

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

DYNAMITE USEFUL TO LOOSEN SOIL

"The use of dynamite in digging the hole for tree planting may be helpful where the soil is dry and hard, and where the top soil is thin and rests upon shale or subsoil that is mixed with stones and gravel; it is not necessary, however, when soil conditions are favorable to digging," says F. H. Ballou, associate horticulturist, Ohio experiment station.

"Where the top soil is fully a shovel blade in depth, is overlaid with a clay subsoil, is moist and in condition to be readily handled with a shovel, there is no advantage in using dynamite. Under these conditions trees come into fruiting as soon and do as well in every respect as those set in excavations made by blasting. As the roots spread rapidly in every direction, they soon outgrow the small space loosened for them by blasting.

"However, dynamite may prove helpful in digging holes when the soil is dry and hard and difficult to loosen and remove with pick and shovel, or even where the soil is moist but lies shallow over hard or stony subsoil.

"To dynamite for tree planting, one-fourth or third of a stick of dynamite is placed at the bottom of a hole drilled 18 or 20 inches deep where the tree is to stand. Fine soil is firmly tamped above the charge, which is then exploded, finely shattering and bulging, but not throwing out the hard dry earth. This makes easy work of shoveling out the soil.

"Dynamite should not be used in a moist clay subsoil in spring, for the blasting will leave cavernous openings around which the clay subsoil will dry hard. These will cause the soil about the tree roots to settle unevenly, throwing the tree out of position."

Wire Screen Is Best to Stop Girdling of Trees

Another problem, that of protecting trees against rabbits, will be added to the orchardist's list with the coming of cold weather. It is during the cold winter months that rabbits search more diligently for food such as succulent bark, leaves, grass and different herbage available. When winter snows cover the ground young trees are usually attacked and may be completely girdled if found to the rabbit's liking. Wire has been found the most practical and efficient means of protection against rabbits and its use in the orchard may be a means of saving many trees, it is pointed out by authorities at the college of agriculture, University of Illinois.

Repellents, such as coal tar, lime-sulphur and other materials have not proven satisfactory. One-quarter-inch mesh wire is preferable to the half or one-inch mesh for the reason that when it is set down a half-inch below the ground surface, it will also be a protection against girdling by the meadow mouse. If the orchard is clean cultivated, and without an infestation of field mice, the one-inch mesh of No. 20 galvanized wire will be satisfactory. The wire should be cut in not less than one-foot lengths and should be large enough to allow for the growth of the tree for several years.

Increased Fire Blight Attributed to Insects

Fire blight in apple and pear orchards this season is the worst in recent years, causing pomologists at the Graham Horticultural Experiment station at Grand Rapids to feel that there is some definite relationship between the percentage of bloom in the spring and the prevalence of the blight in midseason.

The worst infections are in orchards which bloomed heavily last spring. Blooms that did not bloom have little or no tip blight.

Spread of the disease is attributed to insects which carry germs from infected blossoms to other trees as they gather honey.

Horticultural Facts

- The locust tree is a legume.
- One can weaken a tree by pruning it too much.
- Dry, unleached wood ashes furnish potash to the soil and benefit it in other ways.
- New York planted 12,000,000 trees last spring. The object is to supply timber and recreation grounds for the future.
- Lending farm machinery is bad business. It generally comes back in poor shape and just at the time that you want to use it.
- Cockleburrs are annual plants, which means that they must grow each year from the seed.
- Gathering vegetables, flowers, fruit and so on as soon as they are ready for use encourages longer bearing.
- For a new strawberry patch to be planted next spring the best location is a piece of well-drained clover sod, plowed this fall. Don't lime it—strawberries like a somewhat acid soil. But manure the land pretty heavily before plowing, for the best results.

DAIRY FACTS

COVERED SPACE FOR DAIRY HERD

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The open shed or covered barnyard is a practical method of housing dairy cows. It provides the best-known method of saving and preserving all the fertilizing constituents of the manure; it permits the feeding under shelter of roughage and makes possible its utilization for bedding; when there is plenty of bedding, cows so housed keep cleaner than those confined in stanchions. These are the principal points in favor of the open shed system, says the United States Department of Agriculture.

In an experiment at the Beltsville station it was found that the cows in the open shed produced a little more milk, but at a greater cost for feed, than the cows in the closed barn. The more timid cows were fought away from the feed racks in the shed, which resulted in a much lower production from such cows. Probably it would be a matter of economy to confine the cows at feeding time. Cows so housed should be deborned.

The labor required under the two systems was slightly greater with the open shed. Had the cows been milked in the open shed this would not have been the case, but since this practice is not recommended in the production of market milk, the cows in this experiment were taken to a separate stable for milking. Sixty-eight per cent more bedding was used in the open shed.

Helpful Plan Outlined to Dehorn Young Calves

During each year there are many questions about killing the horns on little calves. Thus we print the following from a bulletin from the Ohio experiment station:

When the calf is four to seven days old the hair over and around the knobs that later produce horns is clipped close. The moistened end of a stick of caustic potash is then rubbed over the horn until a spot about the size of a dime becomes raw. Grease may be applied to the outer edge of the spot to prevent spread of the caustic and making the sore larger than necessary.

The calf should be kept in the dry for a few hours after the treatment. Following the successful application of the caustic a scab will form over the knob and drop off in a few days.

Stick caustic potash can be prepared at a drug store for a few cents, and may be kept for some time in a tightly stoppered bottle. While handling the caustic it should be wrapped in paper to prevent injury to the hands.

Lactic Acid Bacteria in Milk Causes It to Sour

Milk sours because of the affection for it of tiny germs, called lactic acid bacteria.

Lactose, which is milk sugar, is converted by these bacteria into lactic acid. When development of this acid has gone far enough, the milk sours.

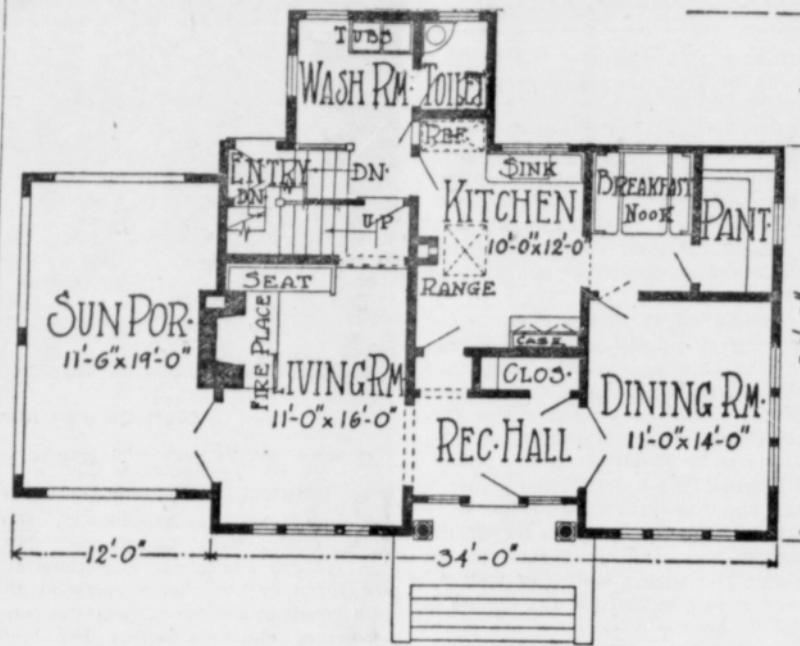
Lactic acid bacteria are everywhere and their numbers multiply fast in ordinary market milk if the milk is warm, while at a cooler temperature their multiplication is slower. In evaporated milk, which is simply pure cow's milk sterilized in cans and with 60 per cent of the water removed, lactic acid germs have no opportunity to get to the milk, which explains the reason why the evaporated product in hermetically sealed cans will keep indefinitely on the pantry shelf.

Lactic acid forms on the milk proteins, causing them to precipitate in the form of a curd. When small quantities of acid are present, the precipitate is flocculent. When large quantities are present, the precipitate is heavy and forms a compact curd.

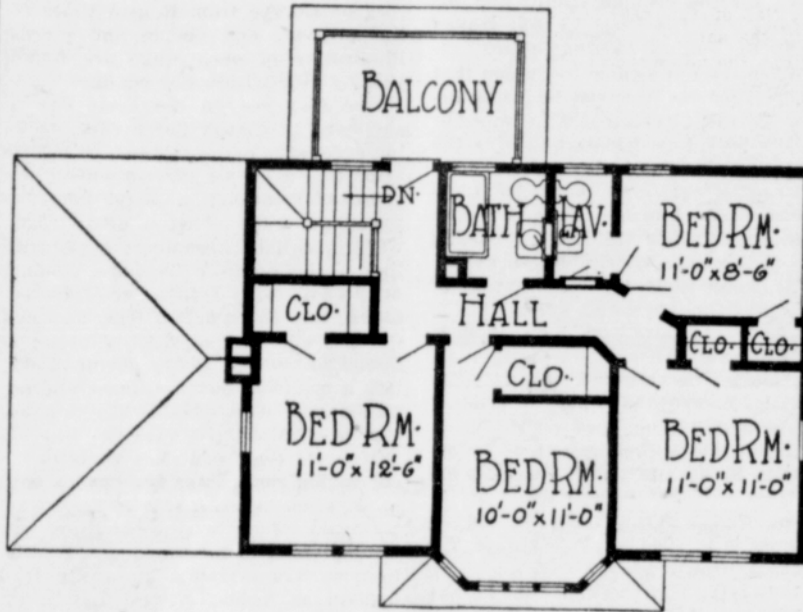
Dairy Hints

- Feed a bulky, palatable ration, including salt.
- Feed the cows a ration made up of several feeds for variety.
- Under natural conditions the calf takes its milk frequently and in small quantities.
- Using a milk stool on a cow's back, it has been found by actual experience, improves the cow exactly as much as the milk stool.
- The young dairy calf must be kept healthy. Impaired condition the first year may mean impaired capacity for production when a cow.
- More attention to the care of milk and cream will improve the quality and eventually command a higher price.
- Ground soy beans make an excellent feed for dairy cows and dairymen are beginning to grow them for that purpose.
- The importance of using the cleanest of vessels to hold milk is shown by the fact that 80 per cent of the bacteria in market milk come from utensils.

Square Type Stucco House Is Both Economical of Space and of Cost



First Floor Plan.



Second Floor Plan.

By W. A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give ADVICE FREE OF COST on all problems pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on the subject. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Stucco makes an attractive farm home. Experience has taught builders how to apply this material to the exterior walls so that it is durable, will not crack, and by the use of color in the stucco pleasing shades are obtained.

The farm home shown in the illustration is an excellent example of the use of stucco. While this is a square home, the overhang of the roof, the bay window on the second floor and the porch with its artistic roof give it an attractive exterior appearance.

The house is 24 by 34 feet in dimensions, exclusive of the sun porch. Inside there are seven rooms, besides the large entrance hall, the bathroom and the washroom. It will be seen by the floor plans that the arrangement of these rooms is such that the work of caring for the home can be done easily.

The entrance door leads into the

large reception hall. To the left is the living room, 11 by 16 feet, in which there is an open fireplace, with double French doors opening into the sun porch. To the right of the reception hall at the front is the dining room. The kitchen has been placed nearly in the center of the home at the rear. It may be reached through the dining room, or from the reception hall. The washroom adjoins the kitchen at the rear. This arrangement eliminates unnecessary steps in passing through the rooms. Another feature of the home is the breakfast nook adjoining the kitchen. This provides a place for the less formal meals and saves work for the housekeeper.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms and bath. All of these rooms open off a central hall, which is reached by the stairs running out of the end of the living room. These stairs are reached from the kitchen as well as through the living room. Each bedroom has a large closet and plenty of windows for light and ventilation.

It will be noted from the floor plans, also, that the foundation walls of the home are straight. There are no breaks, which add to the expense of constructing both foundation and roof. The basement is the same size as the house and provides plenty of room for storage and heating plant.

Pick Builder You Can Depend on for House

When you make a purchase on which you may have to depend for a lifetime's service, your thought is "how good" rather than "how cheap."

This is especially true when the best costs but little more than an inferior product. It is in the highest degree true of house wiring. You will never see the most important part—the part that is hidden behind the walls; you cannot inspect it before buying.

How, then, shall you choose? The answer is, "On faith"—faith in the responsibility, experience, skill and good repute of the electrical contractor who is to install it—faith in his use of only the highest quality material.

Only when a contractor has demonstrated that he possesses these qualifications and that all his material is invariably of the best, has he earned the right to your confidence.

Annual Floor Treatment

When a varnished floor begins to show the effects of hard wear, once a year or oftener, if necessary, sandpaper it lightly and put on a new coat. The habit of doing this every spring in city and country houses and in office buildings preserves the fresh, elegant appearance of good floors.

Fire-Stopping of Walls and Partitions Essential

One of the most useful safeguards against fire hazards in dwelling construction is the fire-stopping of walls, partitions and floors. Fire tends to spread upward. Hollow walls and partitions, hollow spaces back of furring on masonry walls, and even hollow floors offer inviting runways for the rapid communication of fire from cellar to attic and from side to side. The remedy lies in adequate fire-stopping, which will make an all-lumber residence considerably safer against the spread of fire than masonry wall and lumber floor construction without fire stops.

Steel Casement Window

The steel casement window affords more light than other types of windows in openings of equal dimensions. Thus it often is used to give the same amount of light through a smaller area.

Roofs Become Attractive

There was a time when roofs were not necessarily artistic. They were thought of more in the terms of protection than of beauty. Today, attractiveness is the paramount issue.

POULTRY FACTS

USING LIGHTS IN WINTER HOUSES

It is wise to be thinking about the lighting of the poultry house for the winter. There is no longer any question that for the short days, many of which are cloudy, the egg production can be very definitely increased by supplying artificial light to the laying flock. This has been tried out at many experiment stations and by thousands of practical poultrymen.

The idea is perfectly simple. The hen eats only when it is light, if the days are short she eats only a short time. She eats all her crop will hold, but when she stays on the roost from early afternoon, all night and until late in the morning in the winter, she has not been able to eat enough food to last her the whole time. Therefore, she is idle for several hours when she could just as well be eating more food and manufacturing more eggs.

The method of using the lights is to turn them on for 20 minutes to half an hour in the evening perhaps about nine o'clock, or near bedtime. The hens soon learn what it means when the lights go on, and they hop off the roost immediately and begin to eat scratch feed. As soon as they get their crops full they start back onto the roosts and in half an hour they are all back and the lights can go out, and the day has been made just that much longer for them.

In the case of acetylene lights, which have often been used, some arrangement of a pilot light is necessary which turns on the bright lights when wanted. In the case of electric lights these can be turned on by hand from the house or from the door of the poultry house or in some cases they are operated by clockwork, being turned on at a certain time and automatically turned off after a certain time.

Fattening Ration Urged for All Market Fowls

The common practice of hastily catching up a lot of cockerels, culs or turkeys, ducks or geese, without first making some assurance that they are in proper market condition, is sure to bring dissatisfaction to the producer, dealer and consumer alike.

Cockerels confined closely and fed a wet mash of the consistency of pancake batter for from ten days to two weeks should gain from 20 to 35 per cent in weight and at the same time they are a better market product, plumper bodied, with softer and more tender flesh, and they make a more pleasing appearance, hence command a higher price.

Equal quantities (measure) of wheat, oats and corn, or wheat, oats and barley ground fine and wet with either buttermilk or sour milk make a good fattening ration. Use two pounds of milk to one pound of ground feed. If the milk is not available, add 15 or 20 per cent of neat scraps or tankage to the ground feed and wet with water, using one and one-half pounds of water to one pound of ground feed.

Feed three times daily, but only what will be consumed in ten to fifteen minutes.—O. A. Barton, North Dakota Agricultural College.

Poultry Facts

The big fat yellow-legged hens seem to be doing anything but laying eggs.

There is no cure for tuberculosis in fowls and it is known that the disease will spread to swine.

If each bird has four square feet of floor space all the litter should be removed once a month.

Houses should protect the fowls from severe cold but they should not be too warm even in winter.

Some breeders will find it practical to install trap nests in the poultry house and know which hens are laying during the winter.

There is one absolute rule in poultry sanitation and disease control—prevention first, last and always the aim.

Exercise generates heat and promotes health. Make the poultry flock work for the grain by feeding it in a deep, clean litter of straw.

The laying quarters should always be as comfortable as it is possible to make them, but making a house warm at the expense of dryness is never a wise thing to do.

Disease control and sanitation are of greater importance in poultry raising than trying to cure the disease if the flock becomes affected.

Spray the poultry houses with kerosene. Get it into every crack and crevice, for a few miles left today will be a million next week.

Mash feeding throughout the year not only increases egg production but gives a higher average weight when the hens are culled and marketed and the scattering death losses reduced.



HOW HE CURED HER

"I never see Brown's wife in knickers any more, and my wife says she never meets her in the barber shop these days, either. What's happened?" "She's reverted to the feminine type. Brown is pretty bull-headed and he told her if she was going to be a man she was going to change the tires, earn the money for the gas and look after the furnace in winter."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Obedying Orders

"Just think, Bill, if your absent wife knew you spent the evening playing poker!" "That's all right. Her very last words before going were, 'Don't forget to feed the kitty!'"

OTHERS AHEAD



Bride (sobbing)—Look how it's raining on my wedding day!
Bridesmaid—Don't cry, dear—next time it will probably be bright and clear.

Gets It Quicker

"Sometimes things come to those who wait."
But here is something sicker—The one who goes for what he wants Gets it a blamed sight quicker."

He Put It Aside

Allie—What happened when your father told your fiancé he ought to put something aside for a rainy day?
Annie—A little later dad missed his raincoat.

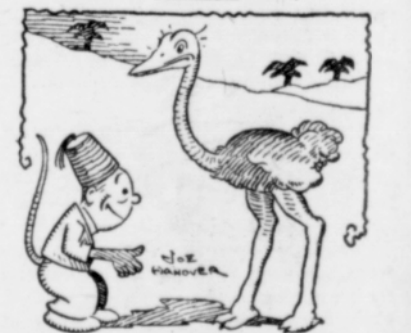
Fore-Armed

Jack—So Ruth is going to marry him, eh? You know he's a tough egg.
Jean—Don't worry. She knows how to use an egg beater.

Motion Carried

Senator's Wife—What is your pleasure in regard to the dinner, my dear?
Senator (just returned from session)—I move that it be laid on the table.

AN OSTRICH'S APPETITE



Monk—Let's go have a little lunch. Ostrich—I'm not hungry, I just ate a couple of kegs of nails!

Of Course

"Money talks," said some old chap. (This joke is just a bare ego.) I guess then that it says "Giddap!" When money makes the mare go.

Bawled Him Out

"I was down to the butcher's today."
"What did he have to say?"
"He gave me an awful roast."

The Wrong Spot

Asker—What happened to that valet of yours?
Teller—I fired him for removing a spot from one of my suits.
Asker—But isn't he supposed to do that?
Teller—Yes, but this was a 10-spot.—Pathfinder.

Wife Is Back

"The house looks suspiciously neat."
"Yes, my dear. I did all my poker playing at the office."

A Business Head

"Is your son growing up mit a good business head?"
"A good business head? My dot boy could buy every stitch of clothes a customer haf got an' den sell him a suitcase."

At the Resort

He—Didn't I meet you here two summers ago?
She—Why—er—I think so. Your face feels familiar.—Boston Transcript.