

HOME AND THE FARM

A DEPARTMENT MADE UP FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Leaving Out the Farm for Convenience and Profit—What it Costs to Feed Pigs—The Creamery Fraud—Hayseeds for Chickens—Household and Kitchen.

The Plan of the Farm.

FARMERS of this country will do well to take a lesson from those of England. Many of them have maps of their farms, finely executed and absolutely correct in scale and form. They also have a year book in which is shown not only the location of the fields, but also what crops were grown on any particular field at any given time. Their system of rotation of crops greatly facilitates the keeping of such a record.

In the East, says the American Farmer, the situation of affairs is probably worse than here. The farms there are small and badly divided up into small "two acre pieces," "half acre fields," etc. Here in the Northwest we too often go to the other extreme and have our farms unfenced. We have seen a single farm in the East which had several miles of fences and walls, while we have also travelled several miles in the West without observing a single fence. A fence should be placed around the farm. It is oftentimes the means of saving its cost in keeping away stray cattle from the growing crops, and is a benefit at all times. A State may fortify itself with herd laws forever but a fence well made is better than all the statutes on this subject. The pasture must be divided from the tilled land by a good fence, for obvious reasons; but as it is unwise to continuously keep a certain part of the farm for pasture, it is well to plan for this before fencing. A plan can easily be formed by which the changing of the pasture will necessitate the changing of only two sides of the fence. In laying out the prairie farm, the buildings must be placed in some convenient position. Many farmers put their buildings near one corner of the farm; a few moments' reflection will convince any one that this is a most unwise thing to do. A good plan is to lay out the quarter section into lots of twenty acres each. By doing this you can easily compute how much land you have to any crop, and the total field being given it is then easy to estimate the yield per acre. This division of the land into plots of equal size, cannot easily be done unless it is very nearly level. In the majority of farms more attention is paid to the natural surface contour. A little forethought in locating roads on the farm will prevent much unnecessary labor. The distance around the hemisphere is no greater than the distance over it, and the former course is much the easier for the team.

Of course, many circumstances must be considered in laying out the farm. It will probably be impossible to have the artificial divisions always suit the farmer and yet conform to the surface contour. The great thing is to make a beginning, to get to thinking, and then apply that thought in practice.

LIVE STOCK.

Cost of Feeding Pigs.

The Wisconsin Experiment Station conducted a series of experiments to ascertain whether or not pigs can be fed as profitably through the dam as after weaning. Four sows were placed in separate pens just before farrowing. The pigs were weighed on the day they were born, and weekly thereafter until ten weeks old, when they were weaned. An account was kept of all the food consumed by the sow and pigs for seven weeks after weaning. The feed consumed is charged at the following rates:

Cornmeal, 75 cents per hundred weight, or 40 cents per hundred.

Skim milk, 75 cents per hundred weight.

Shorts, 70 cents per hundred weight.

Ground oats, 60 cents per hundred weight, or 20 cents per hundred weight.

Sifted oats, 61 cents per hundred weight.

Only summaries of the second and third lots are here given as the feeding was not uniform for the other lots. The following table shows the food consumed to produce 100-pounds of gain:

LOT I—SOW AND PIGS BEFORE WEANING.

Cornmeal, 184 lbs. at 75 cents per cwt. \$1.29

Skim milk, 482 lbs. at .25 per cwt. 1.21

Total. 2.50

PIGS AFTER WEANING.

Cornmeal, 157 lbs. at 75 cents per cwt. \$1.14

Skim milk, 562 lbs. at .25 per cwt. 1.41

Total. 2.55

LOT II—SOW AND PIGS BEFORE WEANING.

Cornmeal, 116 lbs. at 75 cents per cwt. \$1.01

Shorts, 230 lbs. at 60 cents per cwt. 1.02

Total. 2.03

PIGS AFTER WEANING.

Cornmeal, 115 lbs. at 75 cents per cwt. \$1.01

Shorts, 230 lbs. at 60 cents per cwt. 1.02

Total. 2.03

The combination of cornmeal and skim milk gave excellent results, and cornmeal with shorts did equally well. Where the sow was fed ground oats poor returns followed, this feed not being very satisfactory when cost is considered. It will be seen that there was little difference in the amount of feed required for a pound of growth with the pigs of Lots II and III before and after weaning; and we may conclude that there is no cheaper way of feeding pigs than through the dam. This being true, it is a shortsighted policy to starve a sow with the idea that her pigs will pay better for their feed after they are weaned. Experimenters teach that the sow should be fed as heavily as possible without endangering her young, and that at the same time the pigs should be early taught to eat in a trough by themselves, and should also be fed all they will consume.

Sheep Mints.

START IN to winter right and feed the flock so it will be a credit to you. There is a difference between feeding a maintenance ration and one enough larger to net the feeder a profit.

THE wool and manure will pay for

the keep of the sheep, and what the lambs bring is all profit. What will save a larger per cent of profit than this?

WHEN a man expects early spring lambs it won't do for him to be mean with the ewes, either in board or treatment. There is a charm about wheat bran, oats and linseed meal which no sheep can resist; and the resulting products, whether lambs, wool or mutton, are bound to be first-class. Oil meal must not be fed to ewes in lamb later than four weeks after they are served because of danger from miscarriage.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Washing Blankets Made Easy.

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