

Your Dairy Cows Comfortable and Clean.

The Place With Whitewash and Some Germ-Killer - Fill Broken Window Panes, and Provide Other Ventilation Plants in Winter.

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The period of long winter is here. Of necessity our milking cows must have special protection from cold and at the same time must be comfortable as possible. A whole of the inside of the stable should have a thorough cleaning. The dust and cobwebs swept from the walls, ceiling and windows should be thoroughly cleaned, also the stalls. Then spray with all over the inside, except the eyes, with a whitewash and germ-killer such as a carbolic solution or a chloride solution. This will kill disease germs in dark, dirty places and gain the health of the animals. It is the foundation of good milk production.

Next step is to put in clean window lights, but where the farmer thinks he cannot afford to do this, the present high prices of coarse cloth, such as an old blanket, or a piece of old carpet, may be tacked over the window spaces. This will provide ventilation in a stable not otherwise obtained.

Stables need ventilation by having the foul air drawn off fresh air introduced without directly on the cows. A way to do this is to hang a board at the bottom and allow it to open inward, so as to draw the foul air toward the ceiling. This should be a V-shaped board at one end of the window, to prevent the side-draft. Foul air outside should extend below the ceiling, and preferably have a small hole in the ceiling, as in this way the foul air is removed without cooling the stable too much, by simply drawing the top outlet. No system of ventilation works automatically. They all require some attention. See points in stable preparation to have it this secure so that may not get loose; repairs and gutters should be made as they may be kept clean and dry without too much labor. Feed casters are great laborers in looking after a hen flock during the winter. A word, make the cows comfortable and lessen the labor of milking cows by having them comfortable and convenient, with an easy way to get the milk, as possible in the form of a bucket. - Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. College, Guelph.

Care of Plants in Winter.

After growing pot plants, they need it, then water them. When the soil begins to dry and powdery on the surface or when the pot is tipped and the soil falls out, the plants are in danger. Give sufficient water at it runs out through the bottom of the pot. Water plants in cold weather, not in tepid rain water, or water has been exposed to the sun for a day or two, if possible. It should be lukewarm, about 60 degrees F. in winter. Humidity in the atmosphere of the main residence is essential with plants indoors. Pans or saucers of water on the hearth or registers. A steaming kettle of water on the stove will help in this respect. In a dry, cold room, or where the soil is poor, water or exhausted, liquid fertilizer be given plants. The soil should be kept moist, not dry, or very wet. Fertilizer, if applied. There are several good plant foods sold at seed stores. "Sterling Worth Plant Food" or "Bonora" are both good. An ounce of mixture of soda ash in a little warm water and cold water added to make one gallon, also makes a fairly good fertilizer for pot plants. Apply once a week or ten days. Spraying with water will help in insect pests. A fine spray of water applied to all parts of the plant is necessary to be effective. Insect pests on plants should not be sprayed on especially in winter, and plants having glossy, glabrous leaves. Insect pests increase and multiply in a dry, warm atmosphere. Peas or green beans, white beans, and turnips, "Stiphobacter" is a good remedy. Black fly is also a good remedy for insect pests on house plants. Soap or tobacco water are beneficial to insects on plants. Take about one-half pound of lime in a pail of water, stir it up. Give about a teaspoonful solution once or twice to each plant suffering from earth worms. Frozen plants in a dark place, temperature about 45 degrees F. Do not touch the leaves with ice cold water. - W. Hunt, O. A. College, Guelph.

A Hint About Chickens.

In very cold weather to make them comfortable and to keep their condition good (a little at a time, but often, in dry straw or old hay) some kind of mixed grain, such as corn, or its equivalent in a pound each day, is required to supply the fuel for the building of the egg for twenty hens.

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BUILDING AN ICEHOUSE

Good Type for Use on the Average Farm.

Every Milk Producer Should Have One - The Work and Cost of Construction Light Compared With the Benefits.

EVERY Ontario farmer who produces milk - and most of the farmers do - should have a quantity of ice each winter in order to make it easier for him to cool the milk down after the evening milking, and to keep it sweet for such short periods, - week-ends for example, - as he may be required to keep it before delivering it to the cheese factory or other point of disposal. In order to preserve the ice satisfactorily some form of ice-house or shelter is necessary. The purpose of this article is to describe in a few words a type of ice-house which will give good satisfaction.

The ice-house does not necessarily have to be expensive, but certain conditions in regard to it must obtain if the ice is to keep well. These I shall emphasize first and they are: protection of ice from sun's rays, this is the wall, good drainage from the bottom of the house, either natural or artificial, free circulation of air through the top, air-tight foundation, plenty of good quality of dry sawdust on all sides of the mass of ice, and close packing of the ice. If these conditions can be secured in a rough bin built under a shed, or a lean-to on the shady side of a building, all well and good unless one has other good reasons for building a more expensive structure elsewhere. The matter of convenience is often a deciding factor in this case, and the type of ice-house I am about to describe is a good illustration of this fact. Only once have I seen it in use, but there is no reason why it could not be used generally.

This particular type consists of a lean-to structure of wood at one end of the barn which has a concrete underneath. The size would vary with the amount of ice required, but probably a building 15 feet square and 12 feet high would be large enough for most farmers' needs. In this structure and at the side adjacent to the barn, or rather the basement wall, is built a concrete enclosure about 6 feet square and 6 or 6 1/2 feet high. A door in the side wall admits one to it. In the side opposite to the doorway there is a row of 3 or 4-inch tile near the bottom for letting in the cold air from the ice which is packed closely to the concrete storage on all three sides and over the top as well. Between the top of the storage and the barn there is a narrow passage-way or flue for allowing the foul air used at the get out, hence good circulation in the storage is provided for. In this particular case the farmer has his milk-room containing cream separator, etc., adjoining the storage and whenever he wishes to cool milk or cream or store it he puts it in this storage. Other articles, such as butter and meat, are also stored at times but of course only for a few days at a time. Hence much handling of ice is saved as well as considerable time. The building is made of wood, the studding being boarded on both sides. It would be advisable to fill the space between the two boardings with planer shavings or good quality sawdust. The roof is covered with shingles. The gables are left somewhat open for ventilation. Plenty of sawdust is used around the ice next to the walls, and also a good depth over the top, none however is used between the cakes of ice. If a few cakes of ice are required for household use they may be easily taken out by the sawdust in the top of ice-house or at one side if more convenient.

It will be seen, therefore, that this type of ice-house does many things in a degree, namely, providing a small ice-cold storage room, cooled by the ice mass directly, in addition to housing ice for various incidental uses in the summer-time. In a case like this there would not be much need for taking out ice except for supplying the household refrigerator as the storage-room would take care of the ordinary cooling and preserving of products.

Still a Place for the Good Horse.

Horses have not been so scarce a keen demand in Canada since the war broke out and have increased about 650,000 since 1914. However, a real good heavy draft horse is hard to find, and if Old Country markets are any criterion of the trend of affairs an awakening in the Canadian Draft Horse market should soon follow. Draft geldings are selling in England for from \$300 to \$500 and even up to \$1,000 each. A returned officer told me recently of seeing a number of Canadian geldings (artillery and transport horses) sold in Old London for \$200 to \$300 each. About one-fifth of Great Britain's ordinary supply of work horses went to the war and a number of useful brood mares were also taken. France, Belgium, Russia and Germany, four of the great horse-producing countries, have lost a heavy percentage of their horse stock during the war. Already a shipment of Percherons has gone from Western Canada to France, and it would seem that during the period of reconstruction our horse market will be East and not West. If it will pay to breed any horse on the Canadian farm the heavy draft of good quality should turn in most money to his owner.

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FORWARD MOVEMENT

Three hundred dollars towards \$4,000,000 will be the gift of a St. Catharines District minister in the Methodist National Campaign. This man has a \$1,200 salary. His salary has averaged \$900 per year during the last twenty-five years in the pulpit. A Brampton layman laid aside for the same fund \$5,000 last November. Such facts are counted on to assist the Hamilton Conference towards a \$600,000 objective. Of this amount the Hamilton district is expected to raise one-quarter, or \$150,000, during the week commencing February the 9th.

The London Conference objective is \$550,000. Greater wealth is counted on to result in an offering of at least \$1,100,000 by the Toronto Conference. Ontario's objective is \$2,800,000. Hamilton enters the drive with one advantage over the others, having more than one thousand minute men or lay speakers to make the appeal. Toronto and London have fallen hundreds short of this total of oratorical forces.

While the West has done splendidly in isolated cases, the East is being led by Methodist leaders to furnish most of the needed funds for church enterprises. Saskatchewan, with serious crop failures, is struggling to raise \$300,000. Several Prairie congregations have already surpassed their objectives, the members drawing heavily on their bank credits and adding to their mortgages.

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