

HANDLING THE MUSKMELON

By John W. Lloyd, Illinois.

There is considerable difference of opinion as to the exact stage of maturity at which melons should be picked for shipment. If allowed to become too ripe before picking, they become soft by the time they have reached the market, and often must be sacrificed in order to effect an immediate sale.

If picked too green, the melons reach the market in firm condition but are lacking in flavor, and not desired by the best trade. It is a nice point to pick melons at such a degree of ripeness that they will reach the market in firm condition, and yet possess the requisite flavor.

The rapidity of softening after picking varies with the temperature to which the melons are subjected. The cooler they can be kept after picking, the longer they can be allowed to remain on the vines and the better flavor they will have. It is, therefore, essential that the melons be placed in the shade as soon as possible after picking, and be kept shaded until they are loaded into the car.

For the same reason, ripener melons can be shipped under refrigeration than in ventilated cars.

The condition of the vines and the rapidity of ripening of the melons in the field will also have a bearing upon the stage of maturity at which they should be picked.

While it is true that no rule can be given for picking melons that will apply under all conditions, and that the grower must exercise judgment in reference to each day's picking, the ideal will be attained when the conditions are such that the melons will reach the market in the best condition if picked as soon as the fruit will part readily from the stem when the latter is pressed with the thumb and finger.

There is a tendency among growers to pick considerably before this point has been reached, in order to run no risk of the melons becoming soft in transit.

That proper grading results in the securing of better prices than indiscriminate packing is evidenced by the experience of certain growers who have departed from the usual custom, and practice a regular system of grading whereby three distinct grades of marketable melons are made, and shipped under three different brands.

SHIPPING MILK IN TANKS.

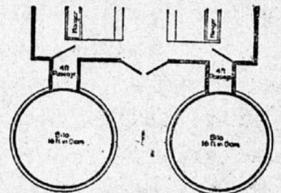
Why not transport milk in a sanitary tank? Denmark has been doing it for months and milk has been shipped long distances and recently all the way to Berlin in such cars. The tanks are not boiler plate cylinders, but wooden casks each of 210 cubic feet capacity, two of which are fastened to the floor of the covered freight car. We all know how the old-fashioned tin cans are cumbersome, expensive and subject to damage. By the use of tanks the cost of handling can be greatly reduced, and the unsightly and unsanitary old milk can be banished from the landscape.

When the heifer calves are to be raised for dairy calves there is absolutely no business of reason on earth for a dairy farmer to keep a mongrel bull.

SILOS OF HOLLOW CLAY BUILDING BLOCKS

The Iowa, Thus Constructed, Presents a Pleasing Appearance of Solidity, Durability and Permanency

The use of hollow clay building blocks properly reinforced for silo construction have proven extremely satisfactory in every particular, and after extensive and thorough investigation and the building and testing of numerous silos, the Agricultural Engineering Department of the Iowa experiment station, heartily recommend their use.



Plan of Silos and End of Dairy Barn Showing a Convenient Arrangement.

The fundamental principle involved in preservation of silage is the retention of moisture within the silage and the exclusion of air. For this reason, the silo wall must be non-porous. Moisture must be prevented from passing out and air from passing in.

Hard burned hollow clay building blocks will not absorb a large amount of water. Moisture is not readily transferred through a wall of such material. It is recommended that only

blocks which have a low absorption be used for silo construction. Blocks of this kind are more durable, and a silo built of them will preserve silage better.

After due consideration to all other points of merit to be found in silos, the most desirable silo is the one that is the most durable and will give the longest term of service. The durability of a silo depends, first upon its strength, and second, the durability of the material used in its construction.

To be durable, any material must resist the action of the weather, the constant wetting and drying, freezing and thawing in the winter season, and any disintegrating action which may be due to the silage itself. Some material will disintegrate with age, and other materials suffer from rapid decay when subject to the warm, moist conditions which exist in the silo.

The walls of the Iowa silo are constructed of hollow, vitrified clay building blocks which, as far as weather resistance is concerned, are as durable as any building material which can be obtained. This does not mean that all hollow building blocks are durable, for there are good and bad blocks on the market. Good blocks are so plentiful that no one need make the mistake of selecting blocks of questionable merit.

The roof of the Iowa silo, like the walls, is made of durable material. A cheaper roof may be used if desired, but it is strongly advised that the con-

crete roof be used where possible. One common mistake met with in silo construction is that the door frame is made of material which will



Iowa Silo, Rock Valley, Iowa.

crete roof be used where possible. One common mistake met with in silo construction is that the door frame is made of material which will

soon decay or rust and have to be replaced. The door frame of the Iowa silo is made of reinforced concrete which, when properly constructed,

should be as durable as the walls themselves. The materials used in the Iowa silo will resist decay, disintegration, the action of frost, and any implied or real action of the acidity of the silage.

Even the steel which is placed in the mortar joints and concrete door frame as reinforcement, is thoroughly protected from rust. So carefully has the matter of durability been considered in the design of the Iowa silo that it would be difficult to estimate its life. When carefully built it ought to last for several generations.

The doors of the Iowa silo are designed to be made of wood. They will decay and must be replaced after several years. The convenience and low cost of the wooden doors, which may be easily replaced, justifies their use.

The Iowa silo when properly constructed is practically free from any expense for repair and maintenance. The only possible expense may be the occasional washing of the inside of the walls at intervals of not less than five years, with a cement wash and the replacement of the doors after they have become rotten from use.

An ideal silo must have rigid walls. It must be strong enough to resist the bursting pressure of the silage. This acts outward in all directions as the silage settles. The friction of the silage against the wall, and the weight of the silage near the bottom of the silo. A silo when empty should be

heavy enough to stand against heavy winds. The inside of a silo wall should be reasonably smooth to permit the silage to settle freely. If the wall is not smooth or if there are shoulders or offsets on the inside surface air pockets will be formed and a considerable loss of silage will result.

The Iowa silo is rigid enough and heavy enough so that it is not affected by wind. Enough steel reinforcement is laid in the mortar joints to carry the entire bursting pressure of the



Form For Making Concrete Foundation.

silage with a reasonable amount of safety.

The silo built of hollow blocks is perfectly fireproof. It is hard to see how it could be even slightly damaged by a fire. Silage was fed from one of the Iowa silos within twenty-four hours after all the adjoining buildings had been burned from around it, leaving it unharmed and containing the only feed stuff saved from the fire. Hollow, vitrified clay building blocks are widely used for fireproofing purposes.

TREATING OVER-HEATED HORSES

By A. S. Alexander, Wisconsin.

When during the hot weather the hard worked horse suddenly stops sweating, lags, weakens, pants and has hot dry skin and extremely reddened membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth he is suffering from heat exhaustion and by using the thermometer it would be found that his temperature is over 106 degrees.

Unless a horse in this condition is immediately rested, put in a cool, shady, breezy place and there cooled off he will be likely to fall and die of heat apoplexy or "sun stroke."

It therefore is well to know and look out for the symptoms here outlined and then be able to treat them intelligently. In the first place it is important to remember that heat exhaustion may be largely prevented:

By keeping the horse's stable clean, airy, perfectly ventilated, darkened and screened in summer time.

Feeding the best of foods in adequate but not extreme quantities. Making no sudden changes of food. Allowing plenty of cool, pure drinking water.

Permitting ample time for rest at noon.

Removing the harness during such rest periods. Not overworking any horse and always changing frequently the middle horse of a three horse team, as he suffers fearfully from the direct rays of the sun. Also shade the polls of horses at work and in such a way that air can pass under the shading hat or other cover.

When a horse shows symptoms of heat exhaustion stop work, stand him under a tree where there is a breeze, show his body with cold water from a sprinkling can, keep cold wet packs to the poll of his head and give him large, frequent doses of stimulants such as whiskey in strong cold coffee.

Do not bleed him or give him acornite or other poisonous drugs. Repeat the dose of stimulant every half hour at first and every hour or two as he gains strength and the fever abates.

A good stimulant is prepared by mixing together one part of aromatic spirits of ammonia and two parts each of alcohol and sweet spirits of nitre. Of this give two ounces in a pint of water or cold coffee as one takes.

Dissolve an ounce of salt petre in half a pailful of water and allow him to drink a little of it often. If he is bloated give four ounces of hypophosphite of soda dissolved in water and inject soapy cold water and glycerine into the rectum once an hour until relieved. In case of sunstroke call in the graduate veterinarian as soon as possible.

A GOOD CORN RECIPE.

When cutting sweet corn from the cob cut lengthwise through the center of each row of kernels with a sharp knife then cut off the tips of the kernels without cutting into the cob and scrape the milk from the cob. Put into a well buttered pan with salt, pepper and butter and steam three quarters of an hour over a quick fire, keeping plenty of water under the steamer. Cooked in this way the corn retains all the juices and will be found delicious.

THE HEAD OF THE FLOCK

In selecting a ram two classes of breeding should be avoided: The common scrub that has no good characteristics to fix, and the "purebred scrub" without individuality, whose purity of breeding only gives him greater power to work ruin in the flock. Good individuality, backed by several generations of good ancestry, will insure prepotency with almost unerring certainty, where the ewes are suitable and the management is correct.

Great attention should be paid to the ram's general contour. His structure should be firm and massive, with a broad, capacious breast, no disproportionate length of legs, and well-formed and fully developed quarters, especially the hind quarters. His loin should be stout and well knit, his features bold and masculine. A firm and muscular neck is desirable; a bold and courageous eye and carriage are indicative of spirit and vigor. His head should be long, but rather small and well molded.

KILL THE WEEDS.

Weeds take up moisture the crops need and prevent the circulation of air thus encouraging the spread of plant diseases. They shade the ground and keep the soil from absorbing heat—an important factor in corn growth.

DORSET (HORNED) SHEEP



TO HAVE FINE ASTORS

Keep watch of your asters for "in such an hour as ye know not" the maggot may attack them. It is better, however, to act on the belief that this enemy is sure to come, and take measures to head him off. Work wood ashes into the soil about the plants, and remove a little soil immediately about the base of each plant and scatter tobacco dust there liberally. This will not injure the plant, but it may discourage the pest in his effort to get at the stalk of it. Of late, many collections of Astors in the West have been ruined by this grub. The plant will look perfectly healthy today; tomorrow it will have a withered appearance and the next day it will be yellow and if you take hold of the top and give a slight pull off it will come close to the ground. Examination will show that it has been eaten into at that point. Wood ashes are the best preventant of its attacks of anything I have used, and I would change the location of the bed yearly. B. L. E.

Bull thistles, common in pastures, cannot always be killed by mowing. Mowing tends to prevent maturity of seed. Cutting off the thistles just below the surface of the ground two or three times a year, will effectually eradicate them. Working the ground in rotation of grass, grain and corn is a very sure way of eradicating weeds.

WATERING THE MILK COWS

By Isaac Moten.

Milk cows need water frequently during hot days, just as a man does best if he drinks a few sips of water occasionally, before he gets very thirsty, rather than drink great slugs once or twice during the day.

A cow requires water often to properly digest the food she eats, so it is better to give it to her frequently than in large quantities once or twice a day.

If the pasture is provided with a stream of clear water running through it, or a wind mill and well, the cows will of course take care of the water problem to suit themselves, and if you watch them long enough you will see them drinking several times a day. If there is no stream or wind mill, and the well or spring is not in the pasture, try the following plan of watering them and watch the milk returns and see if the labor involved is not well paid for.

Take a number of half barrels and

place them at convenient spots in the pasture, sinking them into the ground six or eight inches, under trees if there is such shade.

If there are no trees then build on the sunny side of each barrel a lean-to shed to make a shade, high enough to permit the cows to come under and drink.

Twice a day fill a barrel or two with water from your well or spring, place them on a sled and fill up the pasture barrels. See that the barrels are kept clean, and do not allow the water to remain in any of them long enough to get stagnant.

This makes extra work, but if you have no running water in your pasture you will find it better to do this than water your cows once or twice a day, possibly at milking time. You will get good returns for the extra work in the increased quantity of milk, and in the contented, placid disposition of your cows.

FABRICS FROM NETTLE FIBER.

Consti. Augustus E. Ingram, of Bradford, quotes from a Yorkshire paper an interesting statement that a Vienna firm had apparently succeeded in obtaining from nettles a snowwhite plant bulk of fiber, with merits halfway between those of cotton and linen, with the further great merit that it should be cheaper than either because of the limitless quantity of nettles that can be grown, with slight encouragement, in many regions. Fabric made of nettle fiber is nothing new indeed it is stated that formerly housewives made their best sheets out of it—but hitherto no way has been found of separating the valuable fiber from the accompanying gums and waste on a commercial scale. It is said that the Austrian Government is undertaking the supervision of investigations and experiments on a decisive scale.

Keep the hoe going among the cabbage during August.

WORTH THINKING OVER.

One single swearing, vile-minded hired man will soon corrupt the boys of an entire neighborhood. The city boy whose eyes open every morning on the blank wall of a flat building and who has never seen the sun rise or the clouds gather and the storm break as the country boy does cannot know the sense of freedom and joy and power which they convey.

If we would help ourselves we can do no better than to be helping others. Maybe one reason why boys leave the farm is because their standpoint of work is set at that of a full grown man—let up on the boy.

We cannot be close to the line if we have a private axe to grind.

The man who does his duty best never thinks of it as a duty.

The farmer who keeps taking fertility from the soil without putting anything back will soon put his farm in such condition that it will not raise even a mortgage.

BLANCHING CELERY.

Blanching is a very important part of producing good celery; because, unless the plants are white, firm, and tender, they are not only unpalatable for the farmer's family, but are of course unsalable. Excluding the light and shade, the most important part of the plant and this growth is very rapid. It also turns a plant from green to pure white.

Some growers blanch their celery by placing over the plants a section of



Blanching by Drain Tiles.

drain tile and covering up the top with a coarse cloth or litter.

Persons contemplating growing celery for the market should not attempt to do so until they have visited one of the large commercial celery gardens and learned from observation exactly how the work of seeding, transplanting, cultivating and marketing is done. But the farmer who simply desires to grow enough celery for his family use, may if he follows instructions, grow good crops, always providing that his soil is very rich and well drained.

IN THE POULTRY YARD.

The youngsters should be examined frequently now for signs of the big head lice because unless they are disposed of they will kill the chick. The only thing necessary is to rub the heads and under parts very gently with a tiny bit of lard.

The red lice are even worse than the big fellows and must be continually fought. They will quickly sap the vitality of a flock and so weaken it that it is practically useless.

The interior of the chicken house should be thoroughly sprayed over every square inch with kerosene into a gallon of which two tablespoonfuls of carbolic acid should be mixed.

MARKETING POTATOES.

Potatoes, although one of the most important of our truck crops, are usually badly handled by the average grower. Instead of being sent to market in bulk by the wagon load, potatoes should be graded and packed in barrels. The packing should be done as soon as possible after they are dug, for if exposed too much to the sun they will become soft and the skin will turn green.

It is a very good plan to grade and pack potatoes in the field as they are lifted, although when very large crops are grown and it is desirable to grade them more carefully, this can be done



Poorly Packed Potatoes.

better by first sending them to the packing shed, where they can be run through graders and the work done more rapidly. It is just as important to grade potatoes as fruit or any other vegetables.

DON'T RUIN THE COLT.

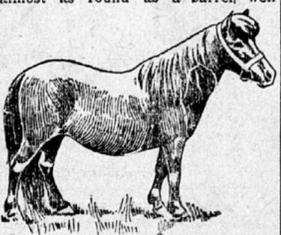
Many a good horse is spoiled in the training. Very many people still think they must "break" colts and thus they are ruined. Colts should be trained, not broken, and one of the important, the very important, lessons in this course of training should be that of teaching them to work with open bridles.

In driving strange horses the writer never feels so safe as when he is behind a team with open bridles. This means that the animals have been trained, not "broken," and that their intelligence is at your service in doing their work.

If you have more good water for your stock than they need this hot weather and your neighbor is running short—well, would you like to have him do if the case were reversed?

A FINE PONY.

In buying a pony one should understand the points that go to make a perfect animal. A study of the pony shown here will give you a pretty clear idea of what is necessary. You will see that she has a clean head, well held up, a full, round eye and a body almost as round as a barrel, well



Belle of Bressay.

muscled shoulders and hind quarters, and clean, bony, flat legs. This little mare was raised in England and took the first premium at the Royal Show at Gloucester. The show is equal to one of our best State fairs, and in fact, as a stock show it is on a much larger scale.

A WOMAN GAME WARDEN.

Mrs. B. H. Buffan, of Chertiv, New Mexico, has been appointed Game Warden. She is a farmer and spends nearly all of her time in the fields along the streams and in the woods protecting game from the hunters who sneak into the country to shoot out of season.

She is a fine shot and kills many hawks and other pest birds. Game birds in that part of the country are in great demand by orchard owners, as partridges and quail and pheasants are found to be excellent means of keeping the orchard free from insect pests. An effort is being made to amend the law to allow farmers to produce game birds for profit. The native Bob White can be raised in confinement and hunters are always ready to pay liberal rates for shooting over the land. Mrs. Buffan says that New Mexico needs pure laws and more game and she has done much toward preventing the indiscriminate slaughter of game birds in that state.

COLLECTING FLOWER SEEDS

By W. H. Gilbert.

It is desirable to save one's seeds not only as a matter of economy but as a means of improving the variety. In a collection of annual plants all from the same stock of seed there will be considerable variety presented. Some may vary from the general stock in the size or color of the flower and others in the habit of the plant.

These peculiarities are not certain to be reproduced but the probabilities are that some of the seeds from such plants will show them and by following a course of selection one can in a few years so establish a variety that it will come constantly true from seed.

It has been found in practice that though a peculiarity may not show itself very strongly the first year, yet it will manifest itself the next year if the grower perseveres. It is well to mark those plants, the seeds of which are to be saved, while the plants are in full bloom and not trust to memory.

In a bed of plants from which seeds are to be saved, promiscuously when it is desirable to have all of one color, those of a different shade from

ABOUT HORSES.

It is pretty hard on the mare to compel her to suckle the colt and do her share of the farm work during the hot season without first having prepared her by good feed and extra care. Never comb the hay from the horses' locks with a curry comb. It makes them nervous.

Better put a mortgage on the farm and buy some live stock than to continue to rob the soil of its fertility.

Don't "trust to luck" too much. There is lots of that done on the average farm. Have a system and follow it in farming the same as any other business.

The young perennials need good care this month. Cultivate lightly and see that they do not suffer for water.

the required must be pulled out as soon as they show themselves.

Some seed pods open with a jerk as soon as ripe and scatter the contents for a distance. Some open by a hole or crack and as the plant is swayed by the wind the seeds are gradually sifted out. In other cases there is no provision for the scattering of the seeds, but the fruit of seed vessel must decay before they can be liberated.

It is not necessary to wait until seeds are dead ripe before collecting them. A little experience teaches one to know the point at which it is safe to gather. The seed vessels, which in breaking scatter the seed, should be gathered just before they open and be allowed to pop under some convenient cover. As soon as seeds are gathered put a label with them and when they are thoroughly dry, clean and store them away.

The manner of cleaning seed is varied according to circumstances, sifting, gently winnowing, rubbing between the hands being resorted to according to the kind of seed. A series of small sizes of mesh will accomplish most of the work.

England raises twice as much wheat per acre as the United States and Sir Horace Plunkett declares that this country could increase the value of its corn and wheat crops by hundreds of millions of dollars yearly by scientific farming.

Science has discovered that the white ant lays 80,000 eggs a month. A fortune awaits the genius who can cross the white ant with the Plymouth Rock hen.

The farmer who deposits his profits in his soil, his animals and his buildings will do better than the man who leaves his money with the bank.

Milk is made from the water cows drink. What kind do you furnish your cows?