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Questions and Answers.
Miscellaneous.

Tanning Queries.

1. Can you give me a recipe for tanning groundhog skins, squirrel, or rabbit skins?
2. Can you give me a recipe for tanning muskrat skins? (I lost the last issue.)
3. When would it be best to catch groundhogs or squirrels to tan?

A. E.

Ans.—1 and 2. Tanneries can make a better job than can be done at home, but if decided to tan the skins yourself, it is well to soak them in soft water for two or three days, and then scrape off all the adhering flesh and fat. When thoroughly clean, put the skins into a tan composed of equal parts alum and salt dissolved in hot water, about 7 pounds of alum and salt to 12 pounds of hot water. After standing in this brine for a couple of days they should be hung up and scraped well in order to soften them. Then place them again in the brine for a day or two. Hang up until dry again, and shave or scrape again. Apply a coat of oil. Roll up in damp sawdust and store away until dry. Then give an application of soft soap and again roll in sawdust.

3. In cold weather.

Ventilation.

I intend building a barn this summer, 46 x 70 feet, the basement wall to be of stone, as I have plenty of them within easy reach. The wall is to be 9½ feet high, in which I intend to stable about ten horses and thirty cattle, mostly steers for fattening.

1. What, in your opinion, is the best system of ventilation, and how is the same constructed?
2. How are the stables at the Experimental Farms, Guelph and Ottawa, ventilated?
3. What size of pipe should be used for ventilating a stable this size?
4. I have been in stables with no ventilators on the barn, but tile about four or five inches, and extending through the wall at the top, just under the sill, about every twenty feet. Is this a satisfactory system?
5. How would three- or four-inch pipes, inserted in the wall, about twenty feet apart, about one foot from floor outside, extending into center of the wall, and then up to about one foot from top (built in the wall), then extend inside, or should the pipes be inserted the opposite way, inside at bottom and outside at top, or should there also be a wooden pipe run from stable, through the barn, to a ventilator at the top of the barn?

J. J. T.

Ans.—1. This is difficult to answer. Different conditions require different treatments. The King and the Rutherford systems are good, as is also a combination of the two.

2. We believe a combination of the King and Rutherford systems is used at Guelph, and the Rutherford system at Ottawa.

3. The inlets and outlets are governed by the number of animals housed. Outlets should have double the capacity of inlets, and 15 square inches of inlet space should be provided for each animal. Distribute the inlets to allow air to enter the stable from as many sides as possible. No openings should be less than four inches wide and ten inches long. Outlets should never be less than eighteen inches across. Outlets should be placed as near the center of the building as possible, and should be built tight, starting near the ceiling of the stable and continuing up through the peak of the barn. Two layers of boards with an air space between make the best outlet. At Guelph, the inlets are right through the wall, a little above the floor, and to avoid drafts, a curtain is placed over them on the inside, about four inches out from the wall, and opening at the top. Some inlets are built so as to distribute the fresh air in front of the cattle, a boxed-in flue running up the wall and along the ceiling, opening over or in front of the cattle.

4. Some report fair success with this system, but nothing like as good ventilation is obtained as with the system just outlined. Openings are too small.

5. They would not be satisfactory. They are too small.

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