

Ineffective Surface Drainage

GENERALLY IS DUE TO FAILURE TO KEEP DITCHES AND CULVERTS OPEN THAN IT IS TO LACK OF DITCHES AND CULVERTS, Says Good Roads.

The success of all road work, whether construction or maintenance, depends in so small measure upon the efficiency of the drainage. Getting water off the road surface and getting—and keeping—it out of and away from the roadbed are essential.

While there is nothing new in these principles, nor in the manner of stating them the whole subject of road drainage is one that needs to be kept constantly before those who build roads or keep them in repair. Few of the essentials of highway engineering have been singled out for emphasis in textbooks, in articles, in papers and in addresses oftener than has this one, and yet it remains one of the most neglected in practice.

Ineffective surface drainage is probably due to the failure to keep ditches and culverts open oftener than it is to a lack of ditches and culverts, though for design and improper construction are all too common. Ditches filled with leaves, small stones and other debris from the road itself or from the adjacent land are common in most parts of the country. Culverts choked with mud or with ends hidden and obstructed by heavy growths of grass, weeds and bushes are equally common.

Another prevailing fault in the drainage provisions on country roads is the absence of outlets to carry the water away from the right of way. It is of little advantage to get the water off the surface of the road if it is to be allowed to soak into the roadbed from the side ditches. Surface drainage, as has been said so often, consists of getting the water off, out of, and away from the road, and no scheme of drainage can be successful unless it takes care of all these.

Until the time when all roads can be provided with hard surfaces, there will be a period between winter and summer during which travel will be impossible or difficult. The length of that period can be reduced to the minimum by the installation of adequate drainage and by its careful maintenance.—Good Roads.

EXCEPTIONAL MACHINERY DISPLAYS AT THE STATE FAIR.

It is announced by the Nebraska state board of agriculture that over 100 per cent more firms manufacturing agricultural machinery have secured space for exhibiting at the 1918 state fair than was true at this time last year. This will be of great interest to the farmers of the state who more and more are being compelled to replace shortened man power with machinery.

The state fair, which opens September 1st, is this year dedicated to a policy of "helping win the war by producing more food." It is very much in keeping that an unusual exhibit of agricultural machinery should be shown. If ever there were need of improved and efficient machinery with which to do the work of the boys who have been taken from the fields it is this year and it should be the duty of every farmer wherever possible to see the state fair machinery exhibit, talk with the representatives and secure full information regarding the possibilities of the various kinds of machines and implements. There are further drafts to come and labor will be even shorter than at present. The wise farmer will be looking ahead and planning to meet the situation. He should by no means fall to not only see, but study carefully the exhibits to be found on the machinery grounds at the state fair. To do so will be an education in itself.

Daily Thought.

We reap what we sow; but nature has love over and above that justice, and gives us shadow and blossom and fruit that spring from no planting of ours.—George Elliot.

FARM ANIMALS

PREVENT DISEASES OF HOGS

Most Important Way to Conserve and Increase Pork Production—Eliminate Mud Holes.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In the problem of conserving and increasing pork production, it must be remembered that one of the chief factors is the prevention of disease. Swine, particularly young animals, are



Healthy Pigs Kept Under Sanitary Conditions Are Better Able to Withstand Diseases.

susceptible or subject to ailments which, if not remedied, checked, or prevented, will result in the curtailment of production, despite all efforts that may be made.

Diseases of swine may be classed in two groups: (a) Ailments which are not highly destructive and can be treated as a rule by the farmer; (b) highly destructive diseases, particularly of infectious origin, which spread rapidly and kill quickly, and to handle them properly requires the co-operation of not only the farmers and stock raisers, but federal and state officials.

In the first group which is not highly destructive may be mentioned such ailments and conditions as parasites, both internal and external (worms and lice); mange and other skin diseases; tumors and abscesses; poisoning by agents as caustic potash and mold in garbage, cocklebur, cottonseed, etc.; pneumonia; thumps, or other digestive disorders. These ailments as a rule can be readily treated by efforts of the farmer himself, and the application of home remedies often proves effective in their cure. Preventive measures at all times should be observed, such as proper housing and feeding, sanitary conditions of yards and shelter, good clean drinking water, and above all the elimination of filthy mudholes.

FEEDING THE SUCKLING PIGS

Shelled Corn is Particularly Good When They Begin to Nose Around for Food.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

When the pigs are about three weeks old, sometimes less, they will begin to nose around for something to eat. If they are going to do as they should this something must be supplied. One of the best feeds at this particular time is shelled corn. It should be in a self-feeder in a pen where the pigs can go to it and will not be bothered by any of the rest of the hogs. This can be arranged by a green just large enough to admit the pigs handily. Don't forget that these little fellows grow quite rapidly and from time to time the creep must be made larger. After the pigs are 4 or 5 weeks old, especially if they do not have good grass pasture, the addition of some shorts, tankage, or oil meal is advisable. Nothing would be better, however, than skim milk. The self-feeder in which is kept corn and other feeds should be maintained right along up until weaning time, and after that if the pig is intended for market purposes. Pigs to be used for breeding purposes may be kept on a self-feeder all the time with splendid results, but in some cases they get too fat and logy and do not take the proper exercise. The most profitable pig is the one that never quits growing from farrowing time until he is driven over the scales.

PRODUCTION OF LIVE STOCK

Good Permanent Pastures, Leguminous Crops, Silo and Purebreds Are Essential.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Where live stock is a factor on the farm, make every field hog-tight and sheep-tight; have thoroughly good permanent pastures; grow leguminous crops; build a silo; and keep only purebred males. These five things are absolutely essential in the economical production of live stock. Of course, this program calls for some labor and expense, but the permanent condition of prosperity in the sections devoted to live stock production is proof of the good profit derived therefrom.

ATTENTION GIVEN BABY BEEF

Industry Increasing in Importance on Account of the Scarcity of Feeder Cattle.

With the growing scarcity of feeder cattle and the advance in value of farm lands, the baby-beef industry is of increasing importance and is receiving the attention of farmers in all live stock sections of the country.

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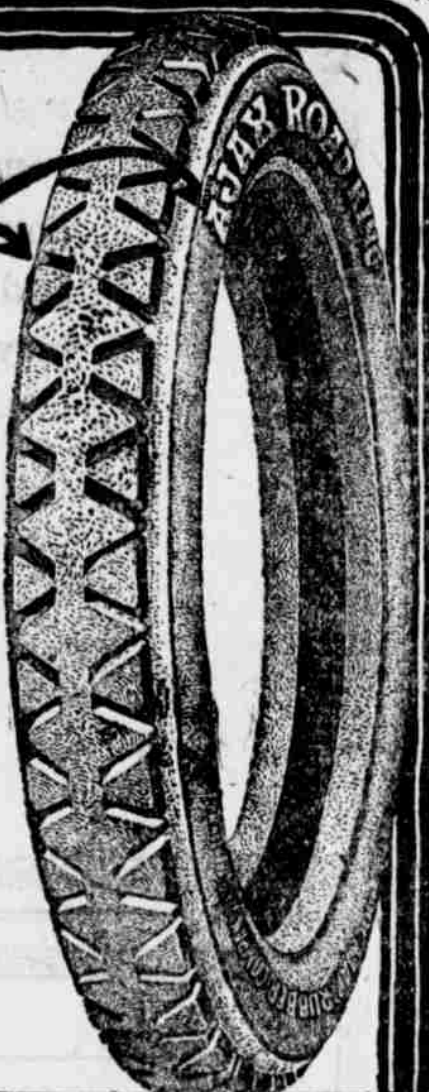
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