

A MUD SICK DOCTOR.

Physician's Suggestion to Improve an Ohio County's Roads.

In Morrow county, O., we are very poorly provided with pike roads, says Dr. D. B. Virtue of Iberia, O., in the Auto Advocate and Country Roads, outside of the incorporated villages here are perhaps ten or twelve miles of pike and some indifferent gravel roads. Mostly the roads are earth roads, which in many months are equivalent to mortar beds. However, the number of people who advocate good roads is steadily increasing, so that the enemies of good roads now say, "Something of the kind will be done sooner or later." They hope that it will be later on account of an increase in taxation which would necessarily follow. My idea of what should be done here (Morrow county) is something as follows:

In this township—in fact, all over this county—there is an abundance of sandstone of the kind commonly spoken of as Berea grit; also a good supply of fair quality gravel. Now, if the roads were well graded and dished with good large curbers where curbers are needed and an earth track constructed at one side and a broken stone and gravel track at the other, we would have good roads comparatively cheap. Of course this sandstone and gravel road should be well rolled as it is laid down and when finished only slightly higher than the earth track. I am well acquainted with the limestone pike roads built in recent years in two adjoining counties—Marion and Crawford—and know that most of them are built too high and too thin and are not rolled. Being loose, they rut immediately. Being high, it is not easy to drive from one track to another, and they spread easily. And being thin I fear they will not stand service well.

As to cost, I believe good sandstone and gravel roads can be built in this region for \$1,500 per mile. I think this should be borne by the adjoining property owners, the township, the county and the state, each paying 25 per cent of cost, and then maintained by the township. As to the United States government paying a part, let the government pay one-half the cost of constructing good roads of double width (about twenty feet between points of military importance).

In conclusion, as a mud sick country doctor, I should rejoice to see the roads improved by "any old plan."

EVER ACTIVE ALFALFA.

A Missionary Returns (in Thought) From a Strenuous Field.

Since reform is the watchword of the hour I think I will try it this season. For ten years I have been growing alfalfa and preaching its wonderful qualities to every listening ear, and while preaching I have tried to be consistent in practicing and have never, like some foolish fellows, advocated putting the whole farm in alfalfa, for I have always said and still believe that half is enough.

Now, in the future I'm going to tell all the faults and disadvantages of alfalfa and let people find out the good for themselves, says an Ohio correspondent in National Stockman.

How It Goes.

If you sow alfalfa you may destroy your peace of mind and bring down your gray hairs in sorrow to the grave. You will be chained to your plow like a galley slave to his oar. When you get some corn planted and are interested in the first working about the 1st of June you will find the alfalfa blooming, and it must be cut at once or it will be woody and tough, and stock will not like it. Then in July, when the thrashing is done and you begin to plow for a rotation, there is the second crop ready to cut, and you won't get even a day to go fishing.

About the 1st of August, when, if ever, a man ought to have a little leisure and time to attend camp meeting at least, there is another crop, not big and raw of course, but fine and leafy and almost equal to wheat bran for value, and you will just jump yourself to get it in good condition.

In October, when you are just as busy as a hen with one chicken with your wheat seeding and sowing the corn crop, there is that everlasting alfalfa to cut again. It is one mending and you won't get any vacation till next year. Take my advice and don't sow it, for you will work all summer saving it and all winter feeding it.

Sow Destroying Pigs.

When a sow is found destroying her pigs or showing a disposition to do so saturate a small woolen cloth with kerosene and carefully moisten the hair of the pigs with it, being cautious not to get much of it on their tender skins, and the kerosene dressing will usually spoil the sow's relish for raw pig. Proper food previous to littering, with access to plenty of fresh corn, grass, sod, rotten wood, charcoal ashes, etc., and light feed for a few days afterwards is the general preventive for this trouble, so discouraging to the swine grower.

THE STABLE PROBLEM.

One That Has Never Yet Been Satisfactorily Solved.

The horse is one of the most sensitive to cold of any of our domestic animals, but a correspondent is correct in his observation that horses have done better in a cold stable well ventilated than in a finer looking building not so well aired. Unless, a building may be made so tight with lumber, lath and plaster that in winter time, after a period of several days of zero weather, it becomes very cold—in fact, colder than one simply boarded up with a single thickness of matched lumber. Beyond a certain limit the more tight we make a building to keep the outside air out the colder we make the building. If we introduce artificial heat inside of the building the heat is confined by the tight walls and ceilings, and then it becomes a warm room. With a tight stable, with animals enough in it to furnish heat with their breath and the gases from their bodies, we make the building warm. Thus, build as tightly as we may, in order to make the stable warm we must heat it in some way or it is just as cold as the outside air and sometimes colder.

This calls up a bit of experience of some years ago. I have on my farm a sheep barn that I took great pains to make tight by double boarding and papering between, so that lambs could be safely dropped in the coldest weather. There came a long period of severe cold in February, and I was forced to take my sheep that were lambing out of it and put them in a building where there were cracks in the side walls to keep the lambs from chilling. I found by thermometer test that the open building was 4 degrees warmer than my tight one. Why was this the case? Simply the tight building had not sheep enough in it to warm it. The cold air had penetrated it, and as the cold weather abated outside it remained from 2 to 4 degrees colder than it was out of doors for several days.—Dr. D. C. Smead in Country Gentleman.

Great Live Stock Meetings.

The great live stock convention at Denver, recently closed, was notable for the attendance of the National Live Stock association and the American Stock Growers' association. The National Woolgrowers' association, an integral part of the National Live Stock association, held a rousing meeting also, and as reported by Orange Judd Farmer, resolutions were passed favoring a law making the minimum running time of trains carrying sheep sixteen miles an hour. The sheep men also urged that they be not compelled to unload at night, as it is difficult to handle wool skins in the darkness. Another resolution adopted favored an increase in the annual appropriation for the support of the bureau of animal industry.

Where It Was Done.

JOE HING, he cut ten cord of wood From rice to get a mint. He cut it, say he piled it too— Yes, sir, that's what he done. To cut ten cord of wood, I vow, Is one tremendous chore. Joe Hing cut his behind the stove In Luscumb's grocery store.

Joe Hing, he cut eight cord of hay, I saw 'em' raked it, too. An' in twelve hours by the clock He saw 'em' raked it through. He could, I guess, before he slept Cut just as many more. He cut it where he did the wood— In Luscumb's grocery store.

Joe Hing, he plowed four acres out; He plowed it good an' neat. An' 'fore the sun had near gone down The job was all complete. The horses never turned a hair, Want 'em' raked 'em' neat but soon. He plowed it all in one short day— In Luscumb's grocery store.

Joe Hing, he made five dollars' net By emptyin' his hay bags. He done it all in just a day With time for several stops. He could as well accept a tip A dozen days or more. Where was it done? The same of 'em. In Luscumb's grocery store.—John D. Larkin in Woman's Home Companion.

Whither Needed Praying For.

The following was told by Edward P. Paige of Dunbar, N. H.: When a member of the legislature in 1830 he and tea Whitcher, a fellow member of the house, were so late one morning as to find the doors closed. Mr. Whitcher rapped loudly with his cane, whereupon the attendant opened the door and inquired, "Who is the author of all this disturbance while we are at prayers?" "Prayers! Good heavens!" replied Mr. Whitcher. "Don't you suppose we need praying for as much as the rest?"—Boston Herald.

His Reason.

In a little village there once lived a boy who was supposed to be blind witted, and the men of the village used to find great fun in offering him the choice between a threatening bit and a penny, of which he invariably chose the latter. A stranger one day saw him choose the penny rather than the three-penny bit and asked him for the reason. "It is because the penny is the biggest?" the stranger asked. "No, not because it is the biggest. If I took the three-penny bit they'd give 'er o'er to my 'tutor."

The Diplomat.

Pasture and Hay

On moist, cold land try red-top grass and alsike clover.

Seedling to Clover.

In March sowing is best, on account of their porous nature, to get covering by frost action, to prevent clover, seed sprouting, when there are two or three days of spring weather early; hence the early sowing on black soil is more liable to be destroyed by dryness before sowing season weather comes, says a farmer in an exchange. On account of this fact it is better to defer sowing on black soil till the last of March or last of April. As early preparations over black soil in our fields are not where we had the clay honey-combed by frost or sponged by wind sowing earlier it. We have seen as successful by sowing on land which was deep or craked as on land honey-combed by frost.

Scattered Manure in Pastures.

As soon as snow is off the ground the droppings of cows and horses scattered the pastures evenly, should be beaten up and scattered as much as possible. Where they lie they are only an interference, killing the grass underneath them and covering the milk growth on each side. Under the influence of frost these droppings can be broken up quite easily by the help of a horse or a high backed mule. If done early in spring rains will dissolve these lumps and carry their soluble plant food to the grass roots below.

A Suez Tax to Results.

If you have three tons of dry ball of some kind above the feedback, I'll guarantee that you will have a good piece to start a field of alfalfa, says Willie Wing in Ohio Farmer. A clover stubble will be surer to give you a proper seed bed than your own stubble, and since this crop will yield more feed per acre than the corn crop unless the corn is made into ensilage, you are warranted in giving it a show. Don't try the wrong way first, such as trying to get a stand on wheat, but have fall and make a sure cut to results.

On Grass Fields.

Now, here are a few things that should not be done: Never dig ditches to fill with rocks in a grass field; never mow your grass field until you find it necessary; never pasture or make a stubble of your grass field or let pigs or sheep, stags or other things kill the grass roots; thrash or red-top seed from an old field will not re-plant the stand; use no coarse manure on the grass field after seeding; fertilizer every crop a little more than is needed for early crop; don't undertake to start anything from the silt; bear in mind that your grass field will never winter kill or die as long as it has anything to live for.—George M. Clark in Country Gentleman.

Old and Weedy Alfalfa.

Old alfalfa fields that become weedy are often benefited by disking in the weeds and after the cuttings are made. Disking kills the weeds and splits the crowns of some of the alfalfa plants vertically, rejuvenating them.

Timely Feeding Notes

Look After the Hunter.

The pig is a hunter every day. He slow to condemn an old sow that does good work.

Move money in fast by feeding hogs too long than by selling too early.

Hops will turn manure into money quicker than any other farm animal.

A hog requires plenty of water in his feed, but should have none in his bed.

Clean confinement and fish and dirt will check growth no matter how generous the feed.

This Good For the Little Pigs.

The thin grid for feeding to the little pigs may be made of oatmeal or any coarse meal that is free from woody matter. Ground barley and oats, which feed, should be sifted to remove the hulls. The little pig's stomach is very easily damaged, and the feeds given should be such as will digest readily.

Keep a Sweet Trough.

The trough in which small pigs are fed should be kept clean. No stale feed should be left in it from one feeding to the next.

The Greedy Calf.

The calf is a greedy animal and will appear more hungry after drinking its milk than before, and if given too much it will soon be on the sick list.

Feed and Vigor.

To furnish a young lamb with all the food he can digest and that of the choicest character is to create a sturdy, thrifty, strong constitutioned animal that will be prolific in reproduction and long lived, says Stewart.

When the Small Pigs Squeal.

"You don't see 'what under the sun makes those pigs squeal?" A little more milk, please. That's what pigs live on. Some fresh straw bedding, too, might feel good.

A Handy Lamb Feeder.

A convenient method of feeding milk to a lamb is to use a small tin can with a long spout, such as is used for oil. An air hole is punched in the cover or end, and a piece of sponge covered with a cloth is tied upon the end of the spout. The flow is thus made easy and equal, and the lamb sucks in a natural manner.

Do Not Forget the Silt.

Calfes seem to demand silt as well as other stock, and this should be kept before them at all times.

The Hand Fed Calf.

Until it is a week or ten days old the calf is unable to manage hay or grain. During this period the hand fed calf should receive whole milk three times a day—four pounds in the morning, two pounds at noon and four pounds at night at blood temperature.

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