

HINTS AND FACTS OF HORSES AND MULES



Home From the Fields.

(By J. M. BELL.)

The very high price of both hay and grain is forcing farmers to sell all surplus stock. Some prices can be picked up by farmers who are supplied with feed.

Some buyers want the advice of a veterinary before they purchase, if so, then by all means pick your man.

When a horse or mule has done his steady work in a city for 20 years, is sour stiff and generally incapacitated, he is a poor investment for anyone most certainly the farmer who is looking for a bargain.

Some men wash their teams all over, each evening when work is done, (during the summer season), a good plan as it removes sweat most effectually.

Cribbing is a bad habit at the best, the only way to stop it is to use a tight strap around the cribber's neck. The writer has cured several of these unsatisfactory animals.

Interfering behind is a bad habit in a horse, as a remedy use only one or two nails on inside of shoe and curve shoe properly inside.

A balky horse had best be gotten rid of as a balky horse. Let the other fellow cure him.

Shying can sometimes be cured by letting the horse pass slowly by the terrifying object. Severe punishment rarely makes a cure.

Musty hay carries many ills. Keep a good-sized lump of rock salt in each horse trough.

Save money by having the old horses' teeth fattened so they can grind their feed.

Water for the horses should be fresh from the pump during the winter months—no ice water.

Work or exercise the stallion daily, and your next season's colt crop will be much more satisfactory.

LIME IMPROVES SOIL CONDITIONS

On Some Land It is Necessary as Actual Plant Food for Alfalfa and Clover.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

When we apply lime to our soil we look to its effect upon the soil rather than to its direct influence upon the plants. While many farms contain sufficient deposits of lime, it is also true that many soils are deficient in this element.

Lime has various functions. It corrects soil acidity, thus stimulating the action of the bacteria that assist in making plant food available and gather nitrogen from the atmosphere. It changes dormant plant food into active plant food, by carbonating the soil water and makes it a more powerful solvent.

It improves the physical condition of the soil by making a heavy soil more friable and a loose soil more compact. On some soils it is needed as an actual plant food, for such crops as alfalfa and clover.

There are various kinds of lime used for agricultural purposes and each kind has certain advantages but my experience has led me to believe that it is much safer to use the carbonate, or ground limestone, because it does not have a tendency to destroy the humus in the soil, especially if large quantities are used at one time.

On heavy soils that are inclined to be wet the caustic lime will have more beneficial effects and liberate more plant food. Such land requires a more powerful agent to tear apart and decompose the soil particles and improve its physical conditions. For sweetening the soil the carbonate, or ground limestone, is equally valuable.

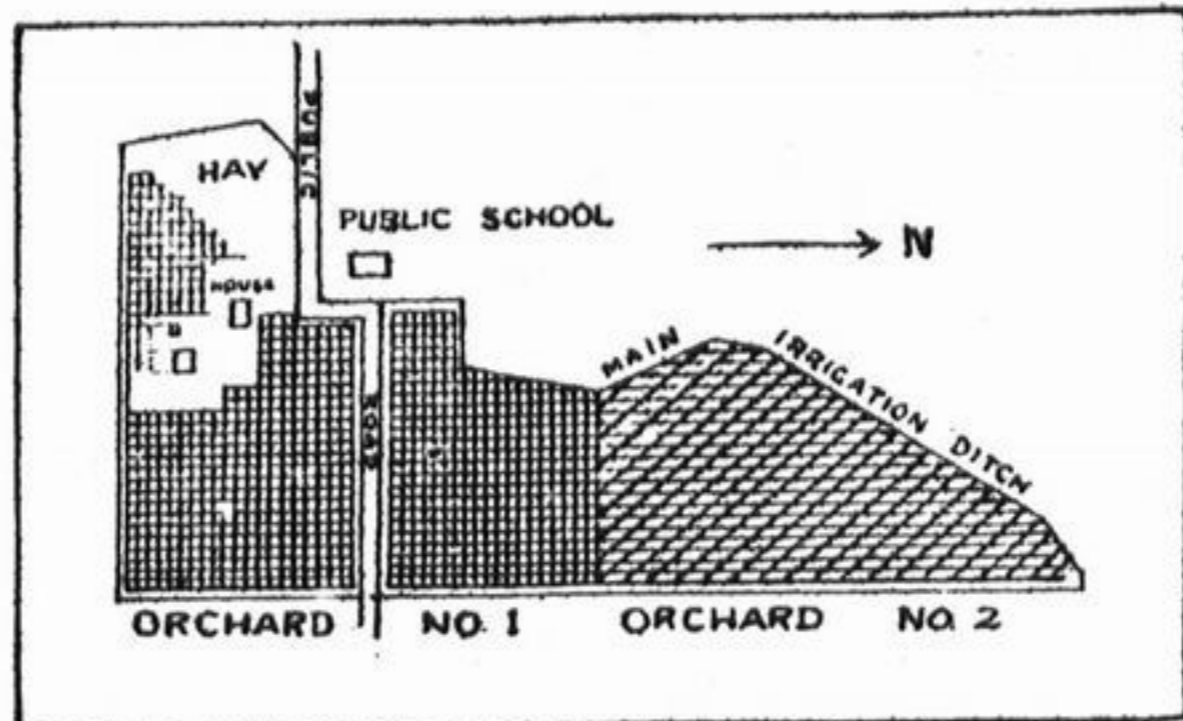
Lime should be applied early in the spring, when it has not been applied the previous fall, and should be applied a number of days before fertilizer and be thoroughly incorporated with the soil.

If fertilizer containing nitrogen is applied where it will come in contact with the caustic lime there will be a waste of ammonia and a consequent loss of fertility.

The great question is how much shall we use. I believe that one ton of caustic lime is an adequate amount to supply at one time. If the ground limestone is applied, we may safely double the amount. A moderate application every four or six years is more desirable than a heavier application.

MONEY MADE BY "PROFESSIONALS" WHO TAKE UP AGRICULTURAL WORK

Study and Careful Experiments, Together With Large Amount of Ambition, Brought Excellent Results to Mechanical Engineer Who Bought Government Irrigated Land.



How the Trees Were Planted in Two Ten-Acre Orchards.

(By F. WEBSTER BRADY.)

The "on to the land" idea is being cheered considerably these days. The idea is a good one, but there are many who seem to think that this means an emigration of laborers and misfit professionals from city tenements to farm houses. They have visions of gardens, meadows, cows, pigs and chickens—of half-starved city families becoming in a few months well-to-do. These are nothing but dreams, because the "new life" in agriculture is mostly from the awakening of the farmers themselves. There is, however, an increasing number of "professionals" who are taking up agricultural work. In some cases they do this as a side line, while in others it is made their sole business. Many failures have been recorded, but the men and women who have brought technically trained minds to the new work, and who have attacked the problems in agriculture in the same analytical way as they did the problems in medicine, engineering and finance—these have made successes. Moreover, these men and women have blazed the way in the wilderness of doubt for the thousands of adventurers who feel that they want to do something in agriculture, but they do not know how to begin. The following history of a success is given, therefore, for the benefit of those who would be orchardists:

Mr. Howell had spent 15 years or so in an engineering office, and he began to feel that the sedentary life with its unnatural confinement was causing his physical decay. After carefully considering the case, he decided that

Ten-Acre Apple Orchard Scheme of Planting. P—Peach Trees, 28 Feet Apart; W—Winesaps, 40 Feet Apart; R B—Rome Beauties, 40 Feet Apart.

the most attractive way for him to get renewed health, together with a good income and a more independent life, was for him to take up orchard work. "Plant a tree, John. It will grow while you're asleep," seemed to him to be good gospel.

First, he carefully studied the literature on the subject. He found that orchard growing is one of the most highly specialized branches of agriculture, and that the government bulletins were full of valuable information for the fruit grower. The line of least resistance led him to one of the irrigated districts in the west. What he has accomplished in three years is best told by Mr. Howell himself.

"I purchased 20 acres of sage brush, or raw land with water rights. A 10-acre orchard is considered enough for one man to care for, but I secured a double portion with the intention of selling 10 acres when the orchard came into bearing condition. The land was cleared by cutting the sage brush with a grub hoe, and piling the brush for burning. The cost of clearing was three dollars per acre.

"In April I had the first 10-acre plot cleared, plowed, pulverized, leveled and staked for the trees. Two-year-old trees, Winesaps and Rome Beauty apples, were set in rows 20 feet apart each way. Elberta peach trees were used as fillers. Alternate rows of the two varieties of apples were planted so as to form the diagonal rows with the Winesaps.

"As peach trees are short lived, it is expected that they will be removed within ten years. The apples stand 28 feet apart, and should it be required or desired to take out one variety, the

remaining trees will be 40 feet apart. In making the plat the rows were lettered along one side of the orchard and numbered along the other. Thus, each tree can be designated as 3-D, 4-B, etc., and a record kept very easily of its history.

"Three irrigations per season are necessary, and each requires about two weeks time. The irrigation canal runs along one side of the orchard and numerous small ditches carry the water to the trees. Corn, potatoes, onions and alfalfa have been raised each season. Alfalfa yields three cuttings.

"The second orchard of 10 acres was set out the next year with Winesap and Jonathan trees without any peach fillers. The first orchard contains 125 Rome Beauty, 175 Winesaps, and 150 Jonathans, and the 500 Elberta peach fillers. The second orchard has 150 Jonathans, 150 Winesaps and 300 Rome Beauties. A "family" orchard of one each of Pie, Bing, Lambert and Royal Ann cherry trees, with the following varieties of apples, etc., was also set out the first year: Snow apples, Early Harvest, Red June, Maiden's Blush, Rambo, Roxbury Russet, Gravenstein, Red Astrican and Wagner. A few fancy peaches, plums, prunes, pears and apricots have been added.

"The growth of the entire orchard has been most excellent. Only a few of the trees have had to be replaced. A single apple—a Jonathan—was produced the second season. The third season we had two bushels of apples and 10 bushels of peaches. Last year 20 bushels of apples and 210 of peaches were sold. The fruit was graded and packed in boxes, each piece being wrapped in paper.

"Thus far the success of my orchards has been more in their future promise rather than in the fruit produced. At present the best raw land costs \$150 per acre, and bearing orchards sell for from \$750 to \$1,000. There will be a rapidly increasing income from fruit sales, as orchards mature here in half the time required in the east. The proposition looked good to me when I started, and now in 1913 it looks much better."

PROFITABLE LIFE OF A PEACH TREE

Thorough Cultivation More Essential Than Pruning—Kill Out Insect Pests.

It is claimed that the most profitable life of the peach-tree is from four to eight years. From a peach census taken in Orange county, New York, it seems that thorough cultivation is more essential than pruning or spraying.

When cultivating the plum or cherry orchard, the work must be done shallow, so that no roots may be broken, for broken roots will send up shoots that sap the life from the trees.

An old fruit grower says that the pick is the best tool he ever used around apple trees, when the ground has become too hard. He sinks the pick 8 or 10 inches into the soil and merely pries the dirt loose, and does not disturb the roots in this way.

Do not prune too closely. Pruning may be done anytime in winter or early spring, but the wounds should be covered at once with paint. An old tree bleeds freely, and will suffer if there are a large number of wounds on it.

Diseased wood on a tree can never be made new again. Cut it off and allow another shoot to grow. Every day that such wood remains on a tree adds to the liability of losing it.

It is an excellent plan to white-wash the trees, filling the cracks in the bark with lime, so as to fill up many hiding places of fruit pests, as well as to destroy many which are in hiding.



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