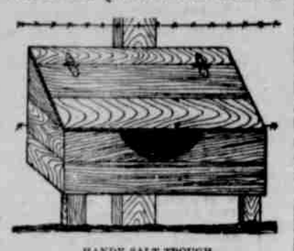
GRAIN AND SALT.

DAIRY COWS ARE HARD WORKED AND SHOULD BE FAVORED IN FEEDING.

Where farm animals are not hard worked and where they can masticate their feed quite satisfactorily without grinding Professor Henry of Wisconsin believes that it is generally economical to feed grain whole, allowing the stock to do its own grinding. On the other hand, where animals are hard worked they should be assisted in regard to the feeds they receive in every way possible by the stockman. A good dairy cow when giving a full flow of milk is an exceedingly hard worked animal and should not be called upon to use much of her energies in masticating and especially in digesting the food she is allowed. Everything which can be reasonably done should be performed for her comfort and convenience. For such cows it is usually better to grind the grain, including both corn and oats. Heifers and cows nearly dry should not receive such concentrates, and such animals can often be given unground corn and oats advantageously. Thus it will be seen that there is no fixed rule



HANDY SALT TROUGH.

in these matters. One must be guided in all cases by the prevailing conditions. In general let it be said that if hardworking animals are receiving much grain the grain should be ground, while for those receiving little grain or that are not worked hard the grain need hardly be ground unless it is unsatisfactory because it is hard or for some other reason. Of course where the grain is not ground shotes should be on hand to get what they can from the voidings.

Dairymen should see that their cans are well provided with saltpeter. Peter Stebens thus tells The Breeder's Gazette about his ingenious method: "I make a box just about the shape of a writing desk with a hole the shape of a half moon just under the cover where the keyhole ought to be. I set it about six inches off the ground and nail it securely to a fence post. I put it close to the ground to keep some animal from getting his head under it and lifting it up. Now fill the box with salt. Cattle are curious. They will examine the box and smell the salt through the half moon hole, poke their noses in and lift the lid. This is the only way to keep the rain from melting the salt and keep the cattle from wasting the salt. I have had one for two years in my pasture and another in my barnyard, and I find them better than any I have ever heard of."

Farm Tests of Cows.

Professor E. H. Farrington of the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station says that at the present time there is not much necessity of urging creameries to use the Babcock test. Within the past five years it has become almost universally adopted as a just and satisfactory means of determining the value of all milk delivered to both creameries and cheese factories in the advanced American dairy states. Creamery patrons can no longer sell milk to the factory by weight only, neither can the factory buy it in this way. It is generally agreed that milk ought not to be bought simply by the pound any more than a cow or a horse. We would all think it absurd to see or hear the statement that horses were quoted in the market at a certain price per pound, but such a statement is not much farther behind the times than the practice of buying and selling milk by weight without testing it. Since the practice of testing all milk at butter and cheese factories has become so well established the justness of the plan has led many farmers to apply the same test to their cows. This, it seems to me, is the direction in which the use of the test should be pushed at the present time. Every farm that supports cows for the purpose of selling their milk ought to be provided with a pair of scales and a Babcock test. By weighing and testing the milk of each cow a sufficient number of times the owner can keep himself informed of the actual performance of each cow. Records of this kind show the relative value of the cows as milk producers and aid in determining the actual profit or loss which should be charged to each cow annually.

At the Connecticut station the best time for grafting the chestnut has been found to be from May 15 to June 15. Whip grafts on small stocks made the best union. Cleft grafting is desirable for large stocks. Foliage should be left around the graft to protect it from the sun's rays. When the grafting is skillfully performed, it can be reasonably expected that about 50 per cent of the scions will grow.

POTATO CULTURE.

A "Happy Medium" System For Which Much Is Claimed.

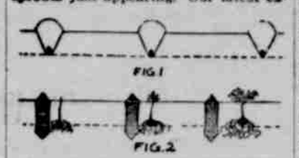
"Happy Medium" is the name bestowed by an Ohio Farmer writer on a system of potato planting for which his claims are by no means small, as may be seen from the following:

The points of superiority which I claim over any other system are: First, adaptability to the different soils of the sections where potatoes are grown, north or south; second, the most perfect system for a change of season to wet or dry weather and the only one that will secure the most profitable results in either case; third, the most even crop of tubers and the finest quality; fourth, the system that is in itself the most effective preventive known for rot and blight and has proven successful for 15 years without an exception.

The following illustration will make plain the many principles of my methods for hand planting, the use of the hand potato planters or two horse potato planters. In the first figure, which is a cross section, the plain line shows the ground level. The straight dotted line is three inches below. The seed pieces are shown in the bottom of the groove. The curved lines show the ridging above the rows. The ground is supposed to be thoroughly fitted and either dragged level or floated till the surface is even and smooth and in perfect condition as to fineness of top soil at least, always using a jointer plow where there is a semblance of grass or sod.

In sandy and loamy soil the seed is planted three inches below general surface of ground. In clay soil depth of planting is decreased to two inches. In each kind the soil is ridged along the row to a height equal to the depth of the seed below the general surface. I plant early potatoes 36 by 18 to 30 inches; late varieties, 36 by 36 inches apart. A ridge is left by the two horse planter directly over the seed of 2½ or 3 inches of soil above the level, or about five inches above the seed piece. In all forms of hand planting we secure this ridge by going through the field with the wings or mold boards on the cultivator several days after the planting and before the potatoes appear.

The next operation is the use of a weeder or drag, and I much prefer a drag with the teeth set shallow or slanting enough not to disturb the seed, for the reason that it does the work more thoroughly at one operation and should leave the field level once more and free from weeds with the potato sprouts just appearing. Our latest ex-



A HAPPY MEDIUM IN POTATO PLANTING.

periments indicate that the use of a harrow or weeder after the appearance of the plants is detrimental in some cases and that the use of the cultivator is better.

The cultivators are started at once, and the soil is worked up fine between the rows to a depth of two inches below the seed piece, allowing the cultivator teeth to run quite deep and close to the roots, as shown in the second figure. Rendering the soil loose around and below the seed piece is the object, as the first roots that form run right around the seed piece and down to the loose soil below. Now if this operation is performed quickly and thoroughly the plant will immediately throw out a second and third set of roots that will seek the lowest depth attained by the cultivator and below, filling all the soil under and around the seed piece very full of small roots. This loosening of the soil should be accomplished by the time the potato tops are not over three inches in height.

Two of the plants in the second figure indicate the condition as it should be at the time the plant makes its first appearance, showing the cultivator teeth within about two inches of the seed piece and below the seed piece level. The third plant indicates the repetition of the first work at a time when the plant is from four to six inches high and at about the same distance from the plant. Each cultivation should be made narrower as the plants grow, so as to keep close to the roots and yet avoid cutting or breaking them.

News and Notes.

Dirty seed endangers the farm by introducing weed seeds. Low priced seed is often poor seed, and it is then far more expensive than a high priced good seed. The price of seed per pound or bushel is no accurate measure of its value. The true value is found by testing the sample and thus determining the per cent of good seed present.

The American Association of Nurserymen will celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary of organization at Chicago June 13 and 14.

As destroyers of many of our most pestiferous night flying insects, like mosquitoes, the bat is almost our sole dependence, and as he is known to hunt insects afoot as well as on the wing he is also of some value for larvæ that do not fly. So says one of the scientists, who also credits the bat with destroying coddling moths.

One of the American agricultural efforts at the Paris exposition will be the introduction of sweet corn as an article of food. This will be through the medium of a "corn kitchen," where the delicacy will be served in many attractive styles.

Beet sugar supersedes cane. In 1899 but 34 per cent of the supply of the world was from cane and 66 per cent from beets.

Value of Skimmilk.

Feeding tests carefully conducted at our experiment stations have demonstrated that a proper proportion of cornmeal fed with skimmilk has given so much better results when fed to pigs than either fed separately that it is good policy to go to the expense of grinding the corn and mixing with the milk instead of throwing out the corn in the ear and giving them the milk to drink. In one of the Wisconsin farmers' institutes when Professor Henry reported the result of his experiments on this subject one old farmer after a little mental calculation exclaimed, "Well, I always knew a bushel of corn to a barrel of milk made good hog feed, but I did not know it was the best." We have all of us known that skimmilk was the best of all foods for young pigs, says a correspondent of The Prairie Farmer, but few of us have fed it to the best possible advantage. Calves can be raised on skimmilk and flaxseed or flaxmeal so that they will be as large at a year old as those raised on whole milk. Where the seed can be obtained at a reasonable price it is far better for this purpose than the meal, as it contains more of the elements that have been taken out of the milk by skimming. One quart of seed put in one gallon of water and boiled for an hour, then slightly thickened with either wheat flour or buckwheat flour, can be used to warm up the milk for six or eight calves, and if these calves are early taught to eat a few oats they can be kept growing right along. When the calf that has run with the cow is weaned, it has to learn to eat and will lose most of its butter fat, while the other is in better condition to face winter and will frequently come out the better animal in the spring.

Severe Laws May Come.

The long contest in Ohio over the anticolor oleo law has been settled by a decision of the supreme court sustaining a statute which prohibits the sale of oleo colored in imitation of butter, says The Breeder's Gazette. Among all fair minded men there is general recognition of the fact that butterine as well as other imitation products or substitutes for articles of diet should be sold to the consumer for exactly what it is. Extremists among the dairymen demand that the manufacture of oleo be prohibited, the favorite proposition being to tax it to death. All extreme legislation on this subject, such as compelling manufacturers to color butterine a hue offensive to the eye, has failed to stand the test of the courts, but there have been strong decisions upholding the right of the state to compel manufacturers to refrain from tinting their product in imitation of the standard butter color. The problem is to discover some means of compelling manufacturers of imitation products to respect the law. If severe measures are adopted, they have only themselves to blame for it.

SILO CONSTRUCTION

HOW TO REDUCE LOSSES TO THE LOWEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT.

Under ordinary conditions the silo is a practical and economical method of preserving fodder, but in its construction one should strive to reduce the losses to the lowest possible amount, writes A. E. Barrett in The American Cultivator. There are very few silos that are absolutely perfect that is, as airtight as a fruit can or jar. That, however, is what every one is laboring to do when he builds one, and the nearer he approaches this ideal the less will his loss prove. The more successful we are in keeping the air from the body of the fodder after it is cut and stored away the less likely will it be to decay or lose any of its nourishing qualities. Leave the fodder exposed to the air, and it dries up, and with the evaporation of the moisture from it a good deal of the nourishing elements will disappear also. If a small loophole is allowed in the silo, destructive fermentation soon begins, and this can be checked only by shutting out the air. Cracks and knotholes are therefore the weak points in every silo, and more than one large mass of ensilage has been ruined through ignorance or neglect of these.

In selecting the corn or other fodder for the silo it is quite essential that it

ENSILAGE CUTTER.

should have arrived at a certain stage of maturity. Chemical changes begin in the silo shortly after the fodder is put in, even if the place is absolutely airtight, and these changes must be allowed for. Fermentation of a certain order must begin, and the heat of the mass will increase so as to cause this. The more water there is in the ensilage the greater will these chemical changes be, and in some instances they would destroy the fiber of the food. Corn cut before it has properly matured, indicated by the glazing or denting of the kernel, has too much water in it to make good ensilage. When pressed into the silo, the water is forced out of the stalks and settles gradually at the bottom of the mass. This great mass of water at the bottom of the silo always causes trouble and in nine cases out of ten produces sour ensilage. Sometimes the sourness may not extend far up, but it is pretty sure to cause more or less mischief.

Besides this, young corn fodder is deficient in the full amount of nutriment. On the other hand, if we let the corn get much beyond the stage of maturity indicated there will not be sufficient water in it to preserve it. The stalks will be stiff and unyielding, and they will not be pressed down solid enough to make a compact mass. The result will be that there will be too much air in the silo, and mold is very apt to form. These few points in regard to the silo should be watched and guarded against carefully if we would have perfect ensilage for next winter's feeding.

Cement Floor For Cow Stables.

We think the best floor for the stable is a cement floor made nearly level, but with a slight slope from front to rear and but a shallow gutter at the lower side to carry away liquids to some point where they will discharge into the manure heap or into a cistern provided to receive them. We prefer the former plan when practicable, says The American Cultivator. Then for each stall we would cut timber about two inches square and as long as the stall was wide and on three of these nail plank as long as the animal we expected to stand on them, with a narrow space between the planks to allow the liquids to drain through to the cement floor. These stall floors we would have so that they could be shoved under the manger at the upper end to accommodate a longer or shorter animal. With the two inch joist and two inch plank we would have a drop of four inches behind each animal, and the length being just right this would be enough for purposes of cleanliness. Thus we should have a plank floor for the animals to stand upon and beneath it a floor that would not absorb moisture or retain unpleasant odors, one that we could sweep or even wash when we desired and one that would be likely if properly made to outlast many of the plank stall floors.

Dry Fodder.

When pasture is at its very best, we would feed little or no grain, but add good hay, clover preferred, in its place, says Hoard's Dairyman. We have long advocated the feeding of some dry fodder in connection with pasture and silage. This was done partly on theoretical grounds and partly because we have noticed in our own herd the craving of the cows for some dry fodder and that they apparently did as well when thus fed as when they received grain. Our own opinions were very fully confirmed by some accurate experiments made by Professor Sanborn in New Hampshire. Of course when the pasture becomes short and dry it is expedient to add more or less grain, and under the circumstances and the prices given by our Missouri friend we would use equal parts by weight of bran and gluten feed, the amount to be allowed daily to be governed by circumstances.

UNPROFITABLE FRAUD.

How Unscrupulous Cheesemakers Have Injured the Business.

Not far from 260,000,000 pounds of cheese are produced in this country annually. New York has nearly 2,000 factories, turning out 76,000,000 pounds during the past year. Other heavy producing states are Vermont, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin and Illinois. The New York state output dropped nearly 60,000,000 pounds in seven years, says The Rural New Yorker. This is largely due to the fact that makers of inferior grades have counterfeited well known brands, thus bringing them into disrepute. This has done the greatest damage to our foreign trade. If a producer who has taken the trouble to make a grade of uniform excellence has no protection against his brand being stolen and put on a lot of poor stuff, he is apt to become discouraged and either go to making a poorer grade or quit altogether. While we have been making low grade and filled cheese Canada has been improving her product, which has gradually taken the place of ours in the English market, and the number of factories in Canada has increased from a few hundred to nearly 2,000. Canadian exporters have bought in upper New York large quantities of cheese, shipped it to Liverpool as Canadian product and received a higher price than the same grades brought under American brands. Within the last year or two we have been waking up to these facts. Our product is being improved, and efforts are being made to secure legislation which will thoroughly protect labels. Illinois makes most of the filled cheese. The output last year was about 2,000,000 pounds. The makers have to pay an annual license of $400 and a tax of a cent per pound additional.

Starters.

Commercial cultures, or starters, have only been in use some five or six years, and yet their use has extended to almost all civilized countries.

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Dairy Points.

At the Dairy institute at Springfield, Mass., Professor Cooley said:

The feed does not affect the richness of the milk. You cannot tell by the looks of milk how rich it is.

We cannot afford to run cows on half time.

To get high grade milk brush the cows before milking, and it is advised by many that the udders be clipped.

Manage to have the cows come fresh, so as to maintain a uniform supply throughout the year.

It is claimed that summer silage will stop summer shrinkage.

Overalls should be clean. Don't have them stiffened with dairy starch.

Don't make a strainer do too much work. Have a fresh one for every ten or a dozen cows.

Cool the milk and keep it at a given temperature.

Care, cleanliness and cold are the three "c's" of milk production.

The German dairymen have a stall which seems nearly perfect. The platform is just the right length for the cow, and behind it is a deep ditch of six or eight inches, with a ledge part way down, so that the cow in slipping off does not slip clear to the bottom. The cows soon learn to stand out of the ditch and keep perfectly clean.

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