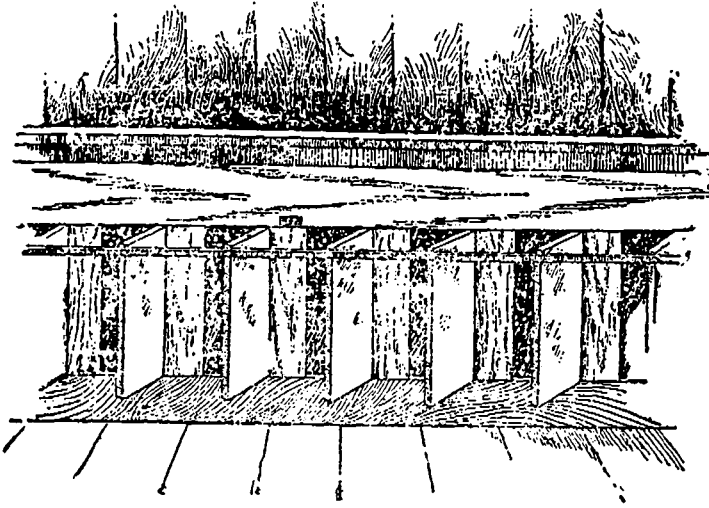


## Livestock.

### The Feeding of Sheep.

THE old-fashioned sheep pens gave the lambs free access to the feeding racks, and generally from thence to the barn floor, in both of which situations they managed to soil a good deal of feed, and to afford no little inconvenience to



CONVENIENT FEEDING RACKS FOR SHEEP.

the owner. Moreover the old-fashioned racks were very inconvenient when feeding grain or roots to the sheep, as their heads were either in the dish, or continually in its way, while those which first received their grain or root ration finished it soon after the last one was given hers, which gave the strong animals a chance to eat their own and then to fight for the ration of the weaker. The device shown herewith consists of narrow little doors, one for each sheep in the pen, through which only their heads can protrude. The doors are all opened and shut with one movement of the hand, and when shut can be fastened with a single movement. Each feed can be placed in position before the doors are opened, so that all can begin to eat at the same time, while no heads have been in the way of the feeder. The doors may be closed "between meals."

THERE are very few farmers who cannot raise a few hogs with profit. It must be remembered that good pasturage is the secret of success with them.

DAIRYMEN who are creamery patrons should have an eye to the by-product—the skim milk. They can obtain it very cheaply, and it is a direct road toward the making of cheap and profitable pork.

HOLSTEIN cows are the largest producers of any of the milk breeds. If you want quantity, and pretty good quality, too, you can't make any mistake in getting these.

THE winter dairy is one of the outgrowths of the new agriculture. One point that recommends it strongly is that it furnishes a source of income at a time when the farm is otherwise practically unproductive.

If you can raise one or two good colts each season, you may add materially to the profits of the stock department of your farm. But it will hardly pay to do it unless you have some good mares to start with. Poor mares bring poor colts, and these are not in any great demand. Be sure that the mares you breed are sound in body and limb, of a kind disposition, yet spirited and plucky. Then if you have used a good stallion you will be very apt to secure a colt that can be readily marketed at a price that will warrant all the care that you can bestow.

If you have made up your mind that stock-keeping is unprofitable business, it will be pretty hard to make it turn out differently. It needs faith in your occupation to bring about complete success. If you must decry the business, better get out of it at once.

A LACK of economy in feeding may show itself in various ways, including the following,

viz. ; Feeding unsuitable animals; buying the foods fed, rather than growing them; neglecting to grow the cheaper foods; and feeding food without regard to market values.

THE man who has time to sit by the stove in the village grocery while his cattle are shifting for themselves on the hill, working for dear life to get a nibble of frosted grass to keep them alive, is the one who blames "the government" because times are hard, and he has not money enough to pay for the farm.

HERE is one of the points of profit in growing horses: From the age of two and a half years a well bred colt, properly fed and handled, should be able to do enough work about the farm to pay for his keep—not heavy work, but light work which is just sufficient to give him the needed exercise.

It pays to give close attention to the care of a horse, cleanliness being an item which must be particularly looked after. A defective foot can ruin a horse about as quickly as any blemish. It is true that a good many feet are spoiled by defective shoeing, but vastly more by not being kept clean.

In breeding horses you must not let your expectations outrun common sense. Some men expect a full blood sire to produce a colt after his own style or finish, without any regard to the fact that the mare is of no style or type whatever. This cannot be done, and the sooner you make up your mind to it the better.

THE desire for good, lean pork, instead of so much fat, has put many people considering how the supply may be increased. Keep the young pigs as long as possible on grass, feed skim milk and bran and no corn. When the bodies or frames have grown give them oatmeal and rye, ground entire, mixed with bran, putting in twice as much bran as rye. Keep up a vegetable and apple diet, and allow them to eat all the grass they will. A little corn may be fed toward the end. Pork made in this way will be tender and juicy. The fat is something more than lard; it is meat, with the grain and substance of meat.

## The Poultry Yard.

### Ancient Hints on Poultry.

WHILE it is most interesting to note the rapid advances that have been made in recent years in poultry raising to accurately measure this amelioration and locate what has actually been accomplished by us of modern times, may be pleasing as well as profitable. To do this no better way suggests itself than that of inquiring into the facts known to our ancestors two and quarter centuries ago.

In "*Systema Agricultural*" or "*The Mystery of Husbandry Discovered*," by F. W. Gent, published in London, E. C., 1669, in treating the subject of Raising Fowl to a profit the writer says: "They are kept to a very great advantage in the Backsides and at the Barn doors of big farms and as I have certainly been informed a good farm had been wholly stocked with Poultry, spending the whole crop upon them and keeping several to attend them, and that it hath redounded to a very considerable improvement. It seems also consonant to reason, especially within a day's journey of London, that they might have a quick return and a good market, being in a capacity to furnish the market throughout the year, either with eggs, Chickens, Pullets, Capons or Cocks and hens, also the feathers must need yield a considerable advantage, especially if you shear them as they do sheep as in some places is usual, and the dung of poultry being of great use on the land, much exceeding the dung of any cattle whatsoever."

Therefore is convenient places made for them, as dark as may be, which doth much expedite their fatning, and the poultry there fed and the dung reserved, and before it hath taken wet let it be mixed with earth it will undoubtedly answer the expense of a great part of the corn you feed them withal. If they are fed on buckwheat or hemp-seed they will lay more eggs than with any other grain.

Their methods of hatching and rearing young brood might well be adopted by many farmers of to-day, as will be seen by the following paragraph:

"Hatch three or four dozen eggs in a Lamp-furnace made of a few boards, only by the heat of a candle or lamps. So that you order them that they may hatch about the same time that the hen hatches her eggs that you intend shall lead them. By this means you may keep the larger kinds to lay, and the lesser to sit and nurse up the chickens."

The idea of darkness as one of the essentials of quick fattening was very prominent with them, as will be observed from the writer's remarks on geese:

"The young or green geese are best fattened if kept dark, and fed with ground malt and milk mixed together. You will observe that geese usually sit in the night time with their beaks or bills on their rumps, where they suck out most of their moisture and fatness at a small bunch of feathers, which you shall find standing upright on their rumps always moist, which if cut away close before you put them to fattening they will be fat in much less time and with much less meat than otherwise. Give them carrots also."

In closing his article on geese he says: "The Jews wrap the goose up in a Linen Apron, and hang her up in a dark place, stopping her ears with Peason, or some other thing, that by neither hearing nor seeing of anything she be not forced to struggle nor cry; after they give her pellets of ground malt or Barley steeped in water thrice a day, setting by them water and gravel, by which manner of feeding, they make them so fat that it is almost incredible."

MEND your broken panes of glass; tighten up all the cracks; give your fowl houses a good washing with lime, and have everything clean, dry and sweet for the coming winter.