SAVE MUCH BY USING MANURE

PRESENT CONDITIONS BRING ECONOMY

Hints Given by Department of Agriculture to Show Profitable Handling of Offal When Applied to Land.

Have you any idea how much stable manure—probably the best fertilizer in the world—is wasted in the United States every year?

Figuring on the basis of commercial fertilizer values, each horse or mule produces each year $27 worth of manure; each head of cattle $20 worth; each hog $8 worth, and each sheep $5. Going back 10 years and taking the figures out about $2,461,000,000. Estimates by the United States Department of Agriculture indicate that probably about a fourth of this is wasted.

Farmers are constantly confronted with the problem of maintaining soil fertility. At this time, following the war period when as unusual strain was placed on American farms, the problem is more acute than usual and the waste of manure assumes a more serious aspect.

Much Could Be Saved.

Of course, all the manure cannot be saved. Some of it, at the best, must be lost. But millions of dollars worth of it could be saved with practically no added expense and with comparatively little outlay of time and effort.

The cheapest and best way to handle manure, where convenient, is to haule it to the field and spread it daily, or at least every two or three days. In this way, if plenty of bedding be used, practically all the valuable constituents of the manure are saved, since leaching after the manure is on arable land merely serves to put the fertilizing materials where they ought to be. In this way, too, loss through heating, or "firefanging," is avoided.

Many farmers, however, are not so situated as to make it profitable for them to handle manure in this way. For such farmers the concrete manure pit offers an ideal way of saving manure. Such a pit need not entail great expense. A pit 3 feet deep, 12 feet long, and 6 feet wide, with walls and floors 5 inches thick, will serve the needs of the average farm. In ground that does not cave in, only an inside form will be needed for such a pit, except where the concrete extends a few inches above the ground to prevent flooding by surface water. The floor should be reinforced with woven-wire fencing, put in after about 2 inches of cement has been laid, the section of fencing being cut long enough to bend up a few inches at either end into the side walls. When the reinforcing has been put in, the remaining 3 inches of the floor is laid and the forms for the side walls set up and used immediately. Use one part cement, two of sand, and four of screened gravel. A pit of this kind is large enough to hold the accumulation of manure on the average farm until such a time as it can be hauled conveniently to the field and spread.

Another good way to save manure, especially in the case of hogs or of beef cattle, is to have a concrete-paved feed lot, preferably under a shed roof. Where the farmer cannot afford a paved floor, a cheap open feeding shed may be made to serve the purpose very well, if abundant bedding is used to absorb the valuable liquid manure. In such a feeding lot or shed the manure is allowed to gather under the feet of the animals, each day's bedding being strewn over the well-tramped accumulation belw. Some farmers using this system arrange their feed racks so that they can be raised from time to time, making it possible to feed till several feet of solidly packed manure has accumulated under the shed. It has been shown that manure suffers little from heating and leaching when handled in this way.

Advantage of Feeding Shed.

The feeding shed serves the purpose of giving the general farm, or the beef cattle farm, something of the advantage in the matter of manure saving held by the intensive dairy farm. It has been shown by Farm Management surveys that the manure saved on the American farm under present conditions is almost exactly proportional to the number of animals fed under cover on the farm, and that the manure of animals not stabled hos very little effect on yields, except in cases where field crops are "hogged-off" or otherwise pastured down or where pasture is used in a rotation.

BOY-GIRLS EARN $33,095

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Feb. 19.—Oregon club boys and girls—2593 of them—produced during 1919 livestock, goods, and other products valued at corn, potatoes, garden truck, canned $66,095.02, according to the annual report of H. C. Seymour, state leader of boys' and girls' clubs. Net earnings of $33,095.40 are shown after deducting for labor, rent, purchase of animals and all other materials.

These figures are based on reports of the club boys and girls who actually completed their work out of the 13,000 enrolled at the beginning of the year. Every county in the state was represented.

The pork production project shows the greatest profit with $6,625.75 cleared from 147 market hogs and 52 brood sows.

The vegetable gardening project ranked second in value, 470 members showing a profit of $6,267.10. The 293 poultry club members raised 4,702 chickens, 46 turkeys, and 150 ducks, and sold 2348 dozen eggs, making a total profit of $4,439.81. Canning club girls canned 9479 quarts of fruit, 3461 quarts of vegetables, and 568 quarts of meat and fish besides drying 434 pounds of fruit and vegetables with a net earning of $3,701.24. Sheep and wool raised by club boys and girls valued at $1,457.21, cost them $756.98 making a profit of $700.25. Calf club members who cleared $1,427.50, own calves worth $4,477.50. Girls in the sewing clubs made 4344 different articles at a profit of $1,158.16. Cooking club members, boys as well as girls, learned to prepare and serve meals and bake bread as good as mother makes. Their profit was $1,269.67.

SPEAKING OF BUREAUS

BIG CALL FOR U. S. CLOVER

During February the question of purchasing clover seed and planning the acreage to be seeded this spring will be under consideration. Clover seed is high priced and scarce, and good samples will command prices that many farmers will be loathe to pay. The United States Department of Agriculture, however, urges the seeding of as large an acreage as possible. The best information obtainable shows that the foreign market is quite as bare of clover seed as is our own. This means that clover seed will be high for at least two years to come if not more, and those farmers who seeded last spring or who seed in 1920 will have a chance to sell their clover seed crop at a good figure. This is a time to look ahead, and for American farmers to get the benefit of the high prices, before Europe has been able to get back to normal production and the prices fall.

Watch Quality of Seed.

In view of the high price of clover seed, it is especially important that farmers pay careful attention to the quality of seed they buy. The relation between the purity and germination of a sample of clover seed and its value to the farmer has been so frequently discussed that it is not necessary to enter into details. The only way to decide this is to secure samples and quotations from reliable firms, and have the seed analyzed by the State seed laboratory or by the seed laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The attention of farmers is also called very especially to the fact that French and Italian seed has been and is being imported into this country and that the experiments indicate that this seed will produce a plant more subject to disease and less hardy under our American conditions than plants from our own seed.

In sections where there is no disease and if the winter is moderate a successful stand of cloved may be secured with imported seed but the chances against success are always greater than when using American seed. Farmers are urged, therefore, to insist upon a statement showing where the seed offered them was harvested.

It is also a time to consider with more than usual care the means necessary for getting the most out of the seed sown. It will not pay to throw expensive seed on poorly prepared ground as was so often done when clover seed was cheap. The seed bed should be well prepared. The best way is not to sow the seed in early spring on the wheat but to harrow it in on the wheat or to seed with a spring grain in a well prepared seed bed. Seeding alone without a companion or nurse grain crop will often be better, but not always. If seeding must be done on rather worn soil, it is better to seed alone especially if the field is not very weedy. If a special seed bed is prepared it should be well compacted. A freshly plowed and harrowed field is too open for the best results. The soil must be compacted or the seed bed will dry out before the young plants get their roots down far enough.

Good clover crops lie at the foundation of agriculture in the northeastern quarter of the United States. On many farms good clover crops can not be produced without lime, but lime alone will not permanently help the situation. A proper system of rotation with clover as a regular element in a three or four year rotation must be adopted for the permanent upbuilding of the land, and then whatever else the land needs in the way of lime or fertilizer must be added thereto.

SPUD GROWERS INCORPORATE

FARMERS ORGANIZE COMPANY WITH $10,000 CAPITALIZATION, WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE OF OLD ASSOCIATION.

Filing of articles of incorporation for an organization which may eventually take the place of the Deschutes Valley Potato Growers association, was announced today. The Central Oregon Potato Growers corporation is the name of the new organization and J. F. Rice, F. M. Wallace, J. A. Marsh, Gus E. Stadig, and M. G. Coe are the incorporators. Capital stock amounts to $10,000, and is issued in shares of $100 face value.

A belief that a corporation can more efficiently handle the marketing of Central Oregon grown potatoes than can a cooperative association, underlies the filing of the articles by the five men named; all of whom were influential members of the association. The articles permit the leasing of land and construction of warehouses, making possible the storing of potatoes for high prices.

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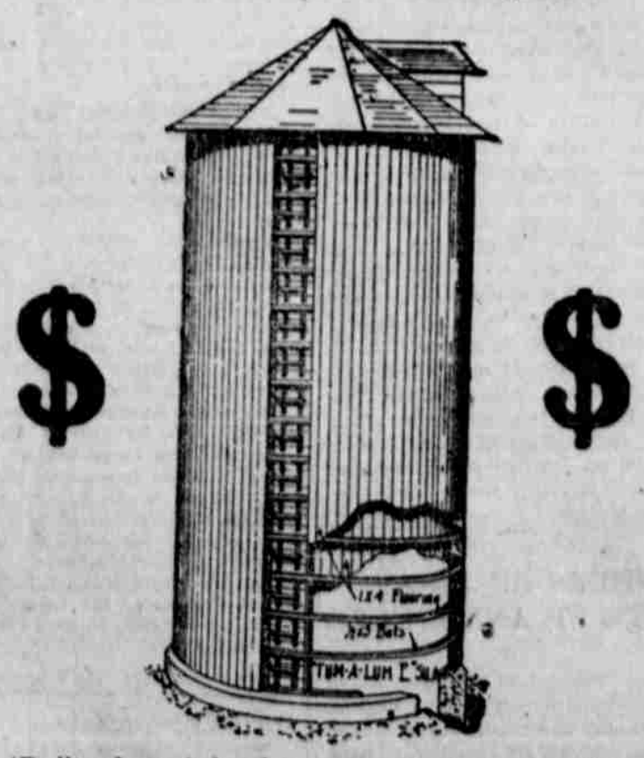

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INSIDE coated with "Reynolds Silo Coating," an acid proof preservative.

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To be a Better Farmer you must know about farming.

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SEND $1.00 to D. L. JAMISON, County Agent, Redmond, Oregon, for Membership in the Farm Bureau

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