

Fundamentals in Barn Construction

The proper and economical erection of barns requires more foresight and planning than is ordinarily given to their construction. A barn once built is not easily moved or altered in size or shape. There are many points on which men differ with regard to barn construction, and with this in mind it is our purpose to give some general information which may be of help to the prospective builder, and also to give a number of cuts of barn plans which are considered convenient, practical and up-to-date.

Site

The first thing to be thought of in the erection of a barn is the site. Location as to the points of the compass, so that a sheltered barn-yard will be on the south side, the appearance from the highway, the position of the surrounding buildings, the location of trees and hedges for wind-breaks should determine this. Farm barns should be arranged as compactly as possible to facilitate feeding and watering.

Size

The next thing to be thought of is the size to build the barn in order to supply sufficient storage capacity. This calculation should be based upon the present and prospective size of the farm, the number of acres in crops, the kind and number of head of stock and system of farming.

Appearance

After the site and size of the barn are decided upon, the appearance that the proposed barn will make must be taken into consideration. Barns can be made pleasant objects, and their attractiveness will depend upon the design, the exterior finish, the location with relation to the other buildings, etc. A cornice and cupola on a barn add but little to the cost, but do wonders in improving the appearance. Do not sacrifice appearance.