

amend this regulation, so that the presentation of an approved thesis after five years' practice would admit to the degree, or, if considered necessary, an examination to be held in addition. A somewhat similar method governs in Great Britain with regard to obtaining the Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The University should certainly appoint the examiners, and, as an additional suggestion, should elect one or two prominent veterinarians to the committee on agriculture and veterinary science. If the plan outlined above is followed, we are satisfied that the profession will rank higher with the public and the members will benefit thereby.

Improves Live Stock.

I must say that I think the "Farmer's Advocate" is the most instructive live-stock journal published in Canada, and I think any farmer who wants to get on the top notch of his profession should take this paper. A. L. YOUNG, V.S. Grenville Co., Ont.

FARM.

Sow Thistle—Mixed Grain.

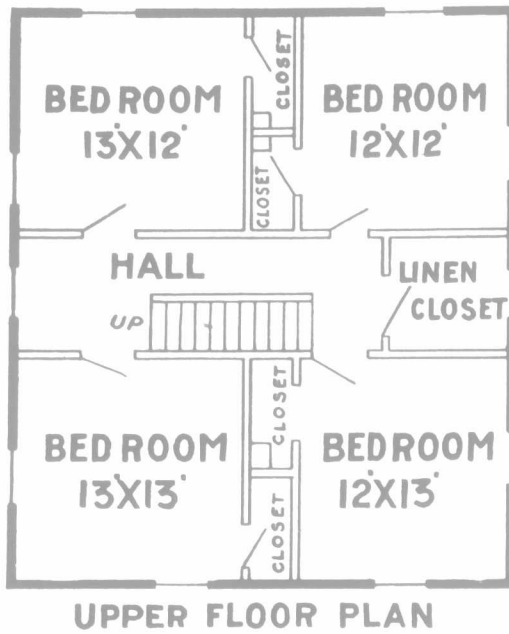
As it will soon be time for the farmer to commence his annual fight with weeds and thistles of many kinds, I will give my experience in dealing with sow thistle, which I think has a stronger foothold in this township (Luther) than any other weed, unless it is the worm-seed mustard. I have read many times that thorough cultivation, such as a hoed crop needs, would be enough to kill it, but I found out that, like the fabled giant of old, it but rose the stronger from its grave, as cultivation made loose and mellow the soil, so the few shoots that are bound to escape made but greater headway, and I have, where the land was light, traced a root for over twelve feet. I thought I would try another plan, which was the reverse of the one mentioned, so I sowed grass seed all over the patch (red-top, alsike and timothy mixed), and let it grow until the thistle was knotted for bloom, then I cut it down or pulled the stalks that were budded, going over the patch once or twice a week, preferably at noon, when the bloom, if there was any, was very easily seen. I did this for a couple of years, and found that where the ground was broken up that the thistle roots were in a shape that they did not grow again. While some might object to this method, because it leaves the land idle, as it were, I found that it was far more effective than any other, as the nature of the plant is to grow freely in loose soil. If the plot is small I take a few loads of long, strawy manure and cover it about a foot deep in the fall, and the succeeding summer I pull all the stalks that come up, and by the time fall plowing is in order the manure may be removed and spread, and the plot plowed along with the rest, as I never had a root to show up the second year, and I have tried it with several small patches, and had it completely killed every time. I also tried salting sheep and cattle on the patches, but would not recommend it, as it is not as good as either of the ways before mentioned. Where peas cannot be successfully grown, and even where they can, I would advise those wishing a good feed for hog fattening to try the following, as I had splendid results with it. Mix together an equal quantity of wheat, oats and barley, and then add a peck of vetches for every three bushels you intend sowing. Sow the latest kind of barley you can get, and New Zealand oats will about fill the bill for oats. As the barley will ripen first, the oats and wheat will prevent it from going down and being lost, and the hogs won't object even if it is a little colored waiting for the rest to ripen. Set your drill to sow the same as if you were sowing oats alone, and you will have a good stand, at least I had last year. I sowed Red Fife wheat, Abundance oats and Manitoba barley, but both the oats and barley were rather too early maturing to suit the wheat and vetches, and for that reason I name the New Zealand oats and a later-maturing barley, but I threshed about 225 bushels of good clean grain off five acres, and the mixture was so rich I have secured splendid results by feeding as many oats with it as I used of the mixture; that is, one of oats for one of the mixture, and prefer it to anything I ever fed hogs. I. L. H. Wellington Co., Ont.

Check the Sparrow.

Mr. G. Bettschen writes us: "I have another suggestion to make with regard to the sparrows: If every municipality where they are numerous would offer a reward of, say 2c. per head, at the same time giving notice that no singing and useful birds be killed, much would be done to arrest their increase, the consequence being that those species would be both pleasant and useful to man and would be likely to build their nests and increase as usual."

Suggested Plan of House.

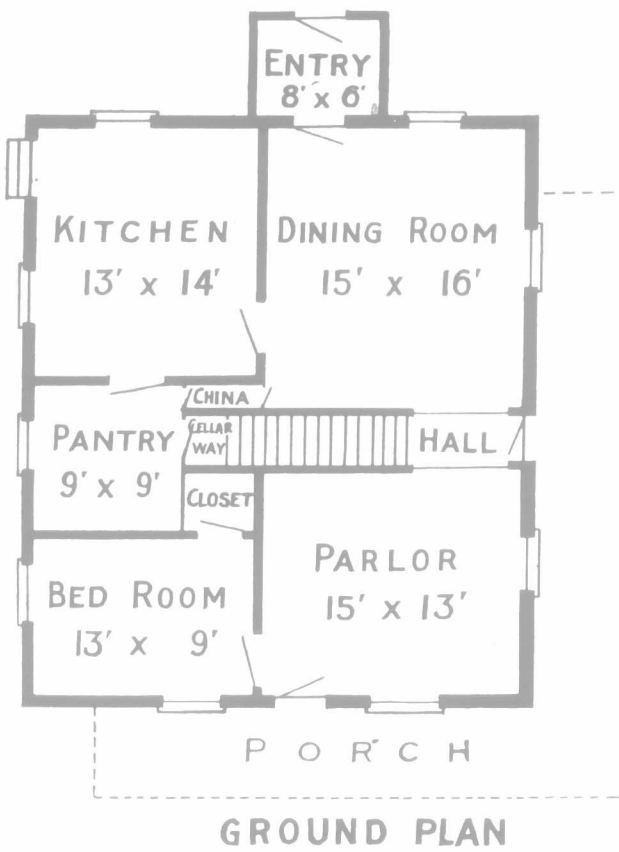
A correspondent sends us a proposed plan of a house which he intends building this summer, the cost not to exceed \$1,200, not including the cellar. The proposed plan is 25x25, with a wing behind 18x18. The front room is intended for the parlor, and behind it the dining-room. The front door is at one corner, and the hall runs along the outside wall to the kitchen behind. Upstairs four bedrooms, a bathroom, hall and closet are wanted. The owner has a good supply of basswood lumber and would like to know if it would make good flooring. He also asks if the proposed house would be easily heated by furnace, and would like to enter the cellar under the hall stairs.



He asks what we think of the whole plan, and to suggest improvements.

The proposed plan does not appeal to us very favorably. The rooms are too much strung out. We like something more compact and more easily heated. The plan here illustrated, we think, would be much more suitable for the average farm, and can be built for the figure mentioned. The basswood makes excellent flooring, and can be used for other purposes. The contributor of the accompanying plan says at each side of the narrow front hall is a large rolling door, which can be thrown open, thus making provision for large entertainments.

There are two chimneys, which pass between the closets on the upper floor, but, being plastered



GROUND PLAN

inside and out, there is no danger of fires. Each chimney is 8 x 12 inches inside. As you will see, I have given the outside measurements of the rooms. The house is 28 x 32 feet in size. You will notice each bedroom has two windows, which is quite necessary for ventilation where the summers are warm. There are registers in the floor of each of the upper bedrooms, so that they can be warmed from below, and though in a cold climate, nothing freezes in the house, it is so warmly built.

Our Silos.

By Anson Groh.

Some years ago we built a tub silo, which chanced to be the first of its kind for miles around, and interested parties came some distance to see and enquire of its construction and efficiency. We always argued that we did not believe it possible to build any other form of silo, of equal efficiency, with anything like the economy of first cost.

I had furnished my own design, engineer, lumber, and labor, and by adding thereto the cash expenditure of about twelve dollars, I became the happy possessor of an eighty-ton silo, without a roof, which did much to produce happiness and prosperity so long as I used it. Following it my stock increased; following the increase of stock the fertility of my farm increased; this worked an increase of crops, which again demanded an increase of silage capacity. In fact, the only thing of importance that did diminish was my debts.

This first silo, however, was not without its faults, chief of which was that it was sixteen feet in diameter, which I found quite too large for warm weather feeding. Desiring more silage capacity, yet less surface exposure, I took down the old structure, set it up again reduced to eleven feet in diameter, for a summer silo, which is a very important adjunct to any well-conducted dairy farm. With the remaining staves of the old silo, I constructed two hoops three feet high, between which to carry on construction operations for a round cement concrete silo, thirteen and one-half feet inside diameter, and thirty feet high. This silo is now in use for the second winter, and has proven quite satisfactory. We have begun a new one at the Bunker farms, purchased a year ago. Have gone up about fifteen feet, and filled it with silage; the hoops are on it ready to continue in height whenever we are ready.

Having built these silos with our ordinary farm help, we can give the following particulars:

Our silos are started from four to five feet below the feed room surface, in a naturally open gravel subsoil.

The walls begin at the bottom, about thirteen inches thick, and finish at the top, about seven inches, the batter all on the outside.

The outlet doors are formed where desired, by placing a frame, which when driven out of the wall leaves a shoulder of two inches all around the inside of it, against which to place the doors.

From the ground level up, about every twelve or fourteen inches, the walls have imbedded within them, near their outer surface, an iron chain, made by hooking together the ends of 1-in. half-round, three foot long irons, bought for 30c. per hundred lbs. at the local metal shingle factory.

The hoops, when slackened from the wall, were raised by means of poles from the ground, then tightened with about six inches of lap on the wall, and properly spread at the top with sticks.

Over the top of the rings or hoops lay three or four stiff, wide planks, which constituted our scaffold to work from.

The gravel was hauled onto the barn floor from the pit near by; there mixed in proportion of about seven and a half to one of rock cement; then with wheelbarrow taken to scaffold on top of silo, put into place and firmed down, some field stone being used with it.

When it became necessary to raise the material, we placed a long pole beside the silo, with capstan across the top, over which a rope was run, by means of which, with a horse, the wheelbarrow and its load could be run up and turned in onto the scaffolding.

With our rings two foot of a rise each day could be made by three men, with time enough to get the gravel from the pit. Thus in twelve days thirty feet in height is built, at a cost for labor on the farm well within the fifty-dollar mark. The cement (close upon forty barrels) costs us nigh another fifty dollars.

Thus about one hundred dollars in labor and material gives us a permanent, satisfactory silo, without a roof, which though desirable, is not really necessary. I purpose roofing my silos, and for this purpose put irons into the last course of cement, with ends projecting out on top to fasten roof to.

The manufacturers of the cement and the "Farmer's Advocate" supplied the technical instruction for carrying on the work.

Waterloo Co., Ont.

Spring Wheat Growing.

Respecting my success in growing Preston wheat: I have not grown it extensively, owing to the low price of wheat. I have had 30 bush. to the acre every year. I have always sowed it on ground that I had corn on the previous year, and was manured for the corn. I sow 1½ bushels per acre; the soil is clay loam, plowed in fall, sowed on fall plowing and then harrowed and rolled. I have grown it about four years. The prospect for growing wheat looks brighter. Carleton Co., Ont. JOHN CRAIG.