

FARMS AND FARMERS



A Shelter for Sheep.

Sheep to do not require warm quarters, except for early lambs. In general they are better with little protection from cold. The wool is heavier and of better quality. A stable for other stock is too warm for sheep, and outside feeding is best whenever possible. Therefore, says a writer in Farm, Stock and Home, they should not be housed in the barn. They must be sheltered from cold rains, and muddy fields often make outside feeding impossible or wasteful.

The building shown provides a simple and cheap shelter for use by the man who is trying to "grow into sheep," and who cannot afford costly buildings. It has a stone foundation, and a floor of earth. Roof is covered with prepared roofing. Sides may have cheap drop siding; or cheap boards perhaps from logs cut on the farm, and light weight roofing. The wide doors prevent injury to ewes from crowding. Doors will usually be left open, either allowing the sheep to pass in and out at will, or using fire covered gates in the doorways.

In case of early lambs or in severe storms the doors can be closed, and effective ventilation supplied by the open sash covered with heavy muslin. This material is being much used for poultry houses, and is good for other farm buildings also. While enough air will pass through for ventilation, the cloth will largely stop wind and is nearly as warm as glass, especially in still cold. He who has noticed how much warmer a bedroom is with the windows screened with mosquito netting than with wire will appreciate the effect of the muslin in "entangling" the air. Still, the correct way is to use two thicknesses of cloth; the air space formed being very effective, while not preventing ventilation.

Lambing pens are on south side, and can be thrown together when



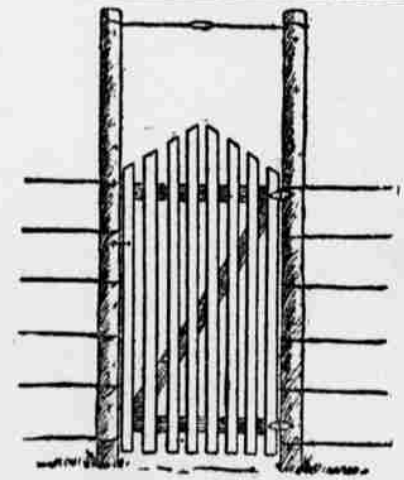
SHELTER FOR SHEEP.

not required for separate use. Partitions are of wire fencing, with gates of same on wood frames. Remainder of building can be divided with some material as seems best, changing when necessary. Feeding racks are movable.

No provision is made for storage of grain or roughage. Feeding is so largely "in the open" that it is often best to bring the feeds from the barn as needed. The overhead track will carry food or manure. It would often be better to attach the building to the main barn.

Gate for Wire Fence.

The cut illustrates a method of making a wire fence gate without the



use of braces. No description is required, save, perhaps, that the wire at the top of the posts is twisted tight and held to the posts with staples.

Dairy Cleanlines.

Prof. C. E. Eckles says the cow herself is the chief source of the contamination to which milk is subject. Especially is this true when the cow is kept under the conditions found in some barns. The cow must, first of all, be kept decently clean if it is expected to produce milk suitable for human food. In many cases the difficulty is to be attributed to the poor arrangement of the barn. Putting the cow in a well-lighted stable, with good floor, a platform the proper length to stand upon, a suitable gutter and a manger, and it is possible, at least, to keep the conditions fairly good. Then keep the cow decently clean. Curry her and brush off the udder and adjoining parts

of the body with a stiff brush before milking.

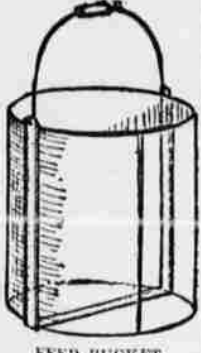
The strainer can not be depended upon to take out dirt—if it must be kept out in the first place.

Another source of contamination is improperly cleaned utensils. Prof. Eckles says a single dirty can may contain more bacteria than there are inhabitants in the world, and they are ready for business as soon as milk is placed in the can.

The most proper thing to use in cleaning utensils is a good, strong brush. Nothing else should be employed in cleaning pails, cans or cream separators.

Economical Feed Carrier.

In handling dry feed, such as oats, buckwheat, shelled corn, bran and the like, for feeding farm animals and poultry, one wants something lighter and less cumbersome than a basket, and more convenient than a peck measure. A tin pail would answer the purpose very well were it not that when it gets wet it will soon rust. The receptacle illustrated consists of nothing more elaborate than a cheese box, to the outside of which three strips of tough lath or thin board are nailed, as pictured. At the top of the two upright pieces a hole is bored, which, allowing the insertion of an old bucket ball, makes the carrier complete. Used with reasonable care, it will endure service for years.—Farm and Home.



FEED BUCKET.

Retailers are necessary according to present methods of doing business, and until farmers organize a selling force of their own middlemen will continue to toll the farmers' grist as thoroughly as the traffic will bear. Peaches may rot on the ground in Missouri while selling for 2 cents each in Chicago, but the farmer in Missouri is helpless because he has no representative in the market center. The time will come when farmers will have an agent at each central point to handle farm products and distribute them either to the consumer or retail grocer. When that time comes farmers will come nearer getting what they work for. It is just as necessary to sell right as to farm right.—Agricultural Optimist.

Middlemen.

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Prolific Ducks.

The origin of the Indian runner ducks is unknown. It is claimed they were introduced into England about thirty years ago. It is said that they will lay nearly 200 eggs in a year. One breeder gives food comparison with Pekin's average about as follows: Food need for 100 Pekin ducks for one month amounts to about 2,250 pounds; food for 100 Indian runner ducks, same period, 1,500 pounds. Time required to reach marketable size is given as ten weeks for each breed named. Time to reach maturity: Pekins, 6 to 9 months; Indians, 4 to 5 months. The Pekins are the larger ducks.

Billion Tons of Earth Yearly.

A billion tons of earth are swept by our rivers into the sea every year—an amount of soil equal to a block one mile square and more than a thousand feet high, weighing as much as the total yearly tonnage carried by all our railroads and river and lake vessels, and valued at not less than a billion dollars. "This soil waste," says an authority, "is sapping a resource richer than all others combined save one, our inland waters." It is mainly due to lack of forests on the slopes where the rivers rise.—Arbor Culture.

Poultry Pickings.

Keep the fowls' quarters warm and dry. Millet seed is said to be an excellent egg-producing grain. Green food is just as essential for young chicks as for hens.

Dirty quarters mean lice and mites, and lice and mites mean no eggs. System, as in everything else, is required to make the poultry business profitable.

Unless you want your flock to have the colors of Joseph's coat don't use males of different breeds.

Experienced poultrymen know that uncomfortable fowls do not do well, and they devote their time and work accordingly.

Good laying breeds are too numerous for us to suggest one. The buyer should use his own discretion, only being sure the particular breed will thrive under the conditions of his selection.

WHAT "MERCERIZED" MEANS.

A Process of Imitating Silk Discarded for Many Years.

Mercerized cotton was first introduced as a substitute for silk some ten or twelve years ago, although the process for making it was invented about 1840 by a celebrated English dyer, John Mercer, the Craftsman says. He discovered that when cotton, either in cloth or yarn, was subjected for a short time to the action of strong caustic alkali and then thoroughly washed the resulting material was much stronger than before, had shrunk very considerably and had a much greater affinity for dyestuffs. Mercer patented his discovery and made some use of it in calico printing, but the process was nearly forgotten until, in 1880, it was discovered that by proper treatment cotton could by this means be made so lustrous as to compare not unfavorably with silk.

To make the cotton lustrous the goods, after dipping into the strong alkali, are kept firmly stretched, and their strong tendency to shrink resisted, until the alkali has been thoroughly rinsed off and the last traces neutralized with a little acid. If this is done carefully, when finally dried the cotton fibers will be found drawn out smooth and lustrous, while still retaining their new qualities of strength and increased dyeing power. To get good results in this process the materials treated, whether in yarn or cloth, must be made of the very best and longest stapled cotton, preferably Egyptian, and when well done the results are extremely satisfactory. The luster is not as good as the very best silk, but it is quite well marked, and for replacing the cheap grades of heavily weighted silks, as, for instance, for underwear, linings, etc., the mercerized goods are of very great value owing to their strength and durability, as well as their cheapness.

Style of Make-up in Africa.

The efforts of American girls to beautify themselves are copied throughout Africa, but the standards of beauty differ. Most of the women scar their bodies and many have great welts on their foreheads and cheeks, marking the tribe to which they belong.

In Central Africa mutilation of the ears is common. The Swahilis enlarge the holes in the lobes until they become mere straps which will inclose a glass tumbler. These same girls have holes all around the rims of their ears, which they fill with rolls of paper. The Masai women load down their ears with jewelry, fastening great weights to the holes in the lobes so that they are gradually pulled down until they flop against the shoulders. Great rings and plugs are worn in the lips by people in German East Africa. The upper lip sometimes extends several inches out over the mouth. In another African tribe both men and women knock out the six front teeth of the lower jaw. On the south side of Victoria Nyanza there are tribes where the women file their teeth sharp like a saw, and the Bushman knock out two of the incisors.

Invigorating Oklahoma Nights.

It doesn't make any difference how hot the day may have been in Oklahoma nor how still and sweltering the air may have seemed, for as soon as the sun goes down in the new State the breeze rises. It comes from no mysterious source. It is simply the radiation of heat which will occur in any open country which is hot enough. At 6 o'clock the breeze will make your hatband whistle. At 8 it will slap your tie in your face, and if you are wearing a soft hat and glasses the brim of your hat will beat against the rim of your glasses and make deep red marks on your cheek. By 10 o'clock the breeze is no longer a breeze, but moans and whistles round the corners like a March zephyr in Missouri. And if you stay up until blood-red Aldebaran rises in the east and Vega dips low in the west the wind comes in enormous sighs like the very world must have been shaken to give them vent.

One Thing He Could Do.

Green—I'm looking for a plumber to do some work for me. Do you happen to know of one that does satisfactory work?

Brown—I know of one that I can guarantee to fill the bill; but I won't know how satisfactory his work will be.

Made Her Weary.

Little Helen—Sister, that new beau of yours makes me tired.

Elder Sister—Why, dear?

Little Helen—He has the manners of a street-car conductor. When I went into the parlor last night he said "How old are you, little girl?"

When a preacher begins to him around that he has offers from other towns, it is a sign that he is working a scheme to have his salary raised.

When a man starts out with "I don't know that I deserve any credit for it," you can depend on it that credit is just what he is seeking.

The Best Spring Medicine

It is as easy to prove that Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best spring medicine as it is to say it.

Spring Ailments are blood ailments—that is, they arise from an impure impoverished, devitalized condition of the blood; and Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies, enriches and revitalizes the blood as no other medicine does.

It is the most effective of all blood medicines.

There is Solid Foundation for this claim, in the more than 40,000 testimonials of radical and permanent cures by this medicine, received in two years, this record being unparalleled in medical history.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cures all spring humors, all eruptions, clears the complexion, creates an appetite, aids the digestion, relieves that tired feeling, gives vigor and vim.

Begin taking Hood's Sarsaparilla today. Get it in the usual liquid form or in chocolate tablets known as Sarsatabs. 100 Doses One Dollar.

Business Proposition.

"Your honor," said the convicted beggar, "can't you change my sentence of imprisonment to a fine?"

"Suppose I did," said the judge, "where would you get the money to pay it?"

"Oh," replied the c. b., "I could beg a little every day till I had enough."

FITS St. Vitus' Dance and other nervous diseases permanently cured by Dr. J. C. Kane's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. Dr. R. H. Kane, L.D., 391 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Fame.

Uncle Hiram—So you play base ball, do you, Dickey? Has your ball club got a name?

Five-Year-Old—Has it got a name? Gee! You've heard of the Rag Alley Yarnigans, haven't you, uncle? Well, I'm their reg'lar shortstop. We're goin' to whale the everlastin' stuffin out o' the Bumtown Billygoats next Saturday!—Chicago Tribune.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Ample Qualified.

Farmer Honk—Hear ye are goin' to send you son to college, Eben?

Farmer Bornkicker—Don't see any reason why I shouldn't—he's too dumb lazy to work, has too much hair, and can yell so's you can hear him 'most a mile.—The Circle.

SORE EYES. weak, inflamed, red, watery and swollen eyes, use PETTIT'S EYE SALVE. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

Any Change an Improvement.

Photographer—Is that the most pleasing expression you can assume?

Sitter—Yes, sir. Photographer—Then, for heaven's sake, glare ferociously at me!

Her Constitutional Right.

Gladys—So you've sent Herbert about his business, have you?

Maybelle—Yes; but I have since used the—er—recall on him.—Chicago Tribune.

Restorative Recipe for Men

This will prove a welcome bit of information for all those who are overworked, gloomy, dependent, nervous, and have trembling limbs, heart palpitation, dizziness, cold extremities, insomnia, fear without cause, timidity in venturing and general inability to act naturally and rationally as others do, because the treatment can be prepared secretly at home and taken without anyone's knowledge. If the reader decides to try it, get three ounces of ordinary syrup sarsaparilla compound and one ounce compound fluid balsamwort; mix, and let stand two hours; then get one ounce compound essence cardoli and one ounce tincture cadomene compound (not cardamom); mix all together, shake well and take a teaspoonful after each meal and one when retiring.

Inside History.

Indignant Wife—What's the use of my saying anything to you, John? It goes in at one ear and out at the other!

Provoking Husband—Not always, Maria. When you say anything worth minding I stop it on the way through.

To Enjoy

the full confidence of the Well-Informed of the World and the Commendation of the most eminent physicians it was essential that the component parts of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna should be known to and approved by them; therefore, the California Fig Syrup Co. publishes a full statement with every package. The perfect purity and uniformity of product, which they demand in a laxative remedy of an ethical character, are assured by the Company's original method of manufacture known to the Company only.

The figs of California are used in the production of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna to promote the pleasant taste, but the medicinal principles are obtained from plants known to act most beneficially.

To get its beneficial effects always buy the genuine—manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, and for sale by all leading druggists.

At the Night School.

Teacher—Who's Wordsworth—Shaggy Haired Pupil (interrupting)—A dollar apiece? Any living ex-President's?

Almost Incapacitated.

A colonel in General Lee's division in the late Civil War sometimes indulged in more apple-jack than was good for him. Passing him one evening, leaning against a tree, the general said: "Good evening, Colonel. Come over to my tent for a moment, please." "S-s-cuse me, g-g-eneral, s-s-cuse me," replied the Colonel. "It's 'bout all I can do stay where I am."

Sarcasm.

Cleaning the Stage. "We hope," said the spokesman of the committee, "to enlist your support in favor of a clean stage."

"You have it," responded the theatrical manager, heartily. "Why, almost every one of my plays opens with a girl dusting everything in sight."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Lesson from the Past.

Robin Hood had just handed back half the contents of the slender purse he had taken from the plainly dressed traveler. "If you were a rich man," he said, "I'd ask you for the whole of it, but I'm no hog; I exact only what I think the traffic will bear."

For Robin Hood, with all his faults, lived faithfully up to his idea of what a graduated income tax ought to be.

Getting It Right.

They asked him if his name was Taft, and merrily the big man laughed. "Why, no," he said; "my name is Taft, which, as you will find by consulting the various dictionaries and paying particular attention to the marks indicating the correct pronunciation of the words therein, almost, if not quite, rhymes with 'raft.'"—Chicago Tribune.

Uncle Jerry.

"As a general thing," observed Uncle Jerry Peebles, "I believe in lettin' women have whatever they want; but when I see one of 'em goin' around with a spring hat on her head that looks like an old-fashioned beehive that's been tarred and feathered and then struck by lightning, I begin to wonder, by George, if it would be safe to trust her with the ballot!"—Chicago Tribune.

The Similarity.

Mrs. Gunner—Henry, you would persist in calling that last cook a vision. There was nothing pretty about her.

Mr. Gunner—Not at all. Mrs. Gunner—Then why did you call her a vision?

Mr. Gunner—Because visions fade away. She remained only two days.

Suspicious Circumstance.

The grocer had warranted the maple sirup to be the real stu...

"It doesn't taste like any maple sirup I ever bought," said the customer, who had just sampled it, "and I strongly suspect—"

"Sir!" said the indignant grocer. "I strongly suspect, in spite of your guaranty, that it's genuine."

Telegraph Poles.

Harker—Fine automobile, Cogwood. What do you call it?

Cogwood—Peary. Harker—After the arctic explorer, eh? And why?

Cogwood—Because it is always making a dash for the pole.

Revenge.

"I'm going to get even with all the phonograph fiends in our flat."

"How so?" "Give my kids snare drums for Christmas."—Detroit Free Press.

Fulfillment of a Prophecy.

Hannibal, the illustrious general, driven to despair by his enemies, had taken poison and had laid himself down to die.

"Anyhow," he said, "my name will live in history."

His foresight was unerring.

Two thousand years later a town in Missouri was named in his honor.—Chicago Tribune.

Why They Don't.

Would some oracle might utter, Giving me the reason why Maidens in a constant flutter Never fly!

—Indianapolis News.

MAPLEINE

A flavoring used the same as lemon or vanilla. By dissolving granulated sugar in water and adding Mapleine, a delicious syrup is made and a syrup better than maple. Mapleine is sold by grocers. If not send 3c for 2 oz. bottle and recipe book. Crescent Mfg. Co., Seattle, Wa.