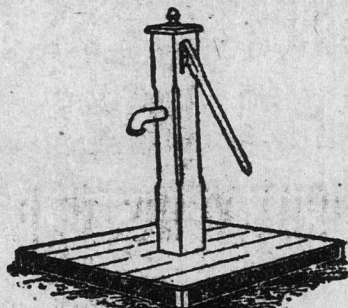


# FARM TOPICS

## THE VENTILATED PLATFORM.

This Keeps the Well Clean and Insures Pure Water at All Times.

I have discovered a way to keep the well clean and pure at all times, says a writer in Farm and Home. I make the frame of the platform of 2x4's at



Insures Pure Water Always.

lowing a space two to six inches between the top and bottom parts of the sides. This space is covered on the inside with a fly screen to keep out dirt and insects, and outside of this with a larger meshed screen to keep out large vermin. This gives good ventilation to the well, which never becomes foul. In the winter I cover the platform with straw and snow.

## CARE AND FEEDING OF TEAM.

As a General Rule Farm Horses Do Not Receive the Proper Attention Due Them.

Perhaps no subject is of more importance to the average farmer than the proper care and feeding of the teams that are relied upon to do the farm work, and as a rule I do not believe that these horses receive the care and consideration that they should, says B. Lora. A good horse used in a common sense manner should live to an old age and be in condition to perform good work at all times.

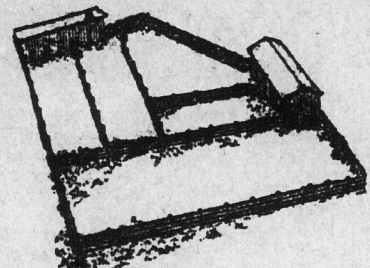
The essential requisites for a working horse are good size, quick action and strength. A high-spirited animal or one of great value is not the most desirable animal for the farmer. What we need is a good walker, as much of the usefulness and efficiency depends upon that quality. This faculty is quite as much a matter of education as inherited qualities.

Under ordinary circumstances it is judicious to use mares for working teams upon a farm. Except for a short time during the period of parturition and immediately after they are fully as well adapted to farm work as are geldings. They also possess the advantage of annually bringing colts, and in event of their being incapacitated by accident or labor they may still be kept with profit as breeders.

## WELL ARRANGED SWINE LOTS

Sketch Showing How Breeding and Fattening Shotes Can Be Separated.

Keep the pigs in long houses which are divided into compartments opening into small lots. The sketch shows how they stand. Breeding hogs and fattening shotes are allowed the run of their own lots, as well as occasional



Pig Houses and Pens.

changes into the larger field shown at the bottom of the sketch, which is a timothy and clover pasture. It is better to have pigs in separate quarters in small bunches, for in this way they can be better attended to and the growths are more uniform.

## NOTES ABOUT SHEEP.

The man who goes into the sheep business has a reasonable assurance that good prices for mutton and wool will continue for some time.

Much of the business of feeding sheep must be learned by associating with the stock and studying their habits and characteristics.

The most careful man will devote much time to the study of his sheep, and it is unwise for a man without experience to undertake the sheep business on a large scale.

The safest way is to buy, say, 25 choice ewes and an excellent ram, and secure your education with a minimum amount of expense.

Pasture that is ideal for cattle will not be ideal for sheep. Sheep will thrive better on shorter and finer grass than on coarse grasses.

There are very few farms but what would be better by having a few sheep on them.

## USEFUL LIVESTOCK NOTES.

Pigs may be pastured on rape with a certainty of their rapid growth. If fed some protein food at the same time it is still better.

Hogs finished for market at seven or eight months old and weighing 250 to 300 pounds, are the most profitable to the grower.

Sheep can be fattened on grain alone without any close fodder what-  
ever.



## BERKSHIRES A GOOD BREED.

For Improving the Condition of the Common Swine They Are Excellent.

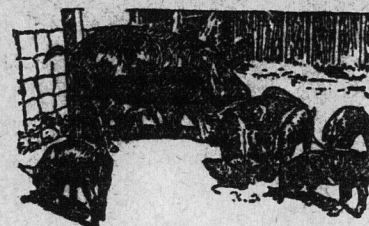
The Berkshire hog has been bred for a longer time, with a view to improvement, than any other known breed of swine. The breed is today acknowledged to be the best general purpose hog.

They are well adapted to the needs of the eastern farmer who makes pork-growing a valuable appendage to his dairy; they are adapted to the corn belt, where an easy maturing animal is desired; they are adapted to the southern farmer who makes forage play an important part in his ration of food.

There is no brand that will breed so true to the marking characteristic of the breed as the Berkshire, and they are rightly named the aristocrats of the show ring.

The improved Berkshires of the present day are a well-established breed, possessing many definite and valuable qualities, among which are the following:

Body black, with smooth plum-colored skin, soft fine hair, feet and tip of tail white, with a dash of white in the face and many times a white nose, and also some white jaw; forehead and face broad; face dishd with large clear eyes and short snout; ears of medium size, thin, soft, and carried in an upright position; neck short and broad on top, with jaw large and full; shoulders broad on top and deep through the chest; back broad; side



A Litter of Berkshires.

deep and nearly straight on the bottom lines; ham, large, reaching well down on hook, well-rounded and deep through, causing the legs to stand well apart; these as well as the forelegs short and strong, and standing well on the toes; tail tapering, rather fine and well set up.

The improved Berkshire is characterized by the superior quality and proportionate quantity of its flesh, which is tender and juicy, the hams and shoulders being nicely marbled with fat and lean meat, while the sides are also noted for their excellence in these respects, making them especially desirable for curing as bacon.

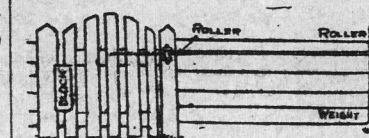
Berkshire swine are also noted for their docility and prolificacy, the sows usually bringing large litters and proving themselves gentle mothers and good milkers. The pigs come strong and healthy and are soon able to care for themselves.

For the purpose of improving the common swine of the country, no better breed can be found; having descended from such a long line of pure bred ancestors, he possesses in an unrivaled degree the power to stamp his individuality upon his progeny.

## TO KEEP THE GATES CLOSED

That Is One of the Most Important Things About All Good Farms.

The way I have my front gate arranged to keep it closed is shown in the illustration, says a writer in Farm and Home. A roller is put on the inside of the post to which the gate is hinged, and is made of a check planter



A Self-Closing Gate.

roller. The rod on which it works is bent at each end and fastened into two auger holes. On the next post another roller is fastened with a bolt from which a rope runs from the center of the gate. I use a weight of about 12 pounds. On the inside of the post, against which the gate swings, is a block to keep it from coming too far.

**Sugar Beets for Live Stock.**  
There is scarcely any comparison between the value of sugar beets and ordinary beets, the former being a better keeper, a heavier yield and withal, a better food for stock. Where roots are grown it is doubtful if any crop surpasses in feeding value the ordinary sugar beets, but there are certain objections to it when it comes to the matter of growing any considerable area.

**Machine Sheep Shearing.**  
In a good many communities where sheep are raised it is no longer unusual to see them all being shorn by the hand-power shearing machines.

This machine is rapidly taking the place of the old hand shear everywhere. It does a much smoother job; gets more wool, and the wool is longer in fiber. The extra wool from a small flock pays for the machine, very often the first season.

**Rice Raised in California.**  
Richard R. Smith of Stockton, Cal., has been experimenting with rice growing. He believes that rice can be successfully grown in that section of the state.

## FERTILIZING OF CORN LAND.

Difference in Soils Makes It Impossible to Lay Down Fixed Rule.

No fixed rule can be laid down for fertilizing corn land because of the difference in the quality of the soils. I. S. Long, a Pennsylvania farmer, who has raised 193 bushels per acre, says he uses no commercial fertilizer, but a large amount of plant food is provided through other crops previously grown. Soil in his section requires lime in large quantities and corn is grown in rotation with clover every third year to supply nitrogen. Mr. Long turns under all vegetable matter possible in the fall, which is worked up into the soil the next spring.

On some Indiana lands phosphorus and tankage are used to good advantage, the mixture consisting of one part of phosphorus to two of tankage. In the south fertilizer is applied through an attachment to the planter or with a wheat drill.

On heavy muck soils muriatic potash and phosphorus are used often at a cost of from \$5 to \$8 per acre.

In the corn-belt states, however, the principal fertilizer is stable manure, and on the corn soils of these states perhaps no better fertilizer could be applied.

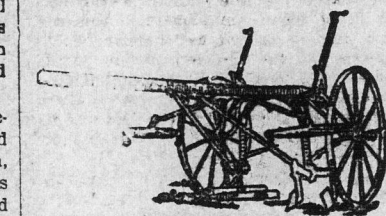
Of course the elements necessary to grow corn are nitrogen, potash and phosphorus, and some soils are often short in one of these elements, which must be supplied in some form or other. There are thousands of acres of swamp land in the corn-belt states which contain all the elements for plant growth except potash, and when this is applied good crops are obtained.

One of the cheapest and best ways of enriching the soil is to plow under leguminous plants, and many thousands of acres of land in the older corn states that have been cropped to corn for 20 to 40 years in succession and whose vitality has been exhausted is now being restored and made to produce good crops by a simple method of rotation and plowing under leguminous crops.

## A USEFUL TOOL IN FARMING.

An Almost Indispensable Implement That Is Used in Dry Farming.

The following cut shows a cultivator, commonly used in dry farming.



A Double Cultivator.

and is one of the handiest of implements for a farm of that kind.

**Lawns Useful as Well as Ornamental.**  
The main part of the home grounds planting should consist of a wide and long grassy lawn, stretching out from the base of the dwelling in all directions and terminating at the extreme outer boundaries near the fence. If there be any fence. The less obstructed the lawn is the more expansive and refreshing it will appear. A single shrub or a group of shrubs or a flower bed in the middle of the lawn defeats the very idea for which the plants are intended. Cutting up the unity of the lawn with other planting destroys its integral beauty and apparently expensive extent and makes it inconvenient as a pleasure ground for games and similar amusements.

The grassy lawn in summer and at other seasons should be pleasing not only to look at, but to walk over and run over by both children and grown-up people.

**Grass and Flowers.**  
Some people complain that they can never get grass and flowers to grow. In nine cases out of ten the reason for failure is the over present chickens and ducks about the house. No attempt at all, or only an excuse of an attempt, is made to keep them out.

Trees, shrubs and vines may grow in a poultry run, but grass and flowers will not. There is no compromise. Either build a poultry tight fence or expect to have no good lawn and flowers. Poultry not only destroys the possibility of home grounds adornment, but makes the ground filthy and insanitary, and is a general nuisance forever at the kitchen door. Its legitimate place is on the open range, in the orchard and on the outer grounds.

**Trees for Beauty and Shade.**  
Trees are planted for beauty and for shade. They give solid character and dignity to the home setting, and if rightly arranged afford a pleasing background to the home landscape picture. Their shade and seclusion are enjoyed when located not too near the dwelling.

Make the back yard as clean and inviting as the front yard. Plant it with choice flowers, shrubs and climbing vines. Let it be the very garden of Eden, where every member of the household can breathe the rarest perfume, feast the eyes on delicate forms and colors and enjoy completely the best that the exterior home can give.

**Rice Raised in California.**  
Richard R. Smith of Stockton, Cal., has been experimenting with rice growing. He believes that rice can be successfully grown in that section of the state.

# McAvity's Messenger

## B. T. HAY PITCHING OUTFIT

The most convenient, durable and easy running outfit for unloading hay or grain in any barn. It is easily put up and can be installed in half the time required for other outfits. The rod track requires no troublesome bolts, hangers or malleable fixtures to hold it together and the car can be readily taken off the track anywhere to move to another barn without removing a single part.

A complete outfit comprises the gate or stop block, 1 pair end blocks, 1 square top fork, 2 hoisters, 3 blocks, 4 floor hooks, 1 rope hitch and sufficient iron track for length of barn.

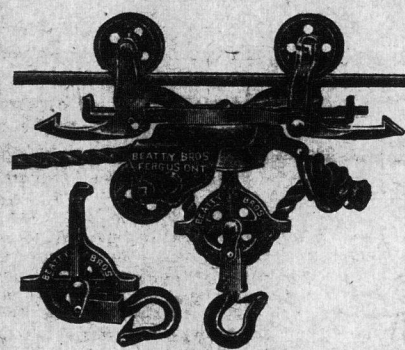
Outfit complete except track ..... \$19.10

## IRON TRACK

We supply 3/4 inch round iron ends in 16 ft. lengths, threaded on both ends with heavy nuts and washers.

Per foot ..... 5c.

The track can be welded by any good blacksmith.



## ROD TRACK CARRIERS

This is a swivel carrier. It is made of malleable iron, the bearings are large and the pulleys are chilled, hence it is very durable. The hinge and ball pulley allows the haul to swing freely which is a great advantage in the case of high beams or where a load is dragged into a mow nearly full.

Each ..... \$4.50

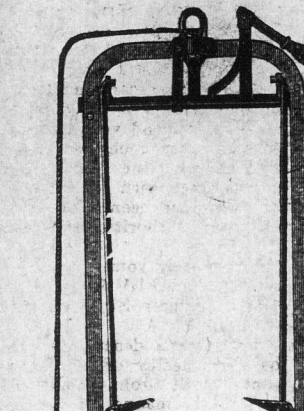
## SINGLE HARPOON HAY FORKS



These forks are well known and need no words of praise as to their superior merits. The cut shows the fork as open ready to force into the hay or grain.

Each ..... \$2.25

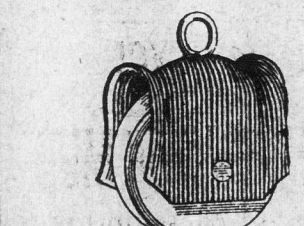
## DOUBLE HARPOON HAY FORKS



These forks are made entirely of steel and malleable iron; are heavily built and have great capacity. The illustration shows position of fork when loaded.

M.N. Harpoon Forks, each, \$1.50  
B.T. Harpoon Forks, each, \$2.50

## WROUGHT STEEL CASED PULLEYS



5 inch hard maple sheave, cast iron bushed.

No. 3 for floor or rafter, 45c.  
No. 4 for Fork, 45c.

## HAY FORKS



STRAIGHT HANDLE

Time, 2 3  
Plain Ferrule, each, 40c. 45c.  
Strap Ferrule, each, 50c. 55c.

BENT HANDLE

Time, 2 3  
Each, 45c. 50c.

HAY FORK HANDLES

Straight Bent  
No. 1, each, 10c. 15c.  
Extra, each, 15c. 20c.

## CANAL BARROWS



Tray full size, planed on both sides, legs bolted to handles and well braced. One of the strongest Canal Barrows made.

With wooden wheels, each, \$2.50

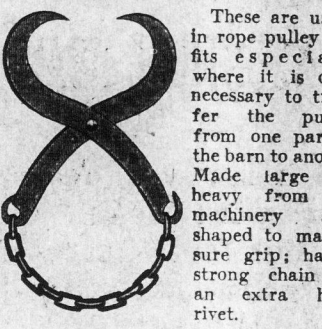
## GARDEN OR FARM BARROWS



Light, strong and durable, nicely painted and varnished.

No. 2, each, \$4.00  
No. 4, each, \$4.50

## RAFTER GRAPLES



Each, 60c.

## SCYTHES



Clipper, each, 70c.  
Matchless, each, 75c.  
Fine India Steel, each, 80c.  
Diamond Blade, each, 90c.

## SCYTHE SNATHS



IRON SNATHS

Ring, 70c. Half Patent, 75c.

WOOD SNATHS No. 1, No. 2

Loop and Slide, 75c. 65c.  
Loop Patent No. 00, 75c.

Plain, each, 60c. 75c. 1.00

SCYTHE STONES

Each, 5c., 6c., 7c., 10c.

## HAY RAKES



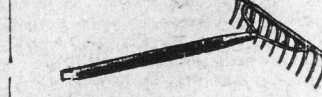
STRAIGHT HANDLE

Bow, 2 3  
Plain, each, 1.20c. 25c.

BENT HANDLE

Bow, 2 3  
Oiled, 25c. 35c.  
Steel Bow, 30c. 35c.

## LAWN AND GRAVEL RAKES



LAWN RAKES

Wood teeth and malleable iron brace head.

No. Teeth, 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Each, 60c.

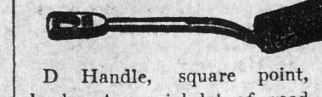
GRAVEL RAKES

Straight Steel Teeth.

No. Teeth, 10 12 14 16

Each, 30c. 60c. 65c. 70c.

## SHOVELS



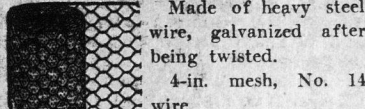
D Handle, square point, socket shank. A special lot of good quality English shovels priced very low while they last.

Each, 35c.

L or D Handle Black Polished

Each, 60c. 65c.

## WOVEN WIRE FENCING



Made of heavy steel wire, galvanized after being twisted.

4-in. mesh, No. 14 wire.

Width Per Roll  
36 in. \$3.75  
48 in. 5.00  
50 yards to roll.

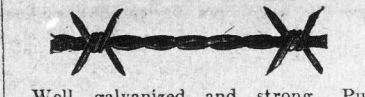
## POULTRY NETTING

Thoroughly galvanized after weaving, the finest and cleanest poultry netting on the market. 2-inch mesh, No. 19 wire.

Width 36 48 60 72  
Per Roll \$2.30 3.00 3.70 4.35

150 lineal feet to roll.

## BARB AND PLAIN WIRE FENCING



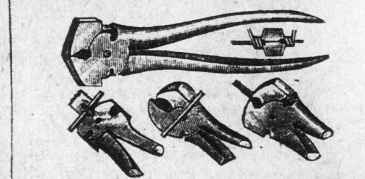
Well galvanized and strong. Put up in catch-weight reels containing from 30 to 115 lbs and sold by us in full rolls only. We always send the reel nearest to the weight asked for and charge or deduct the difference.

Barbed Wire, 14 sts., 6 in. apart 2 3/4 lb

Plain Wire, 14 strands, plain twist 3c. lb

The Barb Wire runs about 16 feet to the lb. and the plain wire about 12 feet to the lb.

## COMBINATION PLIERS



Ten tons in one, two staple pullers, two wire cutters, two hammers, one pair pinchers, one monkey wrench, one wire splicer and one wire stretcher. A very handy and high-grade tool.

Each, 80c.

## LAWN MOWERS



The mowers we sell are strong, durable and easy running machines and make light work of lawn cutting.

"DIAMOND SPECIAL"

Ball-bearing, Highest Grade

Six inches 14 16 20

Each, \$2.00 2.40 2.75 3.35 4.90

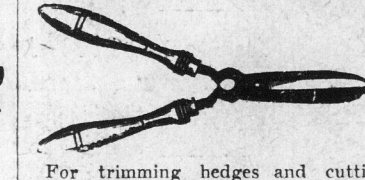
"W. & B. JUNIOR"-High Grade.

Size, inches 14 16 18 20

Ball-bearing, ea. \$6.25 6.50 6.75

Plain, each, 5.75 6.00 6.25

## HEDGE SHEARS



For trimming hedges and cutting grass. Blades of best steel, strong hardwood handles, varnished, with heavy steel ferrules.

Handles, ins., 8 9 10 11

Notched, each, 85c. 1.00 1.25

Plain, each, 60c. 75c. 1.00

The notch is for cutting off heavy limbs.

## HAMMOCKS



Strong and durable hammocks in the newest designs and colorings.

Prices, \$1.25 to \$4.50

## WINDOW SCREENS AND SCREEN DOORS

Protect your home from the house fly-the greatest disease carrier of the age.

WINDOW SCREENS

Adjustable with large extension; well-made and fitted with best wire cloth.

Height Closed Open Price

No. 1 14 15 22 20c.

14 14 18 24 20c.

24 14 24 40 25c.

34 18 20 33 25c.