

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Items of Value For the Stockman to Remember.

Fit your stock for market before offering it for sale. A nicely finished animal often sells for a good profit when a poorly finished one would sell at a loss.

Teach the colt good manners, says the Farmers Advocate. It is far easier to teach them to lead and drive while they are small than after they are grown.

All the stock lots ought to be fenced pig tight and the pigs allowed the freedom of them. Pigs penned closely do not thrive like those that have plenty of range.

The demand for mules grows greater each year.

If your hogs are many try dipping them in crude oil or one of the coal tar preparations. Burn old bedding and disinfect old quarters. Stamp out the mange by active, effective treatment.

It is better to start with a small flock of common sheep than to start with a pure bred flock and abuse it, for high bred stock must have care to make a success of it.

If you permit sows with pigs of different ages to run together the larger pigs will rob the smaller ones. If your sows must share the same pens arrange to have the pigs come at about the same time.

The horse that refuses to eat when feed is put before him is ailing and should not be worked. If he is well he will eat readily.

The breeding, feeding and general care of the helper are important points. Train up the calf in the way she should go, and when she becomes a cow she will not depart from it.

A wooden floor in the barn to be practicable should have sufficient slope to carry off all moisture and enough circulation underneath to keep dry.

Bear this in mind in purchasing a horse: If he has any defects, physical or otherwise, they will not likely grow less.

Ever try cleaning out the old hay and the dust that accumulate in the horses' mangers? How would you like to eat meal after meal from the same plate without its having been washed? Not very well, eh? That is what you compel your horse to do when you fail to clean out his manger.

Wood ashes is a good correction to keep at the disposal of the swine. Depend upon it, they will not eat more of it than their system demands. Silt is another article that should be freely supplied. Corn and water for hog feed is cheap in price, but a dear feed after all when gains are counted.

When you see a hog literally standing on his head rooting in the dirt in his pen you can depend on it that his system demands something that you have not supplied him with. When hogs get the rooting habit their ledger balance is sure to be found on the wrong side of the page.

Dehorning Cattle.

We dehorn nearly all of our cattle, writes an Iowa breeder in the Rural New Yorker. We dehorn our yearlings in the fall or spring. The fall, as soon as the flies leave, is a good time, or about the 1st of March. The horns should be cut off before the flies come. Cattle can be dehorned at any age. It is better to cut the horns off when they are young. It pays well to dehorn cattle. They feed a great deal better, there are no bosses among them then, and it does not take near the room for them. You can put twenty head in a barn loose where you could not put half that many with horns on. They ship by the carload so much better. They sell to shippers from 5 to 10 cents more than cattle with their horns on. If you have a cow or steer that is inclined to be cross just cut its horns off and it stops the trouble. It takes less corn to feed cattle with their horns off than with their horns on.

THE SWINEHERD

Change the feeding ground occasionally. It will be better for the hogs and for the pasture.

Nail slats across the trough to keep the hogs out of their drinking water.

Keep the old sows as long as they produce good litters and are good mothers.

A good hoghouse means good hog business.

Clean, disinfected yards help keep the cholera away.

Build the hoghouse so it can be used every day in the year.

Throw the hard coal ashes in the hog yard. The pigs like them.

It takes more corn to put a scrub on the market than a good pig.

Save your breeders from the sows that are the best mothers.

The hoghouse should be on a well drained spot—dry, well ventilated, light, warm and durable.

Keep a close watch of your hogs, and don't let infection spread. These two things will do much to check cholera.—Kinball's Dairy Farmer.

At Weaning Time.

At weaning time there is not so much danger of losing the pigs as of checking their growth. The pig is not yet a hog, and he can hardly subsist as the hog does. A good deal of nourishment in liquid form is needed and also under-tender grass. It does not take much grain, but they like a bit of oats, wheat or corn. Their teeth cannot handle much that is hard; hence softening it by soaking will be beneficial. Sweet milk and middlings warmed with hot water will appeal to their appetites at weaning time, and it need not be made as strong as when fed later. It is generally known, says Western Life, that sour milk should not be given.

FRESH AIR IN HOUSES.

Poultry Need Cool Quarters, but Should Not Sleep in the Open.

There is a vast difference between using well ventilated or open front fresh air houses and permitting birds to roost out in the open, says P. T. Woods in Reliable Poultry Journal. Fresh air is essential to life and health. It is one of the best things that we have, but even our best possessions may be abused, and it is sometimes possible to have too much of a good thing. While roosting out of doors in the trees may be productive of no harm during summer weather and early autumn, we firmly believe that much harm may result by permitting them to continue to occupy these airy perches after the severe, changeable late fall and winter weather sets in. Birds kept under such conditions could not be expected to give satisfactory returns in either eggs or fertility. With an open front house they have all the advantages of the pure air obtained by sleeping in the open and none of the disadvantages. They are well protected by the tight roof overhead and the snug back and sides of their roosting quarters. The cold, chilling winds cannot reach them, and storms cannot injure them.

Of the many types of fresh air poultry houses the following rank as the best examples of satisfactory buildings for breeding and laying stock: The Maine experiment station curtain front poultry house, the Tolman 8 by 14 colony fresh air poultry house, the J. H. Robinson pattern of cheap poultry house, with wide doors which open the entire front, and Dr. Bricault's convertible poultry house, possessing a two part door in the front of each pen, the upper half of which may be made to give place to a burlap or muslin screen. Nearly all closed poultry houses may be adapted to the fresh air plan by simply substituting a screen of heavy unbleached muslin for the upper half of one window in the south front of each pen, provided the house possesses sufficient depth to permit the birds to roost in the rear portion without being exposed to direct drafts.

Preparing Birds For Exhibition.

Washing white birds is one of the greatest accomplishments of an exhibitor, and few there be that possess the accomplishment, says Farm Poultry. The few that do possess the secret have an advantage at the start that is hard to overcome.

The most successful exhibitors of white birds wash in three waters—a very warm water with lots of suds made with soap or soap bark in a great majority of cases; a second tub which contains water which has had the chill taken off and is perfectly clean (this forms the first rinse); the third tub forms the second rinse and is perfectly cold. This is generally the final rinse, but all the soap must be got out or the feathers will curl.

The drying room must be kept close to 90 degrees F. The birds are generally allowed to dry overnight. They are then gradually accustomed to the normal temperature. Some of the best washers give repeated washings.

Ammonia is often used in small quantities in the washing water.

Mark the Turkeys.

One should mark their turkeys for future identification. The leg band bearing your initials or number can be readily placed on the shanks of young turkeys about the time they begin to wander far from home, says Feather. Some mark their turkeys by clipping the toe nails or one or more toes or different toes. Many different brands of markings can be made use of by this means. The toe punch may be used and identification marks stamped through the toes. Some use a rubber stamp and indelible ink to brand the wing feathers. This cannot be depended upon.

A needle and indelible ink may be used to prick an indelible ink mark in to the web of the flesh and skin at the union of the pinion with the second joint of the wing. This can be done and the mark never obliterated.

How to Kill Fowls.

The best method of killing a fowl is by seizing it by the feet with the left hand and by the head with the right and then stretching its neck with a jerk to the utmost extent and at the same time bending its head backward, so as to dislocate its neck and sever the spinal cord. A fowl may be killed by holding it in the left hand with its head hanging downward and then striking it a hard blow on the back of the head with a heavy stick, like a ruler, or it may be killed quickly by chopping off its head. It may also be killed quickly by twisting the neck until it is dislocated and the spinal cord severed.

An Excellent Plan.

In my opinion, it would be better for a farmer with a flock of 300 to 400 to put his pullets in one flock and hens for breeders in another, saving the best laying pullets for the next year, and buy his males of a fancier or breeder—that is, in breeding for egg production and market fowls—instead of having small pens and trying to breed his own cockerels, says a fancier in Reliable Poultry Journal. He could buy of the same man each year and so be in one strain.

Use a Spray Pump.

No one should attempt to keep poultry in a good healthy condition without a spraying apparatus for throwing insecticides into the nest boxes, crevices and about the roosting places in the henhouse. The use of one of these makes it possible to reach every hidden spot and saves a wonderful amount of material used for destroying the vermin.

FARM GARDEN

PORTABLE HOG HOUSES.

An Easy Matter to Put Them in a New Location.

A handy portable hog house in use at the Montana experiment station is described in Orange Judd Farmer as follows:

These houses have been in use for more than two months, and the idea is such a practical one and the outlay so small that we give our exact plan for building.

It might be stated right here that the material for the roof, ends and

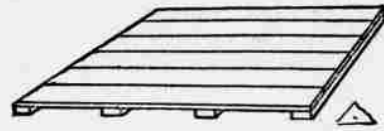


FIG. I—PLATFORM FOR HOG HOUSE.

floor of the hog house was ordinary 1 by 5 tongued and grooved flooring, which cost us at the rate of \$23 per thousand. The other material used was the ordinary 2 by 4 scantling, which cost \$15 per thousand. First make a platform 6 by 6 feet, with four 2 by 4 pieces supporting it and running the entire length as skids. The platform will appear as in Fig. 1.

Next a 2 by 4 is supported four and a half feet above the center of the platform, with its long way running the same direction as the 2 by 4 skids supporting the floor. Now begin to nail the boards that are to make the slanting roof to the edge of the platform and also to the 2 by 4 supported above the floor. It will not be long before the slanting roof boards will

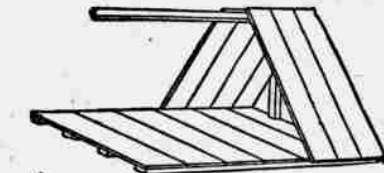


FIG. II—IN COURSE OF BUILDING.

support the 2 by 4 at the top, and the false supports may be knocked out. The hog house partly built may be seen in Fig. 2. After the roof is nailed on completely then come the ends of the house. We first fit in pieces of 2 by 4 under the roof and resting on the floor. One of these may be seen in Fig. 2. The bottoms of these are toe nailed to the floor and the tops nailed securely down through the roof. To these 2 by 4's the end boards are nailed. The ends of the house should be so inserted that the roof projects an inch or so beyond, to prevent the rain leaking through in wet weather.

In one of the ends the door is made. A swinging door, as in Fig. 3, is fitted to the opening, and the hinges, which are at the top, are simply loops of wire. This wire runs through holes bored above the door and also through two holes through the top of the door, the idea being to have the door swing either in or out, according to the will of the hog.

Two round openings are placed, one in either end of the house, near the

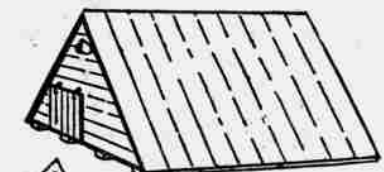


FIG. III—A MOVABLE STRUCTURE. (Will accommodate from two to six hogs, according to size.)

peak of the roof. These ventilating holes are about six inches across and are controlled by swinging blocks, fastened sufficiently stiff so as to stay wherever turned. The hog house complete, showing swinging door and ventilator hole, will appear as in Fig. 3. Now, if an armful of straw be placed inside of one of the houses, we have a snug, comfortable and warm winter house. With these individual houses it is a very easy matter, with the use of a horse, to draw the house to an entirely new, clean and dry location.

Farm Brevities.

Anybody who can drive a team can spread manure with a spreader.

It's easy to put off the short jobs till another day, but it never pays.

Down in Alabama they get the best returns by sowing their oats in November.

Keep the water from lodging in the road. That's the secret of the road drag.

Don't throw away the wood ashes. They are valuable for the lawn, garden or orchard.

Put the manure upon the ground as fast as it accumulates. You may have some trouble doing this during the coldest weather, but most of the year it can be done with a spreader.

Watering Fowls in Winter.

It is difficult to supply fresh water to poultry when the weather is severely cold, as the water freezes and cannot be used. Earthenware fountains are often broken by expansion during freezing, and the only convenient method of providing water is with the aid of wooden troughs, which can be scalded and kept clean with ease. To avoid freezing some poultrymen adopt the plan of watering their fowls three times a day, using tepid water, and the birds soon become accustomed to the practice. Immediately after the hens have finished drinking the troughs are emptied, placed on end out of the way and used only when the next watering of the flock occurs.

COW HORN TURNIP.

Has Been Used With Benefit For Changing Soil Texture.

Much has been said of the cow horn turnip as a soil improver, or, rather, ameliorator, as it is supposed to benefit more by changing the soil texture than by bringing in new fertilizing material, like clover and other legumes. It will grow in unproductive clay soils and bores deep into the ground, opening up by its decay in winter the deeper compact layers and adding a most appreciable amount of humus. The seeds are commonly sown with crimson clover in August or September in corn or on fields that might otherwise remain bare through winter. It has been used in this manner with perceptible benefit on Hope farm and in thousands of other trials throughout the country.

A Handy Plant.

In bringing a newly purchased addition into cultivation we concluded to use this handy plant. The plot was deeply plowed in June, after the evergreen nursery that had occupied it many years had been removed, and twice harrowed at intervals of a fortnight to kill sprouting weeds and drag off the numerous roots. A portion was planted with late table corn, fertilizing with hen manure in the hill. Crimson clover and cow horn turnips at the rate of four ounces turnip to fifteen pounds clover seed were sown on the remainder Aug. 10, working it in with an ordinary cultivator.

Mixed Seeds.

Mixed seeds were later sown in the same proportion at the last working of the corn in September. We tried to sow the clover at the rate of fifteen pounds to the acre and secured a thick stand for soil in such poor condition. There was abundance of rain, enabling the clover to smother the turnips almost completely in the early sowing, but in the corn there was a good stand, entirely covering the clover in many places.—Rural New Yorker.

Kansas Hog Wallows.

Farmers in the Kansas oil fields report great results from a novel use of crude oil. For lice on hogs they find the costly dipping tank unnecessary. The ordinary hog wallow is better. A thin layer of crude oil is poured over the water in the wallow. The hogs do the rest. Every louse, tick, flea and other pests is destroyed. The hogs are said to learn very soon to skim the oil and swallow it, to their great advantage.

If the water dries up, the oil rests on the bottom of the wallow until the next rain, when it rises to the top and is ready for business as before.

For the chickens the interior of the henhouse is painted all over, including the floor, with crude oil. Two applications a year are reported to be sufficient to insure immunity from all parasites.

Crude oil is cheap. A barrel of it should be kept and used on every farm. The small enemies of stock cause great discomfort to the animals and reduce the profits of the owners.

Ditches on Uneven Land.

It often happens that a farm is more or less cut up by ravines or depressions which intersect or separate fields and the supply ditches have to be extended across these low places. This is usually done in one of three ways. When the depression is not more than a few feet deep levees are built on each side. In other cases flumes are built on grade from side to side, and lastly the water may be carried across in a pipe laid in the form of an inverted siphon. The earth levee is the cheapest, but it is subject to leaks and washouts for the first few years. The wooden flume answers the purpose fairly well, but it is subject to early decay, and the clay or cement pipe laid beneath the surface, although dearer at first cost, is really the cheapest in the end.

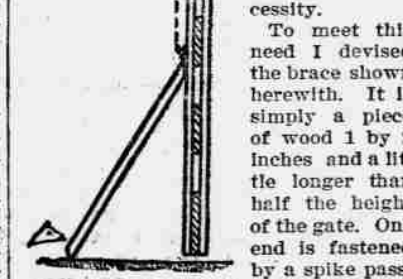
Control of Weeds.

The margin of supply ditches on most irrigated farms is the breeding ground of weeds. The seeds of these fall into the water and are widely scattered by the irrigation stream. The banks of ditches should be graded and smoothed so that the weeds which grow along the sides can be readily cut and burned. A rapid growing forage crop like alfalfa also tends to keep down the weeds and may be sown along the banks for this purpose.

To Hold a Gate Open.

The illustration shows a very handy method which I invented to hold a swing gate open any width. Most gates are hung so they swing upward a little in opening, to clear snow, grass, etc. They swing shut of their own accord; hence something to hold the gate open at any place while driving through or letting out stock is a necessity.

To meet this need I devised the brace shown herewith. It is simply a piece of wood 1 by 2 inches and a little longer than half the height of the gate. One end is fastened by a spike passed and driven into the edge of the vertical board at the end of the gate, or it may be put on with a hinge. The dotted lines show its position when not in use, it being swung upward and snapped beneath a spring nailed to the top of the gate, says a writer in American Agriculturist.



HOLDING THE GATE OPEN. The dotted lines show its position when not in use, it being swung upward and snapped beneath a spring nailed to the top of the gate, says a writer in American Agriculturist.

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