

should be made at either side, and at convenient places, housed over at the side of the bay, for putting it down instead.

Some plan for ventilation is almost a necessity in such a barn. The cheapest and most practical way to do this is by making quite a breadth of open lattice work in each gable of the barn, instead of gable windows, and beside making a three or four-foot flue up from the cellar to near the top of the barn, inside. This will, naturally, have a draught to give ventilation, and the open gables will discharge it. The best place for this vent-flue is from over the head of the cellar stairway; then the place is kept fresh, and the rising gases are carried off, instead of accumulating here. As for these latticed gables, they should each have a light, plain section of battened boards, hung by strap hinges, and controlled by cord and pulley, so as to be opened and shut from the barn floor below. These, and the lattice work, are much cheaper than the gable window, and will prove much more efficient. Another thing such a barn will need, and for something more, too, than just for an ornament, will be a vane, so the farmer can, at a glance, see what the course of the wind is. Many times it is quite necessary he should know this before deciding about his work for the day, and with a vane mounted on his barn, he can be assured about it before going out. There is usually a change in the course of the wind in passing the buildings, and, beside, if they are sheltered, as they should be, by orchard and trees on the lawn, and other planting of forest trees for ornament, windbreaks, and groves, then the course and force of the prevailing wind is so much obstructed by these, that it would prove a necessity for one needing to learn its course. These weather-vanes can be had of almost any pattern and price in almost any market, though a plain one, the style the Government uses, is about as appropriate for such a place as any of these fancy styles.

The barn basement and cellar rather indicate and invite the keeping of stock and feeding of roots, making of it a sort of manure manufactory to supply the home demand on the farm. This is very commendable winter work for the thrifty farmer, and this kind of a barn offers him the best advantages for doing it profitably. In caring for these roots, they should be taken in dry, and free as possible from dirt; then have a salt-screen bottom to the spout by which the beets, or turnips and potatoes, are run into the cellar, to screen the dirt out of them. In this way, if it all works well, they will be clean enough to feed out, and in cutting them up for feeding it is not necessary to have an expensive machine root-slicer; but take a long narrow box, made of pine plank, and a steel shovel sharpened to use as a cutting-knife in this, and with these the farmer can very soon reduce roots to good feeding shape, and at less cost than for keeping a machine cutter in order.

#### SHEEP ON A NEW FOOTING.

F. D. Curtis in Country Gentleman.

Concentrated and stimulating foods are unsuited to sheep. This I found out to my own loss last winter, and no argument can now convince me that corn is a good kind of grain to give sheep, to make them grow well, or to fit them for the lambing season. A very little corn will do, mixed with other grain. Oats, I am sure, are the best single grain to give sheep, either for fattening them, or to put breeding ewes in good shape to have their lambs, and to suckle them. Corn makes the sheep fevery, and this dries the wool, makes it brittle, and

checks its growth. It inflames the udders of the ewes, and makes a big show of milk, whereas it is actually mere fever, inflammation, and swelling. It makes the lambs weak, and tends to cause the ewes to forsake them, or not to own them. I am aware that this is quite a complaint against corn, that popular American cereal, and the farmer's main dependence. It is true that we are not obliged to depend on corn, as a bountiful providence has given us a great variety of foods for our animals. A little corn is all right, but it should be mixed with other grain.

This year I feed two parts of oats and one of corn to some of my sheep, and to others nothing but oats. These foods are not right, as there should be another part in the ration of linseed oil meal. The first opportunity, this will be added, and then the mixture will contain elements to feed both the body and the fleece. With the cooling nature of the oats, the warming elements of the corn, and the softening and lubricating qualities of the oil-meal, there will be a perfect adaptation of foods for healthy action. There are in these, to put it more explicitly, food for the muscles, the bones, the fat, the tissues, and the wool. With every organ supplied with healthful nutriment, there must be a healthful condition and growth. The fodder should not be omitted, as it has a part to fill, to supply the mineral wastes, and is food also, and the material for healthful action and distension of the bowels. I do not care whether the coarser food is straw or hay, as the former, if of good quality, is better than the latter, if of poor quality, or if unsuited to sheep—any kind of straw is suited to sheep, except buckwheat, which poisons their lips—and sheep will do as well on straw, with a little more grain than when fed on hay.

While sheep will do well fed as I have pointed out, they will do better if to these foods there be added rations of roots. This is what the American farmer, to be the most successful shepherd, must be educated to. No animal feels a slight, in care or food, so quickly as a sheep, and no animal recovers so slowly. No animal is so easily thrown off its feed, on account of smells, dirt, mustiness, or anything disagreeable, as sheep. They are the neatest in their habits, and the most particular in their tastes, of any domestic animal. These peculiarities are more marked when they are in the yard or stable. Here is where they are the most dainty, and here is where they must have the most consideration. The least taint in the pail or trough in which water is put for them to drink is sufficient to repel them from it, and they will choke with thirst before they will drink foul water, or drink out of a tainted vessel. The look of quiet resignation which a thirsty sheep has when it turns away from an unpalatable drink is really touching. Their tastes must be consulted, and the owner must be sensitive for them, and always ready to go before them to make things all right. A big fright, being chased by dogs, or anything which disturbs the even tenor of a sheep's life, will injure it. So quiet and peaceable are they in their natures, that if put into a pasture in the spring, with the fences secure, after they have become accustomed to this home, they will not leave it, although the pasture becomes exceedingly scanty and the fence very poor.

This reminds me that, owing to this same meek and quiet nature, sheep are easily imposed on, by both man and beast. These delicate qualities should impress on their owners that they need more and constant care than the other stock. Sheep are not helpless animals by any means. Really they are the least trouble, when adequate provisions are made beforehand for them. The old custom of wintering them around the haystack, or the

little sheep barn in the meadow, so common many years ago, will not do now. Margins were smaller in those days, and the sheep were kept in the same groove. Money was made by saving; hence, if the sheep did not shear on an average more than three pounds, and it did take the lamb four years to get its growth, it was bringing in something all of the time. And there was no outlay for sheds or extra covering, other than the generous sky. We have gotten back to the old margin on sheep, but there is so much difference in other things that this margin will not answer in these days. It must be widened, more than doubled, and even this latitude does not cover the differences in expense between those days and now. The old sheep barns and hay ricks have in many localities gone to decay and the flocks have disappeared. I notice that in all such sections of the country the hillsides are more barren, and the meadows of the flats produce less. This is a good argument for the old times, but a discouraging foundation to build upon; to wit, low prices of wool and poorer lands. Sheep are cheap, so a part of the foundation is not costly, and the lands are not very valuable, if rated by their ability to produce. There is no better way, cheaper or safer, to restore these old worn-out or worked-out lands than by keeping sheep on them. The farmer is wise who studies the problem how best to do it; and he is also wise who begins now.

#### TRANSFERS OF THOROUGHbred STOCK.

American Berkshire Record.

Royal Duke, 11,231, N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo., to J. A. J. Shultz, St. Louis, Mo.  
Duchess XXXVIII., 12,930, N. H. Gentry to T. C. Moss, Jackson, Mo.  
Proctor's Kingcraft, 12,954, T. R. Proctor, Utica, N. Y., to D. C. Burns, Burtonville, N. Y.  
Proctor's Maybreeze, 12,955, T. R. Proctor to Worcester Lunatic Asylum, Worcester, Mass.  
Sallie R. VI., 6,964, W. C. Norton, agent, Aldenville, Penn., to John T. Wrinkle, Plattsburg, Mo.  
Duke of Clinton, 12,130, John T. Wrinkle, Plattsburg, Mo., to C. L. Sampson, Iowa Point, Kan.  
Dick Lindsay, 12,685, John T. Wrinkle to E. J. Walker, Plattsburg, Mo.  
Gustin's Robin Hood XII., 10,053, E. J. Stanton, St. Louis, Mich., to C. W. Martin, St. Louis, Mich.  
Colonel H., 12,982, P. D. Goss, Loveland, Col., to E. Hollister, New Windsor, Col.  
Hoosier Lad, 11,019, T. M. Owen, Woodstock, Ohio, to Young Busser, Woodstock, Ohio.  
Oxford Belle VII., 12,905, W. Warren Morton, Russellville, Ky., to M. C. Johnson, Hampton Station, Tenn.  
Belva Lockwood, 12,906, and Cleveland, 12,907, W. Warren Morton to J. W. Hyde, Triune, Tenn.

#### DAIRY FARMING IN THE FUTURE.

From the North British Agriculturist.

The above was the subject of a paper read at a recent meeting of the Framlingham Farmers' Club, by Mr. Jas. Long, who began by examining the possibilities of foreign competition in milk, butter, and cheese. As to the first, he referred to the formation of the company in North Holland for the purpose of sending milk to London. As to this threatened form of competition, Mr. Long said the Dutchman could sell his milk in London at 13d. the gallon. The question, however, was whether