

# Farm and Garden

## AN INEXPENSIVE ICEHOUSE.

No Reason Why the Farmer Should Be Without It.

An icehouse and cool room may be constructed as follows: Excavate a half cellar in a perfectly dry place, from which the surface slopes (or may be made to slope) in all directions, so as to prevent danger of moisture from want of drainage. A stone or brick wall is built around this and laid in hydraulic cement. The floor is cemented. A frame or other building is built upon this basement to contain the ice. Twelve feet square will be large enough for a moderate sized fam-

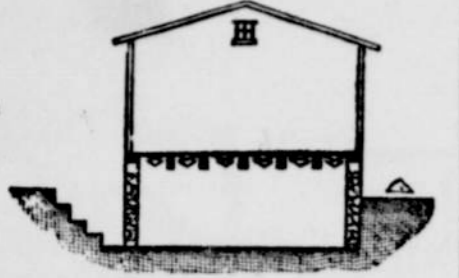


FIG. 1.—ICEHOUSE AND COOL ROOM.

ily, as an icehouse of that size will hold about twenty loads or tons of ice.

The main point is the division between the icehouse and the room below it. This must be perfectly air tight and a moderately good conductor of heat. The floor may be laid in the following manner:

Beams of sufficient strength are laid across and the ends well bedded in cement. A floor of zinc sheets is then laid upon the beams, the sheets being closely nailed to the beams upon strips of rubber sheeting to make the joints water and air tight. The beams should be dressed smoothly. The zinc sheets are bent, as shown in the illustration (Fig. 2). This is for the purpose of causing the moisture, which will condense upon the underside of this ceiling, to flow downward to the lower angle, where it will drip. The drip is caught in the little gutters of zinc shown in the figure attached to the ceiling and is carried off by a proper drain. With this water will also be carried off much of the impurity of the atmosphere, and if very little ventilation is given there will be little condensation and the air will be kept dry. This point must be well attended to, as the danger of excessive ventilation is very great. The beams and zinc ceiling should be painted with white paint—lead and oil.

Above the zinc ceiling a thin layer of dry, fresh sawdust should be laid smoothly, and a floor of matched pine boards should be laid upon that and thoroughly coated with melted pitch. This floor should slope a little to one corner so as to draw the waste water from the ice there, and an 8 trap drain should be laid from that to carry off the water into the drain above mentioned. The usual layer of sawdust is laid upon this floor to prevent too rapid conveyance of heat from below to the ice above. Small double windows



FIG. 2.—ZINC SHEETS.

should be used in the cool chamber below to prevent access of heat from the outside, and they should be fitted air tight. Ventilation should be provided for by means of a wooden pipe with a slide, by which the opening can be regulated. By carefully regulating the ventilation the air may be kept dry.

### Market Hogs.

What kind of hog will bring the most money in the market, and what breed will make the best market hog? These are questions hard to answer definitely. Markets vary as to the class of hogs that will sell at the top. When lard is at a premium the hog that yields a large amount of lard is the market topper, and that means the heavy, thick, fat hog. When lard is below other products this kind of hog sells for less than the light weight which will make handy pork loins and good hams without too much fat on them. Taking one year with another in eastern markets, the hog of 180 to 200 pounds will hit the top oftener than any other weight. In western markets hogs of around 250 pounds will probably average best. Sometimes lighter or heavier hogs will out-sell these grades, according to the fluctuations in price of the product. In summer hog prices cover the widest range because there is the greatest difference in the yield of product at this season. In the winter all hogs are corn fed and yield more uniform quantities of product. In summer many are grassers that make low yields and of inferior quality to corn fed hogs. A 200 pound hog that dresses 80 per cent yields 160 pounds, one that dresses 75 per cent yields 150 pounds, and one that dresses 70 per cent yields only 140 pounds, an enormous difference in a carload of hogs, which the buyer makes allowance for in buying them on foot. As a rule, of late the best hogs have been the cheapest on the hooks at the top of the market because they have yielded so much more product than the others, which looked cheaper to the inexperienced observer. As to the breed that kills like best, probably more would answer Berkshire than any other breed. But hogs are what killers want, and the kind they want will top the market, whether black, white, red or spotted.

## SEED WHEAT

Grade Generally Used Not Up to the Standard.

That the grade of seed wheat generally used is not up to the standard was ascertained in an investigation by G. W. Shaw of the California station, who secured a large number of samples of seed wheat over a wide area in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys of California to determine the general character of the seed used by the farmers of the state. In general the samples showed that the quality of seed used by most farmers is lacking in purity, perfection of development, weight per bushel, freedom from weeds and freedom from bunt. It is stated that practically all investigators have found the use of large, plump seed and of a high weight per bushel the most profitable. No permanent benefit is believed to be secured from the frequent exchange of seed unless a better type of wheat or a more vigorous strain of the same type is obtained by the exchange. The use of seed from heavy yielding plants, a plump and heavy grain, a clean wheat and a pure variety are considered by him the most important points in seed selection.

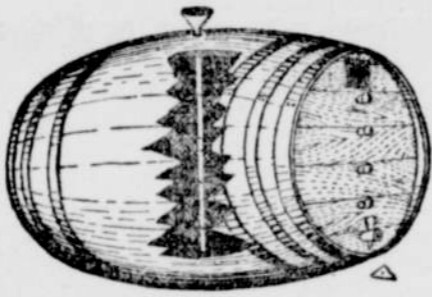
In this connection the results secured by E. G. Montgomery of the Nebraska station in an experiment with seed wheat and seed oats selected by the use of the fanning mill are of interest. In these experiments heavy seed wheat as separated by the fanning mill did not show an improvement in either yield or quality of grain as compared with light or unseparated seed, and it is believed that no permanent improvement in quality or yield is to be expected from the use of the fanning mill in seed selection.

At first thought it would seem that if "like produces like" the large or heavy seeds should produce the best crop. However, we must recognize the individual plant as a unit for selection rather than the individual seed. If a single plant of wheat be taken and the kernels thrashed out it will be found that all sizes of kernels are produced by the plant, some large and some small.

As every wheat plant contains both heavy and light seed, the fanning mill gives almost the same kind of wheat so far as inheritance is concerned, in the light wheat as in the heavy. It must be remembered that reference is made here to the permanent results which may be expected from the use of the fanning mill and that its use or the use of screens for removing obnoxious weed seed is in no way discouraged.

### Honey Vinegar.

A modification of a French generator devised at the Arizona station will prove especially serviceable where only small amounts of honey wine are



BARREL FOR ACETICATION OF HONEY WINE.

to be made into vinegar from time to time. A good wine or alcohol barrel is carefully painted on the outside to prevent corrosion of the hoops. A vent hole is now bored in each end of the cask near the chime on the side next the bung and covered with a fine screen to keep out insects. At the bottom of one end a spigot is inserted and a perpendicular row of gimlet holes bored and fitted with wooden plugs to act as a gauge. Fresh wine, which must first be fully fermented, can be added from time to time through a tube passing in at the bunghole and ending near the bottom of the cask. In this way the active film will not be disturbed by drawing off a little vinegar or adding a little fresh wine. The tube must not be of metal, but can be of glass where available. In this region a large stalk of native cane, the joints of which have been perforated with a hot iron, makes a very serviceable tube. A tin funnel may be used in pouring the wine into the tube. A similar apparatus has been found very serviceable in France for converting table wine waste into vinegar. Such wastes under suitable temperature conditions yield good vinegar in ninety days. The generator is started with a mixture of about three-fourths wine and one-fourth good vinegar. When once started no new vinegar need be added.

### Weevil in Wheat.

H. A. Gossard, entomologist of the Ohio experiment station, gives the following method of ridding wheat bins of weevil:

To destroy weevils working in wheat bins fumigate with bisulphide of carbon. Procure one pound of the liquid for each thousand cubic feet of space enclosed in the bin. Pour the liquid into shallow containers, such as plates or tin pans, and set on top of the grain.

Make the building as nearly air tight as possible by pasting paper strips over the cracks, windows, etc. If the door does not fit tightly trap a horse blanket over it with bath strips after charging the bin with the chemical. Keep closed for thirty hours. Do not bring a lamp or light of any kind, such as a lighted cigar, near the building while fumigation is in progress. Fumigation for thirty hours ought not to injure the grain for either seeding or milling purposes. If one fumigation does not succeed repeat the treatment as often as necessary, increasing the dose if the building leaks gas.

The chief merit of the silo lies in the fact that it enables the dairyman to furnish his cows summer feed in the winter months, which results in a corresponding increase in milk and butter returns.

A farmer living near Greeley, Colo., the past season grew eighty-eight tons of pumpkins on four acres of land, the crop netting him better than \$2500. This fellow is certainly some pumpkin, to use a bit of slang.

Properly cured corn fodder is not only relished by all kinds of live stock, but constitutes a most excellent and nutritious food. With enormous amounts of it going to waste annually a big leak exists in the management of the farm for which there is really no good excuse.

Sawdust has no value as fertilizer outside of the potash it would contain in the form of ashes and the humus it would add to the soil in the shape of wood mold when decayed. Sawdust may be used to advantage as an absorbent of liquid manures and in this capacity would serve a very useful purpose.

A reader of these notes who has had good opportunity to note the effects of clover growing on his own farm told the writer recently that hereafter he should never sow an acre of oats without adding a moderate amount of clover seed. His plan might be followed with profit by a good many of his fellows.

The real character of some folks is as often indicated by the attitude which they take on trifling things as by that involved in matters of much greater consequence. Many times a person wouldn't think of perpetrating a downright swindle on another, yet has been known to give himself dead away for less than 10 cents.

The prevailing high prices of feed and grain render it imperative that the owner of a dairy herd should spot the loafers and weed out without ceremony those individuals that are barely paying their keep or constitute a positive source of loss. It is a farce to feed twenty cent corn to these loafers and a still more serious matter to feed that which is worth 50 cents.

In no way does a fellow reveal more quickly the type of a farmer he is than in the use which he makes of the great byproduct of the farm, manure. If he is enterprising he will get this on to the land as fresh as possible, so that its full fertilizing value will be realized, while if he is a slipshod chap he will quite likely let it accumulate and permit a good share of its strength to leech away as a result of rains and exposure.

A definite and effective cure and preventive of hog cholera has been discovered by specialists in animal diseases in the employment of the department of agriculture at Washington. The treatment consists of inoculating the hogs with virus from an animal affected with the disease, which seems to render immune to the disease those treated. So effective does the cure seem to be that hopes are entertained that the disease, which in the past has meant a loss to hog raisers of the country of millions of dollars annually, may be entirely eradicated.

The type of agriculture followed on a good many farms might be greatly improved, with increased profits accruing to both landlord and tenant, if the lease on which the farm was rented were for five or more years instead of one, as is too often the case. The one year renter naturally feels that he cannot afford to put in a lot of hard work on the farm one season when a large per cent of the benefit resulting cannot be realized until the following year. Likewise the landlord justifies himself in doing as little as he is required to under the terms of the lease when he knows that his tenant intends to remain but a year and is bent on skinning the land to the limit and would not be in a mood to appreciate improvements the benefit from which would extend over a period of more than one year. It is therefore plain to be seen that the long term lease is best for the tenant, best for the landlord and far and away the best thing for the farm in which each has a mutual financial interest.

Starting in a small way but a few years ago, the cement industry of the country has grown until last year the output of the product was 50,000,000 barrels. The scarcity of lumber in the next few years is sure to result in an enormous increase over these figures. Some one has said that the mixing of cement requires but little more brains than the mixing of mud pies. This is likely overdrawn, but it nevertheless points to the fact that the process is not a difficult one and that any one who is of an enterprising turn of mind and has the proper directions can make many of the cement improvements about his place. For one who wishes to study the subject as well as secure practical suggestions for doing different kinds of cement work farmers' bulletin No. 235, issued by the agricultural department at Washington, will be found helpful. This takes up the questions of materials, tools and mixing and gives definite directions for making concrete walks and foundations as well as cement posts.



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