NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE FARMER

BUTCHERING ON THE FARM

THE METHOD OF A FARMER WHO THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDS THE BUSINESS.

In order to do neat and rapid work at hog-killing time, it is necessary to have a good scraper, sticking knife, a hog hook and a place that is convenient for working.

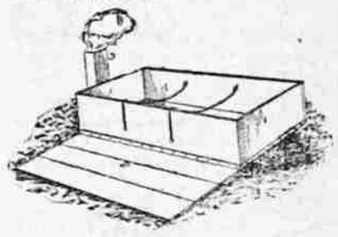
For scalding, a barrel is commonly used, and it is all that is needed unless the hogs are very large. If very large hogs are killed, a scalding tub will answer the purpose for scalding much better than a barrel.

I have one which is made of two-inch planks for the sides and ends, and sheet iron for the bottom. It is six feet long and three and one-half feet wide, with a depth of two and one-half feet.

Two hooks are fastened near the top on one side, with a pair of trace chains to run under the hog, to facilitate the turning and withdrawing from the tub.

It is placed over a furnace, which is made by digging a trench in the ground, and when in use I place pieces of wood across the bottom, in order to keep the hog from coming in contact with the iron bottom and getting too hot.

I find that the proper temperature for good scalding is from 180 to 190 degrees, and if a barrel is to be used the water should be boiling when dipped out of the kettle, as the barrel will cool it some.



Hog-scalding Tank.

If a scalding tub is used, the water should be cooled by adding a bucket of cold water before the hog is put in.

To insure a correct heat of the water, use a thermometer. Small quantities of lye, ashes or lime will have no effect in removing the hair, but will cause the scurf to come loose more readily.

A hog hook is almost indispensable, and if one is to be made it should be made in the form of a hay or bale hook. In fact, I find that a hay hook answers the purpose very well.

In handling the hog, stick the hook in the flesh of the lower jaw, just behind the fork of the jaw bone. However, the hook may be stuck under the tendons of the hind legs.

Keep the hog in constant motion while being scalded, and draw it out to air occasionally. When the hair and scurf slip easily from the body the scalding is completed.

In scraping and cleaning the hog, I clean the feet and head first, then the legs, and last but not least, the body.

I hang the hog with a rope and pulley, as it is more easily hung in this way than any other. But it may be hung with the ordinary gambrel, a stick which is sharpened at each end and inserted under the tendon strings of the hind legs.

A short singletree will be found to answer for a gambrel-stick. If there is sufficient help at hand, the hog may be hung on a pole put up for the purpose.

After the hog is hung up, rinse it down with scalding water, remove the entrails by running a sharp knife lightly down, marking the belly straight, cutting to the bone between the thighs and in front of the ribs, which bones I split with an ax, being careful not to cut beyond them.

Open the abdomen, and after a little use of the knife one will seldom cut the entrails in removing them.

However, I have a few short strings at hand to use in case any of the entrails are cut.

After removing the entrails, liver and heart, spread the carcass apart with a stick and rinse it down with cold water. When cooled sufficiently, remove the leaf fat and kidneys and cut it up.

I usually salt down on a bench or in a box as soon as it has cooled enough to trim, but I never put any salt on the ribs and backbones if the weather is cool.

The amount of salt I use is ten pounds to every one hundred pounds of meat. In addition to the salt, I also use two pounds of granulated sugar and two ounces of saltpetre mixed.

Rub the meat once every three days with one-third of the mixture. While it is curing pack it in a box in a cool room, where it will neither become warm nor freeze.

Two barrels may be used, changing the meat from one to the other each time it is rubbed. After the last rubbing let the meat lie in a box for a week or ten days, then take it out to smoke. When taken out of the box dip each piece in a kettle of boiling water and let it remain half a minute, after which sprinkle a little powdered borax on the meat side, and hang.

Smoke it four or five days with hickory chips or corn cobs, then dip and sprinkle it with borax again, and put it down in clean hay.

The hot water destroys any fly eggs that may have been deposited, and the borax prevents flies from depositing fresh ones.

Meat treated in this manner may be left hanging all summer and will remain in the best condition.—W. Hanson, Illinois.

A HANDY DIAGRAM.

Where different varieties of apples are stored together in the same pit, or, if several sorts of vegetables are buried together, we keep a diagram of the pit, something like this:

Ben Davis. Jonathan. Twig. Willow Pippin.

By this plan when fruit is wanted in the winter, one may now exactly what part of the pit to open to secure the varieties desired.—M. Coverdell.

An experiment station says that the closer a draught horse is to the ground the better both for service and endurance.

USING LUMBER AS FODDER

By R. B. Buckham, Mass.

Though it may seem a strange statement at first thought, it is, nevertheless true that lumber makes a most desirable fodder for cattle, and, in fact, all kinds of live stock. It is as good as corn, or any other grain; it equals the very best hay; ensilage will not surpass it in results attained, and all animals like it, too.

What is more, it is comparatively inexpensive. It provides a greater amount of animal heat in proportion to its cost than almost any other substance whatever. Ten dollars worth of it will do more good around the farm, ordinarily, than almost any other investment which the farmer can make of a like sum.

The agriculturist should begin to resort to its use along in the fall, after the animals have come in from the pastures for the winter's keep. It should be purchased in good, sound pieces, free from knots, and, no, not ground up into sawdust and mingled with their rations, but, what is better, nailed tightly over the cracks and crevices in the barns and stables, where the wind is accustomed to come whistling and moaning in during the winter gales, to set the cattle shivering and the sheep to huddling together in one corner of their pens.

After all, a large portion of the food which any animal must have during the winter goes toward keeping up the bodily fires, and warding off the effects of frost and chill and damp. If the same amount of protection can be provided by more secure and habitable quarters, then, naturally, the animals need less food, in equal proportion.

Why, anyone who is good at figures can sit down and calculate in a very short time just what saving in dollars and cents a hundred board feet will accomplish; reduce lumber to its equivalent in hay and grain; express wood in terms of feed! It does not require expert knowledge of mathematics to figure about what result for good will come from the judicious use of secure shelter. Plain common sense will point the way to solve that problem, and reduce the answer to its lowest terms.

Did you never, as a boy, long to spend a season in camp, and sleep at night in a tent, or other rude shelter of boards or boughs, and have you never noted that the wind as it whistled through crack, or crevice, or rent, at such times, tested your power of endurance to the utmost? What a rush there always was at night to see who should sleep next to the warm camp fire and farthest from the leaky wall!

Animals are subject to precisely the same conditions and sensations. Give them a safe shelter from the storm, and they will not fail to appreciate it. Put a little money into lumber, this fall, and before spring you will be pleased to find how nicely the grain is holding out.

RESULTS OF A PURE MILK CAMPAIGN

After a number of babies in one of Indiana's largest cities had died from the effects of impure milk, the people of that city determined to improve the conditions by a well organized campaign of education. The city council passed quick ordinances regarding inspection, not only of the milk delivered by the dairymen to the dealers, and by the dealers to consumers, but to the cows and barns on the farms. Agents were sent out to the country to persuade farmers to abolish their unclean and unsanitary barns and milk-houses and build new ones on modern lines.

The results have been most satisfactory. Farmers have taken kindly to the suggestion and while at first many of them resented the interference of the inspectors, they quickly found that unless they conformed to the laws and produced clean milk, they were unable to sell their output. Now new barns with cement floors and whitewashed inside walls, well ventilated and modern in every way, are rapidly taking the place of the dirty, germ-filled, ramshackle old buildings that formerly did duty for dairy barns. Every city in every state should follow the example of this Indiana city.

Before and After the Campaign For Pure, Clean Milk.

WHAT A CORN-PICKER WILL DO

A TIME-SAVING MACHINE WHICH IS DESTINED TO BECOME VERY POPULAR.

While the corn picker is a comparatively new member of the corn-machine line, nevertheless it is destined to become a very important one.

Before the advent of the high-priced help, and before it became so scarce, the harvesting of the corn crop was not such a serious problem. Modern ideas and changes in the methods of living, however, have brought about a shortage in the supply of farm labor.

This shortage is very pronounced, especially in the husking season, when extra help is needed. For this reason, farmers are more than ever in need of a machine which will husk the corn from the standing stalks—a machine which will do the work of several men.

Heretofore, about an acre was considered an average day's work for one man. A corn picker, however, will husk several times this number of acres. A corn picker will, however, not only do the work of several men, but it will deliver the ear corn to the wagon in much better condition than is done ordinarily when husking by hand.

The corn picker is not the inspiration of a minute. It is the work of years. While necessity was the mother of its invention, yet it was hard work that overcame the difficulties that confronted the designers of this machine. One by one these difficulties have been overcome, and the machine is now perfected so that it does a very high class of work.

The description of a corn picker by an expert follows:

"Corn pickers are constructed much on the same plan as the corn binder. Like the corn binder, they take care of a single row of corn at a time. As a whole, the machine is comparatively simple. Long, projecting gatherer arms extend forward and on each side of the row.

"These arms can be adjusted so that the points will run very close to the ground, or higher, as the field conditions require. When operating in the fields which are badly lodged or tangled, the points of the arms must be run very close to the ground in order to pick up stalks that are badly down, or lodged or tangled.

"When the corn stands reasonably straight, however, it is not necessary to lower the arms.

"In order to pick up and hold the stalks firmly until the snapping rolls have broken the ear from the stalk, the gatherer arms are equipped with chains which are provided with long steel fingers.

"As the machine moves along the points of the arms raise the down and tangled stalks, and the fingers of the chain grasp them and hold the stalks firmly, until they have been forced between the snappping rolls.

"These rolls are especially constructed and are placed at such an angle that the ear-corn gravitates to the elevator, at the side which carries it to the husking rolls proper.

"These rolls remove the remaining husk and the silk. Gravitation carries the corn to the ear-corn elevator, which delivers it to the wagon which is driven alongside the machine.

"The capacity of the machine is determined only by the rate at which the team walks. While no definite statement can be made as to the amount of corn a machine will husk, yet a large wagon-box of ear-corn has been husked in thirty minutes.

"Ordinarily, however, the daily capacity of the machine is determined largely by the quality of the corn and the facilities for taking care of the ears.

"Considering the character of the work such a machine is required to do, the draft is exceedingly light, and the power required to operate the machine depends largely upon the condition of the ground and the sizes of the horses used.

"For ordinary husking, from three to five horses are required. When operating the machine continuously for hours at a time, four horses will handle the machine easily.

"Another advantage gained by using the corn picker lies in the fact

that the corn can be husked slightly earlier with the machine than by hand.

"This leaves the stalks in better condition for early feeding purposes. Therefore, when cattle are turned into the field after the ears have been husked by the machine, there is more nutrition left in the leaves and stalks, and the cattle feed them down better than would be the case if they were badly withered with dust.

INOCULATING LAND.

A writer in Dry Farming, says:

It is apparent that most of our upland prairie lands will need inoculation. Nearly all farmers (at least those who have taken an interest in alfalfa) understand this term. It is necessary that certain bacteria be found in the soil. If they are not there naturally they must be put there. This planting of the bacteria is called inoculation.

Pure cultures can be obtained, but the best and safest method is to secure dirt from a successful alfalfa field. This dirt should be sowed over the field at the rate of 200 or 300 pounds per acre, upon a cloudy day, or just before a rain if possible, and harrowed in. Sunshine is injurious to the germs.

A sack and a half of soil to an acre will be sufficient, but it might be of advantage to mix this with other dirt to insure equable distribution. An advantage in starting with a small patch of alfalfa is that when this patch is well inoculated a farmer has an abundance of alfalfa dirt to inoculate larger areas.

Some cornstalks may be fed to the porkers every day. They are sweet and do the hogs good.

KEEP SEED POTATOES COOL

By Wm. H. Underwood, Illinois.

Potatoes intended for seed should be kept hard and plump during the winter, and this can be done only by keeping them so cool that they will not sprout.

When potatoes sprout they take part of the starch that is stored up in them and manufacture it into living cells. This energy is all wasted for the sprouts have to be pulled off.

Some farmers make it a point to "sprout" their potatoes once or twice during the winter, this being done to prevent their growing. But the amount of energy thus lost is considerable and the loss increases as the winter draws to a close.

I raise potatoes in large quantities, and each year place them in cold storage. I prefer to pay the expense of the storage and be sure that they are kept in a perfectly plump state, rather than to keep them in a room with a high temperature, as is done by some.

In the spring the potatoes come out of the cold storage house in perfect condition, and it takes but a few weeks for them to develop strong sprouts that rise out of the soil and develop strong stalks and leaves.

Many farmers have not the opportunity to put their potatoes in cold storage houses, but they should endeavor to keep their potatoes at a very low temperature. The nearer 32 degrees potatoes are kept, the better.

THIS WILL SAVE THE FEATHERS.

Picking poultry is not a pleasant job at best, and particularly on a windy day. Even in a closed room feathers are apt to fly about and are difficult to gather up.

We once saw a Virginia woman picking geese, and she had beside her

a barrel, the top of which was covered with sacking, nailed around the edges, and a cross slip in the middle, through which she dropped the feathers. In this way she managed to save all of the feathers, and the barrel was kept solely for this purpose.

In cleaning the separator be sure and see that the parts are dried rapidly so they will not rust; still the drying should not be done with a cloth, as much lint will be left and on this will be a large number of bacteria. Boiling water will cause the parts to dry rapidly and evenly and will be death to many of the bacteria.

GUINEA PIGS AS LAWN MOWERS

A curious, but successful experiment is being made on a number of private lawns in Kent, and is about to be tried by a golf club in the neighborhood of Greenhithe. The idea is the novel one of substituting the guinea pig for the mowing machine and the weed killer.

Around the lawn is arranged a low wire barrier, and into the inclosure are turned a number of guinea pigs, or better, a passage is made from their hutch to the lawn. The animals at once attack all the worst weeds—the plantains first, then the dandelions and daisies. These broad-leaved plants, which no mowing machine will touch, are killed by the persistent cutting of the guinea pigs' teeth. When they have finished the weeds, which are broad-leaved and succulent, they proceed to the grass. In a short time the lawn looks as if it and been cut by the closest machine. The persistent cutting of the leaves kills the weeds, which can stand almost any other treatment, but does no harm to the grass.

One lawn, formerly a mass of weeds, has been made to grow nothing but the finer grasses. Another is still under process of treatment. The half of it in which the guinea pigs were first set to work has been cut quite even and very close. For golfing it is as fast again as it was under the administration of the mowing machine, and not a weed is visible. The other half, where the animals have just been turned loose, is a mass of dandelions.

In this neighborhood it has been found that the guinea pigs do not suffer at all by being left to work in winter as well as in summer. Indeed they are healthier than under the usual treatment of those who keep them as pets. An astonishing demand for the animals has grown up in the neighborhood, and if the inland golf clubs, which have great difficulties with plantains, take to the new method the guinea-pig population is likely to go up in the ratio that the natural fecundity of the animal suggests—Consul S. M. Taylor, England.

GRINDING THE GRAIN.

A great many dairymen think it is all nonsense to grind grain, but their opinion is probably influenced by the fact that it takes time and trouble, and is therefore somewhat expensive. Men who conduct their dairying on the principle of knowing what they are about and not guessing at things, believe that it does pay. It not only adds to the digestibility of the grain to grind it, but it makes it more palatable. Ground corn is much sweeter to the taste than unground, and animals relish tasty feed.

Unbroken corn is surrounded by a layer of hard cellulose, and this is not easily digested, unless thoroughly masticated. If a cow does not grind her corn thoroughly the value of much of the grain will be lost.

Doctor Jordan, who has made many experiments in the feeding of dairy cattle estimated that the digestibility of corn is increased from three and one-half to fourteen per cent by grinding.

The western farmer, particularly in the corn belt, who has an abundance of feed is not quick to admit the value of grinding, but dairymen in the eastern states who have to count every bushel of corn carefully and make it go as far as possible, have learned the value of ground feed, and nothing can shake their belief in it.

If a farmer who is really trying to learn how to conduct his business most economically will make a common-sense test during a season of, say, six months, feeding a portion of his cows ground grain, and the same number whole grain, noting the difference in milk flow, he will then come pretty near knowing the truth.

Put kerosene on the roosts frequently to keep down chicken lice.

HE KNEW THE TRICKS.

A Nebraska farmer turned his trick-horse into the pasture one night, and the animal was stolen before morning. A week later, while walking along the streets of Omaha, he recognized the horse, which proved the case of his

owner in court, by shaking hands with his right foot, kneeling and prancing on his hind feet. The court adjourned to the street to witness the performance, and after turning the horse over to his owner, sent the man who was driving him to jail.

A MODEL DAIRY BARN.

Concrete floors and mangers with iron stalls and fittings will make the interior of the new dairy barn at the Columbia, Mo., Agricultural College, one that can be easily cleaned and kept clean. Sunlight, the greatest of all purifiers and disinfectants, will be supplied in abundance through numerous large, well-placed windows. A complete system of ventilation will provide an unlimited amount of pure air is the best insurance on the health uniform temperature. The combination of cleanliness, sunlight and fresh air is the best insurance on the health of the university dairy herd that can be provided. It adds to the comfort of the herd and insures large returns for food eaten.

WINTER PIGS

There is a decided difference in caring for the pigs of Autumn farrowing and those of the Spring litters. On the average farm the latter have the advantage over the former of coming in previous to the advent of the springing grasses, and have a more generous supply of milk and other laxative food-stuffs to keep them growing and in perfect order.

It has been my practice for a number of years to raise two litters of pigs a year. To do this successfully I find that one must not allow overstocking, but rather should sell off a portion of the pigs soon after weaning time, keeping only so many as he knows he can accommodate with good quarters and generous feeding. One must not slight pigs during cold weather, either in housing or feeding.

Besides dry nesting-quarters, the pigs should have a good-sized lot in which they may get plenty of exercise. Growing pigs should not be crowded into close, filthy quarters, exposed to vermin and disease.

Our winter pigs are very profitably fed upon whole corn in the fodder, as they delight in getting their feed from this material. I find that they eat very much of the fodder, which forms a fine diet. The cobs and coarse stalks are raked up and burned frequently, affording the pigs a generous supply of charcoal.

I aim to keep a cow for every litter of milk-stuffs I can grow a bunch of winter pigs, and with the milk and a supply of pigs equal to the spring litters.—G. W. Brown.

MILLIONS FOR BARRELS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The farmer with his potatoes and his apples, the miller with his flour and meal, the hardware man with his nails, the cement manufacturer, and the many other users of the faithful slack barrel, that combination of staves, hoops, and heading, which is not intended to hold water or something stronger in fluid form, used forest products last year having the enormous value of $15,800,253.

The average man would little suspect that the humble barrel plays so important a part in the expense accounts of the American farmer and manufacturer, yet figures compiled by the census in co-operation with the United States forest service develop this interesting truth. Moreover, statistics taken directly from reports from 950 cooperage mills in all parts of the United States show an increase of $1,569,688, or 11 per cent in the value of last year's product over that of the previous year.

Always remember that it pays to save the duck feathers if 100 or more ducks are killed during the season. The feathers sell for from 40 to 50 cents a pound and pay for the labor of picking.

Dairying has crowded out sheep raising in Australia. The Australian butter is in good demand in Europe.

AGRICULTURAL BANK IN THE PHILIPPINES

During the period from October 1, 1908, to May 23, 1911, the Agricultural Bank of the Philippines made 166 loans, advancing in all 498,600 pesos ($249,300).

No person or corporation can borrow less than $25 gold, nor more than $12,500 from the bank. The rate of interest charged is 10 per cent per annum, and the maximum period for which a loan may be made is 10 years.

Of the 674 applications received, 311 were refused because title was defective or applicant had no title whatever (in all cases were the applicant's defective title could be perfected he was given instructions as to how to do so), 101 applicants were refused because of the amounts requested being out of proportion to the value of the security offered, 57 have been withdrawn by the applicants, 10 have been refused as the loans requested were for other than agricultural purposes, 13 have been acted on favorably, but are awaiting signature to and registration of mortgage, and 16 are in the hands of various provincial boards for appraisement of the value of the security offered.

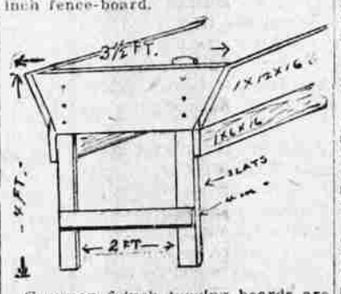
About a year ago the bank communicated with the provincial officials throughout the islands with a view to obtaining information as to why requests for loans were not more numerous, and the replies received were, without exception, to the effect that the people possessed neither royal nor Torrens titles and that the requirements for securing good titles were so complicated and expensive that the people would not attempt to secure them. Recently, however, a system has been inaugurated by the Government to aid the people in acquiring Torrens titles, but the system has not been in effect sufficiently long to show any appreciable results.

TROUGH FOR FEEDING SHEEP.

Use 2x4s, four feet long, for corner posts. These are set two feet apart, and a four-inch trough is built one foot from the ground, using two 12-inch boards for the bottom of the trough.

At the top of the rack on the end, a 12-inch board is sawed to a bevel and nailed as shown. A 12-inch board is then nailed along this bevel on either side at the top of the rack.

This gives a wide space to put in the hay, etc., so it will feed down gradually. Below this is nailed a 6-inch fence-board.



Common 6-inch fencing boards are used for slats, which should be cut about two and one-half feet long in order to lap enough for nailing to the top of the trough and the bottom of the 6-inch board near the top of the rack. The slats should be set about eight inches apart.

This gives each sheep fourteen inches of feeding space, and thirty sheep can feed at a 16-foot trough. The trough can be used for feeding either grain or roughage.—W. H. Underwood.

A liberal banking of sheds on the north side will prove a boon to the cows when the cold weather comes.

No amount of washing will rid overchurned butter of milk.

TONS OF TREE SEEDS.

The United States Department of Agriculture is using this year on the national forests over ten tons of tree seed. Most of this seed has already been planted or sown. The rest will be utilized later in the season, as favorable conditions are presented.

It takes a great many tree seeds to make ten tons. Jack pine, the most important tree for planting in the Nebraska sand hills by the Forest Service, will average something like 125,000 to the pound.

Of Washington yellow pine, the tree most extensively planted throughout the national forests as a whole, 10,000 seed will make a pound.

Altogether the ten tons of seed to be used this year represent perhaps 300 million single seed.

If every single seed could be depended upon to produce a young tree suitable for planting, the result would be a supply of nursery stock sufficient to plant 300,000 acres of land, but no such result can be looked for because many seeds do not germinate.

Most of the seeds will be sown, either broadcast or in seed spots or planted with a corn planter, directly in the place where the trees are to stand.

Even when nursery stock is raised a liberal allowance must be made for loss. In the first place a considerable percentage of the seeds will be found to be infertile.

Of those which germinate, many will die before they leave the nursery beds and many more will be lost in transplanting.

If from a pound of western yellow pine seed that contains 10,000 individual seeds, 4,000 three-year old transplants are available for field planting, the Department of Agriculture has obtained satisfactory results.

The best milk pails to use are the common enameled ones which have become so cheap in the past few years that they are within the reach of all.

HARDY JAPANESE PLUM

Plums of the Japanese variety are popular with most growers, particularly in the east, because they are hardy and come on early. Many of these varieties are the earliest in the market, and as they are always of good color, either cherry reds or light yellows, they sell readily and bring good prices.

They will grow well on almost any kind of decent soil, and do not need to be particularly coddled, although they should have all the care that any good fruit-tree deserves.

Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton, of the Long Island Railroad Experiment Farm, Medford, N. Y., have a number of these plum trees.

These trees were planted four years ago in soil from which pine scrub had been grubbed only a few weeks before. The trees are bearing well and show fine color and great vigor.

The Japanese plum differs from the domestic varieties in that its leaves are longer, thinner, and smoother, and it has a greater tendency to produce lateral fruit-buds on the annual growth. Its fruit is mostly short, round and plump.

The Japanese plum is less liable to injury from curculio and black-knot than the domestic variety. Mr. Fullerton says that up to this time his trees have shown no signs of disease or attack from insects of any kind.

Japanese Plum from Four-Year-Old Trees.

To keep plows from rusting: To three pounds of tallow mix one pound of white lead. Melt the tallow in an old iron pot; stir in the white lead. When using, heat the mixture and apply it with an old paint brush. In the spring just put the plow in the ground. This will clean the moldboard as bright in a few yards as it was before. The same applies to any farm tool used for cultivation.

What a lot of strength there is wasted chopping with dull axes! Spend a few minutes at the grindstone and see how nicely the world will go after that.

The desert mouse of Africa leaps through the air at the rate of 800 feet a second, but can not maintain this speed for more than a few yards at a time.

The man who likes his job will succeed. The man who likes the other man's job will never succeed.