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ICE CROP HARVESTING

Practical Methods Suggested for Farm Storage

Ice May Be Formed in Moulds—Artificial Pond—How to Cut the Blocks—Loading and Packing—The Use and Abuse of Sawdust.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The ice crop every winter in Canada is an enormous one, and if it could be marketed in the cities for summer use, the revenue would amount to many millions of dollars. The farmers must rely upon the ponds, rivers and lakes close by for their supplies, as it has not been found practicable to ship ice by rail in some sections where it is not available, as there are few if any bodies of water large and pure enough to freeze water to sufficient thickness. Farmers may make their own ice, weather permitting, by making a few ice moulds close to the well and gradually freezing them full, or by making a solid block of ice in a metal lined chamber by pumping into it a little water every day or so and allowing it to freeze solid. Twenty rakes of ice, each 18 inches square and 12 inches thick, would make a ton of ice as stored.

The Artificial Pond. Still another method for manufacturing ice on the farm is to make an artificial pond where there is an abundant supply of water available from well or spring and the pumping is done by power or hydraulic ram. The area required to produce a ton of ice is not great, depending of course on the thickness of the ice. If the probable freezing will make ice 12 inches thick but thirty-five square feet of pond surface is required for each ton needed.

The usual method of harvesting the supply of ice for the farms is to cut it from some nearby pond, stream or lake and haul it home and store it in the ice house, or some form of enclosure where it will cover deep with dry sawdust. The source of ice should be free from contamination and clean of weeds and other vegetable matter.

Harvesting the Crop.

The method consists of the following operations: (1) Clearing off the snow, if any, by means of a suitable form of scraper. The snow is either dragged off to the shore or pulled into windrows, depending on the size of the area.

(2) Marking off the ice into squares or laying off the field. This operation should be done early in the morning, before the ice has become too hard to handle, and this can be done by stretching a line between two stakes and placing a straight edge board 12 or 14 feet long along the line, and marking the ice with hand tool or hand plough along the edge of the board. The board is moved along as the marking is done, piece by piece. After marking in one direction is completed it is necessary to establish a line across the area which is at right angles to the first direction. Probably the best way to start this is by using a carpenter's large square made of pieces of straight-edge boards 10 or 12 feet long, and tied across the corner to hold them fast at angle of 90°. Once the first line is marked straight and at right angles to the first line the rest can easily be marked off properly.

Cutting the Ice.

The ice is cut both ways by either a horse-drawn ice plough or a circular saw driven by a gasoline engine. The ice is mounted on a sled pushed along by hand. The latter method of cutting is very satisfactory and is economical when cutting is done on a large scale, as is the case with a large ice dealer or group of farmers harvesting their ice co-operatively. The ice field is usually cut in one direction with the machine and to a point two or three inches of the float depth. The long strips, one way are divided from the field by striking into the saw cut with a heavy chisel, and then pushed up to the loading platform and there cut up into blocks by a hand saw or by the chisel in case the field has been cut both ways by the ice plough or power saw. When a small quantity of ice is harvested the cutting is done by saws.

Loading and Packing the Ice.

There are several devices used for loading the ice on the sleds, wagons or motor trucks depending upon the amount of ice being handled. The main object in the case is to get a mechanical outfit that is cheap, convenient to operate and which will save the handling of the ice by hand. A simple hoist, or a horse-power driven elevator answers very well. It is advisable to store the ice on cold, dry days as it will be better for handling and will keep better after storage. The cakes should all be the same size, and be evenly cut, in order that they may be packed together with as little air space as possible. Any spaces should be filled with small pieces of ice. The more compact the mass of ice the better it will keep. Below the ice there should be a foot of dry sawdust or shavings, and as the filling proceeds the same material should be packed between the ice and the walls. Do not put sawdust about individual cakes of ice. Pack the ice with the chisel dip toward the center, so that it cannot press outward against the walls. After the ice is stored there should be a couple of feet of sawdust put over the top. O. A. C. Bulletin 306 on Cold Storage is free for the asking.—R. R. Graham, Department of Forestry, O. A. C., Guelph.

WATCH OUR WINDOWS

GOOD SHOE NEWS FOX'S JANUARY CLEARING SALE OF Boots, Shoes and Rubbers

After a large Christmas trade we find several lines in stock about sold out and also find that we have too many of some lines. In order to keep our stock clean and up-to-date it has been our policy to hold two clearing sales a year one at mid summer and the other in January and by so doing we are able at all times to offer the public strictly up-to-date footwear at the lowest market prices.

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BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Progress of the Disease is Slow, Insidious and Chronic

The Symptoms Described—How Milk- ing Cows Become Affected—Post Mortem Appearances—The Septic Tank.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The onset of this contagious and infectious disease of farm animals is slow, insidious and chronic, with no outward manifestations for some time.

Symptoms of the Disease.

At first, dry cough, intermittent and more noticeable when the resting animal is made to rise quickly should be regarded with suspicion. A cough alone, while suspicious is not entirely characteristic, nor should its absence mean that the animal is not tubercular. The breathing may be quickened, there may be an unhealthy condition and chronic diarrhoea. In some cases the loss in condition is very marked, and the animal recedes to a thin, hide-bound condition, with sunken eyes and rough coat; such animals are usually referred to as wagers. There may be enlargement of the lymphatic glands, such as the submaxillary or the prescapular. Enlargement of any of the lymphatic glands should always be considered with suspicion. Slight bloating, which may be due to enlarged glands, interfering with the normal functioning of the digestive tract, should be regarded as suspicious, since the mesenteric glands if badly infected may cause irregular action of the intestines, with bloating and constipation followed by diarrhoea. In cases where tuberculous is affecting the hooves and joints the animals may move with unnatural gait or show lameness.

How Milked Cows Are Affected.

The mammary glands of milking animals is a common seat of tubercular lesions. Hard areas in the glandular substance, painless on pressure, which may be very small or even involve the entire quarter of the udder, should be regarded with grave suspicion. These painless nodules or tumors if present can be felt by the hand, unperceived. In cases where the udder is affected the supplementary lymph glands also become much enlarged and may be easily felt. Post Mortem Appearances.

The effects produced in the body tissues are characterized by the formation of tubercles or nodules, which in the advanced condition are a yellowish color and cheese-like consistency. Such nodules may be single and of small size, or they may be quite large and in masses. The common seat of tubercular lesions is in the following glands: bronchial and mediastinal lymph glands, the cervical, pre-scapular, pre-pectoral, portal, inguinal, sub-lumbar, popliteal and mesenteric glands. The lungs and the pleura are also common locations for the lesions of tuberculous, in which they (the lesions) appear as hard lumps, easy to see and easy to feel. These when cut into are found to be cheese-like and contain a thick yellowish pus.

The "Pearl Disease" Condition.

When the pleura (covering of the lungs and lining membrane of the chest or thoracic cavity) is affected it presents over its surface clusters of small round nodules, pale cream colored in color and resembling crag-like masses, commonly spoken of as "pearl disease" condition. When the organism successfully invades the liver caseous masses and tubercular abscesses are formed. These when cut open show the characteristic yellow cheesy pus and gritty feeling on the passing of the incising knife. Where the peritoneum (the lining membrane of the abdominal cavity) is attacked the "pearl disease" condition is characteristic. Lesions in the udder, lymph glands, ovaries, kidneys and spleen resemble the caseous masses and abscess formation common in the liver. The ovicid, the uterus, the bones and joints may also be affected with tubercular lesions in old standing cases the pericardium (heart covering the heart) and the heart may be a position of ready infection. This destroying organism, the work of which is characterized by its destruction of tissue and the formation of tubercles.—L. Stevenson, Director of Extension, O. A. C., Guelph.

The Septic Tank.

It consists of a large concrete tank, divided into two compartments by a vertical partition. The size for a single house is about 4 x 8 ft. and 3 1/2 ft. deep. This tank holds the sewage long enough for a certain kind of bacteria to destroy the solid matter. When the liquid accumulates to a certain amount a non-mechanical affair called a siphon empties one of the chambers into a system of field tile, called the absorption bed, laid shallow under the ground. Any remaining sewage is destroyed in the soil by another kind of bacteria that live near the top of the ground. In this way these friendly bacteria are enabled to do a very valuable work for us. This is science applied to a useful purpose.

We supply built-in and blue-print to any one wishing to build a septic tank. All necessary information is given in these, and by their helpful suggestions any handy man can build it. Cost for cement, siphon fittings and tile amounts to about \$55. The tank may be located close to the house and the tile laid under the lawn or garden.—R. R. Graham, O. A. C., Guelph.

It does not pay to turn cows into yards and compel them to remain out in disagreeable weather. It costs less to keep cows warm.

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