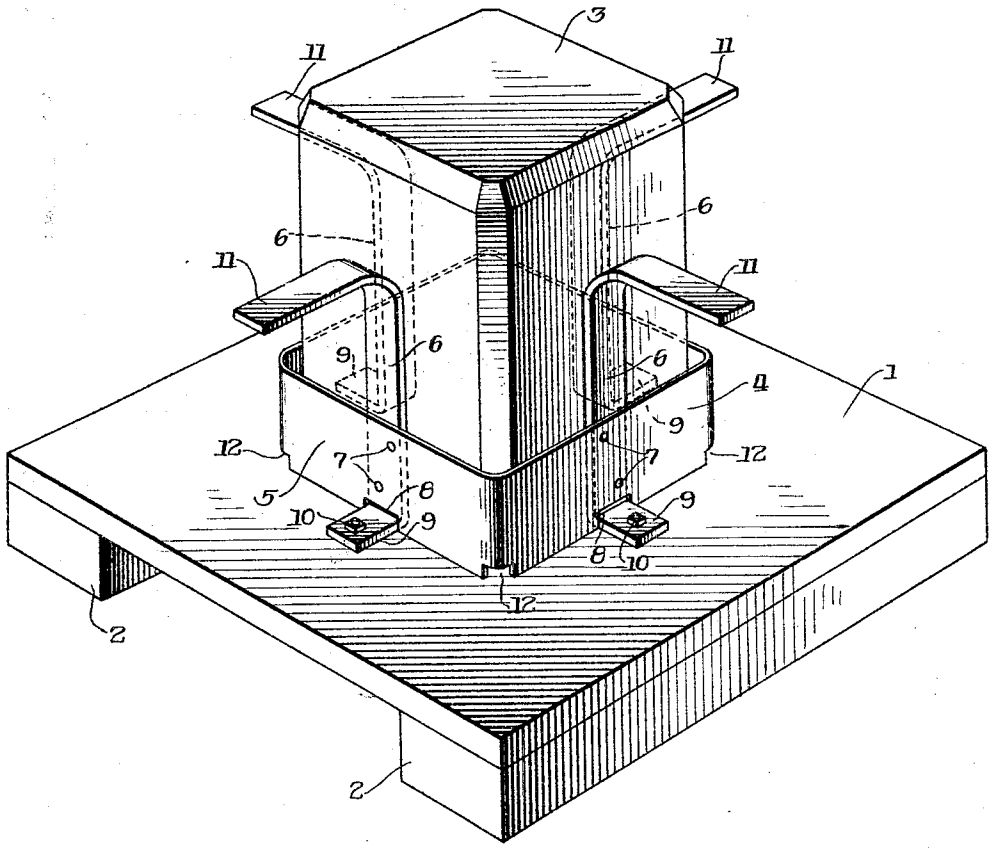
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FEEDER

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FEEDER

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The present invention relates to feeders to be utilized primarily in connection with the feeding of salt and mineral blocks to livestock.

The primary object of the invention is the provision of a device of the class described for either indoor or outdoor use in which the feed block is firmly held in place and may be entirely consumed by the animal, the losses due to rain and other causes are reduced to a minimum and in which the block cannot be used as a rubbing post, overturned or removed from the feeder by the animal.

A further object of the invention is the provision of such a device which is simple in construction and which may be economically manufactured.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art upon understanding the fundamental principles thereof.

For purposes of illustration, a preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing and hereinafter described. It is understood that this disclosure is given for purposes of exemplification only and is not to be construed as limiting the invention short of its true and most comprehensive scope as defined in the appended claims.

The drawing shows a view in perspective of a preferred form of the device.

The feeder comprises a base or platform 1 which may be of any convenient size and constructed of wood, to two edges of which are attached stringers indicated by the reference numeral 2.

The feed block 3 is held in place by means of a clamping device 4 mounted on the platform 1. The clamping device 4 comprises a base band 5 which is of slightly larger dimensions than the feed block 3 and the lower edges of which abut against the platform 1. The feed block 3 is secured within the band 5 by means of the clamping members 6. The clamping members 6 are L-shaped and may be constructed of iron. They are secured to the inside wall of the band 5 on a line midistance between the vertical edges of the block 3 by means of rivets 7. Slots 8 are provided in the base of the band 5 to permit the lower end 9 of the clamping members 6 to extend therethrough at a right angle.

The entire feed block clamping device 4 is secured to the platform 1 by means of bolts 10 or other fastening means passing through the platform and the feet 9 of the clamping members 6. The upper portion of the clamping members 6 are provided with outwardly extending projections 11, as shown in the drawing, the purpose of which will be hereinafter explained. The clamping members 6 being of resilient material may be bent inwardly slightly so as to hold the block under tension or the block may be firmly held in place by constructing the device sufficiently accurate to cause a tight fit between the block and the clamping members.

Notches or slots 12 are provided in the lower corner of the band 5 to permit water to readily drain out of the space between the block and the band, thus saving the block from becoming soggy or soft due to excess moisture. The top projections 11 on the clamping members 6 are provided in order to prohibit the animal from using the block as a rubbing post, and extend outwardly a sufficient distance so that a straight line drawn between adjacent ends thereof will not contact with the corners of the block. The clamping members 6 are positioned midway between the corners of the band 5 in order to provide ample space for the animal to eat from the feed block down to the base 1. The loss of the food in the block due to washing away by rain is negligible since any of the material washed from the block will be caught in the space between the band and the block. The small amount of foodstuffs flowing off with moisture through the opening 12 is collected on the platform 1 and there consumed by the animal.

It is practically impossible for the animal to remove the block from the feeder due to the band 5 which prohibits it from getting its nose or snout under or near the bottom of the block.

It has been found that feed blocks constructed in accordance with the present invention are thoroughly efficient in actual use,

that the amount of waste is negligible and better feeding conditions are accomplished.

I claim:

1. A feeder comprising a base, means connected with the base for holding a block of food in place thereon, said means including resilient members bearing against the side walls of said block.

2. A feeder comprising a base, means connected with the base for holding a block of food in place thereon, and means for preventing the animal from touching the lower outside edges of the block.

3. A feeder comprising a base, a band secured to said base and adapted to fit around the lower edge of a block of food, and means for securing said feed block with its lower portion within said band.

4. A feeder comprising a base, means connected with the base for holding a block of food in place, a band resting upon said base and surrounding said block of food, said band having apertures therein to permit the escape of water flowing within said band.

5. A feeder comprising a base, means for holding a block of food in place thereon, said means including resilient members adapted to engage said block, a band surrounding said block and resting upon said base, said band having openings in the lower portion thereof.

6. A feeder comprising a base, means for holding a block of food on said base, said means comprising upright resilient members adapted to bear against said block, a hand abutting against said base and surrounding the lower edges of said food block and spaced apart therefrom by the thickness of said resilient members.

7. A feeder comprising a base, clamping members connected with said base, said clamping members being adapted to engage a block of food and having the upper ends thereof extending outwardly from said block.

8. A feeder comprising a base, clamping members connected with said base and adapted to engage a block of food, said clamping members being positioned along the side walls of said block midway between its upright edges and having outwardly extending portions at the upper ends thereof.

9. A feeder comprising a base, clamping members connected with said base and extending upwardly to engage the side walls of a feed block midway between its upright edges, said clamping members having outwardly extending portions at the upper ends thereof, and a band surrounding said block at the lower portion thereof.

10. A feeder comprising a base, clamping members secured to said base and positioned so as to engage the side walls of a feed block, outwardly extending portions at the upper ends of said clamping members, a band abutting against said base and surrounding the lower edge of said block, said band being spaced from said block and having slots in the lower corners thereof.

11. A feeder comprising a base, clamping members secured to said base and so positioned as to engage the side walls of a feed block on a line midway between the vertical edges thereof, outwardly projecting portions extending from the upper ends of said clamping members, said outwardly projecting portions being of such length that a straight line drawn between any two adjacent ends thereof will not touch said feed block, a band surrounding the lower edge of said feed block, and means for securing said band in place.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

GROVER F. PFEIFFER.