

* The Farm *

GROWING GOOD WOOL.

The condition of the sheep's wool at shearing time determines very often the prices offered. When sheep come up to the season for clipping with wool that lies in long silken masses on their backs, clean, healthy and attractive, it is a delight to feel it, and usually buyers are willing to accept it at a trifle advance over poor, coarse, dirty and matted wool. Some sheep have their wool in such good condition that it seems as if they were naturally clean and particular animals, taking as much care of their dress as a human being. This has been attributed to the breed of the sheep and to the feeding, but probably not sufficient attention has been paid to the natural surroundings and conditions of the animals. The sheep are a good deal like dairy cows. If you clean and brush off the latter and give them clean, healthy places to sleep in, they appear to show a natural inclination to keep their bodies clean. They are actually educated up to cleanliness.

Sheep can likewise be bred and educated to keep their wool in good condition. Bad weather will, of course, mat the wool, filling it with dirt and mud, and some sheep seem to inherit a tendency to wallow in every mudhole. In fact, it is a noticeable fact that the common, poor bred sheep get dirtier than the fancy bred animals, and their wool always presents a dirtier appearance. In the long woolled sheep the tendency to get matted wool is very pronounced, but this is due simply to the fact that dirt and filth find better lodgment in such masses of hair.

The sheep should be so far as possible be kept away from damp, marshy ground, and they should be given clean, dry sheds at night or when the weather is stormy. The sheds should not be located in low, hollow places, but, if possible, on high eminences, where water will not collect. In addition to this, the winds on such high grounds will dry the wool of the animals quicker. Careful attention should be given to the nature of the weeds and bushes in the grazing field. By filling

PINEY WOODS.

Healthy but not Always Curative.

To go to the piney woods is a help, but if one carries along the bad habits of food and drink that have caused sickness, the piney woods will not produce a recovery. Coffee drinking produced blindness in a Virginia gentleman, and his remarkable experience is worth reading. "I have been a coffee drinker since my earliest remembrance. If I missed coffee at a meal it brought on headache. This should have shown me that I was a victim to a drug habit. Finally, wakeful, restless nights came on. After dinner I was always drowsy and after sleeping would waken stupid and morbid, and felt as though I had been drugged, and when this feeling wore off nervousness and restlessness would set in until I drugged myself with coffee again.

At last my eyesight began to fail. Some of the best optical specialists agreed that I had an affliction of the optic nerve, and after two or three years treatment my eyes slowly lost their power and I became almost sightless. I was advised to go to a piney woods near the sea in a most isolated place. This I did and lived there for two years without any visible benefit. I gave up all hope of recovery until last spring a friend expressed the belief that the coffee I drank was the cause of all of my trouble. He had been a slave to it and had been unable to find relief until he quit and took up Postum Food Coffee.

His experience startled me and I decided to try the change although I had but little faith in its merits. My first cup of Postum proved delicious and was a great surprise. It was evidently well made. I had not the slightest trouble in leaving off coffee for the Postum filled its place perfectly.

During the past six months I have gained in flesh, my sallow complexion has become clear, and my eyesight gradually improved until now I am able to read and write. My mind is once more clear and active, and I no longer suffer from sleepless, nervous spells. You can imagine I feel grateful for my restoration." W. Harold Fenton, Brighton, Va.

their wool with burrs and prickles the animals mat the fleece badly and prepare good places for dirt and filth to lodge. If the wool gets tied up with burrs in this way something should be done to get them out, even though each individual animal must be caught and the wool combed out more or less. The nourishing quality of the food also affects the condition of the wool, and it goes without saying that this should be of the best. A little study of the question might enable one to improve the quality of the fleece, and in this way enhance the profits of the animals.—(William Conway, in American Cultivator.

SLEIGHT IN CHOPPING WOOD.

I am fairly well acquainted with the rural sections of Southern Ohio, and I have noticed of late years that not more than one young man or boy in twenty I have seen chopping wood chops with any skill. There is generally so little chopping to be done that the sleight is nearly lost. Yet to those who have little strength to spare, and still need to chop, an explanation of the handy knack of doing it may be welcome. This explanation applies to a righthanded chopper, where timber is not heavy and is subject to slight personal modifications.

Shave the axe: handle down till it will bend and spring, but do not overdo this. Stand up straight and close to the wood, or on it. Grasp the end of the axe handle with both hands close together, and draw the handle through the right with the left, so that by the time the axe reaches the level of the top of the hips the hands will be at opposite ends of the handle and the handle will be nearly or past horizontal. The axe can come up in front of or to the right of the right hip, but keep the axe near the body. Throw the axe back just above the shoulder, but to the right of it. Understand, in raising the axe from the ground, do not bend over and catch the handle with hands wide apart, and then raise the axe out from the body with the right hand, holding the handle about midway, so that the axe is raised by leverage of the handle and a lift of the extended right arm, making it hard for arm and back. Do not raise the axe high over the shoulder—a needless lift. The higher the axe is over the shoulder as you begin to swing it forward, the greater the strain. Swing your axe forward as well as upward as you raise it from your shoulder, and do not put your best strength into this movement, but save it till the axe starts more directly toward the wood, then fling it home with a vim, letting the handle slip through the right hand, ending with hands close together at the end of the handle, and the spring of the handle will fling the axe free and throw your chip and the chipper and the axe will be in ready position for quick movement. All this will be just the other way if you strike a dead blow with the right hand still holding the handle midway. Remember, the closer the axe is to your body as you raise it, the lighter it is to you, and the more direct the motion of the axe toward the stick, the more your strength will count in flinging it.—(V. E. T., in Farm and Fireside.

In the construction of brick silos an expert recommends the use of well-burned brick, the walls to be made of two thicknesses. Often overburned bricks can be cheaply bought, and are just as good. There need be no outside covering of wood and no cement surface on the inside. Cement mortar should be used, however, as lime mortar would be dissolved by the acid of the silage. One advantage in a silo of masonry is that considerable of the total height may be gained by building several feet into the ground, provided the soil is dry or well drained. The part built below the surface should be made of heavy stone, faced on the inside with one thickness of brick. The silage can be readily taken out from the lower part by using a pulley for elevating it.—Ex.

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