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Corn Smut

Corn smut is a fungus and is carried over from one year to another on old stalks, on fodder, in manure and probably also in the soil. Since the disease is not seed borne, seed treatment is useless. The collection of the smutted ears and stalks before the spores are spread will help greatly to control the trouble if it can be done. The use of smut infected manure should be avoided, and the corn crop should be rotated so as not to occur on the same land oftener than once in three or more years.

Sleeping Sickness

During the winter, it is not likely that other horses will catch sleeping sickness from an animal that has recovered. In summer, such a thing might occur, but it is somewhat rare. So far as we know, cattle will not become infected from horses. The barn, of course, should be very carefully cleaned and disinfected before putting in healthy animals. Thorough cleaning, followed by scrubbing with hot water and lye, is about the best that can be done.

Oats for Pigs

Experiments indicate that oats are 60 to 75 per cent as efficient as corn for fattening pigs if they form about one-third of the ration and are ground or crushed. Hulling, it is said, does not pay. Oats alone or with a protein content concentrate are not as good feed as when fed with corn. Because oats are not as palatable as some grains, hogs will eat more than the necessary amount of protein supplement if they have access to it. For 60-pound shoats in dry lot two or three pounds of supplement is sufficient for a bushel of oats or half as much on pasture.—Missouri Farmer.

Ears and Kernels

The number of ears on a stalk of corn and the number of kernels on an ear vary greatly with different varieties of sweet corn. The number of ears may be anywhere from one to one-half dozen or more on the same plant, while the number of kernels to the ear may vary between 500 and 1,000 or more. The Golden Bantam types of sweet corn, for example, have smaller ears, with fewer kernels, than most other types and 800 would be an average for this type.

Home Seed Tests Are Recommended

Corn Can Be Readily Tried by Use of Well Known "Rag Doll" Plan.

By G. H. Dungan, Associate in Crop Production, University of Illinois. WNU Service.

With much of the seed corn intended for next spring's planting below standard because of early frosts and late maturity of the crop last fall, poor stands can be avoided only through home testing this winter.

Seed corn should germinate at least 90 per cent to assure a good stand. Prospective seed supplies can be tested readily at home by the use of the well known "rag doll" tester. This tester is made by placing 100 grains of the chosen seed stock on a dampened cloth, covering the samples with another cloth and rolling the two pieces together loosely. The tester should be kept damp and at a temperature of about 80 degrees.

Testing the samples before late winter will give the farmer opportunity to secure additional seed supplies before planting time if the available supply does not measure up to the required germination standards.

While it is too late to improve the germination qualities of corn that was cured improperly after picking in the fall, frequent inspections of the stored supply will help keep the seed in good condition. This is especially necessary if there is an abrupt change from a cold, dry condition to warm, damp weather.

During such a change the moisture condenses and collects on the cold grains of corn and may ruin the seed if allowed to remain until the weather again turns cold. A small stove or other heating equipment in the farm seed room will dry the corn and prevent such damage.

Small Hotbed Will Grow Ample Supply of Plants

A 6 by 6-foot hotbed, when properly handled, will grow sufficient plants for the average farm garden and a few extra for the neighbors, writes a correspondent in the Indiana Farmer's Guide.

Hotbeds should have a southern exposure and be protected from strong winds. Build a frame 6 by 6 feet, using 2-inch thick material. The top or north end of the frame should be of 2 by 16-inch material and the front 2 by 10 inches. Build the sides flush with the top and bottom which will give the proper slope for the sash. A pit may be dug for the manure or the manure may be placed on the ground, built up and the hotbed placed on top.

Use approximately 15 inches of fresh horse manure that does not have too much straw. Fork this over a few times until it starts to heat, then place it in the pit or pile it square on the ground, place the frame and put in 2 to 2½ inches of a good rich soil. If the soil is dry, water thoroughly but do not soak. Place the sash on the frame, bank around the sides with manure or soil and in a few days heating will take place. Seed should be sown when the temperature drops to 75 to 80 degrees.

Warbles Resist Salt

Some stockmen have long believed that salt treatments—either dry salt or brine—are effective in killing grubs or warbles in the backs of cattle. But a scientific test of salt applications showed that they were actually if not entirely ineffective. J. Stoehlik of the United States Department of Agriculture, tested a strong brine rubbed over the hide of several animals and found that it did not kill grubs. He injected brine into the holes in the hide and the grubs survived. And he rubbed brine repeatedly over the lumps in the back of a steer from which the hair had been clipped. His conclusion was that the frequent brushings were more effective in killing grubs than the brine was. As a result the bureau of animal industry is not recommending the simple salt "cure" for grubs. It is simple enough, but it does not cure.

Costume suits that top the dress of smart wool with a fur coat or cape related via a matching lining or trimming accents that achieve a unified outfit are featuring big this season. The younger set are taking to spotted furs to carry out the idea. In the picture a very new flared swing tunic frock in sheer hairy black wool takes on white accents in a girlish faille collar, a bow of the same and bone buttons. To the call for black and white fur to complement the dress, a swagger coat of baby coolor gives the answer. The ripple collar of this youthful coat is very flattering.

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