(No Model.)

J. H. WILLIAMS.

FEED BAG.

No. 403,867. Patented May 21 1889.

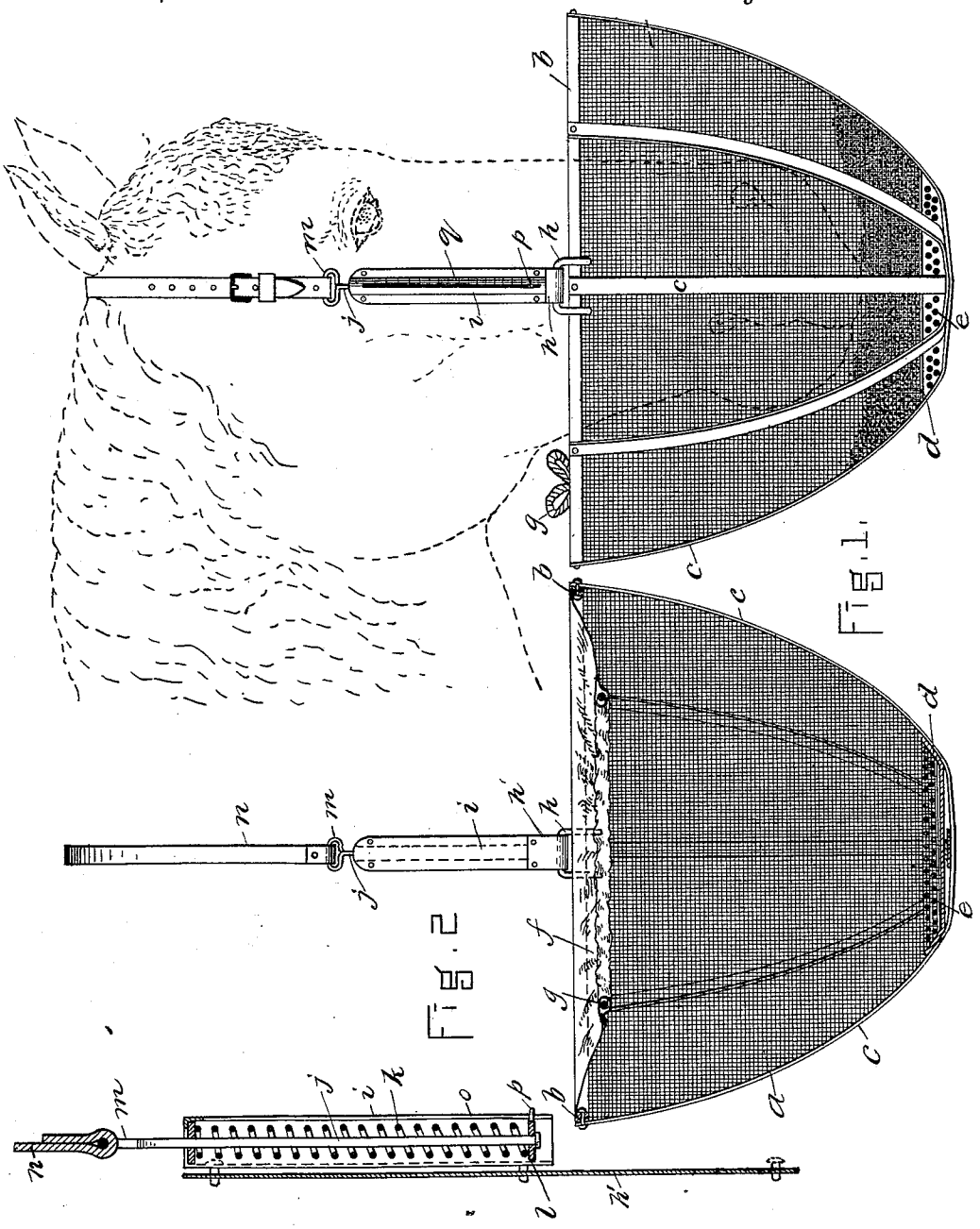


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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FEED-BAG.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 403,867, dated May 21, 1889.

Application filed May 10, 1888. Serial No. 273,502. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. WILLIAMS, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Feed Bags or Baskets, of which the following is a specification.

For a full understanding of my invention reference is made to the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, forming a part of this specification, in which drawings—

Figure 1 is a side view of my improved feed bag or basket, the head of a horse being portrayed in dotted lines to clearly indicate the manner of using the contrivance. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the bag or basket. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the spring-support for the basket.

The same letters of reference designate the same parts.

In the drawings, *a* designates the body of the basket, consisting of a single piece or sheet of woven-wire fabric stamped or molded to proper form, so as to be without seam or seams of any kind. The body *a* is bound around the rim or upper edge with two strips of metal, *b*, between which the upper edge of the fabric body of the basket extends, so that such fabric edge will be protected and prevented from scratching the nose of the feeding horse, and a strong firm binding at the same time provided for the upper edge of the basket, from which binding there extends around the outside of the body of the basket, at or under the bottom of the same to the rim *b*, at an opposite point, strips or ribs of metal, *c*, these strips or ribs being for the purpose of strengthening the basket and protecting it against injury by reason of a blow that may be given to the side of the basket.

d designates a metallic plate molded to fit the bottom of the basket and secured thereto by any suitable means, this device being provided for the purpose of strengthening and protecting the bottom of the basket. This bottom plate, *d*, may be perforated, as at *e*, to admit air freely to the basket.

f designates a strip of canvas or other textile fabric secured at one edge to the rim *b* between two metal strips and extending inward toward the center of the basket, where it is provided with a "draw-string," *g*, for the purpose of adjusting the feeding-aperture through which the nose of the horse is passed, the body of the canvas strip between the rim *b* and the draw-string *g* serving to prevent the horse or other animal from throwing feed out of the basket in tossing his head, as he is liable to do while feeding.

h designates a hinge or loop of wire or the like, secured to the rim *b*, to which the lower end of a metal strap, *h'*, is looped or hinged in any suitable manner. To this strap *h'* is secured a housing or casing, *i*, in which is arranged a rod, *j*, surrounded by a spiral spring, *k*, the upper end of which bears against the upper end of the casing or housing, the lower end resting on a head or plate, *l*, forming a part of or connected with the rod *j*. The upper end of the rod *j* has a loop or eye, *m*, formed thereon or therein, providing means for attaching the strap *n*, which passes over the head of the horse to said rod. With this construction it will be seen that the weight of the basket and the feed therein will be borne by the spring *k*, which will be contracted by the weight of the feed in the basket and will rise as the feed is consumed, thus maintaining the latter within convenient proximity of the mouth of the animal. By this construction and arrangement of a spring-support for the basket the latter is left free from any external or internal incumbrances, and the spring-support is arranged at a point where it will not be liable to be injured, as would be the case if it were arranged alongside of or at the bottom of the basket. The spring *k* is compressed to the utmost extent, as is commonly done in the construction of spring scales or balances, before it is placed in position, so as to make the spring-support of the basket serve as a weighing-scales for the feed placed therein; and to this end the housing or casing *i* is slotted vertically, as at *o*, and an indicating-finger, *p*, extends through said slot to a scale, *q*, marked on the outside of said housing. By graduating the scale to pounds the user of the basket can readily ascertain the amount of feed

placed in the basket. The metallic part of the basket—the woven-wire body as well as its adjuncts—may be galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent it from rusting.

My improved feed-basket has been shown by experience to be durable, to permit the horse or other animal to eat with convenience and comfort, and to prevent waste of feed, all of which are serious objections following the use of feed-bags of usual construction.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A feed bag or basket consisting of a single seamless piece of wire-cloth, having the upper edge or rim bound by strips of metal inclosing the upper edge of the fabric, broad metallic strips extending at short intervals from the binding of the rim around the body of the basket outside of the same, a metallic housing hinged to the binding-rim, a supporting-rod extending into said housing, and a spring interposed between the lower end of the rod and the upper end of the housing, whereby weight in the basket will compress the spring, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 5th day of May, A. D. 1888.

JOHN H. WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

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