

"Do you keep your sheep shut up this warm weather? I have had mine out three or four weeks most of the time."

"I hardly think it pays; sheep always look lank after running out to grass in winter."

"But it saves a good deal of fodder. If we have an open winter, I don't know but I'll still get along—I've got two good straw stacks, besides a fair supply of hay and corn-stalks."

"I should think you might if you *managed it right*," was the answer; and we will give some thoughts on the subject, as there are many who are selling stock very low—economizing fodder very wastefully—who need do neither if they only "*managed it right*."

A great deal of fodder is wasted for want of proper places for feeding it out. Mangers and stalls for neat stock are provided by every one who studies the true economy of feeding. *Mangers* are needed that the stock may not get under their feet that which we put before them for eating, and *stalls*, that each animal may eat its food without fear of disturbance from, or power to disturb, others feeding around it. Cattle will not, unless starved to it, eat the fodder which they have trodden into the mud or manure; nor can they thrive very economically, when they are in constant fear, as they snatch each mouthful, of being gored by some stronger animal. *Feeding-boxes* answer an excellent purpose, and are best suited to those who winter their stock in yards surrounded by open sheds. Our best farmers, however, provide both these conveniences, and think the saving of fodder pays well for doing so.

The same facts hold good in regard to sheep. They must have racks and mangers under shelter, and where they will not be disturbed unnecessarily at any time. Sheep will not eat fodder which has been wet by rain or melting snow, nor that which they have trodden upon on unfrozen ground. Proper attention in this respect will secure a large saving of fodder—we believe that five sheep can be better wintered in this way on a given amount of fodder, than four without these conveniences.

Another large amount of fodder is wasted for want of other means of keeping up the animal heat in severe winter weather. It has been demonstrated again and again, that exposure to cold and storm taxes severely the flesh and vital forces of the animal economy. Food, which if consumed in a comfortably warm stable would fatten an animal, may be fed to the same while unsheltered without causing any increase in flesh, or even preventing loss of the same. No farmer who studies economy of fodder, would attempt to winter stock without ample shelter for every member of his herd—without plenty of straw or other litter to furnish good bedding for the same.

Let us look, in passing, at the best use of straw in wintering stock. We hold it of high value—but not nearly so much for feeding as for litter. We have seen cattle kept upon their feet a large share of the time, because they could find no place fit to lie down upon, and when finally *tired down*, they were covered with mud and manure for want of bedding. Such cattle, we need not