

Farm Experiences

HANDY DEVICE WHEN CLEANING GRAIN

As the grain cleaning time will soon be with us, an idea I have made and used might be useful to others. It is a removable hopper on top of the fanning mill. By its use you can fill up the machine with five or six bushels before you start to turn the handle. Take a 12-inch board, nicely dressed on both sides, and mark off the distance of the long sides of the mill. Let the sides be longer than the top of the mill, so as to avoid splitting when you nail together. Now mark the two insides of the top of mill. Mark carefully, and securely nail with 2-inch nails. Now place on top of the mill and see that it fits snugly and if necessary, plane to a tight joint. Now take a small cleat of 1-inch board, about 3 inches by 2 inches and nail against your hopper so as to let half project against the side of the mill. Then do the same on the other side. Then on the back nail a cleat both inside and outside. This will keep the hopper from shifting and at the same time be easy to put on and take off. The whole business can be made in 15 minutes, and will cost about 30 cents, but with its use there will be no need to have the good lady turn the handle so that you can fill that dinky little hopper.—Alberta.

WATERWORKS ON THE FARM

Our well is about twenty feet from the north-west corner of the house. It is bored twenty-six inches in diameter and forty feet deep, curbing being eighteen-inch glazed tile. The pump is a three-way force pump. Pipes are connected to the pump about seven feet below the surface of the ground, running under cellar wall into cellar, up thru partition into the upstairs hall. In this the pipes are out of the way and out of sight. The pipes leading from the well should be laid with a rise of 1-inch to the running foot. With this arrangement the water will drain back into the well thru the pump, and will not be so liable to freeze. The pipes should be attached to the pump with a union. Should anything then go wrong with the pump it can be taken out without disturbing the pipes. These pipes go over the top of the tank in the bath room. The overflow pipe on the tank should be larger than the intake pipe. Water forced into the tank comes in much faster than it will run out of the same size pipe and thus is liable to run over the top of the tank. The tank and bath tub should be placed so that the overflow pipe will run into the bath tub. The tank can be placed on a base high enough for water to flow down to the kitchen range to the hot water tank and back again to bathtub. The storage tank should be about two feet higher than the bathtub. Any person putting in water works should have a basin and closet, which require a cesspool or septic tank. This should be placed in a different direction from the house than the well and on lower ground if possible. The cesspool can be placed about 30 or 40 feet from the house. Our cesspool is about 18 feet deep and 4 feet across. The curbing is 2x6 lumber standing on end with two old wagon tires fastened to four of the pieces and the others are just pushed down, leaving about an inch space between each. The drain to the cesspool should be at least seven feet below the surface and four-inch drain tile used. These tile should be laid not more than a quarter of an inch fall to the running foot. The cesspool should have a cover of plank about three feet below the surface and covered with earth to keep out frost. Any person intending to build a home should have a bathroom and water system in his plans, so that he may put them in at any time. The farmer putting in water works can dig drain and put in water pipes and drain tile himself. Almost any hardware dealer can install the system complete, except digging drains, for about \$200. This does not include the pump.

W. J. G.

A GRAIN OF SALT

Just now the government experimental stations and the agricultural papers are trying to make plain to farmers that while beef scrap increases the egg yield when fed to hens, it also considerably increases the cost of maintenance, and while sour milk may not increase the egg yield quite so much it comes sufficiently near doing so to make the profit greater when the lessened cost is taken into consideration. My farm experience confirms these statements and more, for while beef scrap causes the pullets to lay more, it is in the nature of fore-

ing foods and as yearlings they are less likely to lay well and are not as strong breeders. Counting the reduced cost in feeding sour milk instead of beef scrap you have a greater profit in the pullet year and more eggs in the yearling season and stronger chicks. But all this is likely to be lost on a great number of farmers who may be induced to try sour milk because the experienced poultrymen who write the articles forget that many of the farmers who will try the sour milk are not as keenly interested in hens as they are and have not watched their habits and tendencies as closely and, for this reason, while accepting their very good advice may, by following it, get themselves into trouble and decide that the advice is mere newspaper talk. Just a few days ago I heard a neighbor farmer say that all this stuff you read in agricultural papers about hens is "rot." A woman who raises from 150 to 200 chicks a year told me that she read in a paper that milk was good for chicks; that it made them grow faster, and she fed it to hers and killed a lot of them. I asked her how old the chicks were. She said a few days to a few weeks old. When I asked if they had had any milk before she said "No." I asked how she began to feed the milk. She said that she put a pan full of milk on the ground and let them "go to it." Of course she killed some of them. Chicks are very fond of milk, as much so as hogs. They had not had any. It was new to them and tasted fine. They drank all they could hold and their digestive organs were not used to it. It has a slightly laxative tendency which is good for them when accustomed to it, but when over-



Securing up the foundation for a farm building, using six feet on one side, eight on the other and ten feet across.

done while they are not used to it, causes bowel trouble. But anything else might have the same effect, no matter how good a feed. Let even grown hens run on the range in the summer for a long while, hustling without grain and then set a box of oats out where they can jump into it and eat all they want and a lot of them will have bowel trouble. If you want to hopper feed oats to pullets that are not used to it, scatter some about on the ground, enough to make a light feed the first day, give them a little more the next day, give them a pretty good feed night and morning for a few days and then increase it a little every day till they leave some on the ground. Then you can fill up your hopper and let them run to it and none of them will hurt themselves. Set out an open hopper when they have been without for some time and you will make some of them sick and maybe kill some of them. Which does not go to show that hopper feeding pullets is a bad method. I have known several people to try milk without taking the precaution to begin cautiously. They have come to grief and blamed the paper in which they found milk advised and said that it was of no use paying attention to what you read. The younger fowls the more carefully one must begin milk feeding. It is not well to put even a small amount where they can run to it at first, as the heavy ones will drink it all and get too much; better put a little in a dish of water and increase the proportion of milk till it is safe to let them eat all they want.

A little grain of salt or common sense must be mixed with most advice which one reads and perhaps it would be well if people of experience remembered that those to whom they give advice would not need it if they already knew the little details upon which success depends and were a bit more careful to point out the dangers as well as the value in what they recommend. I used to

ride across country on a bicycle a good deal. I was greatly surprised at the number of people I ran across who, when asked the road to the next town, would say, "Keep on till you get to Joe Hannager's and then turn north." As tho a man who knew Joe Hannager wouldn't know where the town was.

W.I.T., Alta.

SHEEP OR DOGS, WHICH?

For the past three years I have done a lot of figuring on sheep and have read everything I could get hold of on sheep. I have decided not to tackle them. I believe that there is more profit in sheep in proportion to the amount of land, shelter and feed required than in any other farm animal—IF I haven't any capitals big enough for that. If I could protect them from dogs without getting the illwill of my neighbors. A few days ago two men passed my farm with three dogs following them. As they passed the pasture the dogs went in and chased my horses to the other side of the field. A day or two later they passed again. My cows were in the corral at the barn. The dogs had the nerve to come right into the corral and start to haze the milk cows, and their owners seemed to see nothing to object to. If one has sufficient hold upon his patience he can put up with that sort of thing where other farm animals are concerned, but with sheep it means a gun for such dogs or dead sheep. That means a row with the neighbors. Of what importance are a few dead sheep compared to a pet dog?

Some time ago I had a small cow, part Jersey. She was gentle and never thought of bothering a fence. One day a machine man came along trying to sell me some machinery. He had a fancy dog along. The Jersey was standing chewing her cud in the corral. The dog flew at her as tho about to eat her alive. She went thru the fence without ever noticing that it was there. I could never keep her inside a fence afterwards, and the machine man never realized that his worthless dog had done me more damage than several dogs were worth. This is the sheep problem the world over. Farmers could make more money, other people could buy mutton cheaper, and thousands could wear wool who now wear cotton or mixed goods in winter if it were not for the purely sentimental preference for dogs rather than sheep. The dog is a pet. He makes himself a part of the family, and, out of sentiment, men will stick up for him altho he is entirely useless and an unnecessary expense. There are cases where the dog is valuable, but such cases are rare. He is usually an expensive fad.

I see that one of the agricultural papers of the United States is trying to have a federal law passed which makes it a misdemeanor to own a dog that is not shut up at night and trained to stay on its owner's premises during the day time, except when it accompanies its owner, and must then be trained to follow at heel. Any dog found off its owner's premises alone, day or night, to be shot by the police and any dog not kept at heel by its owner when on the public highway to be shot. It further advocates a federal tax of \$25 a year for a bitch and \$5 a year for a dog; a collar to be furnished by the officer who accepts the tax, the number of the dog's tax certificate and his owner's name to be on the collar; the owner to be held responsible for any damage whatsoever that the dog might do; every dog found without such a collar after a certain date early in the year to be shot by the police. Suppose such a law were put into effect; wouldn't there be a howl bigger than all the dogs alive ever howled? I am afraid that there is slim chance for such a law, for it would be quite in keeping with human nature to go without mutton and wear cotton underwear in winter and vote for the intelligent but useless dog against his unintelligent but useful rival.

It must be remembered that the dog is a domesticated wolf or first cousin to the wolf and his domestication has not in the least obliterated his killing instinct. He kills for the fun of killing, even when he is not hungry, and sheep are his natural prey as mice are for cats. For several years I have farmed without a dog, because I believe that a dog that will rush milk cows about or take a dash at the horses, sometimes putting a coil thru a wire fence, or run out into the road at passing teams, or chase other people's stock, is an unmitigated nuisance on my own farm as well as to other people. A dog, to be of value to me

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