

The Farm.

A Bank Barn.

(We take this from an American paper.)

Herewith is a plan of a barn 32 x 40 feet and 16 feet from the bottom of the sill to the top of the plate. It has an underground stable of the same size, 14 feet of the length being used as a horse stable, and 14 feet as a cow stable, leaving 12 feet for a corn-crib and feed room. The cost of the material and work was \$650, including the outlay for everything except painting. Here are the materials used in its construction:

Siding.....	2,904
Shingles.....	1,300
Brick.....	12,600
Lime.....	50 bushels
Lumber (hard).....	500 feet

Ashes vs. Vegetable Matter.

A suggestive lesson may be derived from the following simple experiment: Upon one acre of land a farmer plowed in a quantity of cornstalks, while upon another acre he spread the ashes resulting from the burning of an equal quantity of stalks. That upon which the stalks were burned gave the best start, but the acre upon which the stalks were plowed in soon caught up and surpassed the former, and finally matured the better crop. This experiment illustrates the difference between mineral fertilizers and decayed vegetable matter or humus. The minerals being in a soluble condition, soon made themselves manifest in the increased growth produced. At first the buried cornstalks had no effect upon vegetation except by increasing the prosperity of the soil, and by admitting larger supplies of atmospheric air to act upon the constituents of the soil. When the stalks commenced to decay, and the minerals were not only liberated from the stalks, but also from the soil in contact, then the corn which was planted upon the stalks began to pull ahead of that planted upon the plot fertilized with ashes. The value and efficiency of the ashes would be sooner exhausted than the vegetable matter of the stalks. Again, where the stalks were used, the fertility of the soil would be increased, because in all probability the nitrogen contained in the stalks would remain intact until liberated by their decay. This substance would be in the form of ammonia and its compounds, that would again be decomposed before becoming plant food. In burning stalks, although all the minerals would be preserved in the ashes, yet it is quite certain that the nitrogen would be thereby expelled, thus robbing the plants of the fertilizing properties of that valuable agent. We should have many such experiments before establishing a theory, yet these suggestions might easily be followed out on other farms and by other farmers.—*American Cultivator.*

If clover is pastured off before the stems are formed it will keep on growing and will also start up and finish a new growth or aftermath when it has been allowed to mature, if the ground is rich and rains follow.

The Field.

Take your hoes to the grindstone every morning when they are in use; also carry a good file, and keep an edge on them that will cut a root easily.

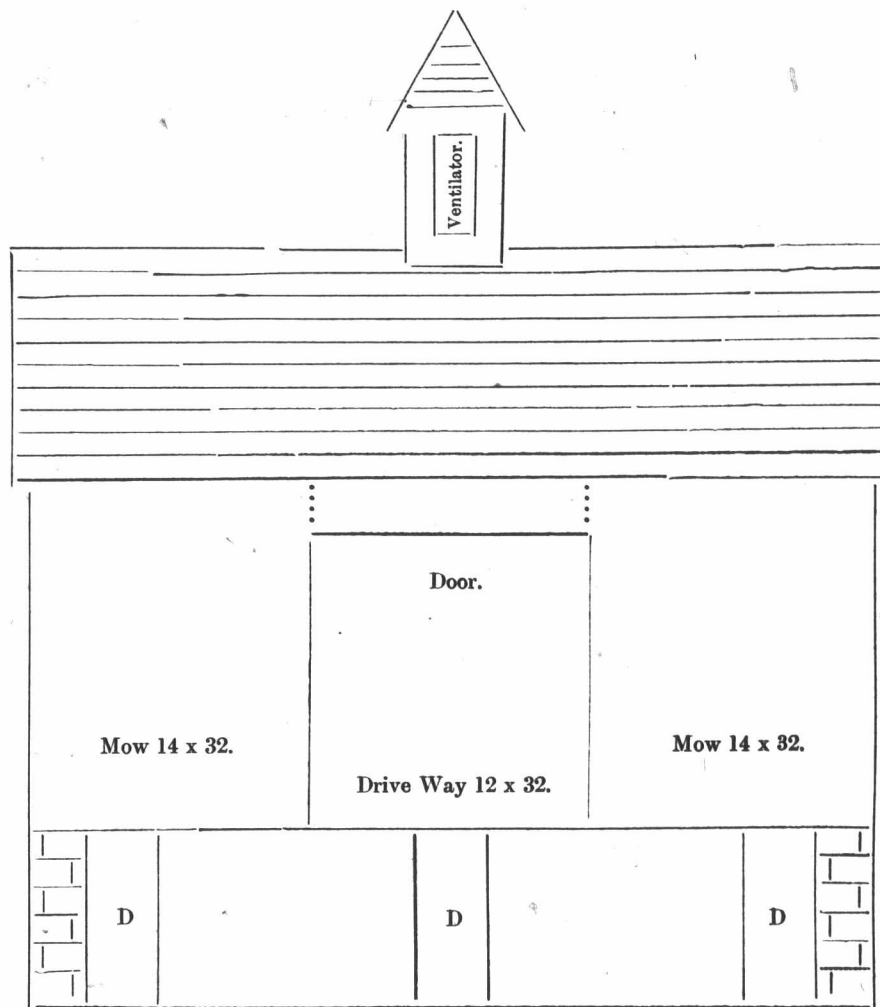
So far as possible the farmer should keep around him young stock, the value of which will increase, rather than deteriorate, by lapse of time. If he does not do this more of his apparent profits than he is aware of will be required to replace old cows and old horses; besides, the returns from animals past their prime are always much less, while their cost of keeping is often greater than in the case of young stock.

Timber cut between June and September keeps sound longer than if cut in winter. The old rule used to be to cut in August, but any time will do while the foliage is greatest. The reason for this probably is that the leaves on the tree help to dry it more rapidly than it would if the leaves were removed. The hot weather of summer months is also more favorable for seasoning timber than fall or winter. In very early spring, while the wood is full of sap, is the worst time to cut timber for keeping.

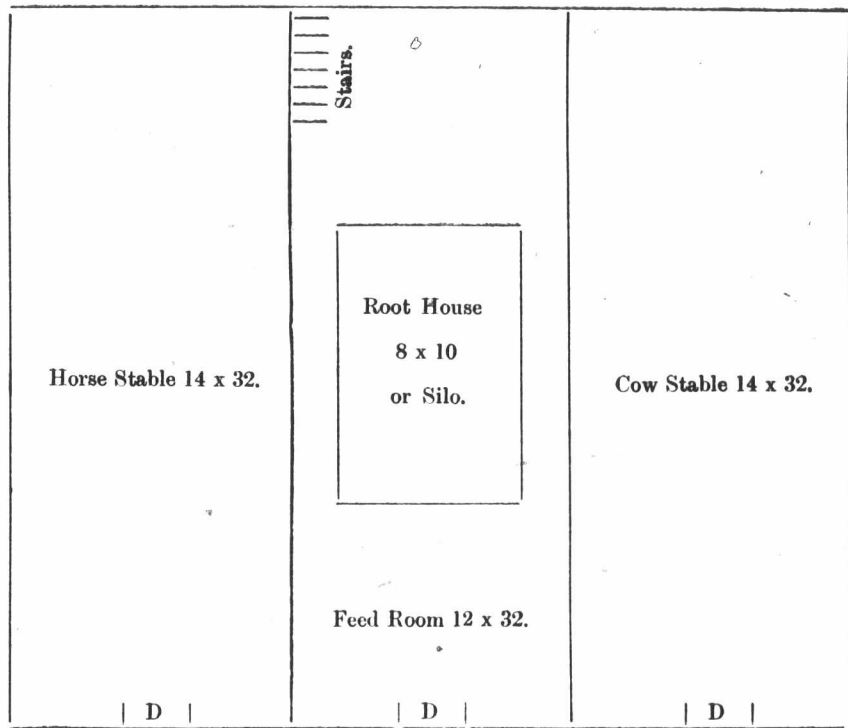
Cattle and sheep should always have plenty of shade in the pasture. They like, when they have eaten enough, to lie down in a cool shade and take their comfort, and if they can do so, they will thrive much better. A few shade trees for this purpose will pay well for any drain they may make upon the fertility of the soil. If there are no trees it will pay to erect a cheap shed, even though it be but a rude structure of four posts set in the ground and a roof covered with brush wood or pine limbs. It should be open to the north always, and may be open on all sides if more convenient. The effect of a blazing sun upon a cow's back when lying down seems to be more marked than while she is feeding, and cannot fail to make the animal feverish, and thus injure both the flavor of the milk and its keeping qualities.

Smut in corn will soon be making its appearance. It will help very much to repress this damaging parasite, if farmers, and especially dairymen, would cut out every infected stalk they may find, and see that they are all burned. If this is done before the smut matures, and the spores, or black, or rather brown, powder escapes, the remedy will be much more effective. Smut is a poison to cattle and causes disease and gangrene of the bones and tissues, but it may be wholly eradicated from the fields if precautions are taken.

The disappearance of timothy from our natural mowings is variously accounted for. First, it is charged to the mowing machine as cutting too closely. We usually run our machines at medium height, rarely using the closest cut, but would prefer the medium or highest. Second, it is charged to too early mowing, as we mow some two weeks or a month earlier than formerly. Timothy runs out most upon seeding of the early cut meadows. Third, we agree with those who attribute it to the peculiar character of our seasons rather than to either of the above. As timothy is cut earlier, there is less natural reseeding than formerly, also less is foddered out on the fields, scattering the seeds. Give an abundant top dressing, harrowed in. Two applications will surely prove effectual.—[Ex.]



BARN—FRONT ELEVATION VIEW.



BARN—GROUND PLAN.

It may oblige you to buy a new hoe next spring, but that will not cost more than seventy-five cents, and two men with sharp hoes are worth as much as three men with those that are as "dull as a hoe," so it will require but a few days to pay for the new hoe.