

Iron Age in Farm Fencing.

The wooden age in farm fencing is past and the iron or wire age has been reached. In the older parts of the country to-day all fence renewing is done with wire. Even the farmer's front lawn is not enclosed by the old-time fancy picket fence, but by some artistic style of wire fencing which serves the purpose a great deal better. True, the old rail and board fences are still doing duty, and will be seen for some time, but they are quickly giving way to their rival the wire fence. Compare any part of the country to-day with what it was five years ago, and a marked change will be noticed in the fencing. But the change will be far more marked during the next five years. At the end of that period comparatively few wooden fences of any kind will be seen. Their places will have been taken by the up-to-date wire fences of to-day.

There is economy in the wire fence, as compared with the rail or board fence. It makes far cleaner farms. No corners are left for rubbish of any kind, and the whole country has a neater and more thrifty appearance. Then wire is as cheap, if not cheaper, than wood. In some parts of the country old rail fences are being sold for fuel purposes for enough to buy the wire to put up a new fence. Whenever this can be done farmers should make the exchange from rail to wire fences at once. At present wooden posts are used for wire fencing. Iron and cement posts are manufactured for this purpose, but as yet they come a little more expensive than the wooden posts. When wood becomes scarcer and iron posts cheaper the latter will replace the former in every case.

A Cheap and Useful Paint

A Manitoba painter gives the following as an excellent paint for ordinary use about the farm:

Take two bushels of fresh stone lime, or good fresh slacked lime will also do, but the first is preferable. Put the lime in a water tight barrel and put in enough water to thoroughly slack it. Add twenty-five pounds of bee tallow and stir occasionally until the tallow is thoroughly incorporated with the lime. Less than this quantity can be mixed by observing the proper proportions of lime and tallow. For coloring matter earth colors must be used, such as yellow ochre, Venetian red or burnt umber. With either spruce or golden ochre you can get a beautiful soft cream tint, and by using more ochre a buff tint. Venetian red will give a creamy pink and burnt umber will give a dull pink which in some cases will look well. Burnt umber will give all the shades of drab you want by adding more or less as you want it light or dark. Mix the coloring matter with water in a separate vessel, taking care that it does not go lumpy. This can be prevented by adding a little water at a time and stir thoroughly until you get it about the consistency of cream. From 50 to 75 cents worth of ochre will be sufficient to make the mass a nice light buff, but as ochre varies in strength, the tint can be secured only by testing as you mix. As the color will always be darker in its mixed state than after it is applied and dries out, test a little first on a piece of board until you get the depth of tint wanted. A pretty combination on a building is a buff body and for trimming add umber to the buff until you get a contrasting shade of creamy drab. The mixture will need thinning with soft water until it works freely under the brush. Be careful not to thin too much. Apply with a whitewash brush or flat paint brush.

This is a cheap and durable paint and is valuable for outbuildings where a rough grade of lumber is generally used, which would require a lot of oil paint. More especially is it valuable in painting old and weather beaten buildings. The combination of lime and tallow forms a waterproof and weather proof coating which fills the pores of the wood and arrests the action of the weather upon the wood. To make a good job, cracks and holes in the siding of buildings should be filled with the paint in its paste form and if filled as they are come to and immediately painted over before getting dry, will not show spots or streaks.

Silage for Beef Cattle

Professor Soule, of the Virginia experiment station, recently made the following report of a cattle feeding test in which the feeding of corn silage to beef cattle figured conspicuously:

During last winter an interesting experiment with sixty head of beef cattle was conducted at the experiment station. The twenty cattle fed silage made an average gain of 1.46 pound per head per day, the twenty cattle fed timothy hay gained 1.10 pounds per head per day and the twenty cattle fed shredded corn stover, .37 pounds per head per day.

There was thus a difference of one-third to one-half pound of gain per head per day in favor of the silage fed cattle. The silage fed animals finished off the best and showed more quality than the others and in any

discriminating market would have brought a considerably higher price.

The strong prejudice against using silage for the winter feeding of beef cattle is hard to understand, for it has been fully demonstrated that silage fed cattle will kill out quite as well as the dry fed cattle and the meat is, generally speaking, of a superior quality. Whereas the silage was all eaten up, 13.5 of the stover and 4.16 per cent. of the hay were wasted.

The gains show that the cattle fed were not of a satisfactory quality. In previous experiments a pound of gain had been made for a consumption of three to four pounds of grain. The silage fed cattle in this test consumed 6.54 pounds of grain for a pound of gain, the stover fed cattle 11.18 pounds, or about twice as much, and the hay fed cattle 13.5 pounds or 2.45 pounds more per day than the silage fed cattle.

With better bred animals fed in previous experiments, the average gain per head of beef cattle was 1.5 pounds throughout the six months' feeding period, which again testifies to the unsatisfactory quality of the animals fed in this test.

Ewe Getting Cast

Ewes lamb in lamb or even after lambing, sometimes in summer when very fat and on good grass, ewes will get cast. They will get back a little low, struggle in trying to get up, get legs out of reach of the ground and there she is—ready for the vigilant shepherd or the watchful collie dog to help her up. Unfortunately many flocks are not closely observed. The ewe, by lying too long with heavy pressure upon the artery along the spinal column, becomes partially paralyzed. Hence is a good place to use whisky. A heart stimulant, it will hurry up the circulation, get the ewe to look after herself and she may recover.

Farm Scales

By the use of scales, many things can be sold on the farm that otherwise have to be guessed at or taken away to be weighed. And generally the man that is willing to buy that way has had enough experience that he knows pretty closely what he is doing and makes a bargain safe. Selling feed and stock by weight is the only way that is fair to both buyer and seller. The seller gets paid for what he has, and the buyer pays for what he gets. I once knew a farmer to be offered \$25 each for some calves. It looked like a good price but the farmer had scales and knew about what they weighed and selling by the pound they brought enough that the difference would almost pay for a set of scales.

My scales have been in use now for twenty-eight years. I do not know what they cost, as they were when I came on the farm, twenty-two years ago. We handle considerable live stock and use the scales frequently, besides weighing feed and stock for the neighbors. They are in the dry, on a stone foundation, and never cost anything for repairs until this fall, when I cemented the pit on account of the dry weather and the levers. I removed the levers to do the cementing, and carefully examined the bearings in order to see if they were much worn. The wear was practically nothing and I expect them—levers, beam, wood-work and all, to more than last my time, and I am not an old man yet, by any means.

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