

# ESSENTIAL CULTIVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF GRAPE VINES

Found to Be Good Practice to do Pruning Just About Time of Picking. But in No Case Should Treatment Go Over Until Spring, as "Bleeding" Causes Weakness and Stunts.

The care of grapes is the same whether for the home or the vineyard, and the method of training depends largely upon circumstances. In the west, California, and the far east, Italy, Spain, etc., no trellis is used, as wood is not procurable, but in Michigan and the other states the crop is supported by trellis. On our farm four canes are allowed to grow from the root stock, being guided till they reach to longitudinal wires by being tied with tarred twine, writes Herman Haupt, Jr., in the Rural New Yorker. We use cedar posts eight feet long set in the ground about 2 1/2 feet, with the butt end throughout coated with hot coal tar from the gas works. The end posts are braced so that the wires may be drawn taut. It is a mistake to bore holes in the posts and run wires through them at four feet from the ground, or in fact any distance, as it allows of the accumulation of moisture, and a wire at this height very naturally interferes with the cultivation of the vineyard and the picking of the crop. Any obstruction that prevents getting readily from one row of vines to the next is an error. The cross arms, if made of 1 by 4 inch board and secured with three nails, need not have the wire braced from the end of the arms to the post. To hold the longitudinal wires we saw a

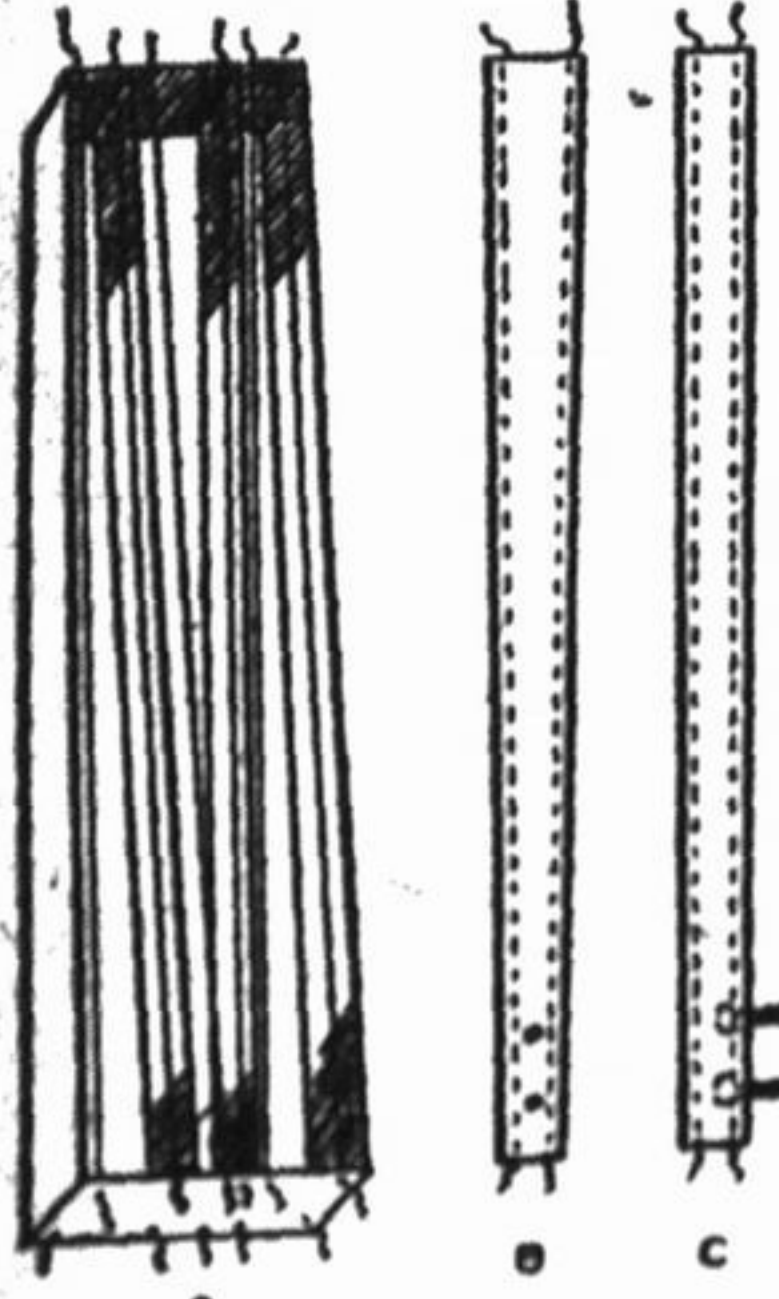
telephone wire; these are passed through the box from end to end and made taut. The box is then laid on its side, the open side up, and filled with concrete: One part best Portland cement, three parts sand and water to make quite wet. With a trowel the upper surface is smoothed off. At the upper or smaller end of the post are inserted in the wet concrete two one-quarter inch bolts, the head imbedded in the concrete, and the shank protruding an inch or more. The bolts are four inches apart and two inches from the top of the post. One is two inches and the other six inches from the top. To these bolts are screwed the cross-arms 24 inches long, when the post has set and hardened. The box or form is so made that six or eight or more posts may be made at one time. This makes a post that will last for all time, and need no repairs. The end posts will, of course, need bracing in the same manner as the wooden ones. When the canes have reached the wires they are loosely tied to the wire and pruned back to the second bud of the new wood. We find it good practice to prune the vines just about the time of picking the fruit, or a little later, but in no case do we let it go till spring, as the "bleeding" at that time weakens the vine and stunts both vine and fruit. Grapes do nicely on a sandy or gravelly soil and the ground should be kept clean and well worked. To give the vines a uniform influence from the sun and air, plant the vineyard in rows running north and south and on high, well-drained ground.

## EXCELLENT WAY TO SET POSTS

Experience Teaches That It Will Last Much Longer With the Small End Placed in the Ground.

After many years' experience I have concluded by placing the small end of the post in the ground. A post will last much longer than with the large end down. The reason for this is obvious. When limbs are cut off it always leaves a cut that holds more or less water and where worms have worked the holes are always downward. These holes hold some moisture, but by placing the top end down this moisture runs out and leaves the post dry.

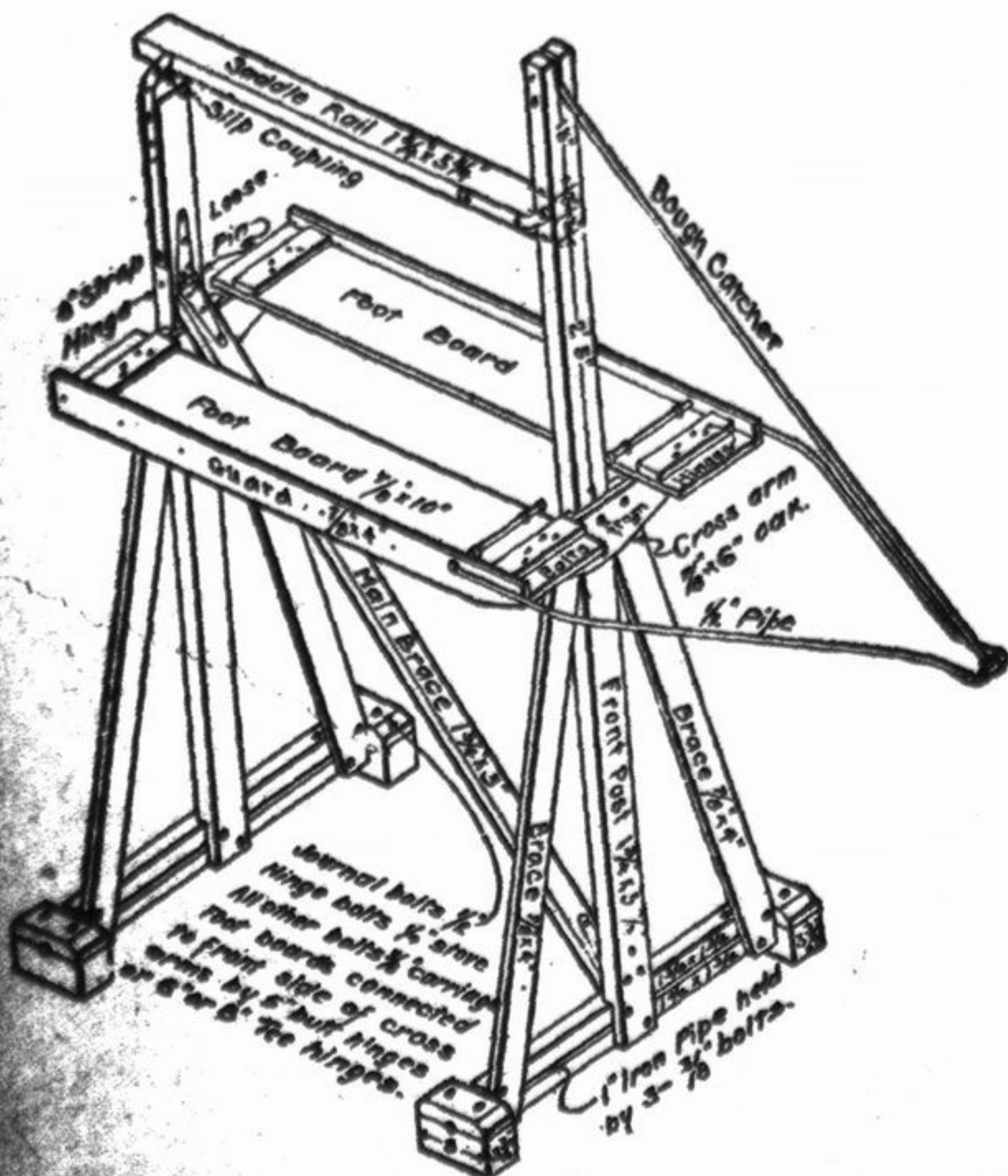
At first thought it looks as though the post with the large end up would not make a good appearance. However, says an expert in the Farm and Home, I have generally found that the large end is the straight end, and frequently there is a crook at the small end. If this be placed in the ground, the fence when completed looks much better. I also have found that small posts for wire fence last longer than large ones, for they do not hold moisture as long. A post should never be reset until it is well seasoned. The end posts should always be placed in concrete; then there need be no bracing or anchors used.



CONCRETE GRAPE POST. A, Mold for Making Posts; B, Front View of Finished Post; C, Side View of Finished Post.

shallow notch in the upper edge of the cross-arms; this is sufficient, and being daubed with tar keeps out moisture. At best wood will rot and we have adopted the plan now of replacing the wooden post with one made of concrete. A rectangular box is made tapering from six inches at the base to four inches at the top and eight feet long, open along one side. This box is made with only two sides tapering, the others are straight. In the ends of the box we bore four holes, near the outer edge, for the admission of four strands of galvanized

## IMPROVED ORCHARD SPRAY TOWER



The special features of the improved orchard spray tower are: 1. It folds down flat. The bough catcher is lowered and then by removing the lower hinges at the upper end of the tower the whole tower may be swung backwards until it lies flat on the ground. 2. It is the only one of its kind that can be used in the orchard. The man using the tower stands in the middle of the orchard and sprays the trees with the tower. 3. It is the only one of its kind that can be used in the orchard. The man using the tower stands in the middle of the orchard and sprays the trees with the tower. 4. It is the only one of its kind that can be used in the orchard. The man using the tower stands in the middle of the orchard and sprays the trees with the tower.

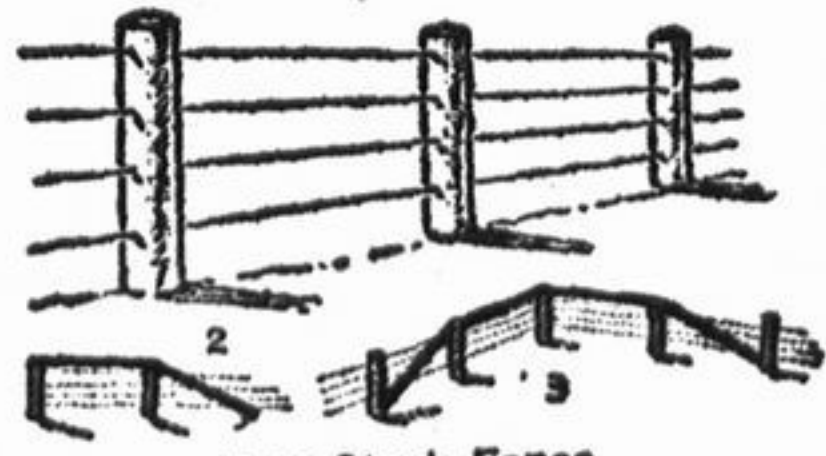
## The DAIRY



### PRACTICAL FENCE FOR STOCK

Barrier Constructed of Wire Proves Entirely Satisfactory With All Kinds of Animals.

A good stock fence is one that will turn all kinds of stock without injury to the animals. The cheapest and best fence to build is a wire fence. At the top of the picture is shown a fence which I have on my farm that has proven satisfactory in every particular, writes R. O. Claggett of Carroll county, Maryland, in the Farm and



Best Stock Fence.

Home. The posts are set 30 inches in the ground and placed 10 feet apart. No. 9 galvanized wire is run through holes in the posts. This has proven to be one of the great attractions of the fence, as there are no staples to pull or rust out and the wires are always held in their proper position. A ratchet is placed on the end post and the wires can be kept tight at all times.

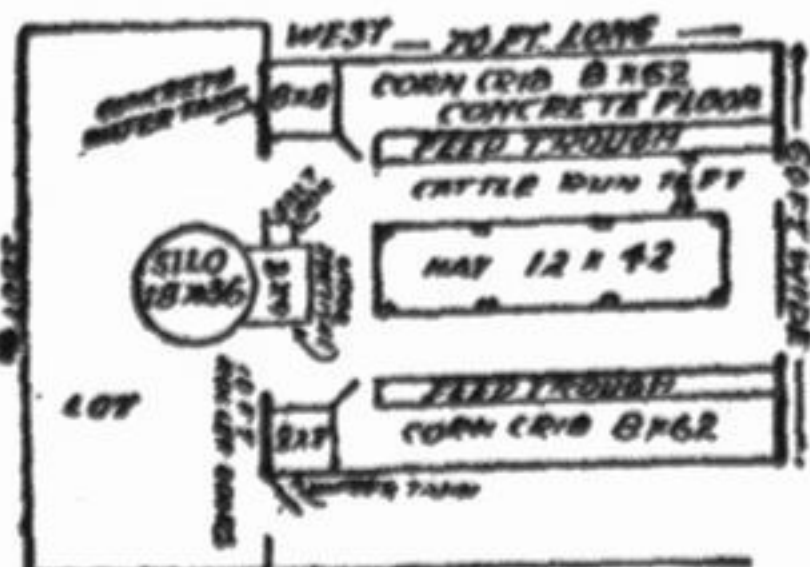
With a monkey wrench and winding ratchet the wire on the entire length of fence is stretched at one time. The wire can be loosened in the fall of the year and tightened in the spring, and in this way the fence can be kept in perfect condition at all times. Wood posts were used from the farm wood lot, but where all materials need to be purchased, concrete posts with holes for wire would not only be the cheapest, but a fence put up in this manner would last a lifetime.

A fence must have strong and well-braced end posts. Figure 2 shows a good brace for this purpose. The three end posts are placed three feet in the ground and are a foot in diameter. The braces are 4x4 inches. In figure 3 is shown bracing arrangement for corners.

### FLOOR PLAN BARN AND SILO

Building Will Accommodate Sixty Head of Cattle and Tank Holds 200 Tons of Ensilage.

I am sending you floor plan of my cattle barn and silo, writes R. F. Elliott of Lathrop, Mo., in the Missouri Valley Farmer. The barn accommodates 60 head of cattle and the silo holds 200 tons of ensilage. The ensilage is carried to the troughs by a London carrier that runs on a track attached to the rafters. The hay rack is built from the first floor to the upper floor and is open at the top so



Barn and Silo Plan.

that when the hay is put in it is consumed on the ground. The mow holds 100 tons of hay and is equipped with a hay fork. The cribs hold 4,000 bushels of corn and have doors next the troughs that make it convenient to get the corn in troughs.

### Clarifying Milk.

By running milk through the separator and then remixing, a good many germs are removed, but this does not imply that the disease germs are removed. The chief effect of the separation is the purification of the milk from solid filth, and this is some gain. The keeping quality of the milk is not, however, greatly improved by the clarifying. If there were disease germs in the milk before being separated they will most certainly be in the milk after being separated.

### Incomplete Milking Bad.

Incomplete milking not only robs the dairyman of the richest portion of the milk, the drippings, but damages the cow, tending to lessen her daily production and to shorten the period of lactation. It takes a little more time to draw the last pint of milk from the udder, but the time is well spent in view of the gain both to the cow and to its owner.

### Should Be One or Other.

The dual purpose cow that gives about three gallons of milk a day, and produces a long-legged, slab-sided steer that takes three years to mature to make just passable beef, is not the animal suitable to run on the high-priced farm of the twentieth century.

### Water Supply Important.

Watch the water supply. Milk is 90 per cent water, and if something happens the supply so that the cows are forced to go without for a few hours the drop in the milk flow will be noticeable. Heavy milkers are always heavy drinkers.

### GUARD CHEESES BY PARAFFIN

Protecting Coat Prevents Considerable Loss of Weight by Evaporation—Method is New.

Nearly all cheese of the cheddar type made in the United States is paraffin before it reaches the public. Yet it is not more than six years since it became a general practice, and less than ten that paraffining to protect from loss of weight was first brought to the attention of cheese handlers.

At first the process was in order to improve the appearance, but when it was found that the protecting coat of paraffin to a great extent prevented the considerable loss of weight by evaporation it became the usual treatment. A circular, No. 181, bureau of animal industry, recently issued by the United States department of agriculture discussing the methods and results of paraffining cheese, concludes that it is an effective way of preventing losses in weight, and the growth of mold; that for one to ten seconds in a paraffin bath at 220 degrees F. is sufficient; that treatment on the third day after coming from the press gives the best results; and that cheese should not be allowed to remain in a warm curing room for more than one day after paraffining.

### TO SECURE THE BEST BUTTER

Good Grade Cattle, Kept in Clean Stable, Regularly Milked, Are First Requisites.

To produce the best butter I think good grade Jersey or Guernsey cattle, kept in a clean stable and regularly milked, are the first requisites. Next is to have the cream properly ripened and a temperature of just 62 degrees maintained during churning. At this temperature we are sure not to make a soft, saavy butter, says a writer in



Excellent Type of Guernsey.

an exchange. It is necessary to keep the cream free from anything that would taint or flavor it, and above all to have everything around the dairy and milk house sweet and clean. I have always sold butter to private customers on Saturday; just enough to keep them supplied during the week. I have never received less than 25 cents a pound, and often have had the price go to 35 cents. Usually I averaged 40 pounds a week during the summer. I have had the good fortune never to need artificial coloring. The breed and feed have a good deal to do with this.

### DEVELOP LONG MILK PERIODS

Much Depends on Breed, Individual Character of Cow and Feed—One Good Plan Given.

The length of the milking period of a cow depends largely on the breed, the individual characteristics of the cow and her feed. It is generally believed by dairymen, however, that the length of the first milking period of a heifer will influence the milking periods of her life, and to this end the first milking period is prolonged as long as possible.

In developing a milker the plan is to keep up the milk flow clear up to within two or three weeks of calving the second time in order to fix the habit of long milking periods. The milk drawn will often be in too small amounts to pay for the time and trouble spent in getting it. If the heifer comes of good stock it is well to give the plan a trial at any rate.

## DAIRY NOTES

Cement makes the best foundation for the separator.

Intelligent care of cows brings a liberal rate of interest.

Clover or alfalfa seem to contain just what the dairy cow needs.

About the best fertilizer that can be found is good barnyard manure.

Fed to hogs, skim milk has been found to be worth 45 cents per 100 pounds.

The great secret in keeping butter is to have it made right to begin with, then keep it cold.

There are, or should be, four sources of profit in the dairy business—butter fat, skim milk, calves and manure.

There is nothing that will build up the efficiency of the dairy herd quicker than the use of a pure bred sire.

No man is in a better position to build up his soil than a dairyman, if he uses wisely the forces at his command.

No more feed should be given than the cows will eat up clean, but it is equally important that they have all they will eat.

Usually it takes about 75 per cent of what a cow eats for her maintenance. The way some people feed it takes much more than that.

The average milk cow will drink from 20 to 100 pounds of water per day, and the more we can induce her to drink the better for the milk flow.

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