

Farm Department.

CONDUCTED BY J. M. BEATY.

BARN.

Money cannot be better spent than in building at least one good roomy barn on each farm. In some sections a young man before moving off to himself will build a three or four room house for himself and wife and a large barn with stables around it and apartments to it for his stock. He is about as apt to paint the barn as the residence. He is prepared to pack away his feed, to take care of his tools and farm implements and has in connection plenty of stables for his stock. In other sections the young couple think they need about an eight or nine room house to live in and a crib about 14 x 20 feet is built to hold feed for the stock. Such a place will do for the corn after it is shucked but there is no place to put away any kind of forage. The wheat straw instead of being housed is left to rot where the thrasher leaves it. The corn cut and shocked in the field is allowed to stand until it falls down and rots. Shucks in some cases are scattered over the lot and used in place of pine straw. Tools are left where they were used last. Such an arrangement may do for those who have decided to let cotton be their king. The progressive farmer of to-day can do better and must do better. Every day should be made to count on the farm as well as elsewhere and now while the grass is not growing is a good time to build the barn. Don't have it too small. Remember that very few farmers have room enough of this kind. Get a good plan before you start, use good heart timbers for the foundation, or in other words, do a good job while you are about it.

A Letter from a Tobacco Grower.

ROME, N. C., Dec. 13, 1901.

MR. J. M. BEATY.

DEAR SIR:—I have some notes in regard to raising tobacco, I would like to have you publish. I have grown tobacco four years. First year planted on pea land previously sowed to rye. The crop did not grow very well and was very irregular and only brought about \$30.00 per acre. The second year part of my land had been planted in potatoes and part had lain out, the potato land did best, none of my crop did very well. I manured with a home mixture which contained 3 1/2 per cent ammonia, 5 per cent potash and 9 per cent phosphoric acid; the crop brought about \$65.00 per acre. The third year I planted part potato land, other an old mulberry orchard—mulberry land did best; it had been partly cultivated so as to keep down bushes. I manured this crop as follows: Dried blood 16 per cent ammonia, 100 pounds sulphate potash, 50 per cent potash and 600 pounds 16 per cent acid phosphate and used the stable manure raised from one mule on about twenty thousand hills in rows three by four feet, made some wrappers and crop brought \$80.00 per acre. I used nine hundred pounds fertilizer per acre analyzing 3 per cent ammonia, 5 per cent potash and 10 per cent phosphoric acid.

The fourth year, which was 1901, I planted land which was in tobacco in 1899 and followed with wheat; let the stubble remain and plowed in January with two-horse plows, broke deep, turning yellow dirt generally, afterwards pulverized with disc cultivator; then layed off rows 3 x 4 feet, mixed my own fertilizer as follows: 200 pounds dried blood, 15 per cent ammonia, 100 pounds sulphate potash, 50 per cent 600 pounds 16 per cent acid, making 900 pounds per acre, analyzing 3 per cent ammonia, 5 per cent potash, 9 per cent phosphoric acid, then used about 35 pounds nitrate soda per acre, and the manure from one horse stable under 19 thousand hills, the stable manure was composted with about twenty loads woods mole raked up in August. I used compost and sod in hill and other fertilizer in drill. My land is very thin, poor and sandy, being four

feet to clay in places. I think it well to use stable compost and some fertilizer in hill on such land to sustain the plant while young. I experimented with fertilizer in different quantities using from 1,000 pounds 2 1/2 per cent ammonia, 8 per cent phosphoric acid, 3 per cent potash to 45 pounds ammonia, 75 pounds potash, 135 pounds phosphoric acid. I find that on very poor, thin, sandy land that high manuring pays best. I think to use on my next crop 45 pounds of ammonia and other things to balance. The land spoken of would make about five bushels of corn per acre without manure. Heavy manuring on this land gives the tobacco size and much better quality. We have much of this kind in our country that does not pay to grow cotton and other crops.

Plant tobacco on lying out land, land that has been sown in small grain or planted in potatoes. Fresh land is always in order for tobacco. The land should be plowed very deep as early as the 15th December. Plow deep in the fall and manure well in the spring and work fast through the summer if you wish to succeed making tobacco.

I received \$410 for my this year's crop of 19,000 hills. If you haven't a knapsack spray pump be sure you get one and use it from the time you see the first eggs for about every 5 to 7 days. Wishing all farmers much success, I am,

Yours respectfully,
H. M. JOHNSON.

Barnyard Manure.

Much has been written in farm journals about the value of barnyard manure, and thousands of farmers look upon it as one of the important products of the farm, while thousands of others give but little or no attention to the manure heap. A well kept compost heap may be safely taken as one of the surest evidences of thrift and success on the farm. If investigation of a man's lot discloses the barnyard manure being well kept and preserved under proper shelter, it will also be found that the cribs and smokehouses adjoining are full of the proper kinds of food products.

It indicates that the owner is living at home and making an earnest and successful endeavor to make money out of the business in which he is engaged, that of agriculture.

Right here it would not be amiss to furnish some statistics, startling as they may seem to the reader, on the total value of the manure product from farm animals in the United States each year.

In 1895 there were in round numbers, in the United States, 16,000,000 horses, 55,000,000 cattle, 45,000,000 hogs, and 45,000,000 sheep. If these animals were kept in stalls or pens and the manure carefully preserved, the approximate value of the fertilizing constituents of the manure produced by these animals per head, would be as follows for one year: Each horse, \$27, each head of cattle \$19, each hog \$12, and each sheep \$2. The total fertilizing value of the manure produced by the different classes of farm animals of the United States would, therefore, be for horses \$432,000,000, cattle \$1,045,000,000, hogs \$542,000,000, and sheep \$90,000,000, or a grand total of \$2,110,000,000. These statistics are based on the value assigned to phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen, as contained in commercial fertilizers. This may be somewhat too high for the actual fertilizing ingredients ordinarily found in barnyard manures, but it must be borne in mind that manure possesses an additional value for improving the mechanical condition of the soil, which commercial fertilizers do not possess.

LOSS BY BAD METHODS.

Supposing for the sake of argument and getting down to facts that one half of the value of this barnyard manure is lost each year by a failure to care for and preserve it, the total loss to the farmers in the United States from this source alone each year amounts, according to the figures given, of \$1,054,500,000, or about \$100 for each farm in the country, on an average. This annual loss will amount to about three times the value of the entire cotton crop of the south. In other words, it would take the gross sales of three full cotton crops to pay for the loss sustained to the whole country in one year by this failure to care for our barnyard manure.

If a farmer will figure closely on the amount of manure which he should save each year from the

stock on his premises and its true value expressed in dollars and cents the total will be astonishing. Where bedding is used in a stall and the manure carefully preserved each horse on the farm should produce annually five tons of first-class manure. Each cow should give about ten tons during the year. This is making all due allowances for losses sustained while these animals are out of the stalls during the day, either at work or grazing in the pastures. The best plan for verifying these estimates is for each farmer to make up his mind on the first day of January to work out the experiment during next year.

PRESERVING THE MANURE.

It should be understood at the outset that the liquids are more valuable than the solids in that they contain a much higher percentage of nitrogen in its most available form. Therefore, stalls ought to be so arranged as that this source of the manure product can and will be carefully preserved. For instance, the solid manure from horses will show in analysis but 2 per cent of nitrogen, while the liquids show 10 per cent of the same valuable ingredient. The value of the solids depend also, largely upon the character and quantity of food fed to the animals. Rich food will produce a highly valuable manure, while poor food will only give the reverse.

Barnyard manure thrown out into a pile in the lot, and left to rain and the ruinous process of leaching which follows will in a short time lose the most of its fertilizer constituents, especially the most valuable parts. As much care should be taken of the manure heap as is bestowed on the corn in the crib or the pork in the smokehouse. The thrifty farmer will not neglect any product on his farm which is, and should be, so highly valued as that of barnyard manure. Barnyard manure rapidly undergoes changes and is easy to ferment and heat. The best plan is to haul it out each week and spread it on the land. If preserved in pens under shelter, however, as the stalls are cleaned, a small amount of kaint should be sprinkled on the fresh manure every few days to prevent the escape of the ammonia. If the pile heats or ferments, then the manure should be worked over and cooled off or sprinkled with water. A manure heap which has "firefanged" will have but little nitrogen left in it when hauled out to the field. All of that element would have long since escaped in the smoke or vapor seen arising from the heap while the heating or fermenting process is going on. When manure is in a compact condition, as in deep stalls, the carbonic acid gas formed by fermentation soon permeates the heap so completely as to entirely exclude the air, thus arresting fermentation. Where the heap is left loosely thrown together where the air can freely circulate, fermentation goes on rapidly.

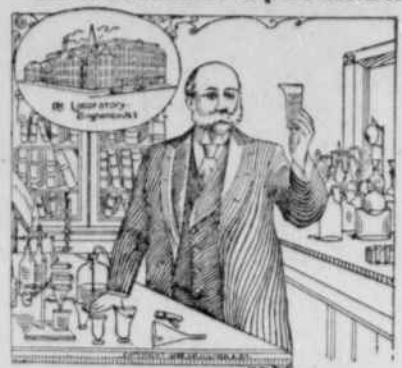
If, therefore, manure is transferred from the stalls to pens, it should be firmly tramped down by mauls or tramping, not forgetting to scatter a little kaint over the heap occasionally to be doubly secure in holding the ammonia. The most serious loss from the manure heap is that occasioned by leaching. When the manure is exposed to rain, wind and sunshine and the leachings allowed to drain away, it rapidly decreases in fertilizing value. Experiments at the New York Cornell experiment station indicated "that horse manure thrown in a loose pile and subjected to the action of the elements will lose nearly one-half of its valuable fertilizing constituents in the course of six months."

As a practical demonstration of the high value of barnyard manure to our soils, which every farmer will bear witness to wherever a lot into which stock or cattle have been confined, and then planted, in a crop of any kind, good effects can be seen for a long term of years afterward. Barnyard manure is the most valuable source from which fertilizing ingredients can be had, and should therefore be carefully preserved. This class of manure contains not only all the elements of plant food, but in addition thereto it renders the stored up materials in the soil more available, improves the mechanical condition of the soil, makes it warmer, and is far more valuable in all respects than any of our high priced commercial fertilizers.—Harvie Jordan, in Atlanta Journal.

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