A Page for the Farmer and His Family

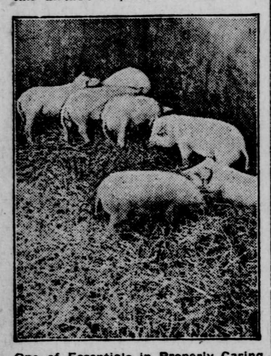
LIVE STOCK

WINTER ATTENTION TO PIGS

Two General Methods for Profitable Handling of Fall Porkers Given by Specialists.

When the fall pig crop has been weaned the future management of the hogs becomes of paramount interest to the grower. Specialists of the United States department of agriculture report two general methods for the profitable handling of fall pigs during winter. One system is to push the hogs as rapidly as possible in order to sell them on the market before the hot weather of the following summer. This really is the "hothouse" method of producing pork, as the animals are given extra care and feed in rushing them toward rapid maturity. This method involves particularly good housing for the hogs, as protection from the severe weather of winter in the colder locations is essential. One of the most important factors is clean bedding. Above all things fall pigs should never be allowed to sleep in damp bedding, as it is a prolific source of colds and pneumonia.

Another method of carrying fall pigs through the winter is to maintain the animal on a good growing ration which is relatively rich in protein-carrying materials. These are prerequisite for the making of a large, bony framework. The idea is to prime the hogs into good condition so that they may be turned out on grass the next spring with a well-developed framework on which they can store a surplus of fat. These animals can then be carried through the summer on good pasture with the addition of a little grain, thereby making some gain in weight and considerable gain in size, and be in splendid condition the following fall to fatten rapidly on the new corn crop. This system involves maintaining the hogs on the farm in some instances until the animals are fifteen to sixteen months of age, but often the porkers can be fed more cheaply where this method is practiced than where



One of Essentials in Properly Caring for Pigs in Winter Is Plenty of Clean, Dry Bedding.

the hogs are pushed rapidly to market maturity.

Many herdsmen neglect to provide a sufficient amount of drinking water for the hogs during the winter months. Pigs should have free access to pure water at all times.

POOR REPUTATION OF MULES

Animals Has Been Grossly Libeled and Is No More Treacherous Than the Horse.

A good many men refuse to work or raise mules at all because of the sinister reputation they have, but no one need hesitate to add a few dollars to his bank account on that reason, for the fact of the business is that the mule has been grossly libeled and is indeed no more unreliable or treacherous than the horse. When we remember that most mules are sold from the country before the age of four we realize that the time that we see a mule is during his young and lively days and that his "batting average" for that time is little worse than the young horses of the same age. For a great many kinds of work the mule is far superior to horses and in cultivating corn they are especially good for no horse team ever learns as quickly to follow the narrow thread of green and to turn as carefully at the ends of the rows.

BEET PULP GOOD FOR LAMBS

Value Demonstrated in Recent Experiment Conducted by Nebraska Agricultural College.

The value of dried beet pulp for lamb feeding has been demonstrated in a recent experiment conducted by the Nebraska Agricultural college. The most profit was made on lambs fed a ration including alfalfa, dried pulp, cottonseed cake and silage. This ration proved superior to standard rations such as alfalfa and corn or alfalfa, cottonseed cake and corn.

At prevailing prices for feeds the lambs fed for 100 days on the alfalfa, dried pulp, cottonseed cake and corn silage ration made a profit of $3.80 per lamb as compared with a profit of $2.40 per lamb on those fed alfalfa, corn and cottonseed cake. About the same profit was made on another lot fed alfalfa dried pulp for 60 days and corn for 40 days.

PRODUCTION OF CATTLE IN WES

Investigations Conducted in N braska Show Wide Varia- tion in Figures.

FEEDING PERILOUS VENTUR

Buying Right and Selling Right A Controlling Factors—Some Farm- ers Carried Animals Through With Profit.

According to cost of production restigations conducted by the Uni States department of agriculture co-operation with the University Nebraska in parts of Nebraska duri the past two years, the average c of corn-fed cattle laid down at m ket was $14.91 per hundredweight i... 2,293 head fed in the winter of 1918-19, $13.83 for 3,041 cattle in a survey study during the winter of 1919-20, and an average of $13.39 for an additional 795 cattle upon which detailed cost figures were secured during the same winter. The costs upon some droves were found to vary widely from these average figures, with the major portion going to market the first winter (1918-19) carrying an expense bill of from $13 to $18 a hundredweight, while in 1919-20 the costs of most of the cattle were between $11 and $17. The facts thus far brought out by the investigation would indicate that during the past two years, in the district covered by the survey, cattle feeding was a precarious venture, more likely to be unprofitable than not. There was an average loss per head of $3.17 on the cattle for which records were obtained in 1918-19, and of $10.69 and $14.57 on two groups for which records were obtained in 1919-20.

These figures are the results of the first two years' work of a five-year study of the basic factors of the cost of fattening cattle, which is being conducted in Nebraska by the office of farm management and farm economics, in co-operation with the University of Nebraska and the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture. Similar studies are being conducted in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, and preliminary reports on the work in these states will be forthcoming shortly.



Good Pastures and Good Stock Are Essential for Profitable Beef Production.

Feeding Plays Minor Part.

The greater part of the Nebraska cattle covered in the survey work of 1918-19 made their gains at a cost of from 20 to 35 cents per pound, with extremes ranging from 12 to 48 cents, while of the cattle covered the next year the greater part made their gains at from 15 to 35 cents per pound, with an extreme range of from 8 to 53 cents. While economical feeding is shown to be the major factor in the cost of fattening after the steer is bought, the investigation substantiates the fact that feeding usually plays a minor part in determining profit or loss, and that buying right and selling right are more often the controlling factors.

The cattle in question were bought at about the same figures in both years of the investigation. In 1918-19 three of the droves were bought at between $6 and $7, but most of the cattle covered in the study went into the lot at between $8 and $12. Of the 21 droves covered by the detailed cost-accounting method, 11 cost between $10 and $11. The weight of the feeders varied rather widely, averaging about 750 pounds with but few over 1,000 pounds or under 500.

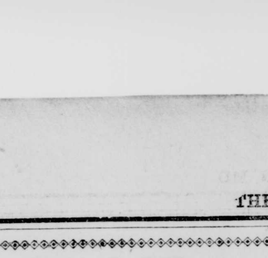
Feed, the most important factor of the cost of fattening the steer after purchase, was found to constitute from 75 to 90 per cent of all the expense involved in handling the steers after being put on feed.

Wide Variation in Cost Factors.

The wide variation in the factors affecting cost was reflected in equally wide variation in the total cost of the finished cattle. During both of the years of the study the cost of the cattle covered in the surveys ranged from about $8 to $22 per hundred fattened, the average for 1918-19 being $14.91, and for 1919-20, $13.83. The droves covered by the cost-accounting method showed a much narrower range, from $10 to $18 with an average of $13.39.

The financial return varied widely, ranging from $50 profit or more per head, reported for 40 head in 1918-19, to $50 or more per head loss, reported for 155 head in 1918-19 and for over 200 head in 1919-20. As has been stated above, on the average there was a loss incurred in handling cattle each year, reaching $14.57 per head as the average loss of the 795 cattle on the detailed route in 1919-20. However, a number of farmers carried their cattle through with profit.

SHRINKAGE OF GOOD



Loss of Water Causes Shrinkage in Weight of Hay, but Does Not Injure Feeding Value.

causes an actual money loss to the farmer, because any loss in weight in baled hay is borne by the shipper, who usually receives the hay as soon as it is baled.

If the shipper stores baled hay for speculation, there often will be a money loss caused by shrinkage, because he has purchased an excess amount of water.

There is practically no loss of dry matter in market hay that has been properly cured. Proper curing is indicated by a bright, natural green color. Improperly cured hay may lose dry matter, but such hay is not in demand in any of the terminal markets.

The water content of hay at different periods of curing and storage, methods of making hay to prevent excessive shrinkage in storage, methods of determining shrinkage on individual farms, and other general shrinkage information of interest to all agencies engaged in the production and marketing of market hay is given in a publication soon to be issued by the department of agriculture.

MARKETING SHEEP AND HOGS

Figures Furnished by Department of Agriculture Show Cost of Loading, Feeding, Etc.

Of 54 carloads of sheep, including 11 single-deck and 43 double-deck cars, the cost of loading and bedding cars average $0.019 per 100 pounds live weight, according to figures furnished the general trade commission by the United States department of agriculture. Other marketing expenses, including freight, varied from $0.239 to $1.97 per hundredweight. The shrinkage in weight varied from 3.53 to 8.57 per cent, the majority of the shipments averaging approximately 8 per cent.

Similar records on 253 carloads of hogs showed the cost of loading and bedding to average 1.5 cents per 100 pounds live weight; feed at market approximately 8 to 9 cents; commission charges, 4 to 10 cents; miscellaneous expense, 2 to 10 cents, averaging approximately 5 cents; and the total cost of marketing including freight from varying districts approximately from 33 to 50 cents. The shrinkage in weight on 873 carloads of hogs varied from 9.88 to minus 4.59 per cent.

LATE MOLTERS ARE FAVORED

Hens That Undergo Transformation During July and August Are Not Best Layers.

It has been observed that the best layers usually molt during the latter part of September or the months of October, November and December. Hens that molt during July and August are not the profitable hens, as they rest for three or four months while they grow their new feathers and will not start in laying until the following February or March. These hens are not the kind to use either in the breeding pen or the laying pen. In some cases, the early hatched pullets of the year previous will start molting during June, and a little judgment should be exercised in such cases. A check should be made with other tests.

PROPAGATING RHUBARB ROOT

Plants Which Have Not Done Very Well This Season Should Be Dug —Replant Next Spring.

Rhubarb which has not been giving very good results during the past season, should be dug this fall, and the roots allowed to remain in the open during the winter. In the spring as soon as the ground can be prepared, the large root or mother root should be divided into from six to eight parts and planted. A root four to five years old becomes root bound and produces small stems.

DAIRY THE DAIRY

MILK ESSENTIALS AND COST

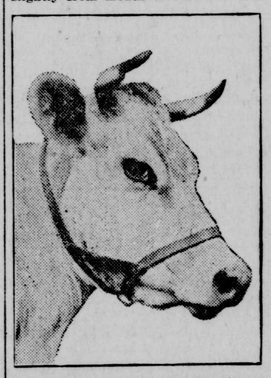
Results of Two-Year Study on Number of Dairy Farms in Northwest- ern Indiana.

A two-year study of the cost of milk production undertaken co-operatively by the United States dairy division and Purdue university, on a number of dairy forms in northwestern Indiana, has resulted in figures on the requirements for producing 100 pounds of milk in winter and summer. To give permanent value to the results, these requirements were determined in pounds of feed, hours of labor, etc., and by substituting present costs and values for various items a farmer can determine very closely what it is costing him to produce 100 pounds of milk at the present time.

In the summer months the requirements for 100 pounds of milk were as follows: Concentrates, 20 pounds; dry roughage, 27.4 pounds; silage and other succulent roughage, 60.1 pounds; hauling and grinding concentrates, $0.014; pasture, 0.04 acre; human labor, 2.2 hours; horse labor, 0.2 hour; overhead and other costs, $0.393.

In the winter months the requirements for production were: Concentrates, 38.6 pounds; dry roughage, 66.8 pounds; silage and other succulent roughage, 147.6 pounds; hauling and grinding concentrates, $0.03; bedding, 20.3 pounds; human labor, 2.5 hours; horse labor, .03 hour; overhead and other costs, $0.385.

It has been generally believed that the cost of producing milk was considerably higher in winter than in summer; and while this holds true as far as the gross cost is concerned, the figures obtained in this investigation show that the net cost of producing 100 pounds of milk from November to April was only 1.8 per cent higher than the cost from May to October, inclusive, and that the total cost varied only slightly from month to month within



The Cow Is Man's Greatest Benefactor —She Pays the Debts and Saves the Home.

each of these seasons. This small difference between net costs of production during winter and summer is largely due to the greater credit allowed for manure during the winter season.

The price received for the milk, however, fluctuated sharply from month to month.

Further details on requirements for milk production, including such factors as cost of keeping a cow for one year, cost of keeping a bull, proportion of work performed by each class of labor, percentage relation of various factors in the cost of production, and other details, are presented in department bulletin 858, "Requirements and Cost of Producing Market Milk in Northwestern Indiana," which may be obtained from the United States department of agriculture on request.

QUANTITY OF MILK TO FEED

Amount May Be Best Governed by Body Weight of Calf—Great Dan- ger in Overfeeding.

The amount of liquid to feed the young calf may be best governed by the body weight of the calf fed. If the calf is small, weighing 50 to 60 pounds, it should receive only six to eight pounds of milk per day, divided equally into the number of feedings given. A heavier calf, weighing from 100 to 110 pounds, should receive 10 to 11 pounds of milk per day, properly divided. As there is greater danger from overfeeding than there is from underfeeding, the rule of giving them an amount of milk equal to one-tenth of their body weight each day is a splendid one.

NAVAL ACADEMY DAIRY SIRES

Herd Includes 17 Purebred Bulls, 37 Purebred Cows and 334 Grades— Other Purebred Sires.

Commander T. de F. Harris of the supply corps, United States navy, has enrolled the Naval academy dairy at Annapolis, Md., in the United States department of agriculture "Better Sires—Better Stock" movement, which is aimed at raising the quality of domestic animals in the United States. The dairy herd includes 17 purebred bulls, 37 purebred cows and 334 grade cows. Other stock is kept also, the sires being purebred.

COZY NINE-ROOM HOME FOR FARM

Contains All Modern Equipment and Conveniences.

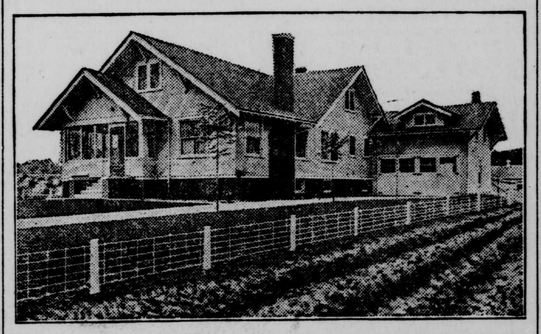
WILL HOLD FAMILY TOGETHER

This Comfortable House Has Wing With Garage and Extra Bedroom —Building Will Reflect Credit to Any Farm.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm, 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 all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

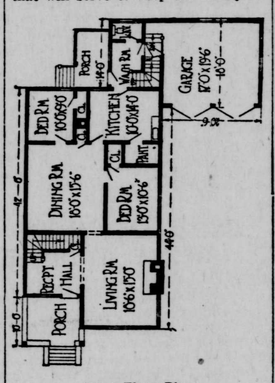
For a long time the home of the farmer and his family was neglected. It was considered the most unessential building in the farm group. The dairy barn and other buildings for housing live stock came first in the farmer's scheme of things and little attention or expense was wasted on the house.



Perhaps that is one of the important reasons for so many young people leaving the farm as soon as they grew up and began to appreciate what real home comforts meant.

But with the progress in other things, this old idea has been changed and today the farm home is no longer overlooked or taken up as a necessary evil. It is now the important building in the farm group, a really attractive, modern structure with all the latest comforts and conveniences that the building profession can offer. No longer is the farmwife a galley slave working into the late hours of the night. She has learned the lesson that labor-saving appliances have come to teach.

As a typical example of this progress in modern farm home building we have the delightful house shown here with floor plans. It is a building that will reflect credit to any farm and one that will serve to keep the family together. Built of frame with a brick and concrete foundation, it has an unusually well-designed exterior with a screened-in front porch, an ideal place in the summer.

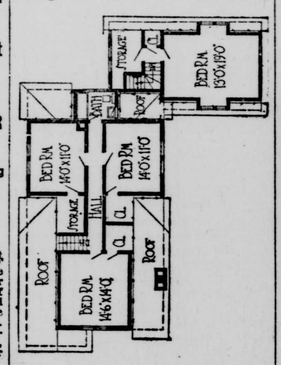


First Floor Plan.

One of the odd features of this house, however, is the wing in the rear at one side including a garage for pleasure cars and a bedroom above for the hired help. A long driveway leads from the main road to this part of the house.

On the first floor are five of the nine rooms which make up this pleasing home. They are the living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. In addition there is a washroom in the rear, next to the kitchen, a very important feature in a farm home as it affords the workingmen a chance to clean up before entering the house. In this way the wife is saved a lot of unnecessary work of cleaning the kitchen after they have tracked it up with muddy shoes.

The living room is large, 18 feet 6 inches by 15 feet, with a large open brick fireplace, a continual source of cheer and warmth during the long winter nights. This room opens into a reception hall on one side and the dining room on another. The dining



Second Floor Plan.

room is also a comfortable size, 18 by 15 feet 6 inches and well lighted by a triple window. It opens into two bedrooms, one to the rear and one to the side. The efficient arrangement of the floor plan is seen in the location of the kitchen with reference to the dining room. Built along the lines of the present day, in other words, small and compact, it is only a few steps away from the dining room, a feature which means much to the housewife who must serve the meals in the dining room and carry them from the kitchen.

The garage is large enough to hold two cars, being 17 by 19 feet 6 inches.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, bath room and two storage rooms. The essential feature of a farm home is plenty of room with ample sleeping quarters because the families are, as a rule, large, and there must be space for the help. This house has not been neglected in this case, having six bedrooms. The bedrooms on the upper floor are about the same size with the exception of the one over the garage which is rather long. This bedroom is not connected with the other rooms on this floor.

Certainly if there were more homes like the one shown here on farms in many parts of the country, the farmer would not be worried over his help. It would be a prominent factor in keeping his own sons satisfied because it affords them all the comforts and conveniences of a home in the city. Home life is essential to contentment. If the home surroundings are made attractive there will not be such a strong desire to leave them. Moreover a home of this type is a real blessing for the farmer's wife. It will do much in eliminating the drudgery which is so frequently found in homes. Her share of work, which is at the best considerable, can be lessened and made easier, by homes of this caliber. Washing machines and other appliances have worked wonders in this direction.

The home on the farm is too important to be overlooked or passed over. It should get the attention of every farmer who will find his time and efforts well spent.

Jade Prized in the East.

In China a string of jade beads is now used as an insignia of high rank and authority. At one time, it is said no other than a prince of the royal blood had the right to possess jade in India, under pain of death. In China the jade is termed the concentrated essence of love. It is an ornament often bestowed upon young girls when they come of age. When fashioned in the form of a butterfly it has a special romantic significance to the Chinese because of the pretty legend which relates that a youth pursuing a butterfly climbed over the high wall and into the garden of a rich mandarin. Instead of being censored or punished, the poor youth's visit led to his marriage with the mandarin's daughter. Hence the butterfly is the symbol of successful love, and Chinese bridegrooms present jade butterflies to their fiancees.

NEW ABSORBENT OF VALUE

Material Used During the World War Put to Practical Use in Many Industries.

A new type of absorbent has come into use for gas masks in chemical plants, in mine-rescue apparatus, and for protection of workers in oil refineries and about blast furnaces.

Its efficiency was explained before the industrial division of the American Chemical society at its meeting at the University of Chicago, by Robert E. Wilson, director of the research laboratory of applied chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This material, known as soda-lime, was extensively used as an absorbent for poison gas during the World war.

Doctor Wilson, profiting by his previous extensive work on soda lime for military purposes, made an intensive study of the efficiency of this absorbent against the various acid gases used in manufacturing. As a result, it was found that the soda lime on the market before the war contained far more caustic alkali than was desirable, and a new formula and method of manufacture has been developed which gives from three to ten times as good efficiency against various gases as was previously obtainable. This development is one of the many practical outgrowths of the work of the Chemical Welfare service.

Old Political History.

Henry Clay was nominated for the presidency by the Whigs in 1844, by acclamation. The Texas annexation question bobbed up, and a letter of Clay's was unearthed in which he opposed annexation at that time. This hurt him with the southern Whigs, and did him no good in the North, where the intense Abolitionists voted for a third party candidate, John G. Birney, and gave New York and Michigan to Polk, who was elected. Lewis Cass of Michigan missed the presidency in 1848. He was nominated by the Democrats, and defeated because Van Buren ran as a Free Soil candidate, and took enough Democratic votes away from Cass, in New York, to defeat him giving the election to Gen. Zachary Taylor.

REMARKABLE RECOVERY

Extraordinary Curative Power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.



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It hardly seems possible that there is a woman in this country who will continue to suffer without giving Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial after all the evidence that is continually being published, proving beyond contradiction that this grand old medicine has relieved more suffering among women than any other medicine in the world.



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