six-foot studding toe-nailed to a plank set on the foundation would make the ceiling sufficiently high. By using longer studding a loft for storing straw could be provided. One-half inch lumber could be nailed on the outside of the studding, then paper put on and this covered with tongued and grooved lumber. Four windows of eight lights each would make the pen fairly light.

Wild Oats.

How can wild oats be killed on heavy land?

A. S.

Ans.—Wild oats are not the easiest of weeds to get rid of, even though they are an annual. It is necessary to prevent any plants maturing seed, and then follow a system of rotation that will bring the kernels left in the ground to the surface so that germination will start. A hoed crop, followed by barley and seeded down, and then another hoed crop when the sod is broken up, is one method of obtaining results. Some farmers summer-fallow a season, then put in fall wheat, which can usually be cut before the oats mature. Grass seed is sown in the spring and the land left in sod for a year or two, after which a root crop is grown. Rape or corn may take the place of roots. In time the ground will be freed from the oats. It requires considerable patience and thorough work. Care must be taken not to apply fresh manure, which might contain wild oats, to the land which is being cleaned. Allowing the manure to become thoroughly heated will destroy the germination of any oats or other seeds it might contain.

Cost of Cutting Corn.

What is the actual cost of cutting one acre of drilled corn, taking into account interest on investment in machinery, depreciation, storage, etc.? What would it cost to cut hill corn? What do you consider is the average day's work for a corn binder? How do you arrive at your results?

J. A. H. W.

Ans.—It is rather a difficult problem to arrive at the cost of cutting an acre of corn when interest, depreciation and storage of the binder are taken into consideration. It will depend somewhat on the crop. If the corn is of rank growth or if it is down, it will be harder on the binder than cutting a medium crop of standing corn. Then, too, the storage place is usually used for more than the corn binder, so that it will be difficult to arrive at the amount to allow for the binder. In order to account for the depreciation, the life of the machine would have to be estimated and enough allowed off each year to pay for the machine at the end of that time. In computing the cost of machinery at the Ontario Agricultural College, where strict account was kept of the cost of the machines, general repairs and oil, hours required for storing, repairing, etc., use of building, interest on money invested at five per cent., it figured out to 4¼ cents per hour for use of machinery. Six or seven acres per day would be a fair day's work, so that on the basis of 4¼ cents per hour the cost per acre for machinery alone would be about 6¼ cents. At the College it was found that horse labor cost 10¼ cents per hour in 1915 when everything was taken into consideration. Thus horse labor would cost practically 50 cents an acre if three horses were used on the binder. Hill corn would cost nearly the same. At the present time horse labor would necessarily have to be figured higher owing to higher price of feed. With some men machinery lasts longer than with others, consequently the actual cost per acre for binder above that would meet all conditions cannot very well be determined.



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