

Box Butte County Farm Management

F. M. Seidell,
Demonstrator

Association

Office in Court House
Phone 285

OAT SMUT PREVENTION

The average annual losses from smut in oats are greater than those caused by any other preventable cereal disease in the United States. Treating the seed with hot water or with formaldehyde solution before sowing is an easy, cheap, and effective way of preventing this disease. The latter method, which is the one most available for general use, is here briefly summarized. Both methods are described in detail in Farmers' Bulletin 507, which will be sent free on application to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Mix the formalin (a commercial preparation which is 37 per cent formaldehyde by weight) with water at the rate of 1 pound (a little less than a pint) to 40 gallons of water. The grain may be either LOOSELY inclosed in sacks or put loose into a tub or vat with the solution. Agitate the sacks or stir the loose grain occasionally so that the entire surface of every grain will be thoroughly wet. Instead of being immersed the seed oats may be spread on a clean floor or canvas and sprinkled with the solution and shoveled over during the process so that they will be wet evenly as in the other method. Not over a gallon of solution will be needed for every bushel of dry grain. After sprinkling, shovel the seed into a pile, cover it with sacks wet with the solution, and allow it to stand for at least two hours before spreading it out to dry.

Precautions: The oats may be seeded as soon as dry enough to run through the drill. If the seed is still moist, however, the drill must be set to sow more to the acre than if it is dry. The quantity which should be sown may be determined by measuring a given bul before and after treatment and figuring the proportion of increase. After treating do not expose the seed to freezing until it is thoroughly dry.

Do not allow the treated seed to come into contact with old sacks, bins or machinery in which there may be smut spores. If such must be used, seal them or wash them first with the formaldehyde solution.

COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE

Alliance, Nebraska, January 21, 1916.

Mr. Charles J. Brand,

Chief of Markets and Rural Organizations,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brand: We have a condition existing in Box Butte county and western Nebraska with regard to potatoes, that your department can no doubt assist us very materially in straightening out.

County Agent work was started in Box Butte county, March 1, 1915. A good deal of the past year has been spent in working with the different potato diseases, and some miscellaneous marketing by individuals was carried on in co-operation with this office. Figures were secured as demonstrations that should have an influence upon the care exercised in seed selection, and seed treatment for all seed potatoes planted in this area. The total production of this county alone was estimated at approximately 750,000 bushels.

It is the opinion of many in our county organization that with the facts regarding the production of potatoes quite well in hand, that the marketing could be looked after by the establishment of a potato growers' association. Such an organization was started some years ago. The result was a failure. The main reasons were that some were for it; some were against it; some did not understand regarding the purpose, and furthermore it was not a purely co-operative association.

There are three kinds of potatoes grown in this region, chiefly Early Ohios with also a large acreage of Red or Bliss Triumphs, and a small acreage of White Eurekas. The commercial demand for Early Ohios has been quite steady, but the demands for the white potatoes have varied from year to year. This is very true of the Red or Bliss Triumphs, for in 1914, men raising this type of potato could hardly give them away, while in 1915 a premium was paid for this kind of potato. In fact, one large commercial firm built four large storage cellars in this county for the purpose of storing the Red Triumph potatoes for Texas and southern seed. These potatoes are being shipped daily from these storage cellars to southern points. When some buyers were paying as low as 22c for Early Ohios this fall, the growers were receiving 40c per bushel for the Bliss or Red Triumphs. It is the opinion of the majority of potato growers and business men of this section that a firm like this, buying potatoes at the price of 40c per bushel, and storing them in the county until the demand for seed comes, will reap a big harvest due to the enormous price they will possibly receive for these potatoes when they reach the southern trade.

I am very much of the opinion that if the Department of Markets would send a man, or men, to make investigations following the potatoes from the time they were produced, to storage, and on to the buyers of the south, that figures could be secured that would be of value to the Department of Markets. Furthermore, if the Department of Markets should see fit to co-operate in organizing the potato growing interest of this county,

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KEEP-U-NEAT

Tailors and Cleaners

figures secured by such an investigation would be the easiest means of bringing about such an organization. I believe that this potato growing region offers an excellent chance for the Department of Markets to carry on such a demonstration as outlined above.

The County Organization have asked that I devote considerable time to thought and study on marketing problems since this is a very important factor, especially where the different cash crops are considered. I have read with a great deal of interest the articles written in the 1914 Year Book about the work that has been done by your department, and trust that the 1915 Year Book will contain a repetition of the success along different lines undertaken.

Any information you can give me such as the names of successful potato growers' associations along with their constitution and by-laws, etc., and any pointers on the marketing of potatoes in a general way will be very much appreciated.

I would like to hear from the department regarding this matter at its earliest convenience. I would also hope that the department will see fit to send some man, or men, to make investigations along the line of marketing potatoes from this section.

Yours very truly,

F. M. SEIDELL,
County Agricultural Agent
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., February 4, 1916.

Mr. F. M. Seidell, County Agricultural Agent,
Alliance, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Seidell: Your letter of January 21 relative to the marketing of potatoes from your county and a desire for help in organizing the growers, has been held in the hope that some definite arrangements might be made for a representative of this office to visit your section to see what action might be taken.

A representative of this office will be in the Pacific Northwest this month, and it is possible that upon his return he may be able to come by way of Alliance to meet you and go over the situation. The matter will be kept in mind and you will be informed of the date of this visit in case it is possible to make one.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) CHARLES J. BRAND, Chief.

Alliance, Nebraska, February 7, 1916.

Mr. Charles J. Brand,
Chief of Markets and Rural Organizations,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brand: Your letter of February 4 has been received.

I note that a representative of the department will be in the northwest part of the country this month and I sincerely trust that he may be able to come by way of Alliance.

Thanking you for any later information, I am

Yours very truly,

F. M. SEIDELL,
County Agricultural Agent
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Washington, D. C., February 11, 1916.

Mr. F. M. Seidell,
County Agricultural Agent,
Alliance, Nebraska.

Dear Sir: In accordance with the correspondence recently had with you I am planning to stop at Alliance early in March upon my return trip from the Pacific Northwest, and will give you several days notice of the exact time of my arrival. I shall be glad to meet as many of your growers as possible to talk over their work with the idea of trying to offer some suggestions that will be of assistance.

Should any occasion arise to write me within the next ten days you may address me at General Delivery, North Yakima, Washington.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) C. E. BASSETT,
Specialist in Cooperative Organization.

Alliance, Nebraska, February 15, 1916.

Mr. C. E. Bassett,
Specialist in Cooperative Organization,
North Yakima, Washington.

Dear Sir: Your letter of February 11 has been received.

I note that you are planning on stopping at Alliance early in March on your return trip from the Pacific Northwest. You stated that you would be glad to meet with as many of our growers as possible to talk over work with the idea of offering suggestions that would be of assistance in marketing. I take it that you would come from the northwest by way of Billings, Montana, on your trip in this direction.

Hemingford is the largest market for potatoes in the state of Nebraska. If you could plan on stopping in Hemingford we could hold a good meeting, getting as many of the potato growers of that region, as well as the potato buyers to attend the meeting, then proceeding from there to Alliance where a meeting could be held in the forenoon, or afternoon, depending upon your schedule. While Alliance is not as large a potato market as Hemingford, I am particularly anxious to get the cooperation and support of the commercial organization. The Commercial Club of this town is a power in this county. I will guarantee to have representative growers, leaders of the industry, and buyers out for this meeting. I will endeavor to have as much information as to the present methods of marketing and prices where the potatoes are marketed as can be secured by that time.

As soon as you can decide definitely upon your schedule I would like to hear from you, stating when you will arrive and the amount of time you can spend in this county so that I can make early arrangements to best utilize your service.

Yours very truly,

F. M. SEIDELL,
County Agricultural Agent
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

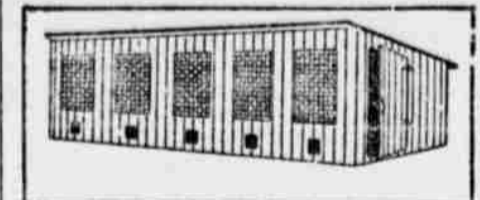
COMFORT FOR LAYERS

Building Constructed After Years of Careful Planning.

Inside of House is Whitewashed and is Cozy During Severe Weather in Winter—Hens Happy in Pleasant Surroundings.

We have just completed a new henhouse that we are sure will be very convenient in caring for winter layers. This house was not built on the spur of the moment, but after three or four years of careful planning, says a writer in Missouri Valley Farmer. We studied farmers' bulletins, agricultural reports, farm papers, in fact, everything we could find which explained the building of good poultry houses. We also visited several chicken farms, and studied the buildings that have proved satisfactory there. We believe that our new house is better suited to our present needs than anything else that we could have built.

The house is 50 feet long by 10 feet wide. It is 7 feet high in front and 4½ feet at the back. It faces the south, and is sunny and warm. The house is divided into five rooms, 10



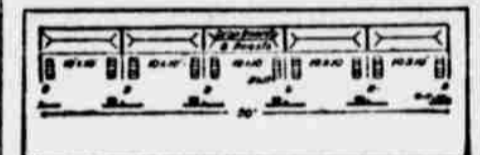
Henhouse Warm and Sunny.

feet square. The partitions are boarded only 3 feet from the back. The rest of the partitions and the inside doors are of poultry netting. On extremely cold nights a burlap curtain is dropped in front of the roosts. When this is down the hens are inclosed in a tiny room, 10 by 3 feet, and yet have an abundance of fresh air.

The windows are covered with one-inch poultry netting to keep the sparrows out. There is a drop-curtain of burlap for every window. These curtains are on frames which can be fastened back against the roof, where they are out of the way, during the day. The dropping board, which is three feet wide, extends the full length of the building. It is at the extreme back.

On the south of the house are pens made of six-foot netting. These pens are 10 by 30 feet. Straw, about a foot in depth, is kept in these pens. Into this straw I scatter the grain, so that the hens will be obliged to work for their living.

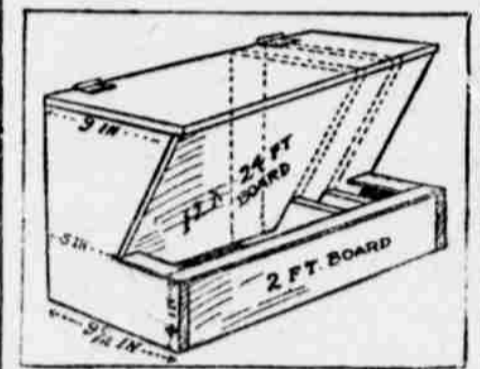
In each of these pens I have 20 White Leghorn pullets. The hens en-



Floor Plan of Henhouse.

ter the house through a small door under the window. There are only two large doors in the henhouse. The one at the west end of the building fastens on the inside, and we keep the one at the east end locked. We believe that thieves cannot easily disturb our flock.

The inside of this building is white washed, and it certainly looks cozy and comfortable on a winter day. Under the dropping boards I have nail-kegs facing the back, so that the hens can have dark nests. The feed and grit hoppers are inside the house. The pans for milk and water also are



For Dry Mash, Charcoal and Grit.

kept inside so that they will be free from litter and will not freeze.

This house is warm and sunny, and Biddy shows that she is happy in her pleasant surroundings by the merry song she sings as she goes about her work. So many poultry raisers seem to think feed is the all-important thing. Too little attention is paid to shelter.

FOR CHICKEN-EATING SOWS

Half-Pint of Cider Vinegar in Slop Has Proved Gratifying Palliative in Many Cases.

When taken off pasture and confined to a dry ration the chicken-eating sow will likely resume her old practice of having a chicken dinner every now and then.

Such sows should not be retained, but if for any reasons they must be kept, and kept together with poultry, then feed the sow a half-pint of cider vinegar in her slop two or three times a week.

This may not entirely do away with the trouble, but it has proved a gratifying palliative in many cases.

Feed for the Calf.

Feed the calf a little less than it wants.

FARM STOCK

TURNING SILAGE INTO BEEF

It Cannot Be Considered as Substitute for Other Necessary Materials in Animal's Ration.

The word "silage" at one time suggested only brimming milk pails and big milk checks. Nowadays it is as well a big factor in putting the finishing touches on choice sirloin beef.

Silos are common in the beef feeding sections of Wisconsin. The main reason for feeding silage to beef cattle is economy of production. It cannot be considered as a substitute for other necessary materials in the ration, according to J. L. Torney, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, who gives a few suggestions as to the feeding of silage for beef production under local conditions.

"Clover or alfalfa hay should be fed along with the silage in the winter. If clover or alfalfa hay is not obtainable, use timothy or mixed hay. In addition to the corn silage and hay allowance, about three or four pounds of cottonseed meal for each 1,000 pounds of live weight of the animal should be fed daily.

"Two-year-old steers weighing about 1,000 pounds may be started on about 20 to 25 pounds of silage, 6 to 8 pounds of clover or alfalfa hay, and 5 to 6 pounds of a mixture consisting of six parts of corn to one part cottonseed meal by weight daily. In a period of two weeks the cattle may be brought up to full rations, if carefully watched. At this time they will eat about 15 to 20 pounds of silage, 5 to 6 pounds of hay and 13 to 14 pounds of grain mixture daily.

"As cottonseed meal is rather high priced this year, wheat bran or gluten feed may be used instead with almost as good results and at a saving in cost of production."

OIL ON THE TROUBLED HOGS

Solution of Dipping Problem Solved—Much Added to the General Health of the Animals.

Oiling hogs when and where the hog desires has been found to be the proper solution of the dipping problem and adds much to the general health of the hog. We have presented several of these devices for oiling hogs to our readers, all of which are



Automatic Hog Oiler.

being manufactured in increasing numbers to meet the popular demand for something of the kind. Here is one that works on a little different principle than the others. As the hog rotates the barrel of the cylindrical stem the knobs hit the trip and a little oil is released to run down to the hog's hide. The slope of and angle at which the "post" stands makes it possible for the hog to get oil on any part of its body—top, bottom, sides or ends.—Farming Business.

BUILDING DOG-PROOF FENCE

Most Economically Constructed by Setting Posts Ten Feet Apart—Put Barbed Wire First.

A dog-proof fence can be economically built in the following manner: Posts are set ten to twelve feet apart and a barbed wire is first stapled to them right on the surface of the ground. Three inches above this is placed a panel of close-woven wire, 36 inches high, and about this two strands of ordinary barbed wire. Care should be taken to see that there are no openings between the ground and the lowest barbed wire. An inclosure made in this manner, into which sheep may be turned at night, is inexpensive, and dogs will not go through it. Most of the damage by dogs is done at night.

New Feed for Stock.

The stock melon, which is a cross between citron and watermelon, is being fed to stock in the Kansas and Oklahoma experiment stations for experimental purposes. The fruit has somewhat the appearance of a watermelon. The flesh is solid and lacks sweetness.

Prevention is Cheapest.

Have little bedding in the pen at farrowing. Wait until the pigs get large enough to take care of themselves before bedding heavily. Have the pen dry and clean and keep it thus. Make liberal use of the well-known disinfectants. Prevention is cheaper than cure.

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