

Livestock.

A Swill and Temper Saver.

ANY one who has fed pigs and been annoyed by their getting into the trough while it was being cleaned out, and then after they are driven away rushing back and getting their feet in the trough just in time to have the swill poured all over their heads and much of it spilt, will appreciate the contrivance represented in our illustration. The trough is fastened inside of the pen; two boards are hinged so as to swing in over the trough. In the middle of each board is a strip fixed to slide up and down. A heavy pin in the upper end of this strip acts as a convenient handle. This strip drops

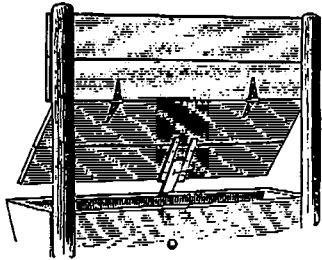


FIG. 1.—TROUGH CLOSED.

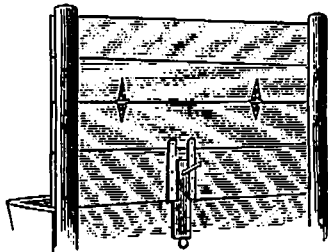


FIG. 2.—TROUGH OPENED.

down on the outside of the bottom board of the pen and holds the whole firmly in place. When the pigs are to be fed the slide is drawn up, and with the foot the hinged boards are pressed inward, the strip dropping down behind the trough, leaving the whole length of the trough clear to sweep out and pour the swill in. Mr. Pig is on the other side of the boards and must bide his time. In Fig. 1 the trough is shown as closed against the pigs; in Fig. 2, free to their access.—*American Agriculturist*.

In every large flock of sheep during the summer months there are always a few that do not keep in as good condition as the rest, and there are nearly always, more or less, cull lambs. Every sheep-grower should have a small enclosure where he can place these culls with their dams, and give them a little grain every day to help out the grass and milk ration. A mixture of corn-meal and bran, equal parts, is a very good feed for these ewes and lambs, and it is within reach of most farmers. Of course to do this gives some trouble; but the farmer will be well repaid, as well as surprised, when winter comes and he finds these sheep as good as any in the flock. To secure an even lot of sheep should be the farmer's aim, and they can be made and kept so by proper care and feed.

WHEN the margin of profit is small, as it often is in feeding and fattening hogs, a few days of unprofitable feeding will make a considerable difference in the percentage of profit. To a considerable extent, early feeding lessens this, but in order to be able to market early the hogs must be pushed during the summer. To let them run all during the summer, and then commence to feed in the fall, will necessitate a larger feed, increasing the cost and delaying the time that they can be ready for market. Early field corn is often ready to feed by the middle of August, and by commencing to feed gradually, and then increasing until they are given all they will eat up clean, they will fatten very rapidly, and can be made ready for market very early in the fall. It is often the case that the early market is the best.

PROTECT your animals from the flies. The best protection for hogs is the wallow. Though cattle have tough hides, flies occasion them much discomfort, and it is humane, as well as profitable, to make a smudge. In some situations this is actually necessary at certain seasons. The animals soon learn to take advantage of the smoke. Horses suffer greatly from flies, on account of a tenderer skin and sensitive nervous organization. For farm teams the cheapest protection is leather nets, which, with reasonable care, will last for years. They should be cleaned and oiled at least once a month while they are in use, or the sweat of the animals will rapidly rot them. Those who cannot buy leather nets should get the coarsest gunny sack. The cover should reach over the neck, with pockets to cover the ears. These covers should be washed once a month while in use, and when they are put away at the end of fly time.

THE following remedy for a kicking cow is very simple, easy of application, does no injury whatever to the animal, and is perfectly effective: Take a small rope or cord, about the size of a clothes-line; make a loop in one end; hold the loop end in one hand; drop the other end over the cow's back; pick it up and pass it through the loop; then slip it back just behind the hips, bringing it underneath, just forward of and close to the udder, adjusting it so that the loop is near the backbone. Now draw the rope through the loop tightly and fasten it, the more tightly the better if the animal is very vicious. On the first application she will jump and try to kick, and perhaps bellow; but let her kick, she will soon get tired of doing so. Now you can sit down and milk without the least danger; you can hardly provoke her to kick. If she should still try to kick, tighten the rope, and continue to do this till she gives it up. Three applications in succession will cure the worst case. Treat her kindly and gently all the time, without the least excitement.

It is well to prepare early for the fall feeding of cows. When the season is about to end, feed is usually scarce and poor, because preparations are not made for it in good time, and the product of milk falls off at the very time when it should be kept up for the winter profit. Once a cow loses milk it is very difficult, and in many cases impossible, to restore it. The best recourse is a field of aftermath, grass or clover, or a pasture which has been reserved specially for the purpose. It may be too late now to remedy a failure for the present season, but the warning should be heeded in time for another year. Still, something may yet be done. A planting of early kinds of sweet corn, sown in rows eighteen inches apart, and three inches apart in the rows, will very soon afford acceptable feed. Millet may be sown for pasture; oats sown in August or September will make the best of pasture for the early autumn, and rye will serve to follow after the early frosts. If no other way can be found, some of the best hay, with a liberal ration of corn-meal, should be given as soon as the outdoor forage has become scarce. Later, the small potatoes may serve as succulent food along with the hay. Bran and shorts have great value, both as food products and for enriching the manure, and apples are worth more to feed to cows than for cider.

The Poultry Yard.

SEE that your fowls have lots of clean, fresh water this hot weather; put it in a shady place so it will not get too warm, and change at least twice a day.

RYE, as all poultrymen know, is an excellent green food for poultry; it remains green and succulent late in the season, and it also comes up early in the spring, but little warmth being necessary to start it. As it is cut off it starts again rapidly, and quite a large supply of green food can be raised on a small patch.

Egg shells should not be given to hens, as they will learn the vice of egg-eating thereby. When an egg is broken in the nest or yard it should be removed as soon as discovered. A hen seldom begins to eat egg shells until she finds one broken by accident, or until she becomes accustomed to egg shells that may be thrown in the yard.

A GOOD plan to break hens of sitting is to remove the sitter from the pen to which she is accustomed to one which is provided with no nest boxes. There give her generous food, abundance of fresh water, and everything her heart longs for but a nest. Don't let her be lonely. Give her for a companion a strong, vigorous, attentive cockerel. Under such associations, and with such companionship, the most obdurate, persistent sitter will forget her broodiness in a few days, and be ready to be transferred to her old home.

A FOWL taken at first with lameness, and which in the course of a day or two will stagger about, make a rush for the food and stumble over it, with an appetite always good, is troubled with apoplexy. Bleeding by opening a vein under the wing, and feeding on light food, will be helpful, and in some cases will effect a cure. It is possible, however, that this may be one of the results of a long course of in-breeding, by which the constitutional vigor has been impaired. Possibly too much meat has been given, or the hens may be too fat, and if a warm breakfast gives place to a diet of oats and wheat in equal parts, or better still, barley, the chances are that there will be a marked improvement.

MOULTING hens will be greatly relieved and assisted in feathering if given some kind of a tonic at this season, and one of the best is to mix together 20 grains quinine, 20 grains chloride of iron, 40 grains red pepper, one pound fenugreek, one ounce sulphur, and half a pound of salt. Put a teaspoonful of the mixture in some kind of soft food, for every six hens, three times a week. Give meat occasionally and feed mixed grains. Moulting fowls take cold very easily should the weather change suddenly, and care must be taken to keep them warm and dry. It is a good plan, also, to separate the males from the females during moulting.

THE average farmer wants a hen that will lay a goodly number of eggs per year; that will hatch a good brood of chicks under adverse conditions, and that furnishes a good carcass for the table. If he continues to breed in year after year his stock will run out. To keep up the vigor and productiveness of his flock, new blood should be introduced. The best hens should be selected for breeders, preferably hens one year old; then—as the male is half the flock—buy a full-blood cockerel (or more if the flock be large) of some desirable breed. There is no better time for attending to this matter than the present, as the flock needs culling now, and breeders are anxious to sell their surplus stock at this season. Cockerels with some defect in plumage or coloring can often be bought at low prices, and are just as good as "standard" fowls for improving common stock. This is the cheapest and best method for those who do not care to keep pure-bred fowls.

Pithily Put Pickings.

THE future tense of due is done.—*Youth's Companion*.

Do unto the animal as you would be done by if you were an animal.—*Farm, Stock and Home*.

OUR friends are those who make us do what we can.—*Christian Union*.

YOUR mind is worth more than your pocket book. Which had you better serve?—*Rural New Yorker*.

FATHERS, encourage your boys to be smart, and be kind to them, because I know encouragement helps me along a heap.—*Southern Farm*.

As a general rule, the most worthless citizens in any given farming community are the owners of the most useless and vicious dogs.—*Farmer's Review*.