

CARE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS SAVES MANY REPAIR BILLS

Plow, Basic Tillage Tool, Entitled To Proper Care When Not in Use—Should Be Stored in Dry Place—Some Simple Rules for Preventing Deterioration.

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

In this day of complicated machinery most farmers probably give little thought to the care of so simple an implement as a plow. But more effort has been expended in the slow process of developing this seemingly simple tool than in that of any other implement on the farm. It is the basic tillage tool, the fundamental farm implement, and it is richly entitled to be properly cared for when not in use.

Should Be Stored in Dry Place

When laid by, say the implement experts, the plow should, if possible, be stored in a dry place, away from contact with the ground. In any case, the bright parts should always be coated with grease to prevent rust. Once the mold board and share have become pitted with rust, an efficient job of plowing can not be done until the corroded parts again have acquired a polish by use.

prevent rust. The paint, particularly on the wooden parts, should be renewed frequently.

Get the Mower Under Shelter

Mowers, more generally than plows and harrows, are put under shelter, but many of them spend the winter at the edge of the meadow where the last cutting of hay was made, and in most cases they are not properly greased, even when sheltered. Get the mower under shelter if possible. In any case, clean the knife bar, wipe it with a greasy rag, and store in a dry place. Place a block of wood or other support under the mid-point of the tongue, so that it will not acquire a permanent sag. If the mower is stored with the cutter bar in a vertical position, place a block of wood under the shoe to take the weight off the frame. All accumulations of vegetable matter and dirt should be removed and all bearings and other bright parts of the machine oiled or greased. Much



The United States Department of Agriculture, of course, does not stop with the plow in its admission in this regard. Harrows, also relatively simple but tremendously important implements, are, next to plows, most generally neglected. Many farmers who would not neglect an expensive harvesting machine, say the experts, are careless as to harrows and other implements of this type. But these, also, represent capital invested, and a larger return is possible if they are properly cared for at the end of the season.

If harrows are stored under a shed the teeth should be supported by blocks or boards, so that they will not become embedded in the ground. All accumulations of earth and trash should be removed. This is especially applicable to wooden-frame harrows. The earthy accumulations retain moisture and accelerate decay. When the wooden parts have dried out sufficiently they should be painted, to prevent season checking and splitting. As the harrow works in wet earth and close to the ground, deterioration is rapid once checking has started.

If the disk harrow is stored in a shed or other floorless building, the disk gangs should be run upon boards so the disks will not become embedded in the ground. Whether housed or not, the implement should be carefully cleaned of all accumulations of soil, and the disks should be greased with a heavy grease to

the same rules apply to reapers and binders.

The time to care for each implement is when its work is finished. Pressure of other work, however, frequently makes this inconvenient, but nothing should be allowed to interfere with getting all machinery greased, and, if possible, under cover before the beginning of winter. Then as early in the winter as you can find time for it, go over every piece and see what repairs are needed. If new parts have to be ordered, order them at once. A great deal of valuable time is lost every spring waiting for repair parts to arrive from the city.

The best possible use should be made of such housing space as is available, and grease and paint should be used without stint. Any bearings and bright parts well protected with heavy grease is better off out in the weather than standing in a shed without any protection by grease or oil.

The United States Department of Agriculture has two bulletins—Farmers' Bulletin 946 and Farmers' Bulletin 947—devoted to the repair and adjustment of farm implements. With all implements safely sheltered for the winter, you have time to write for these bulletins and to use the information they contain in putting your implements and machines in the best possible condition for next crop season.

BEST HERD DOUBLES AVERAGE

Just 25 2-3 pounds of fat was the average of the 5000 cows in the September cow testing work in Oregon, while the best herd yielded nearly double the amount—46.63 tons have been selected and tested pounds. Some herds in the association for several years, thereby becoming better than average producers. Hence it is seen that the best herd probably more than doubled the Oregon average. The winning herd belongs to Baker Brothers, of Smith-Umpqua group.

RABBIT POISONING

The boys in charge of the poisoning campaign against rabbits have gone to the OO ranch. A man came in yesterday and took them out with a part of their equipment and another car will take out supplies in a day or two. Messrs. Russell Ferguson and Albert Swain constitute the "squad" at present. Mr. Eldridge having been transferred to Malheur county.

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY ADVANCED

A farm crops system that will greatly increase the productive capacity of central Oregon sage brush lands is being worked out at the Harney county branch experiment station by Obil Shattuck, superintendent. Yields of 50 to 85 bushels of wheat per acre, with abundant yields of oats, field peas, alfalfa and sunflowers, were obtained from practical irrigation this season. Production of a volume of feeds for wintering enlarged and improved herds that summer on the range, will increase profits and reduce losses and hazards, adding to the prosperity of the region and the state, says James T. Jardine, director of experiment stations.

FALL FRESHENING BEST

Cows freshening in the fall give from 10 to 20 per cent more milk than if they had freshened in the spring or summer, says E. B. Pitts, O. A. C. and federal dairy field man for Oregon, in his report on September cow testing. The herd that led all the others averaged 910 pounds of milk with 46.63 pounds of fat, while the average for 5000 cows reported was only 533 pounds of milk with 25.62 pounds of fat. This was the Smith-Umpqua herd in which a large part of the cows were freshened in the fall.

TIMELY FARM HINTS

Pruning may be started as soon as the leaves have fallen in western Oregon. The trees are dormant at this time and may be safely pruned. In eastern Oregon the pruning may not be done safely until late winter or early spring on account of the cold.—Horticultural, O. A. C.

Potatoes are best when allowed to lie in the ground for 2 or 3 weeks after growing has ceased. This gives them a chance to mature.—Farm Crops, O. A. C.

The Beaver creek district of Linn county will be a scene of a large drainage project if the present plans are carried out. W. L. Powers and W. Cretcher of the soils department have made a preliminary survey of the project and report that 2000 acres of fertile land could be drained very easily.—Soils, O. A. C.

Nursery stock should be carefully examined for disease before planting. Especial care should be taken to see that no borers have entered the roots or stems of the plant. Many new and serious pests have been introduced through lack of inspection of the nursery stock by buyers.—Entomology, O. A. C.

If the invitation of the members of the western naturalists of Oregon Agricultural college is accepted, the meeting of the north western division will be held on the campus at Thanksgiving time. The scientists read papers on and discuss biological subjects. O. A. C. has more members on the staff than any other institution on the coast.—Plant Pathology, O. A. C.

"The way of the transgressor is hard"—but no harder than he makes it himself.

Andrew Carnagle tried desperately hard to give away his great wealth and die a poor man, and he almost succeeded. His estate has been recently appraised and is valued at the insignificant sum of \$23,000,000.

Foreign diplomats accredited to this country are warmly welcomed and soon find themselves possessed of hordes of friends. It has been officially ruled that booze shipped to them from abroad is not subject to seizure.

RURAL FAMILIES FAVORED

Nearly every farm family in 14 Oregon counties will have an opportunity to attend the farmers week of their own this winter. This will give them a chance to hear their most vital problems considered by agricultural college specialists who know most about the subjects. Dates have been tentatively fixed as follows: Lane, Linn and Polk counties, December 13-18; Douglas, Josephine and Jackson, January 3-8; Columbia, Multnomah and Washington, January 10-15; Deschutes, January 17-22; Morrow and Wasco, January 24-29; Union and Malheur, January 31 February 5. These meetings will be held at the headquarters of the county agent, in most counties at the county seat.

A squib writer, probably speaking from experience, remarks that some people marry for love and remain married for spite. And some, we might add, hitch up for money and unhitch as soon as they get it.

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