

FARM TOPICS

VENTILATED MOWS KEEP HAY BETTER

False Floors, Open Sides, Found Good Practice.

Supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

Better ventilation of hay stored in mows offers two practical advantages to farmers, tests by the bureau of chemistry and soils indicate. Well ventilated hay keeps its quality better. It does not get so hot and there is less danger of fire from spontaneous heating. Mows with false floors to allow air to circulate under the piled hay, and mows with one or two open sides formed by studding are two devices for improving ventilation of stored alfalfa hay. Both worked well in practical tests. Good ventilation is particularly desirable if hay is not well cured and has to be put in the mow with more moisture than is desirable.

The bureau of chemistry and soils found that hay within about six feet of an open face retained its quality better than hay farther in. Dividing large mows into small compartments by means of alleyways formed by studding, is suggested. Each compartment should not be over approximately 12 feet wide, with at least two exposed sides parallel to each other, thus bringing all the hay within a distance of six feet of an open face where moisture and heat may escape.

For "under ventilation" a "false floor" of two-by-eight timbers on edge with two-by-four scantlings laid across them was tested. In piles up to 15 feet high, the hay kept better and did not get so hot as similar hay piled flat on the mow floor.

These ventilation experiments are part of the investigation of the spontaneous heating of hay which the bureau of chemistry and soils has had under way for several years. The tests were all with alfalfa hay, most of them with hay moister than farmers prefer to put in the mow. When hay was stored with less than 30 per cent of moisture it kept well. Hay of a distinct brown color resulted when the moisture content of the hay as stored exceeded approximately 30 per cent. Ventilated storage had a good effect on hay quality since it reduced the quantity of brown and moldy hay produced.

Plumage of Hen Reveals Egg-Producing Capacity

There was a time when farmers sold their ragged and faded birds because of their unsightly appearance and kept the slick-coated, yellow-legged individuals because of their attractiveness. That time is past and the practice is now reversed, asserts a poultryman in the Boston Globe.

The persistence of production is measured very largely by the condition of the plumage during the summer and fall. If the hen lays regularly she usually retains her old feathers, but if for any reason other than sickness or broodiness she stops laying, the feathers begin to drop. This brings on the condition we know as molting.

The order in which the feathers fall is first from the neck, then the back, body, wings and tail. The neck molt is rather common at any season of the year, even in good layers, but if the molt progresses to the back, the primary feathers of the wing generally molt also. The stage is seldom reached unless the hens have entirely ceased laying. Cessation of laying is likely to bring on a general molt.

Removing Groundhogs

Where groundhogs have become troublesome around ditch banks and embankments they may be gassed in their dens by using either carbon disulphide or calcium cyanide, says George D. Jones of the Missouri College of Agriculture. A small amount of either chemical may be placed in the entrance of each tunnel and the openings closed with dirt.

"Producers' Grade" of Eggs

Eggs sold at auction ungraded for size, but of a quality referred to as "extra" or better, are sold without grading at the auction as "producers' grade." The "extra" quality referred to is the second grade, specials. All eggs in "producers' grade" must have clean, sound shells, air cells 1/4 inch or less, yolk may be visible, while firm and clear, with no visible germ development, no blood spots, and eggs must be uniform in shape.

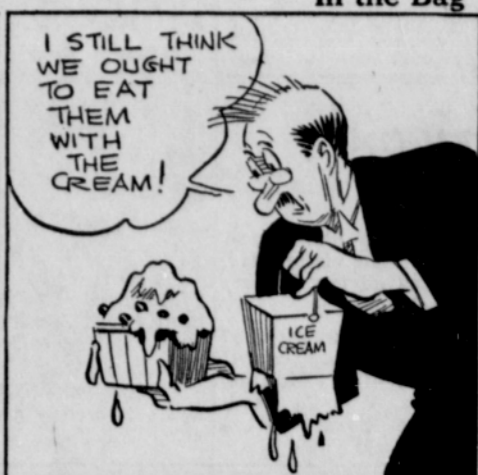
No Tails—No Wails

Sheepmen in the Uvalde section of Texas are using rubber bands instead of surgery to bob lambs' tails, according to information received by the B. F. Goodrich company. The newest method of tail bobbing involves only the tight application of a rubber band in the right location which stops circulation. After a time the tail drops off, saving expense, time, and trouble for ranchmen and some pain and possible infection for the lambs.

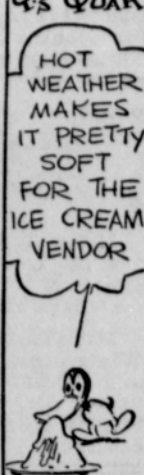
Fun for the Whole Family

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



In the Bag



SMATTER POP—Mister Sand Man, Come and Get This Young Fellow!

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



Maybe He Missed the Detour



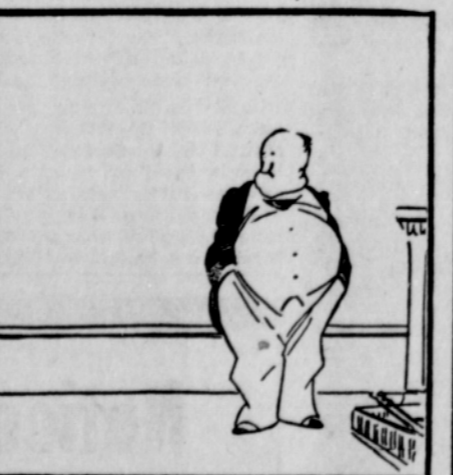
FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin



POP— Sorry, Can't Oblige

By J. MILLAR WATT



The Curse of Progress



Insult

The three street musicians labored through several popular songs and disbanded for a few moments to take up a collection. One knocked on the door of a near-by house. A gruff man appeared and thundered: "Well what do you want?" "I've come for a little gratuity." "Gratuity! Why, my good man, I thought you came to apologize."—Denver Post.

World Travelers

"And what did you think of Venice?" "Venice?" repeated Mrs. Greening. Then she turned to her husband. "Did we go to Venice, George?" "We stopped there, but there was a flood on: so we didn't leave the station."

Logical

Leo—Say, Bill, if you had five bucks in your pocket, what would you think? Bill—I'd think I had on somebody else's pants.

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

