



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMJUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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Agricultural.

THE SILO.

Dr. Benbow Tells the Small Farmer How to Save Money.

In my article of last week upon ensilage I promised to tell the plan and cost of the Silo. So I will talk to the man with a one acre lot and one cow, with the usual old log stable of this country. I said that one acre of good land will produce enough of corn for one cow for 365 days—that 365 cubic feet of space is ample for its storage. One cubic foot per day is a good forage ration for a cow, and it will weigh 40 to 50 pounds per cubic foot, so that a stall should be 10 feet long, 5 feet wide and 8 feet high, ceiled up on the four sides with inch flooring tongued and grooved, nailed to strong uprights which are well supported, no floor needed as the clean ground is just as good as anything to put ensilage upon.

Now, the cost of such plank here, is \$1.75 per hundred feet, and the size of the silo here spoken of will require about 300 feet of flooring plank or \$525. The studs I will suppose are on hand or builder can calculate for himself, and any farmer can put it up himself—or hire a carpenter, who will do it all in one day. Now the silo for one cow with capacity to hold the product of one acre of rich land is constructed, at a total cost of less than \$10.00. This estimate is based upon the idea of owner having an old barn or stable, if the whole is to be built new the roof and weather-boarding must be added into the account. Now, with the silo built and corn raised, when it tassels out it is in its best state for making the best ensilage. I use old broken scythe-blades about 18 inches long to cut the corn down, lay it in piles straight and convenient for the wagon to come along to haul to the silo, where it is cut up into lengths about three-fourths inch and allowed to fall into silo, when it is spread or leveled every day. It need not be hastily piled, would prefer to only cut every other day; and if other business interferes no harm is done if only two days' work a week is done in filling, or if the man wants to do all the work himself let him cut and haul a good pile of corn to silo, then cut it into the silo, then repeat until the silo has been filled, then saw one inch plank to fit over the top of the cut up corn, making a tight a covering of it as you can, first laying two plank the other way to act as battening on a door which insures the covering plank to sink down regularly and without open spaces between the planks. After all your corn is in and covering planks carefully placed, haul on stone, or wood or any other weight that is most convenient, of sufficient weight, to say 100 pounds per square foot of the surface.

Now, if less than \$10.00 will construct in an old stable a silo of capacity to feed one cow twelve months, for two cows twenty-five per cent. more cost will double it; for four cows a still less additional cost will be required. Now, in conclusion, I have made an error in the calculation, which any good man can correct. I have lied, or, people who want the best of feed at a minimum cost are—not up to the times.)

I have a silo in one corner of my stable 33 feet long, 22 feet wide and 15 feet deep. The studs are of 2x12 and 16 feet long, and are placed 2 1/2 feet apart, ceiled with inch flooring. The studs are twice as large as would be used for general purposes; the ceiling cost less than \$35.00, and I have over two hundred and twenty-five tons of ensilage in it, without one particle of damaged corn except near the top where the planks did not fit well, though there is not over three inches of damage even on top. I have no floor, nature having furn-

ished a good one upon which I cut wheat straw to keep the green corn off the ground.

D. W. C. BENBOW.

Our Exchanges.

—Mr. Duncan Cameron, of Stagville, produced last year 700 bushels of corn with four mules. He used the Thomas Harrow and the Deering Cultivator, and "did not put a hoe in it."

—The *Pittsboro Record* hears conflicting statements as to the damage done to the wheat and oats by the recent cold weather. Some farmers say that their grain crops are almost ruined, while others say the wheat is hurt very little and oats not as much as many suppose.

—A farmer says that nearly all the diseases among cattle, are caused by letting them drink stagnant water. He says that persons should in the spring and during the summer, ditch off every pond in their pasture that contains standing water. Besides being a benefit to the health of their cattle, it helps to prevent diseases among people.—*Peoples Press*.

—MILK HOUSES.—Every farmer should have some kind of milk-house, and as they cannot afford to build one with all the modern conveniences, every one can at least put up a rough board shed over some convenient spring, or near the well, and let the waste water run into it. This kind of a building, fitted with a good trough for the milk, etc., often answers very well, and at least is much better than no milk-house at all.—*Era*.

—The quarries of brown stone or brown sand-stone in Anson county, near Wadesboro, are being very extensively worked, and are to be still further developed. The stone is now shipped to Northern cities for fronts of building, and now Atlanta firms will open new quarries near Wadesboro, the purpose being to supply Atlanta with stone which is said to be the best sand-stone in the United States. This stone is liberally used in the construction of the Governor's Mansion here, one of the most imposing buildings of the kind in the State, and the effect is both rich and pleasing.—*Raleigh News*.

—Mr. Chas. Hinton, of Wake, is a thinking, and therefore a progressive and successful farmer. He is the kind of young man of which our men of mark are made. His first experience in cultivating tobacco was during last season. He realized \$220 from the yield of one acre—cultivated and cured it without the aid of any expert. His success with corn on upland was equally gratifying. He broke it deep and thoroughly in winter. When ready to plant he ran a deep furrow, dropped the corn and covered it with a Thomas Harrow, leaving the ground smooth. After the corn was well up he ran the harrow over it twice—the last time when it was eight to ten inches high. Then with a two-horse plow he ran close to the plants, breaking the ground twelve to fourteen inches deep. The other working was thorough and as nearly level as practicable. He used no manure.

—Work on the large furniture factory to be erected near the depot was formally begun on Saturday. This is destined to be one of the most important enterprises which has ever engaged the attention of capitalists in Western North Carolina. It is the utilization of our own material on our own soil and by our own labor. Now let some one else follow with wagon and carriage works on corresponding scale.—The new hotel on Battery Porter is going up apace. It is an object of great attraction, especially on Sunday afternoon, where crowds of visitors of all classes and conditions throng to it. It is now recognized

how apt is its location for a great summer hotel; and it will be built with such regards to comfort as to make it equally eligible as a winter resort. The magnificent views from it will be there always, beautiful in their summer features, more striking perhaps in their winter characteristics.—*Asheville Citizen*.

—What can be done to improve our farming interests, is a question which immediately concerns all classes inasmuch as the property of the country as a whole is dependent upon the success of the farmers. A succession of good crops brings general prosperity, while a succession of failures in crops produces depression and general stagnation in business affairs. This being the case how important it is to foster this great industry in every possible way. Much might be done by wise legislation to relieve the burdens of the farming class, but now-a-days legislation seems to be rather in the interest of money kings and monopolies. Instead of waiting, Micawber like, for something to turn up, cannot the farmers go to work and turn something? How many communities in Moore county can boast of a Farmers' Club, having stated meetings for the discussion of methods in preparation of soil, application of fertilizers, modes of culture, &c? How many of our farmers are regular subscribers to a first-class agricultural journal? A little money judiciously applied in such literature would repay the farmers a hundred fold. What are the farmers of Moore county doing to foster a bond of union and sympathy between the members of their craft? If you cannot have a county organization (if not, why not?) you can form clubs by townships or neighborhoods and have stated meetings for the interchange of your views and experiences; tell of your successes and failures, and thus create a mutual bond of sympathy. The friction of mind will have a sharpening effect, and you will soon find your energies aroused and your spirit quickened to higher and nobler aspirations.—*Moore Gazette*.

A SAFE RULE.—Never suspect a friend of doing you a wrong until the truth of it is as plain and as clear as the sun at noon on a cloudless day, and then, yes even then, do not accuse or censure until you have heard from his own lips his version and explanation of the supposed wrong. If you were ever a friend to him he is certainly entitled to that much forbearance and consideration. If this rule were practiced, many a misunderstanding would be averted, and many a heart-ache spared.—*Wilson Mirror*.

Science and Industry.

It is estimated that nearly \$100,000,000 are invested in the newspapers of this country.

—It is said that the fat from wild ducks not only makes leather pliable but thoroughly waterproof.

—About \$30,000 has been raised for the widow of the late Gen. Hancock. Twenty names have given \$1,000 each.

—600 tons of licorice has been received at Baltimore. It was brought over from Turkey in two Italian barks.

—Within the past few weeks over fifty vessels have arrived at New York loaded with Nova Scotia potatoes.

Paper rails now being made at St. Petersburg have proved to be extremely durable, while they cost one-third less than those made of steel.

The largest tree in Georgia almost rivals the giants of California forests. It is twenty feet in circumference at the ground, and its girth a short distance above, is four feet greater. The great tree is 155 feet in height.

The English language is spoken by 100,000,000 people, the French by 45,000,000 and the German by 60,000,000.

In spite of four famines in India in the last twenty-six years, which killed off millions of the population, the number of inhabitants steadily increased as a whole.

—Mainsprings of watches break most frequently in the Fall of the year, and watch-makers are said to put in more new springs in two Fall months than in all the rest of the year.

—A glass bedstead has been made at a Birmingham (England) factory for a Calcutta millionaire. It is of solid glass, the legs, rails, etc., being richly cut. The King of Burmah also has one.

—A record of the mills erected last year in the South gives 150 as the number, Kentucky leading with 31 and Tennessee coming next with 24. These are followed by Virginia 24, Texas 18, Georgia 17, and North Carolina 10.

—The Kentucky Legislature has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of pistols and bowie knives. Let this be followed by like legislation from the other States and we shall have less murders.

Mr. Hazen, of Whitefield, N. H., produced 350 tons of corn fodder ensilage last year at a cost of \$399, which he considered equivalent to 150 tons of good hay. His 100 cows gained from fifty to eighty pounds of milk a day, on commencing to feed ensilage.

A mass of corn cobs completely and perfectly petrified has been found near Forsyth, Ga. The formation of the cobs and grains of corn adhering thereto were perfectly preserved in a petrified state. The outer surface was partially covered with quartz firmly imbedded in the mass. The petrified matter is quite dense and more weighty than ordinary stone.

—At the recent New York dog show there was a magnificent St Bernard said to be valued at \$10,000. He was under three years of age, but weighed nearly two hundred pounds and had won 100 prizes.

—Somebody has taken the pains to figure out that the United States produces enough lumber each year to load 1,428,581 railroad cars, each carrying 7,000 feet. It is also said that this would make a train 8,500 long, or about one-third around the world!

—Advices from Kansas state that within a radius of 100 miles of Dodge City 100,000 head of cattle have frozen to death, and that 100 human beings are known to have perished, and more than 100 have been missing since the beginning of the recent storm.

—By the provisions of the Blair education bill, there would be distributed from the National Treasury for the first year, \$7,000,000; second year, \$10,000,000; third year, \$15,000,000; fourth year, \$13,000,000; fifth year, \$11,000,000; sixth year, \$9,000,000; seventh year, \$7,000,000; and for the eighth year, \$5,000,000.

—Brigham Young used to swindle the United States Government by pre-empting land with a four-roomed house, built on runners. When this was hauled to the centre of a section of land, each one of the four quarters would have a room on its quarter. Four would sleep there one night, occupying a separate room. Soon afterwards the men appeared at the Land Office, proved their pre-emption, paid over \$1.25 per acre, and then they would deed the land to Brigham Young.

—A man may be a very good man, and a very well meaning one, and yet think quite differently from what we do. The longer we live the more firmly are we convinced that it is only the fool who is opinionated.

The wise man wants all the light he can get, and is never ashamed to admit that he has found out that his opinion was incorrect. Deliver us from the man who was never known to change his views. Such men make stubborn jurymen, disagreeable companions, ugly men to deal with, and must be of that class whom an inspired writer seems to except from the possibility of getting along amicably with when he says, "If it be possible, live peaceably with all men."—*Farmers' Friend*.

—Let us figure a little. Take an ordinary cow that will give two and one-half gallons of milk per day, the average price of which will be twelve cents per gallon, and you have thirty cents per day or \$9 per month. Take off \$1.50 per month for pasturage, which is a very high price for the pasture, and you have a net profit of \$7.50 per month, or \$22.50 for three months, which is better than giving the calf the milk for four months and then selling it for \$10.—*Farmers' Friend*.

—If speechmaking did any good, we ought to be the happiest and most prosperous people that ever lived. For meaningless platitudes and high-soundingrodomontade, we are willing to put our National Congress against anything on earth. But for good, solid, earnest work—well, no matter, the average Representative never goes to Washington for any such purpose.—*Farmers' Friend*.

A spider, as shown by an estimate by means of actually weighing it and then confining in a cage, ate four times its weight for breakfast, nearly nine times its weight for dinner, thirteen times its weight for supper, finishing up with an ounce, and at 8 p. m., when he was released, ran off in search of food. At this rate a man weighing 160 pounds would require the whole of a fat steer for breakfast, the dose repeated with the addition of a half-dozen well-fattened sheep for dinner, and two bullocks, eight sheep and four hogs for supper, and then, as a lunch before going to his club banquet, he would indulge in about four barrels of fresh fish.

TELEGRAPHING TO AND FROM A MOVING TRAIN.—The enchanted wand of Thomas A. Edison yesterday gave to the world, round and perfect, another of his wonderful electric inventions, and from this time forward telegraphing to and from moving trains will be one of the regular conveniences of the public. The Edison system was applied to a train on the Staten Island Railroad, and for an hour, message after message leaped through the air from the roof of a car moving at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour to the regular telegraph wires over a hundred feet away. The answers leaped from the wires down to the roof and were ticked out on an instrument in the presence of a distinguished company of railroad men and electricians. Messages were sent home, stock quotations were received and orders to arrest imaginary fleeing criminals. In short the exhibition was a big success.

—This is one of the curious things floating about: Take a piece of paper, and upon it put in figures your age in years, dropping months weeks and days. Multiply it by two; then add to the result obtained the figures 3768; add two, and then divide by two. Subtract from the result obtained the number of your years on earth, and see if you do not obtain figures that you are not likely to forget.

—Mr. Earnest Walker, in *Gardner's Monthly*, says that tobacco stalks and stems, used as fertilizers for fruit trees and potatoes, will destroy the borer, and that they possess great value as a mulch as well as a fertilizer. They are said to increase the yield of potatoes largely and to produce a better quality than stable manure.