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# The Record.

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## HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

### TO STUDY ROAD CONDITIONS

Data Being Sought Looking Toward Standardized System of Local Road Management.

Detailed studies of local road building systems in 100 counties are now being carried on by the department of agriculture in co-operation with the state highway departments and local road authorities.

The purpose of this study is to discover the points of excellence and defects in existing local methods of building and maintaining roads which will aid the state authorities to put local road management on a systematized basis. The co-operating state authorities have been asked to designate counties that present typical and exceptional features as to topography, character of road materials, methods of construction and maintenance, administrative organization, methods of road financing and traffic conditions. From these lists 100 counties will be selected, and in these counties the division of road economics will make intensive studies.

This investigation is prompted by the fact that there is at present very little knowledge as to the most effective and economical methods by which a county can develop its roads. At present the methods of financing local road improvements vary from



Rolling a Road Surface.

calling on farmers for a certain number of days labor in lieu of a road tax, or the use of county prisoners in road construction, to bond issues or maintenance of roads from drainage license funds.

The department will study all of these systems with the view to determining what system or combination of systems works best in actual practice. There is, however, at present no standard system of keeping accounts for road building and maintenance, and as a result, while some counties know to a penny the purpose for which money was spent, others have no definite check or reporting system. Among various counties with the same conditions, cost for excavation or other labor is anything but uniform, and many counties, because of the absence of definite knowledge, fail to use local and cheap materials and construct roads which are unnecessarily expensive for their purpose, or which will wear out before the bond issues are redeemed. The investigation will include a careful study of the use of convict labor in road construction.

In connection with the scientific study, the department's highway engineers will advise freely with local officials as to improvements, and thus give each county visited the advantage of direct co-operation, engineering supervision and assistance.

These investigations, it is believed, will yield important economic data bearing especially on the benefits and burdens of road improvement and showing the extent to which financial outlay under given typical conditions is justifiable.

The heads of state highway departments are manifesting great interest and are co-operating cordially in this work. These data when obtained will be published and thus made accessible to all county and state road officials.

**Letting Sun Shine on Highway.**  
The earth road should have at least six hours of sunshine each day. This can be obtained either by locating the road with southern or western exposure or by having such brush and trees as impede the drying action of the sun and wind removed. With gravel and stone roads this is not so necessary, as a certain amount of moisture is needed on such roads, especially in the summer time.

**Brings Market Nearer.**  
The good road brings the market nearer to your farm and adds materially to the value of the place, whether you want to sell or live there.

**Seeking Dry Roadbeds.**  
Roads should never be located so close to stream beds as to be subject to overflow, or on ground which is constantly damp and marshy.

**Every Citizen Interested.**  
A highway is no longer of purely local interest. Every citizen of a state is interested in the roads.

## ORCHARD GLEANINGS

### PLANTING OF STRAWBERRIES

Maryland Man Sets Plants Eighteen to Twenty Inches Apart and Cultivates in One Direction.

In a talk on strawberries by J. W. Kerr, of Maryland, before the State Horticultural association, the matted row plan of planting was given the preference by the speaker. The plants are set 18 to 20 inches apart, and are cultivated in one direction. The rows are well mulched with straw. Two years of cropping one bed are deemed sufficient. The speaker said he regards strawberries as more remunerative than any other fruit. Even ordinary management will bring good results. The crop is fastidious as to soil requirements, and the grower must learn what varieties do best on his land. For instance, one grower who has 20 to 30 acres annually in the gandy variety has a moist, rich soil, which is what it requires. He is very successful with this variety. There are other late ripening kinds that are profitable. "The question of varieties is so local and circumscribed," said the speaker, "that it can be solved by the expert individual only." One variety may prove a rank failure, where with another person it may prove very profitable.

### PLAN OF IDEAL GRAPE ARBOR

Up-to-Date Method of Construction of Vine Trellis, Together With Illustration Given.

Following is an ideal and up-to-date method of constructing a grape arbor or vine trellis:

The four posts are of 4x4 material and 7 feet all, writes Vernon Hartsock. Plates and braces of the same material are joined together, as illustrated. The plates are of sufficient length to accommodate the width of woven-wire fencing designed for the top.

The fence is drawn and kept taut by means of the four anchor wires and turn-buckles.

The wire must be securely anchored to the ground by means of a stone under ground, or else set in the cement.



Grape Arbor or Vine Trellis.

ment, and should be of woven wire cable to withstand the strain. The bars and stays of the fencing used should be of equal distance apart and of sufficient strength—poultry netting will not do.

Up to 50 feet in length 4x4 material is heavy enough for the supports and over 50 feet, 6x6 should be used.

If intended to be used as a vine trellis, a low fence can also be fastened vertically upon each side, thus completely shading the walk.

### PLAN TO PRUNE BUSH FRUITS

Remove All Wood From Currant and Gooseberry Bushes That is More Than Four Years Old.

In response to an inquiry regarding the pruning of currants and gooseberries, the division of horticulture of the Oregon Agricultural college replied recently:

"Both currants and gooseberries produce their fruit on wood, two, three, four or five years old. The new 2-year-old wood seldom bears much fruit. Wood more than four years old usually grows rather weak and bears only a small amount of rather inferior fruit.

"It is generally considered advisable to remove all wood from both currant and gooseberry bushes that is more than four years old. Then thin out the new canes that came up from the ground or near the ground last season to three or four of the strongest ones and head these back to about two feet in length.

"If this plan is followed season after season, your gooseberry and currant bushes will consist each year of three or four one-year-old shoots, three or four two-year-old, and also of four-year-old branches."

**Renovating the Old Orchard.**  
To change neglected orchards from a state of worthlessness and disgrace to that of a revenue producer and a pleasing plantation, we should begin by giving the trees as good soil conditions as possible. If necessary, drain between every row of trees. If the ground is very hard it may be necessary to subsoil a space, say ten feet, wide, between each row of trees. Go over the orchard and note the varieties of the trunks are sound, and which will make good stock on which to graft. At the proper time in April have these grafted.

## DISEASES OF POULTRY

GERMS AND PARASITES SHOULD BE KEPT OUT.

Hens Used for Hatching Should Be Healthy and Dusted Well With Vermin Powder Before Setting—Must Be Kept Clean.

(By JOHN BOWNE, Copyright, 1914.)  
Fowls are liable to be affected by a number of diseases and may also be infected by various kinds of parasites which live on the surface of the body and also in the crop, stomach or intestines, taking the nourishment which should be used to put on flesh or produce eggs and also causing irritation and inflammation.

The contagious diseases produced by animal and vegetable germs are the most important the poultryman has to consider in trying to keep his birds healthy. These germs and the parasites should be kept out preferably by preventive measures, although there are cases where medicines may be advantageously given. As a rule, however, it is better to kill sick fowls, the cost of treatment being greater than the value of the birds. Moreover, the spread of contagious diseases is also there.

To start right, then, set eggs from a flock which has shown no indications of contagious disease for at least a year; avoid putting these eggs in packing such as chaff, etc., which may be musty or moldy; wipe them with a cloth wet in seventy to eighty per cent alcohol and hatch them in a thoroughly cleaned incubator. The young chicks should then be free from parasites and injurious germs of all kinds, and to keep them so put them in clean brooders and allow them to run only upon ground which has not been used for fowls for several years.

Should hens be used for hatching the chicks pick out those known to be healthy and dust well with flea powder before setting. Their nests should be perfectly clean, and there should be a box of road dust or sifted hard coal ashes under cover where they can dust themselves. When the young chicks are taken from the nest examine carefully for lice. These parasites accumulate under the throat and on the top and back of the head, and if any mites are found on the bird, or in their houses, the roosts and adjoining parts of the walls should be sprayed with a good disinfectant used in connection with freshly slaked lime.

By starting with a flock that is practically free from disease germs and parasites, but to keep germs and parasites from developing and increasing to a dangerous extent, the hens must be kept clean, the drinking fountains and feed troughs washed every day or two with boiling water, and if any mites are found on the birds or in their houses, the roosts and adjoining parts of the walls should be sprayed with a good disinfectant used in connection with freshly slaked lime.

### FOR THE POULTRY BEGINNER

Unless Novice Hens Had Some Previous Experience It Is Better to Begin in Small Way.

If you are intending to begin in the poultry business this spring without any previous experience do not start with a large flock.

It is better to begin with a small flock as you will get your experience much cheaper and be better able to handle your flock as it increases. Do not harbor the mistaken notion that there is not much work to be done about a poultry plant.

\* To be sure the work is light but you will find it to be about the busiest job you ever undertake.

A great deal has been printed about the large profits to be made in the



This Building Will House Thirty Hens and Can Be Built for \$30.

business. In the cases where this is true it has been where the conditions have been unusually favorable as to markets, etc.

Don't expect a profit of from \$5 to \$6 a hen as some people claim to have made. If you clear between \$2 and \$3 a hen under ordinary conditions you will have reason to be proud of your work. Quite likely as you gain your experience and find your markets you will be able to do better, but if you expect to make your fortune in a couple of years without any previous training you will be greatly disappointed.

**Convenience of Incubator.**  
If you have an incubator, you can go to hatching chicks as soon as you have eggs enough, whereas you have to wait for a setting hen till she gets ready.

**Early Hatched Chicks.**  
Early hatched chicks are stronger and start laying in the fall, while summer hatches will not lay before spring.

**Bones for Poultry.**  
For poultry, fresh bones from the butcher shop pounded fine, are superior to the commercial bone meal.

## HORSES, PIGS and CATTLE

### BEST USE OF CORN FODDER

In Tests With Sheep at Massachusetts Station Has Shown Feed to Be Good for Fattening.

(By JAMES MORRISON, Copyright, 1914.)

Corn is an excellent feed for live stock, both grain and stajbs being fed to advantage, but in feeding it care must be taken to give the best results. The grain is a concentrated source of nutriment, palatable, easily masticated and readily digested and assimilated, but for dairy cows, corn should never be made up more than one-half to three-fifths of the concentrate part of the ration. It needs roughage as cornstalks or hay fed with it, for corn is poor in protein, but rich in digestible carbohydrates. So for dairy cows, corn should be ground and fed with bran middlings or ground oats which are richer in protein, rather than fed alone.

Corn fodder is the name given to the whole plant harvested with the ears on the stalks. The nutritive ratio of corn fodder has been ascertained to be about 1 to 11.5, so that some higher protein food is necessary to properly balance it to get the good results, and either alfalfa or clover has been found excellent for the purpose. In tests with sheep the Massachusetts station has shown that different varieties of corn fodder, while varying slightly in digestibility, are good for fattening purposes. At the Manitoba experiment farm corn fodder was fed to steers, and it proved to be a more profitable roughage than oat sheaves. Where small numbers of stock are kept, good results may be obtained by feeding cut corn fodder moistened with hot water and allowed to stand for 24 hours. The concentrated feeds, such as cottonseed meal, can be mixed with this mass and the cattle will eat it readily and digest it better.

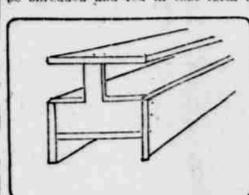
When dried fodder or hay is used mean that corn fodder may also be fed to horses, but one-third of the bulk of the ration should be made up of some other material, preferably red clover or alfalfa. Avoid feeding soft corn, which is injurious to horses. As a matter of fact, corn stover is to be preferred to corn fodder for horses, with a slight addition of some concentrate feed. Shredding the stover is neither necessary nor desirable.

The name corn stover is applied to the stalk after the ear of corn has been removed. Stover may be fed to dairy cows with good results, particularly if the stover is shredded and mixed with cut alfalfa or bran, oats, barley or peas, thus providing a valuable and cheap feed. Shredding adds value as it is more easily handled and stored and readily eaten by stock.

### WASTEFUL FEEDING METHODS

Considerable Amount of Feed Could Be Saved by Providing Suitable Racks or Mangers.

One of the great sources of waste in feeding animals during the winter months is a failure to have a feed rack of some sort in which to put the feed. The feed is put on the ground and about one-third of it wasted by the animals tramping it under foot. This could be remedied by putting up suitable feed racks or mangers.



An Easily Constructed Trough.

would save about one-half of the fodder that is usually wasted when fed whole. The animals will not eat the whole fodder if they think that there is a grain of corn in it, but will nose it around, trample it under foot and waste a larger portion of it. When fed whole it is a good deal easier for them to pull it out of the rack or manger and trample it into the ground.

To save these little items of feed means the saving of good money and in the end a fatter pocketbook.

### Separate the Ewe.

When the ewe is due to lamb, she should be shut off in a small stall well bedded with straw and protected by a good shed. Here she will be untroubled by the rest of the flock, and there will be no danger of the lamb becoming lost in the flock or the ewe disowning her offspring. A few precautions will save the sheep man loss of lambs and a lot of trouble and worry.

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