

Better Drainage of Barnyards

It is more or less a deplorable fact that many barnyards at certain seasons of the year are practically impassable. The condition of many barnyards and feed lots during the muddy weather of early spring is such that it used to be said a man should not feed cattle unless he could wade in mud "knee deep."

In many cases the condition of the yards could be greatly improved by a little provision for better drainage, especially in localities where the surface of the land is such that the barnyard and feed lots cannot be located on a hillside with ample surface drainage.

The successful drainage of a barnyard must receive consideration other than that involved in the practice of land drainage. This is due primarily to the fact that the continued tramping of the stock over the surface has a puddling action and tends to make the surface waterproof.

Problems Met.

This action is more noticeable with some soils than with others; in this connection it should be stated that a gravelly soil makes by far the best location for a barnyard, but, of course, this cannot be obtained often. However, the selection of the barnyard should always be given attention by the stockman.

He should be careful to place the yards and lots where the best surface drainage may be obtained. Often much can be accomplished by a little grading and stockmen and farmers should make use of the proper changes in the surface and grade to produce the best results. I have observed many yards which could be

greatly improved with little work and at little cost.

The surface should not only shed the water to the proper places, where it may be taken into tile catch basins or onto the soil, which will permit the water to filter through to the tile underneath, but should also prevent any flow of surface water onto the barnyard. Often the latter point is one which is neglected, yet is so easily provided against. There is no need, whatever, in any case, of allowing surface water to flow into the yards from the outside.

Adjoining Land.

The thorough drainage of the adjoining land has a marked effect upon the condition of the barnyard. If the barnyard is not too big it cannot get into a very bad condition if the surrounding land is thoroughly drained.

Although the surface of the soil may become puddled it is hardly possible that it will become perfectly waterproof and there will be some filtration through. If the soil is inclined to be open, one need not hesitate to put in tile lines through the lot proper for such lines will give good results.

The water from the barns and other buildings should not be allowed to flow onto the surface of the yards, but it should be led directly into the tile lines. The buildings, therefore, must be provided with eave spouts.

There are those who maintain that thorough drainage of a barnyard permits a loss of fertility in the manure washed away. The objection is not well founded, however. It is reasonable that with a good, firm and dry barnyard, less manure will be lost than where the mud is knee deep.

Separating Profitable From Unprofitable Cows

Undoubtedly half of the cows upon farms other than those composing the large modernly operated dairies, are kept at a loss. This includes the ordinary dairyman's animals, as well as the farmer's herd and the home dairy animal or animals. There are few cow owners who know the exact producing power of their stock. They know that some of the animals give more and better milk than the others, but they have no idea whether the best cows they possess are yielding them a profit or loss.

The keeping of even a single animal that does not yield a sufficient return to pay for the food consumed is an unnecessary expenditure. It costs no more to keep a cow that gives 6000 pounds of milk annually than one yielding but 4000 pounds. It is the cow that gives the greatest return for the food consumed that the dairyman should consider. Dairymen at its best is run on a narrow margin of profit.

What makes one cow better than another is the inborn tendency to produce and the care she receives. No matter how well an animal is cared for, if heavy production is not a part of her composition she will never be profitable. On the other hand, there are thousands of excellent animals that are not given an opportunity to do their best. Improper feeding and sloven care are keeping them in the class of small producers. The care the ordinary herd receives is not conducive to great results. The best cattle will not become profitable if ill treated, poorly fed and improperly attended.

It is impossible to tell from an animal's outward appearance what she is capable of doing. A cow may have every sign that smacks of heavy yielding and still fall far short of being a profitable individual. Then again the worst looking old scrub of an animal may be the greatest producer of the herd. Outward appearances count for little. It is the actual production that counts for something. Dairy cattle are very deceptive in their conformation and the best judge of stock cannot tell what a cow is capable of doing when it comes to yielding milk.

In separating the poorer animals from the good ones the dairyman should first bring the entire herd up to its greatest producing power through careful and proper feeding and the best of care. When every cow is given the opportunity to produce at her best, then the real test of producing power can be given through the use of the scales to ascertain the quantity and the use of the Babcock test to find the fat yield. As fat is the most valuable part of

the milk, the value of an animal is best indicated by the number of pounds of fat she produces. To find the amount of fat a cow produces one must know the pounds of milk she yielded and the percentage of fat the milk contains.

The Buzzard Speaks to the War Aeroplane.

Circle and circle and circle and swing.
Great white brother with great white wing!
Circle for circle my own wings black.
Following your spiralling, airy track!
Over the city I watch your stoop.
Where shivering man things huddle and cling
Like frightened chicks at the gray hawk's swoop.
Quick, from your steely talons fling
The scattering death in the crowded coop.
For my crew is empty and hungering.
Circle and circle and circle and swing.
Great white brother with great white wing!

Circle and circle and circle and swing.
Great white brother with great white wing!
From what weird nest, from what strange egg broke,
Do you mount through the shimmering drifts of smoke?
And what is the flaming seed you sow,
As over the man-packed field you soar,
That blooms in death on the earth below;
That strews the soil that you hover o'er
With richer feast than my beak might know
In many a weary year before?
Circle and circle and circle and swing.
Great white brother with great white wing!

Circle and circle and circle and swing.
Man-hatched brother with tireless wing!
Circle for circle with wings outspread,
I follow, hovering overhead.
You are the pilot bird for me
Guiding to richer gorging still;
I circle and wait here hungrily
And what my beak as I wait your kill!
I wait till the red feast lies for me
To settle and perch and gulp my fill.
Circle and circle and circle and swing.
Giver of food and guide to the feast,
You are a god, and I your priest.
Man-hatched brother with tireless wing.
—Dean Collins, in Portland Oregonian.

Contentment.

When I could boast of thirty waist
And forty chest, I wore
The bottom button buttoned, in
The way young men adore.
But now, with sixty waist, that scheme
Alas, I'm forced to stop,
I hold my coat together with
The button at the top.

Don't pity me for huge waist line
(The reason is a cinch.)
For when I think of "cents" I've had,
I love each blissful inch.
—H. S. Haskins, in New York Sun.

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10 acres, one mile from high school, at Hillsboro, Or., on main rock road; woven wire fence; small 1-room shack; two large chicken houses; all kinds of fruit trees, small fruit and berries. This place is worth \$3000, but can be purchased for \$2250; \$1000 cash will handle.

A FINE BUY

13 acres at Middleton, Or., on main rock road; 1¼ acres in cultivation, 1½ acres in timber; young orchard and all kinds of berries; good 4-room house and large, fine barn; buildings all painted. Price \$3900; \$2000 cash will handle.

This Man Wants a Larger Farm in Willamette Valley

25 acres just outside of Middleton, Or., 22 acres in cultivation, balance in pasture; all seeded for spring; good 6-room house, large barn and all outbuildings; 1-4 mile to school. With place goes 4 cows, 3 heifers, 1 team, 300 Leghorn chickens, wagon, buggy, mower, rake, plow, harrow, disc, fan-mill, cream separator and household goods. Cordwood for 3 years. Also has 8 acres rented, seeded and rent paid. Price \$7500. Will trade for larger place up to \$9000, or will sell on easy terms.

80 acres 5 miles from Molalla, 15 acres in cultivation, 15 acres more slashed and goated, balance in timber; fine creek and 3 springs; small house and outbuildings; fenced and cross fenced. Price \$2400; \$500 cash will handle, balance long time at 6 per cent interest.

400 acres 7 miles southwest of Dufur, Or., 3 miles to R. R. station; partially fenced; 320 acres tillable, balance fine pasture; rich black soil, will grow anything; fine creek flows through the land. Price is \$15 per acre; can be purchased on easy terms.

A SNAP

270 acres Willamette river bottom land, steamboat landing on the place; all under woven-wire fence and cross-fenced; extra large barn and good house. This place is worth \$20,000, but can be purchased if taken at once for \$13,000; \$5000 cash, balance easy terms. Full particulars on application.

John E. Howard

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