

Farm and Home.

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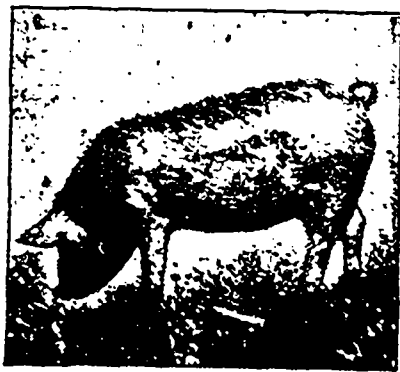
ALFALFA ON A SANDY SOIL.

C. C. of Mich has a piece of land which is sandy. Heavy winds blow it about. He wants to seed it to alfalfa and as a protection to the clover wants to sow corn broadcast. How much corn should he sow broadcast to the acre? Seven pecks should be enough unless the kernels are unusually large. In that case 8 or 9 pks might not be too much. If sown too thickly there is danger of smothering the clover plants. Alfalfa is very slow in starting and does not attain sufficient growth to afford either pasture or hay the first season. It yields enormously in its native climate after it has become established and can be cut several times in one season. There may be some special locations in Mich where it can be successfully and profitably grown. The Mich exper sta does not report at all favorably on it, as it will not do well on land where the water level is too near the surface, say within 2 or 3 ft. of the surface. On lands having a deep porous subsoil it may succeed fairly well. It would not be advisable to sow any considerable area of it on the start without having had some experience in its cultivation. Much better sow a small plot in an experimental way and see what it will do before sowing any large field. It is a wonderful thing to produce hant in cattle or sheep. Sheep have been known to die by the dozen in a few minutes by drinking water just after coming from the pasture. Spring is the proper time to sow the seed and 15 lbs p a the amount. It certainly is not adapted to a short rotation of crops and would interfere with that system. If it is once established and will live in our climate, it would be advisable to retain it for several years.—[R. Logan Branch Co, Mich.

A CANADIAN BACON HOG.

The illustration shown herewith is from a photograph from life of a pure-bred improved Yorkshire hog, which, when slaughtered, produced No 1 Wiltshire sides. The animal was one of the hogs in the fourth breed test conducted at the Ont agri college, Guelph. A hog is very difficult to photograph and the picture in question scarcely does justice to the subject. On the whole, however, the characteristics of the Canadian bacon hog are fairly well brought out.

For the production of "Wiltshire sides," the kind of bacon for which Canada is famous, a hog is required possessing the following characters. The jaw should be light and the neck should be of medium length with no tendency to arch on top. The shoulder



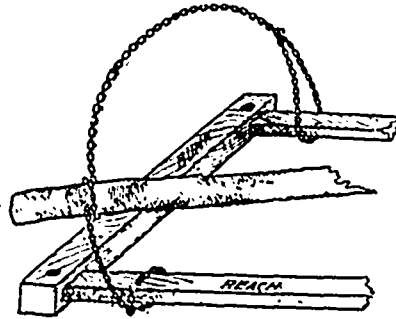
A TYPICAL WILTSHIRE SIDE MAKER.

should be light very smooth and compact on top, and no wider than the back. The back should be of medium and uniform width, and be very slightly arched from neck to tail. The side should possess great length from shoulder to ham, and should be moderately deep. The belly should be markedly trim and neat, with no suspicion of flabbiness. The ham should be full without flabbiness, and the thigh should taper gradually toward the hock, carrying the flesh well down to the hock without wrinkles or folds. The flesh generally should be firm and smooth, with no tendency toward flabbiness at foreflank, belly or ham. The bone should be flat and clean in legs and show no prominence at the side or top of the shoulder. Weight limits are 160 to 220 lbs l w, but the most

desirable weights are from 175 to 200 lbs.—[Prof C. E. Day.

SECURING A LOAD OF WOOD.

To bind a load of logs to a sled, fasten a chain to the near reach, just back of the forward bunk. Throw the other end of the chain over the load and



BINDING TIMBER SECURELY.

pass it around and under the other reach; also just back of the bunk. Bring it up and fasten to the main part of the chain either by means of a grab hook or by toggling. Now take a stout, tough sapling 2 in in diameter and 8 ft long. Insert the larger end between the chain and the logs on the near side of the sled, with the smaller end pointing to the front. Raise the smaller end perpendicularly, bring it over and bend it down until it is parallel and nearly on a level with the logs. Then by means of a rope or a small chain fasten it to the reach. Next fasten a chain to the off reach just forward of the rear bunk. Throw it over and fasten in precisely the same manner. Insert another sapling, or "twister" as it is called, from behind, and bring it over to the front where it is to be fastened in the same manner as the first. This method of binding, if the chains are tight enough, will hold a load of logs securely over any road and for any length of time. If the chains are too loose, the smaller ends of the twisters will begin to play up and down. Then they must be taken out and the chains tightened. Then the twisters must be inserted and secured as before.—[C. O. Ormsby, Vt.

Judging Seed Corn is what 600 Ill corn growers did at the state univ at Urbana early this month. Meeting under the auspices of the Ill corn growers' ass'n, the object was to teach the farmer how to judge his own corn and to inform him as to the best methods of cultivating the crop. Several hours each day were spent in corn judging, and at the close certificates were granted to those showing proficiency. A number of well-known corn growers and agriculturists delivered addresses on other farm matters.

A Study of Texas Fever and cattle ticks has been made by the Mo exper sta of Columbia several years. Stockmen will be intensely interested in reading the results of the station's experiments to date. Bulletin No 68, which the station distributes free, gives full details and supplements them with several fine illustrations.

A First Class Grass Seeder can be bought for \$10, warranted to be made of the best materials, to sow evenly the entire length of hopper and to give any amount of seed to the acre. Such a seeder will last forever and by evenness in distribution of seed will pay for itself in a short time.

The Stable Floor—There is nothing to take the place of wood for a floor in a tie-up unless it be the natural article, soil or clay. This is the most perfect floor, but hard to keep in good order and consequently not very practical. With ample bedding, cement, concrete or brick would be all right, but it is not safe to recommend any of these, because a bare floor for even a little while would render an animal helpless. The best plan for a tie-up, and I think for a driveway, too, is to lay down scantling just right to nail to, then run in the cement grouting until the spaces are all filled up even. Then spike down the plank floor, and you have an arrangement that you will not be afraid of at all and something that will be rat and mouse proof. The expense for

cement will not be great. With gravel on the spot and cheap labor to assist an expert in mixing and laying, L. R. S. should get floor that will please him at small cost.—[A. A. Southwick, Bristol Co, Mass.

Ha ving Oats—A very considerable advantage has resulted from harrowing the oat field after plants are up. The benefit is due to the loosening of surface soils resulting in the formation of a soil mulch. This mulch serves to retard evaporation of moisture during the period when it is not entirely shaded by plants. That the increased yield occasioned by such treatment is considerable, is shown by the result of experiments at the Neb exper sta. Oats not harrowed yielded 24½ and 32 bu respectively in '98 and '99, while oats harrowed yielded 32 and 36 bu, a gain of 7½ and 4 bu p a.

Helps to Forget Troubles—I can't part with so old a friend as F & H, so here is my last dollar for 2 yrs subscription. F & H has been the means of helping us to forget for a while at least, when perusing its practical, concise, interesting and amusing columns, the darker side of life as experienced during the last few months. And if it can only do that it is not published in vain. F & H returns to its subscribers big interest on money invested.—[C. H. Harding, N W T.

Various cattle breeders' ass'ns are conducting seven-day tests at the homes of the cows. In some instances the ass'n employs a representative of the state exper sta to insure the greatest accuracy. These tests are bringing out some surprising results. But if every reader of F & H, whether keeping pure bred or scrub stock, would test his cows, we imagine some yet greater surprises would be found.

If you have some acres of plants to be transplanted, the investment of \$5 in a transplanter will never be regretted. The modern transplanter is drawn by a team, driven by a man and two boys feed the plants into the machine which makes rows, opens holes, sets the plants, drops a pinch of fertilizer, waters and covers. Transplanters are used for tobacco, cabbage, strawberries and similar crops.

The feeding value of different ears of corn of the same variety varies from 84 to 14 per cent. In this variation lies the possibility of great improvement by persistent seed selection.

In every school section grades should be formed, where farmers' institute work could be carried on at least twice a month. Only a little sacrifice of time and money would be required. We then would have the best of technical schools for young farmers without government aid.—[Jabel Robinson, Elgin Co, Ont.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

It is the intention of the publishers of Farm and Home to admit into their columns none but reliable advertisers, and we believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from such parties. If subscribers find any of them to be otherwise, we will esteem it a favor if they will advise us, and we will at any time give our personal attention to any complaints which we receive. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often advertise different things in several papers.

The circulation of Farm and Home for this issue is **350,200 Copies.** Sworn circulation statements on Farm and Home are sent to advertisers every three months and are made a part of each and every contract.

WANTED, AGENTS. We want at least one good agent at every postoffice where we are not at present represented, to solicit subscriptions to FARM AND HOME. This is a rare opportunity for men and women out of employment, and even for enterprising boys and girls who wish to engage in profitable work through the fall and winter months. If you can canvass all of the time or part of the time and would make money easily and quickly, send at once for our new terms to agents and complete premium list, which we send free on request. Address **FARM AND HOME,** Springfield, Mass., or Chicago, Ill.