

ROAD AND FARM IMPROVEMENT

FARM NOTES.

The garden record book is very valuable.

The best stock builds up earliest, swarm first, and are the best to gather honey.

The cost of seed is insignificant, compared with the importance of a good stand of corn.

The most expensive elements of a balanced ration, protein, for instance, can be grown in abundance on most farms.

Peanut butter has become a staple article of food, and it has characteristics that give it a special place in the affections of the housekeeper.

As conservators of fertility and aids to the growth of other members of the plant kingdom, the legumes act a part remarkable in economy and unique in science.

Every year, when the gardening season arrives, the question of the best varieties arises. This can be easily determined by keeping records of each variety.

Many gardeners are now planning for bedding plants, and some are doubtless hesitating because of the cost of the plants. The cost will be small if you propagate the plants yourself.

BENEFITS IN USING CEMENT

It May Be Profitably Employed in Many Ways About Farm and Costs but Little.

(By J. E. BRIDGEMAN.)

The proper use of cement supplies so many needs on the farm that the following article on cement brick making, is sure to be of great value to every ingenious farmer.

Cement brick may be easily made on the farm, and used for all purposes for which clay brick, or stone are now used, and they may also be used for some things that clay brick or stone could not be used for. The cost in most cases will be less than the clay brick.

The illustrations show the mold for making the brick, also six of the finished brick on the drying palette or board.

The two sides of this mold are formed of 2x6-inch timber; the 12 center cross pieces are of 1x6 boards, while almost any lumber may be used. Hard wood, however, if smooth and straight is preferable.

The brick are supposed to be 2x4x8 inches and set as shown on one face. This permits the molder to face the brick with a very rich cement mixture.



Mold for Brick.

—say about one inch and the remaining space in the mold is filled with a leaner or weaker mixture.

While it is true that a mixture of one part cement and four parts coarse sand will make a brick that will support a great amount of weight it will not be waterproof, so by filling the first one inch with a mixture of one part cement and one or two parts sand we get a waterproof brick on the face at greatly reduced cost.

The various parts of this mold are, as shown, interchangeable, and must all be of the same size. The mold is held together by the two bolts CC which have hand taps that are quickly loosened. The mold sets on a bottom board B and is squared and held in place by the four blocks AAAA.

Many failures have been made trying to make cement brick with molds held together with hinges, hooks, etc., as almost all of these molds are constructed in a way that it is impossible to keep them square or sufficiently rigid to tamp the cement in the molds.

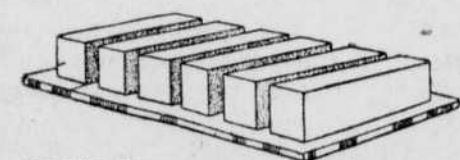
When the molds have been filled the palette or drying board is placed on top of the mold and all turned upside down, the bottom removed, the bolts loosened and the parts may then be easily taken away from the brick without spoiling or chipping the edges.

The mold must be smoothed with sandpaper and kept well oiled. After the mixture is well tamped in place, level off the top with a straight board and place the brick under some shed or at least in the shade.

Keep the palettes under water for several hours before using them, but be sure that all the surplus water has been drained off.

The entire operation of molding the brick is quickly and easily done.

For all ordinary work, use a mixture



Cement Bricks.

of one part cement to three or four parts coarse, clean sand. Mix dry and add water until it is of the consistency of thick jelly and will hold its shape when squeezed in the hand.

Before laying the brick in the wall wet them thoroughly and keep them well dampened while drying for at least ten days. While it will be possible to handle them and if necessary lay them in the wall only ten or fifteen days old, they will not be entirely hardened for several months.

MAKING FARM CHORES EASY

Where Possible, Every Farmer Should Use Time and Labor-Saving Conveniences.

(By S. I. PARKER.)

In the work about the farm it is at times necessary to have an easy way of transferring water, swirl or any other liquid to different parts of the farm; and as it is impossible to use horses and wagon for this work each time, much labor may be avoided by



Axle Holds Barrel.

the construction of the handy water-and-barrel-carrier illustrated and described in this article.

The cost of same should be very slight as on every farm there is usually an old pair of wheels with an axle, and the wood frame work can be built in a few moments; this with a barrel and a little blacksmithing completes the carrier ready to help lighten your labor and save you many a step.

To construct, have the axle bent into a half circle as shown in the illustration, near to the hub have a short block about two inches thick, fitted so that it will rest upon the top of axle, to elevate the handles so the barrel will swing.

Make your handles of two-inch-square lumber in the manner shown in the illustration, or like an ordinary push-cart handle. Now have two irons eight inches long and about one inch wide; have one end of each one bent up at right angles to make a hook which is to hold the barrel in place.

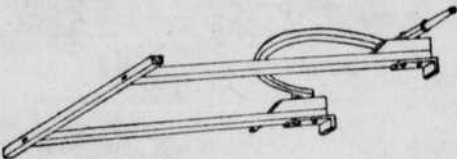
These must be drilled with two holes about as far apart as the axle is wide, and then placed on the end of the handle and over the block fitted to the axle, then two holes are bored down through the end of the handle and block.

Into these holes a clip or hook is fitted so that it goes around the axle and up through the block, handle, and iron hook on top, where it is drawn tight with nuts so that the whole framework is rigid.

Procure a good oil or molasses barrel and have two lugs made in an "L" form with the part that fits against the barrel flat, with two holes in same for bolting to side of the barrel and with the projecting round.

This is the hanger that the barrel swings upon and is placed a little above the center of the barrel toward the top, about two inches is ample.

To use, have the barrel set upright in the usual manner, fill with water or other liquid, then roll up the carrier and elevate the handles, which lowers the hooks at axle end, these are hooked over the lugs on barrel with the sides of the barrel up even against the semi-circular axle. You have only to press down the handles to raise the barrel from the ground and transport to any place you desire upon the farm.



Water Barrel Carrier.

The bent axle prevents the barrel from tipping over and also holds it firmly so that it will not swing on the lugs and thus make it harder to control when carrying. It also keeps the barrel from leaving its position on the hooks bolted to the ends or the handles and serves as a fulcrum for the handles to work upon as levers when lifting the barrel when filled.

MILO GROWN AS FEED CROP

Plant Belongs to Nonsaccharin Sorghums and Resembles Kafir Very Much in Appearance.

(By ALVIN KEYSER, COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.)

The campaign being conducted by the Colorado Agricultural college in an effort to get milo generally grown as a feed crop on the plains of the state has called forth a great deal of inquiry concerning this crop.

Milo belongs to the family of plants called sorghums. The sorghums are divided into two large groups—the sweet or saccharin sorghums, and the nonsaccharin sorghums. These differ chiefly in sugar content, and yield of seed. The sap of the saccharin sorghums is sweet, and the nonsaccharin sorghums have no sugar in the sap. Milo belongs to the nonsaccharin group of sorghums. It resembles Kafir very much in appearance and habits of growth, which is quite natural, considering it is a close relative of Kafir. It is frequently called milo maize, but this name is incorrect, as it is not a maize.

Milo grows erect, with thick, short-jointed stalks, attaining an average height of from four to seven feet. The grain is borne in heads at the top of the stalks. These heads reach a considerable size and are relatively short and compact. Where the stand is thin, the heads get very large and turn downward by their own weight. With thicker stands the heads are smaller and stand erect.

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