

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Govt. Report, 1890.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE



FERTILIZERS.

How and When to Use Ground Bone.

Sulphate of Ammonia as Plant Food.

The New Jersey station's valuation of the year 1891 for the nitrogen and phosphoric acid in ground bone of the different grades of fineness is about 10 per cent. lower than in 1890. Ground bone is in good repute among farmers, and many when buying complete fertilizers reject those brands in the preparation of which bone has not been the chief material used. The reasons for this are ascribed to a lack of familiarity with the phosphates from other sources, the development and use of which have been comparatively recent, and also to a more permanent effect observed when the use of bone. An important consideration in the use of manures, especially on poor lands, is permanent enrichment. Bone is suited to attain this object, and other materials cannot be well substituted for it, although they may be called by the same name and be quite as valuable from a commercial standpoint.

When a farmer is satisfied that ground bone is a useful fertilizer for his conditions of soil and methods of practice, it is believed at the station that it is more economical and satisfactory for him to buy it as such rather than in the form of a complete fertilizer of which it forms the base, first, because the same kind and quality of fertilizing ingredients are much cheaper, and, second, because of a reasonable certainty that what is bought is really bone. As regards dissolved bone and superphosphates with potash, the samples examined at the New Jersey station this year were of good quality and with few exceptions fully up to their guarantee, which in connection with their selling price would seem to make them valuable substitutes for complete manures. So, in many cases (of which wheat is given as an example), according to the station bulletin, the cheaper superphosphates with potash may be quite as effective for certain crops as a complete manure containing a low percentage of nitrogen.

Sulphate of ammonia is of special interest to the agriculturist, as, with the exception of Peruvian guano, it is the only commercial source of ammonia within the farmer's reach. It is prepared from the ammoniacal water, which is obtained in the manufacture of gas from coal. The sulphate, not being a complete manure, is seldom if ever applied alone, not even when in a course of rotation it follows a phosphatic manure. It is very useful when employed as an adjunct to the slow acting manure, as it increases the vigor of the plants and enables them to take up more of the other kinds of food in a given time than they would or could otherwise do.

Sulphate of ammonia may be applied either as a top dressing or it may be worked in the soil just previous to the seeding of a crop. It is usually applied at the rate of 100 to 125 pounds per acre. Many farmers mix the sulphate with three or four times its bulk of loam in order to insure a more even distribution. Sulphate of ammonia is most largely employed on grain crops. Progressive farmers also use light dressings of the sulphate with fine effect on their grass lands, not only after the growth is well started in the spring, but again after mowing. Some farmers claim that it pays to top dress mangolds and similar crops with sulphate. Messrs. Lanes and Gibben, in their field experiments, proved the efficiency of sulphate of ammonia as an adjunct of slow acting manures and in inviting plants to utilize quickly and more fully the manures within their reach. Their most noteworthy results were gained when the sulphate was applied to land that had been previously enriched for several years by the accumulation of mineral and other manuring. Their largest crops were obtained when mineral and nitrogenized manures were employed together.

Bees Cells.

At a beekeepers' meeting, where the subject of wintering bees came up for discussion, Dr. Miller, who wants air for his bees, expressed a preference for a large cellar—one that gives sufficient space to place the hives without crowding. In his opinion the depth underground should be about eight feet. The entrance should be on the side where the general prevailing winds would not come. If on a side hill, let the entrance be where you can walk in on the level. It should have double doors.

President Taylor, commenting on Dr. Miller's remarks, said that the sun would penetrate through doors more readily than through the sides of the building, and the door, therefore, should not be where the sun would shine upon it very long. The north or east would be preferable and avoid the sun.

Dr. Mason, who considers that pure air is more needed in early spring than in winter, gave the dimensions of his cellar, which are 14 by 22 feet. In this he has wintered fifty colonies.

Wood Ashes as a Fertilizer.

The use of wood ashes as a fertilizer should be more generally understood. Hard wood ashes are much richer in potash than soft wood ashes and are relatively more valuable. Less than wood ashes are hardly worth more than the labor of spreading on the land as a rule, but on a light sandy soil they have a tendency to compact, which is an aid to its physical condition, but it does not act as a manure. Unleached wood ashes are almost a special fertilizer for all fruit crops and only needs the addition of a little nitrogenous manure to make it complete. They should never be mixed with such nitrogenous manure as hen manure and other animal excrements, for they start chemical action in consequence, the nitrogen is thrown off in the form of ammonia and is wasted. Unleached ashes form often a cheap source of potash.

MAKING READY FOR EARLY LAMBS.

Proper Treatment of Ewes to Insure Strong Lambs.

Prior to this time the ewes should have been provided with dry airy sheds, with abundance of exercise, and with a variety of plain coarse foods, interspersed with a minimum of grain. Having had such treatment as this they are now in a strong, lusty condition and on the eve of a successful lambing season.

As this time approaches there should be provided in a separate building or in one end of the sheep shed a warm, comfortable room divided into several little pens four feet square or larger, in each one of which there should be room for one ewe and her lamb or lambs.

In this apartment the early lambing ewes should be placed a few days before their lamb, that they may have quiet surroundings and a warm reception room for the little newcomers. Such quarters as these can be very cheaply and easily made in any common barn or cattle shed by simply firing out on the inside of the standing with any kind of old boards and filling the space thus made with straw or cornstalks thrown upon them to aid in keeping the apartment warm. Care should be taken to see that on the southern or eastern side of the shed two or three good sized window sashes be placed in order to let in plenty of warm sunlight.

This suggestion is for the benefit of those who may not be able or do not care to go to the expense of furnishing an expensive building with artificial heat for the lambing rooms. In fact the above described is about the only sort that is in use at present at Woodside, and it is found sufficiently warm and comfortable for any lambs that are dropped naturally strong. At times it may be found necessary to take some weakly lamb into the kitchen and warm it by the stove and stimulate it with a little toddy before placing it again with its dam.

In these quarters the lambs should be allowed to remain until they are past a week old and have accumulated considerable flesh and strength. They can then be removed to another portion of the shed not quite so securely inclosed, and where they will receive more exercise. It is a very bad plan to keep these young lambs confined too closely on the start; they will take too much food in proportion to the amount of exercise, and it will develop the same unhealthy tendencies that are so noticeable among young pigs when too closely confined to the pens early in the spring.

A very convenient and effective way for inducing young lambs to take exercise when closely confined to the barns by inclement weather is to stick up two or three planks or boards, one end of the plank resting on the ground and the other on the top of the hayrack or any convenient point of support so that the lambs can take a run up and down the plank. It will only be necessary to place the planks; the lambs will understand what they are for inside of twenty minutes, and from that time forward will spend a good share of their spare time in exercising back and forth upon these planks, thus affording them a nice pastime and the fresh, vigorous exercise which they so much need.

It is a wise precaution to take each ewe before she lams and trim from around her udder all the loose locks of wool which may be found clustered there. Young lambs in very apt in their greediness to catch the food to get hold of one of these wool locks and suck it and swallow it before he discovers his mistake. The wool after entering the stomach becomes soaked and expands like a sponge and frequently becomes imbedded in the passage out from the stomach in such a way as to prevent any food from passing from the stomach into the bowels unless it be in a very soft and juicy form. No amount of drenching will remove the obstruction, for the more fluid you put into the stomach the more this lock of wool expands and the tighter it fills the passage in front of it.

There are many lambs lost every spring by neglecting this simple precaution of trimming the ewes' udders. The wool should not be all shorn off the udders, for they are then likely to take cold in them. The loose long locks should be clipped off smoothly and nothing more, so as to leave the rest thoroughly exposed. In case a ewe should chill after lambing a warm ginger tea will be found very effective.

Where the feeding of the flock has been carefully attended to and garget and milk fever rarely occurs.—Breeder's Gazette.

Live Stock Points.

Robert Bonner always has a horse's shoes put on cold. He says, "A hot shoe is a relic of barbarity."

When Robert Bonner paid \$41,000 for Samol she was lame. This fact was not known to Mr. Bonner. He went to see her, examined her feet, ordered some changes made in her shoeing and departed. In a few days the lameness had all disappeared and has never returned. "It's all in the shoeing," says her owner.

Robert Bonner ought certainly to give the world the benefit of his experience in shoeing horses. His system, properly carried out, would revolutionize this business and make millions of horses yet to come thank him for his benefactor if he could know how to talk. Marvin, Samol's attendant, says that if what he has learned from Bonner about a horse's feet had been known twenty years ago the trotting record would have been several pegs lower than it now is. Think about it, Mr. Bonner.

The demand for Shropshire rams for 1891 was unprecedented and in excess of the supply. It shows that sheep breeders are turning to mutton stock and that the Shropshire is getting into first place.

Finely grained meat and small place are the marks of well bred pigs. Small hams, small bones, long back, deep ribs, short legs and well rounded hams.

Poultry well kept pays the best of any domestic live stock.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF A BEEHIVE.

Opinions Expressed by an Apiarist at a Missouri Beekeepers' Convention.

The average apiarist, in speaking of modern progress in beekeeping, is almost sure to place stress on the "hive" as the highest point to be attained in the art of beekeeping. That a certain amount of time and talent should be used in this direction will be agreed to without argument, but to build every energy in this direction I think is mistaken. When we investigate the subject we find that practical beekeepers are succeeding equally well with the many different makes of hives. This fact alone indicates that good management and adaptability to the business overbalance everything else.

A hive to facilitate labor should be simple, easy to manipulate and of reasonable price. If these points are combined they will be almost sure to produce a popular hive. I use the simplicity hive, improved, nine frames eight frames and a division board, fill the brood chamber, use one depth section crates with breakfast honeyboard and section support combined, and follow the tiering up plan for comb honey. For extracted honey use same size brood chambers with perforated zinc queen excluder, and tier up two or three stories high with empty combs, nine combs to the story above the brood chamber.

In taking up the second proposition of my subject, I will be governed by what branch of honey production I want the hive for. If I were working for comb honey exclusively, I could possibly adopt the eight frame hive, but I don't think I would. I do not like a small hive, especially for the general beekeeper. They need closer attention, will furnish more destitute colonies in the fall and more and smaller swarms than hives of larger capacity.

If I were running for extracted honey I would without hesitation recommend a large hive; the only point of limit would be convenience in handling. But for both comb and extracted honey from the same apiary I have adopted a size of hive suited equally well for both kinds of honey, and of uniform size, viz., the nine frame simplicity single walled hive, with chaff hive for winter and early spring protection. In conclusion I want to be liberal, I want to be broad in my make up, and I recommend to the beginner and to those who have not got a movable frame hive with crates to purchase one of these and learn to succeed with it.

Cheapest Feeding Materials.

Linseed cake is the staple food with many farmers. It is not improbable that this article will advance beyond a reasonable price, and the farmer should cast about to see if there is not some food which can be bought so as to pay him better. A good linseed cake is the best food for general purposes, because it contains a fair proportion of the different forms of feeding matter that animals require, and one of its great features is the oil, a substance not strongly represented in grain. An English authority explains that it is only because the feeding constituents are well balanced and that it is preferred to other foods, and if other foods are mixed so as to possess the same properties equally good results are obtained. The oil is the chief difficulty, but that may be easily arranged by buying the linseed instead of linseed cake, for then the whole of the oil is obtained. Linseed contains about four times as much oil as linseed cake, so if in making a mixture we bear this point in mind, the most difficult portion of the problem will be solved. Of course the linseed must be crushed or boiled. To supply the albuminoid matter which is found in the cake we have to turn to the pulse crops—beans, peas, lentils, maize and barley.

Cornmeal Beef.

The object in salting beef is to get it just salt enough to preserve it, and not so salt as to make it hard and dry when cooked. The following is a receipt much used—Cover the meat for twelve hours with brine (brine is made by taking one pound of salt to one gallon of water). Then take it out and wash it in cold water, and press it well with the hands and squeeze out all the blood you can before salting it down. Now throw the bloody brine away. Now make a new pickle, and for 100 pounds of beef, or in the same proportions for other quantities, dissolve six pounds of salt, two pounds of sugar and two ounces of saltpeter in water enough to cover the meat when weighted down; skim it well before pouring it on, and whenever scum arises on it afterward, indicating the beginning of fermentation, scald it, skim it and pour it back when cold. Keep in a cool and well ventilated place. For the south and for keeping far off the summer more salt will be required. Never allow the meat to float up and remain uncovered with brine any longer than is necessary while taking out a piece for use.

Poultry Points.

After burning sulphur in the poultry house (some people use it as a remedy for roup and lice) do not let the chickens out into rain or mist. They will catch cold then very easily, the same as a person who has been taking sulphur.

Don't feed dry oats; scald them well first.

If you want to get eggs, keep the hens from ever getting chilled. This is the biggest "secret" of the egg business.

Don't give food or drink to a fowl for at least twelve hours before killing it.

Ground bone is not only excellent to prevent leg weakness and for the general health, but it encourages egg production immensely.

At the present season the dusting box seems its most valuable purposes.

Whole wheat is fine egg food, but too much of it may cause looseness of the bowels.

Scaly legged fowls are a disgrace to any yard, for they are generally caused by neglect and are easily cured.

If you have birds whose combs frost readily apply a little glycerin to them when the weather is unusually cold.

Per Cent. of Butter.

Somebody with a head for figures has been to the trouble to search out how much butter to the hundred pounds of milk is produced on an average by the creameries in different parts of the world. The result is given in the following table. If the figures are correct, then Manitoba can get most butter out of 100 pounds of milk:

Manitoba.....4.70
Quebec.....4.50
United States.....4.30
Ontario.....4.20
All Europe.....3.50

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