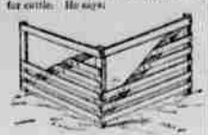
FEEDING BOX FOR CATTLE.

A Virginian's Plan for Feeding Cattle and Restraining "Cribs."

A Virginia correspondent writing to Country Gentleman gives the following illustrated description of a feeding box for cattle. He says:



A GOOD FEEDING BOX.

As I sell my corn I have been annoyed with racks and other devices where one or two under cows would keep away all the weaker ones until they could fill up and walk off. From the box here illustrated four cows can feed at a time and neither reach the other, as they stand at opposite corners. By laying a 15-foot pole at each corner, facilitating the larger end to the top of the box, and letting the smaller end rest on the ground, a practical stall is made for each cow, reducing the "cribber" from going around to often.

The boxes are 3 feet high and 6 feet square; have no bottom, and are cleaned by turning them over. The materials are scantling 2 by 4 inch and 10 feet long for the sides, inch boards 6 inches wide and 12 feet long and for the bottom, inch boards 8 inches wide and 10 feet long. Them cut without waste, giving six 6 inch strips on each side. Similar boxes have been illustrated before, but this one has an improvement in the top bar which prevents the cow getting into the box. For convenience only the side strips are shown; the corners will vary with the width of lumber used or the maker's fancy.

Potatoes and Onions.

With many crops, says The New York World, rotation seems beneficial, independent of yearly manuring, to keep up the fertility of the soil. With some, however, it does not appear to be necessary. Potatoes and onions, especially the latter, do well on the same soil for years, provided they are properly fertilized. As both are abnormally heavy crops, the kind of cultivation they receive to make them profitable keeps the soil in the best possible condition for their growth. For the onion crop the ground should be exceedingly mellow and rich. Barn yard and hog pen manures are both excellent for this crop, provided they are well decomposed and thoroughly mixed with the soil. No crop will pay better for an unusually good proportion of the soil than this. A yearly top dressing of ashes applied to the onion beds and raked in before the planting is highly recommended.

For the potato the ground should be deeply plowed and well harrowed to pulverize it. The furrows for the seed hill should be deep and wide, to give the tubers room to form without obstruction from the firmer soil of their sides. For this crop the standard commercial fertilizers have given the best returns, and are now more commonly used than for any other. They may be sown broadcast or some directly applied. For their most economical use they may either be mixed with the loose soil of the remainder of the furrow before the seed is dropped, or be scattered on top of a first shallow covering, leaving the furrow to be filled when the shoots begin to appear. It is not quite settled whether above or below the seed is the best.

Gypsum for Clover.

The plants that derive profit from gypsum include all known to the agriculturist, but some more than others profit by the fertilizer, says American Cultivator. Clover stands at the head of the list as one responding quickly to the application, and it will often make all the difference between a good and a bad crop of clover whether the gypsum has been applied. One hundred pounds of land plaster to the acre, sown broadcast, will prevent a clover patch from being burnt up by a dry spell, and 200 pounds spread over the fields beforehand will give the clover a splendid start. It may be sown at seeding time, or when the plants are up, but the former method seems preferable, for it will then enable the plants to get a good catch. Gypsum is thus made the foundation of a good crop of clover, and if the young crop is threatened by a drought gypsum can come in as a lapdressing. Even during very severe droughts land plaster will avert direful calamity in the clover field if applied early enough, says the authority quoted.

Bee Gleanings.

At a recent meeting at St. Catherine's, Ont., a vote was taken on the question of outdoor versus indoor wintering of bees. The majority favored packing on summer stands.

Mr. Thomas G. Newman urges on the readers of The American Bee Journal the importance of their making bee and honey exhibits at the agricultural fairs, and gives some very good reasons for so doing. There is no doubt about the attractiveness to the average fair goer of bees in glassed hives and honey in glass crates.

If separators are to be used, which shall they be, wood or tin? I believe the general decision is that tin is preferable with wide frames, and wood with the T supers, says a correspondent in The Bee-keepers' Review.

"Ripe" honey is honey which has by evaporation become sufficiently thick to be sealed in the cell.

The queen cells are elongated and are the cells in which queens are reared.

Root tells that the slanted honey board is now scarcely ordered, and he has almost stopped making them. Tried them once and think he may have ran into it out entirely. Of course queen excluding honey boards are as popular as ever.

A tested queen is one whose progeny has been examined and found pure.

A separator is a strip or piece of tin or wood placed between section boxes to insure straight combs.

Perpetuities.

(At the debating club.) Chairman—Whatever is that now at the back table?

A Member—Oh! nothing; I merely dropped my speech on the floor.—La Vedetta.

Proof of Authenticity.

McWatty on the breakfast table—Mrs. Scott, this egg has a chicken in it.

Mrs. Scott—Shows it is genuine. I never use artificial eggs.—West Shore.

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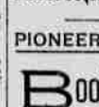

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