

A Flexible Animal Poke.

The poke shown in the accompanying engraving is readily made by any farmer handy with tools. It



EASILY-MADE POKE.

consists of a wooden bow, between the lower ends of which is loosely bolted a square stick of hard wood eighteen inches in length and two by three inches square. Near the lower end of this is inserted a wooden pin half an inch in diameter, left projecting about six inches. The flexibility of this poke allows the animal to feed with greater comfort and freedom and less strain upon the neck than when the common contrivance is used. The inner angles of the bow should be carefully rounded and smoothed, to keep them from chafing the neck.

WHEN horses are kept standing idle in the stable by long continued storms, the feed should be reduced accordingly. Full rations, with no exercise, is a frequent cause of spinal meningitis, and other serious ailments of horses.

AN experiment made the past summer with cows proved that when a handful of salt, or about two ounces of it, was given every day, the yield of butter was increased one-fifth; and when salt was withheld the yield fell off in the same proportion. The reason, beyond question, is that as salt is required for full digestion of the food, more of the food was changed into milk. Keep rock-salt within reach of the cows.

SHEEP should be fed twice a day at regular intervals and in troughs. In fattening sheep it pays to feed at regular periods, as the animals eat and then lie down, and do not expect feed every time the farmer comes into the yard. All feeding troughs should be kept clean and free from moisture. Give plenty of trough room so that the heavy sheep will not crowd the lighter ones. Feed no more than the sheep will eat up clean.

A HORSE cannot retain health and vigor in a hot, foul, unventilated stable. Elegant fittings and interiors "handsomely finished in the natural wood," do not make up for the want of pure air. It should be supplied in such a manner as to avoid direct draft on the horse. A very good system consists of horizontal pipes perforated with fine holes, opening outside, and extending just above the mangers, with vertical tubes from the ceiling to a ventilator in the roof.

FOR milch cows nothing is better than young hay or young clover hay which is much sweeter and more nutritious than timothy. Old, ripe timothy hay is good for nothing. Milch cows should have water twice every day, once is not enough. They eat a great deal of dry food and must have plenty of water to help digest it and make milk. Good feeding and good care cost nothing and make a farmer rich, while poor feeding, dirty barn and poor care cost a great deal and make the farmer very poor. Keep the cows milked very clean and always milk before feeding; never while the cows are eating.

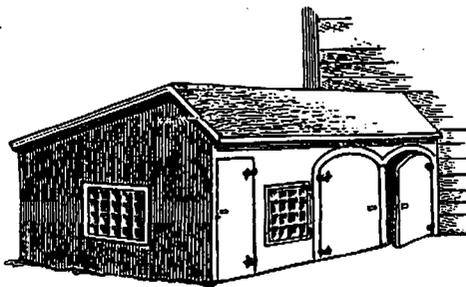
THE scours in the pigs is caused generally by the sow not being in good condition, and the sow's trouble is usually from improper feed. Oil cake mixed with bran will loosen the bowels. If the pigs take the scours cut down the sow's feed and stir a little sulphur in her slop and this will generally check it. Older pigs can have the diarrhoea checked by mixing the sulphur in their feed or giving them dry rye meal. Be careful to clean the pen thoroughly of all discharges as it is almost useless to give medicine while they remain in a filthy, diseased breeding pen, breathing the foul stench.

THE wise dairyman will make provision in advance for exigencies that arise in the care and management of stock. He can employ a few spare hours to no better advantage than in preparing a few stalls for cows during parturition. The too-common custom of leaving cows stanchioned up to the moment of calving, and often so confined through its throes, is as inhuman as it is unwise. The females of all animals instinctively seek seclusion during these trying periods, and that seclusion, with care and comfort should be freely given them. Unless the dairy is a very large one, it will not require more than two or three stalls for the purpose indicated. There is generally spare room enough for these in the average stable, but if not, erect them elsewhere in warm quarters. Build an ordinary box-stall, with bars opening on the stable. The dimensions of the stall need be only sufficient for the free movements of the animal. Make the stalls snug and warm and keep them dry and well littered with straw. The cow should be turned loose in the stall a few days prior to parturition and isolation for a longer period would be still better. New milch cows, in the severest weather of our harsh winters, can be made even more profitable than in mid-summer. They require warm quarters and abundant food. In the early spring, when the greater number of dairy cows are coming in, stalls are indispensable, not only for the comfort of cows, but to insure their safe passage through this trying ordeal. Cows that run down at calving time, and are ill-cared for and neglected will be profitless to their owners the rest of the season.

The Poultry Yard.

A Convenient Poultry and Tool House.

ON many farms the hens are allowed to lay their eggs about the barn, under it, or in a fence corner, and to roost wherever they can find a foothold, resulting in the frequent loss of eggs, and in the vexatious soiling of wagons, tools, and the premises generally. It is also true that there is frequently no place in which to store farm tools. The plow is run in under the wagon, and the mowing machine occupies an end of the barn floor during that portion of the year when not in use, while other tools find resting places, some within, and some out of doors. It hardly needs argument to show that such a course is both wasteful and inconvenient. Such a condition of things may be remedied by constructing a building like that shown in the illustration—a build-



POULTRY AND TOOL HOUSE.

ing that can be readily and cheaply put together by any one at all handy with tools. It may be placed on one side of the barnyard, thus affording a desirable windbreak. As shown, it may face either east or south. It could, of course, be made to face the west also. That portion farthest from the barn is used for a henhouse, since windows upon two sides can thus be secured. This portion, if not the whole shed, should be battened snugly upon the outside, and lined with tarred paper on the inside. The floor should be as tight as possible and covered with four or five inches of road dust or dried swamp muck, on which may be placed straw or other litter. The portion devoted to tools should have a dry floor to prevent rust. If this can be accomplished by thorough drainage and a thick coating of gravel it will much facilitate the running in of heavy mowers, plows, etc. The doors are also made large for this purpose, while the whole front of the tool shed may be thrown open by taking down the movable post between the two doors. A tight partition separates the poultry house from the tool shed.—*American Agriculturist.*

SPRINKLE a little tobacco dust in the hen's nests.

Hens will lay without being mated to a male, but the eggs will not hatch.

HENS are not always hungry because they follow the feed box, for they will run to a person carrying a pan of corn, merely because they have been accustomed to be thus fed. An inexperienced person is apt to feed them when he sees them apparently so eager for food. Feed only as much as they will eat up clean at certain hours, to prevent them getting too fat for egg laying.

THERE is money in poultry keeping, but it is in the man as much as in the fowls. A mistake may cause loss. Lice may drive one clear out of the field and roup may come along like a cyclone and sweep everything away. But the man who begins at the bottom round of the ladder, observes all that transpires, tries to learn, and is not afraid of work, will sooner or later surely reach the top.

THE Cochins, Brahmas, and Langshans, on account of their heavy leg-feathering will suffer great inconvenience in damp weather, on farms located on heavy clay soils. If the fowls are not for exhibition, trim the feathers off close with the scissors, but do not pull them out; this will save frosted feet. Breeding feathers on the legs is a nuisance, but as it is one of the "points," they must remain, or the fowl cannot be considered a Standard bird.

NOTHING is cleaner or more pleasant for the fowls to scratch in than nice clean straw. Put it away from where the fowls roost. It should be changed once a week. The grain should be scattered in it, as this gives the exercise which in cold weather is the life of a fowl and means good circulation of the blood. This always brings good health. Fowls must have something to keep them active. When they become lazy and stupid, don't be surprised if some of them become sick in time.

THE advantage of raising poultry on the farm is that no food need be bought for their especial use, but a little toll can be taken from that which is raised for the rest of the stock. An almost infinite variety may be gathered up here and there about the place, so that there is no excuse for the farmer's wife falling into the popular error of feeding her flocks corn, and corn alone. In summer they should have no corn at all, and in winter corn should be one-third only of their daily rations.

THE larger the hen yard is the better it will be for the fowls; although with good care, cleanliness, frequent spading over of the ground, and still better with occasional changing from one yard to another, a dozen hens can be kept healthy and in good laying trim in a rather small enclosure, say twenty or thirty feet square. Brahmas and Cochins can be kept confined by a fence three feet high; for Plymouth Rocks the fence should be at least four or five feet high; for Langshans five to six feet; for the Spanish races, Leghorns, Dunghills and Monarchs from eight to ten feet high.

A SUCCESSFUL poultryman says the following traits are an infallible sign of a good layer: She walks briskly, and there is an elasticity in her movements that denotes she has something in view. She is neat and natty in appearance, small head, with a slim neck, nicely arched or curved. She forages and scratches all day long, and may be too busy to come for her evening feed. She is at the door in the morning waiting to be let out. She snatches a few mouthfuls of feed; and is off to the meadow, looking for insects. Before she gets out in the morning she generally deposits her daily egg in the nest, or returns to do so after a short forage. She is neat, clean, and tidy, with a brightness and a freshness pleasing to the eye. That is a hen that pays for her feed and gives a good profit all the year round.