STRETCH THE MANURE PILE

Some Hints on How This May be Done on the Average Farm.

BY O. B. PRICE.

While manure is not a balanced plant food, nevertheless it should all be saved and applied economically. Enough manure is not produced to meet the needs of the average farmer. Where the supply is limited it is better to apply four to six tons per acre over the entire field rather than use a heavy application over a smaller area. The efficiency per ton of manure is greater where the small applications are used.

After manure is produced, great care should be observed in preventing the loss of the plant food elements. Bacteria are constantly working in manure, liberating much of the ammonia. This loss can readily be detected by the strong odor of ammonia in the barn. This is a product of decomposition and fermentation. It can be prevented to a great extent by packing or keeping thoroughly moist. This slows up or prevents the bacterial action which liberates the ammonia. Manure in a thoroughly dry and compact condition, or thoroughly wet, does not ferment very fast. When it is moderately moist the bacterial action is fastest.

Much of the value of manure is also lost by weathering and leaching. In addition to large amounts of nitrogen being lost, much phosphoric acid, potash and organic matter are washed away from the manure piles that are allowed to remain in the barn lot unprotected. Liquid manure, which contains much nitrogen and potash, is often lost through the drainage waters around the barn. Phosphoric acid does not leach away to as great an extent as does nitrogen or potash.

Much of the plant food in manure can be saved by immediate application to the land. The topography of the land, of course, is an important factor. When manure is spread on hillsides there is danger of considerable loss by erosion unless it is worked well into the soil. This should be done immediately after application. Applications during the winter should be delayed if possible. When applied on the snow much of the plant food is carried away with the melting snow. If it is kept compact or wet, or if it freezes there is little loss through fermentation. Where the land is level it can be applied at almost any time convenient and can be hauled directly from the barn.

Manure should be evenly spread for best results. This is difficult to do without a manure spreader. In some places it is the practice to haul to the field, put into small piles, and then spread from these piles by hand. There is no advantage to this, but it does increase the labor cost.

The value of manure can be greatly increased by the addition of some reinforcing material. Gypsum or land plaster, rock phosphate and acid phosphate are commonly used. Acid phosphate is the best to use. Besides taking up much of the ammonia, which would be lost through fermentation and leaching, it adds an available form of phosphoric acid to the manure. This is important, for manure is low in phosphoric acid. When acid phosphate is used at the rate of forty to fifty pounds per ton of manure it supplies plenty of available phosphoric acid for the average crops. Limestone may be used with manure but it will not have the same effect on the ammonia that acid phosphate does. Hydrated lime should never be used in direct contact with an application of manure, for it has a tendency to liberate additional ammonia. It is much better to apply any kind of lime separately.

It makes little difference if the manure is plowed under or used as a top-dressing. This will depend upon where it is to be used. When used for corn it is best to plow it under, when used for wheat it is generally put on as a top-dressing. A light dressing of manure on the soil for clovers and alfalfa seedings is a great aid in establishing a good stand. There is danger, however, of introducing noxious weeds when this is done. Well-rotted manure is best for top-dressing for it contains fewer weed seeds.

Use the manure on the lighter and less productive spots on the farm. Much of the nitrogen and organic matter can be supplied in this way. It should be kept in mind, however, that additional phosphoric acid is needed to make a balanced plant food.

NEW CANADIAN PRIMA DONNA

This is Miss Loretta McEwen, soprano, chosen out of a hundred Canadian competitors, as possessing the greatest possibilities for an operatic career. With her is Captain Clews, of the Canadian Pacific liner Melita. Miss McEwen is on her way to Paris to study her art, under Madame Pauline Donalda, world-famed songstress.

The competition in which Miss McEwen was successful was held recently in Montreal. Voices from all over the Dominion were heard by Madame Donalda, who adjudicated.

Miss McEwen possesses a soprano voice of great range and power, is a good actress, well educated, speaks French and English fluently and is conversant with Italian and Spanish. Madame Donalda has expressed the opinion that there is a great career before the singer just brought into the limelight.

Miss McEwen is the daughter of Mr. William McEwen, of Outremont, Montreal. On her father's side the descent is Scotch and on her mother's it is French. "I hope I shall bring credit to Canada," were her farewell words to friends seeing her off on the Melita, which sailed from Montreal.

LET'S BRING LAST YEAR'S CLOTHES UP TO DATE

BY EDITH M. BURTIS.

How to convert last year's clothes into this year's modes is not the riddle that on first thought it may seem to be, and I am hopeful that the following suggestions will serve to inspire ways and means for your remodeling problems.

True, the straight-line silhouette has had to take second place in favor of the flared silhouette. But since there are several variations of the flare and many of these are easily attained, the change in line need cause no anxiety to the woman who must utilize every garment as long as there is a possible chance of remodeling it. In fact, the flare offers excellent remodeling suggestions.

Take for example the conversion of a straight-line slip-on-over-the-head dress into a jumper frock to be worn over shirt blouses or guimpes.

It is an easy matter to cut out the front and the underarms by putting the dress to be thus remodeled on a dress form or on some person of similar size and shape, and, with a tape measure and pins, marking the exact depth and shaping that will convert the old frock into a jumper. Next mark these lines with chalk or with a basting thread and then cut away the material to effect the shaping desired, leaving, however, a seam allowance of one-quarter or three-eighths of an inch.

Finish the edges with a narrow bias facing, preferably of silk. If a cord is inserted in the bias facing it will prevent the armhole and neckline from stretching or tearing.

The pockets may be procured from the piece cut out of the front of the dress.

To get the skirt flare may not seem so simple a procedure, though it really is an easily done bit of work.

Open the side seams of the dress to the height desired, which may need to be governed to some extent by the material available, but in any case be content, since flares of all descriptions are fashionable and you can make no mistake.

However, it is more than likely that these plait sections must of necessity be of a different material, so, as a concrete example, let us assume that the plait flare will start at the hips. Cut these insert sections the length desired, including a hem allowance in width to match the hem of the dress and about eight and three-quarters inches wide, which width will allow for two plaits each two inches wide and for an adequate seam allowance on each edge of three-eighths of an inch.

The next step in the remodeling process is to join the plait insert section to each edge of the skirt opening, then meet these edges at the centre of the insert and carefully and neatly press the plaits thus formed into position, fastening the insert section at the top by stitching or felling neatly to the dress.

GEORGETTE FOR DRESS-UP FROCKS.

Or if the straight dress to be remodeled is of a character suitable to use as a dress-up dress, as for instance one of the printed silks that have been so fashionable the past summer, it is pleasing to know that it can be transformed into a modishly flared frock by the aid of shirred inserts of georgette and without an undue expenditure of time and effort.

Four inserts are a sufficient number to give an entirely new line and an up-to-date appearance to an old frock, provided each shirred section is not less than half a yard wide.

The height of these sections should be determined by the figure requirements of the wearer, though the hip-high inserts are safer for all types of figure. Make those sections and arrange them before cutting away the material of the frock underneath, since this is an easier method than the plan of first cutting the dress, which would probably be the method to come first to mind.

A scarf of the georgette fastened under the collar and looped at the back will add to the dressiness of the frock, or, if preferred, this scarf may be adjusted so that it will tie at the front.

Two strips of georgette about nine inches wide, each strip one yard in length, are required, and machine picot-edge finish is preferable to a rolled hem, though the latter finish may be used if it is not possible to have picoting done.

The Storage of Apples.

It is a rare thing to find an apple grower who is equipped with a really satisfactory and adequate storage plant. Sometimes it is impossible for a grower to have such a plant, because he cannot afford it; but most of us, if we really put our minds to it, might very decidedly improve on what we have. And if we cannot do it now, then we ought at least to have the matter very definitely in mind and be planning for such a storage when the time comes.

A really good storage which will keep our apples in perfect condition right through the season would revolutionize the apple business. It would put our product in the consumers' hands in better condition, thereby encouraging consumption; it would extend the period over which we would have apples for sale, which would also increase consumption; it would make us measurably independent of buyers and market conditions by enabling us to hold our crops when prices were not satisfactory.

Last April the writer had the pleasure of eating a McIntosh apple in absolutely perfect condition, though the normal season for that variety is October and November. It had been kept in a farm storage, but a good one. What would not such a storage on every apple farm do for the apple industry? Now, we cannot all have such storages, but we can make a start.

What are the essentials of such a storage? What shall we aim at?

Perhaps the two most important points to consider, so far as causing the apples to keep well, are temperature and moisture. It has been shown that a temperature of about 35 degrees, which is as low as we can usually expect to get an unrefrigerated storage, will be quite satisfactory, and we ought to aim to secure this temperature in our storage room just as early in the autumn as possible. By keeping the cellar open and well ventilated on cold nights and closing it in the morning it is possible in many orchard sections to force the temperature down to a surprisingly low point in a relatively short time.

As to moisture, apples will usually keep best in a fairly moist atmosphere, 80 per cent. humidity being perhaps the best for most varieties and conditions. This means that we should avoid a concrete floor unless we have special means to keep the air moist.

A third point of decided importance in a storage room is ventilation, since stagnant air is not conducive to the best keeping of fruit.

Other points to be kept in mind in this storage of ours are adequate protection against extreme cold, if one is in a section where this is likely to occur—to be secured most easily by dead air spaces; protection against changes in temperature, which are always objectionable; and guarding against any type of heating.

The above is only suggestive. Storage is one of our vital problems and we shall solve it most quickly if a lot of us get to work on the solution.

Improvement in Canadian Bacon.

Canada normally produces more pork than she consumes. Great Britain provides the only market for our surplus, and the future of our pork industry depends, therefore, on our ability to produce a commodity that the British market will buy. The best seller of all pork products on that market is the good quality bacon side, generally known as "Wiltshire." Sensing the need for improvement in our export bacon, about three years ago the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture launched a bacon hog campaign which includes the grading of live hogs at packing houses and stock yards, demonstrations in hog grading at country shipping points, demonstrations on export bacon sides, winter short courses at country points and at packing plants, the organization of boys' and girls' swine clubs and of bacon hog fairs, and assistance in the filling of orders for pure bred boars and sow stock of bacon type.

The success of this campaign has been striking. In 1924 there were 89,000 more hogs marketed which graded select bacon than in 1923, and there has been a remarkable improvement in the quality of hogs in the second or "thick smooth" grade. Canada's commercial position overseas has also greatly improved in the consistent narrowing in the price between top Danish and top Canadian bacon. A Canadian packing house entered Wiltshire sides at the London Dairy Show last autumn and the autumn before and carried off premier honors each year. In 1924 the marketing of hogs was the heaviest in the history of this country yet the price levels for the concluding weeks were the highest of the year, this being due to our ability to export our surplus to advantage and to increased domestic consumption, the direct result of improvement in quality.

It seems to me that farmers who do not work with their agricultural representative and use the free correspondence courses of their agricultural colleges are missing a lot of profitable information that may be had for the asking.—Oliver Summers.

Paint or automobile enamel can work wonders on a buffet set. Perhaps you have a well-shaped bowl and a pair of candle sticks that do not match. The materials of which they are composed need not necessarily be the same. Give each a coat of black or dark blue enamel and see what a lovely buffet set will result. —Mrs. E. C.

Photographs have been taken by means of a solid steel ball in place of an ordinary lens. The light goes round, instead of through, this novel metal lens.

Sweet Clover Cultivation.

In his pamphlet on "Sweet Clover," Mr. Derick of the Brandon, Man., Dominion Experimental Farm throws out some suggestions deserving of consideration not only in his own province, but generally elsewhere. After alluding to the fact that the value of sweet clover as a soil builder has been definitely proved, Mr. Derick says: Sweet clover can be depended upon for good yields of hay under almost any conditions of soil and climate; as a pasture it has a carrying capacity unequalled by most crops; it is an abundant seed producer; it can be made into silage, but to prevent sliminess requires further maturity or to be mixed with some dry roughage; early seeding is recommended; when a nurse crop is used 10 or 15 pounds of clover seed per acre is a satisfactory rate of seeding; shallow seeding is preferable, provided the seedbed is mellow and firm; seeding with a nurse crop at slightly less than the normal rate is economical; cutting the crop in the early bud stage, leaving a four or five-inch stubble will make the most palatable hay and allow for a second growth; harvesting with the binder and curing in the sheaf will preserve the maximum amount of leaves and reduce the cost of handling the crop; brome grass has advantages over other grasses as a mixture with sweet clover; growing sweet clover in intertilled rows for seed production is recommended; inoculation of the seed is inexpensive and is advisable on the newer fields.

Control of the Bark Beetle.

Writing of the bark beetle and its control in Eastern Canada, Dr. J. M. Swaine, Associate Dominion Entomologist, advises that during the latter part of the summer and in autumn before it is safe to burn, the infested bark can be removed quickly with a narrow spade, such as those used in fire-fighting. But, Dr. Swaine adds, it has proved cheaper and more effective to saw up the tree and burn it whenever the fire hazard permits. Burning also destroys the secondary beetles that undoubtedly play an important part in the outbreaks. If the trunk is peeled it may be salvaged for pulp several years after it becomes infested and for lumber if wood-boring beetles have not already entered it.

The treatise on the destructive bark beetle makes a pamphlet of thirty pages with seven plates and can be had free on application to the Publications Branch, Ottawa. Outbreaks of the beetle have been reported in the Gaspe Peninsula, Que., the Algoma district in Ontario, in northern Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan, northern Alberta, and in some parts of British Columbia.

Flowers in Winter.

Boys, and especially girls, you should have a vase of flowers or leaves on the centre-table all the year round. It brightens the room and makes it look more homelike. In September and October there are many twigs and branches with fall-leaves that look beautiful. For November use chrysanthemums or branches of beautiful leaves. Learn to make your arrangements artistic. Massing the flowers often spoils the effect. Let the stem and the beautiful foliage show. In Japan they teach the children in the schools how to arrange flowers, and this is called "Ben chi jin"—meaning God, universe and man. There is a deep and wonderful significance in this. Flowers surely make one feel as though he were closer to God. And besides, a girl who likes to make bouquets or raise flowers shows inborn refinement. A boy who likes plants, be they big pines on the mountains or pansies in mother's garden, has the makings of a gentleman.—C. P. S.

Lost $1,600,000.

By the farmers of Ontario, through sowing seed wheat infested with the spores of Loose Smut and Stinking Smut.

This loss is preventable.

Treatment for Stinking Smut of Wheat—Remove all smut balls by the use of a good and properly adjusted fanning mill, or by placing the seed grain, a bushel at a time, in a tub of water and stirring. The smut balls being light will rise to the surface and can be skimmed off. When the smut balls are removed treat the seed with formalin as follows: Place the wheat to be treated in a pile on the barn floor and shovel it over into another pile, and as the shovelling is going on spray with a solution consisting of one part formalin and 40 parts water. Use this solution at the rate of one pint to twenty-five bushels of seed. A small quart sealer sprayer is the best for this use. Cover the treated grain with sacks for 4 or 5 hours and then sow. Sacks and drill should also be treated.

CAMPING WITH THE FARM WAGON

BY HIRAM H. SHEPARD.

All of us have a little of the Indian, the primitive savage, in us yet. And it is a good thing for our bodies and for our minds that we still possess some savage nature. It keeps us closer to the ground, closer to Mother Nature, where we are healthier, stronger and happier.

We older and younger boys like to get away from the hard grind and stiff mechanics of the farm.

We like to go camping as many times of the year as we can. One of the very best ways is to go in the farm wagon.

The best camping place, of course, is along some good-sized creek, lake or river in the thickest woods you can find. With a team and wagon you can go anywhere.

Two boys, even four, can sleep like tops in the wagon box on a bed of hay or straw. With a high-wheel farm wagon, a dandy cot for two can be slung underneath from the wagon axles. Sleeping on the ground is all right in dry, warm weather, but not for damp ground and cool nights.

It is always well, no matter how dry the weather, to take along a good-sized tarpaulin, or canvas, to protect the campers and outfit from possible rain. To support the canvas over the wagon, cut two poles about as thick as your arm and eight to ten feet long to stand up V fashion at front and rear of the wagon, crossing and binding the tops with baling wire. Then cut a pole a little heavier than these stakes, about twelve feet long, to serve as a ridgepole. The supporting poles should be sharpened at the lower ends for sticking in the ground. All should be wired to the wagon to make the whole frame firm.

Over the ridgepole the canvas is spread.

In the absence of other covering for our camp wagon, we have often taken and used the platform and elevator binder canvases. Burlap bags ripped and spread out and sewed together with wrapping twine make good end pieces for a V tent.

Burlap bags, also, stuffed with clean straw or soft hay, make dandy camp pillows or bedticks.

Best Bulbs for Fall Planting.

Flowers are, no doubt, enjoyed more in the spring than at any other period of the growing season. After a long winter the first flowers are eagerly sought for and if bulbs have been planted in the autumn one has not long to wait for flowers for Snowdrops bloom as soon as the snow has gone. Then come in rapid succession, and some at the same time, the Scillas or Squills, Glory of the Snow or Chionadoxa, Crocus, Grape Hyacinth, Dutch Hyacinth, Narcissus in great variety, and early, cottage and Darwin Tulips. These give a succession of bloom from early in April, or earlier if the frost is out of the ground, until well on in June.

While the bulbs are growing in Holland, the flowers for next year are being formed in the bulb. Later, the bulbs are dug, cured and shipped to Canada. Knowing that the flowers are already formed in the bulbs before planting, he who proposes either to grow them in the garden or pot them for the house will readily understand that large, well-developed bulbs are likely to give better flowers than small ones. In ordering this should be remembered. No amount of care can add more blooms to a hyacinth spike than were formed when the bulb was growing in Holland.

Unless the bulbs are well rooted in the soil outside or in the pots in the house, the results will not be satisfactory, hence the desirability of obtaining them as soon as they are offered for sale in the stores, which will be during the month of September. Tulips, narcissus and hyacinths should be planted from four to six inches deep to the bottom of the bulb, and about the same distance apart, while the smaller bulbs, such as snowdrops, crocuses, and squills, may be planted about two inches apart and from two to three inches deep.

Some of the most satisfactory varieties of the more important bulbs for the garden are:

Narcissus—Emperor, Sir Watkin, Madame de Graaff, Madame Plemp, Poeticus.

Hyacinth—La Grandesse, Grand Lilas, King of the Blues, Gigantea, Roise des Belges.

Early Single Tulips—Duchess de Parma, Gold Finch, Keizerskroon, Lady Boreel, Maes, Cottage Maid, Sir Thos. Lipton, Prosperine, Golden Queen.

Early Double Tulips—Couronne d'Or, Imperator Rubrorum, Murillo.

Cottage Tulips—Macrospiela, Golden Crown, Picotee, and many others.

Darwin Tulips—Bartigon, Clara Butt, Farncombe Sanders, Isis, Edmee, Frans Hals, Millet, Wm. Pitt, Gretchen.

To make mashed potatoes light and creamy, beat them well with a fork, adding a little hot milk.

Barking dogs which become a nuisance can now be "cured" by having their barks removed, as a result of experiments carried out by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

ECLIPSE FASHIONS
Exclusive Patterns
by Cecil Rayner

THE NEW MODE HAS A FLARE.

Straight lines combined with the side flare assume a charming effect in this coat-dress of becoming design. The deep rever in jabot effect crosses the front in a diagonal line and terminates in a graceful cascade at the left hip. A vestee is set under the V neck, and the long tailored sleeves are button-trimmed. The diagram pictures the simplicity of this frock, which the home sewer will delight to make. No. 1190 is in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 38 bust requires 4⅜ yards of 36-inch, or 3 yards of 54-inch material without figure or nap. For dress without drapery ⅝ yard less material is required. Price 20 cents.

Many styles of smart apparel may be found in our Fashion Book. Our designers originate their patterns in the heart of the style centres, and their creations are those of tested popularity, brought within the means of the average woman. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.