

A Question in Pig Feeding.

Which is the more profitable, raising pigs to a weight of 100 or 125 pounds, or to a weight of 200 pounds and over? E. G.

Ans.—This is a question which requires some thought. Experiments have shown that pigs up to 50 pounds in weight require about 300 pounds of feed to make 100 pounds gain. Pigs weighing from 50 to 100 pounds require approximately 400 pounds of feed to make 100 pounds of gain, those weighing from 100 to 150 pounds about 440 pounds of feed, and those weighing from 150 to 200 pounds, about 480 pounds of feed to the 100 pounds gain. Thus it is seen that the older the pig, the more feed required to make a pound of animal increase. The flesh is put on young pigs more economically than on older pigs. This, however, has not solved the problem of which really costs the more—the first or second 100 pounds. We must reckon the pig as costing something at birth. There is service fees or expense of keeping the sire; also expense and risk in keeping the pregnant sow, depreciation in the value of the sow, equipment, etc., so that there is a cost in producing the pig. Wallace's Farmer estimates, in answering a similar question, that this cost is \$2.00 per head. While this may be a trifle high, it is not very excessive. The average weight of a pig at birth is about three pounds. As the pig gets his nourishment up to, say, nearly 50 pounds in weight from the sow, this is the cheapest portion of his gain. It requires about 100 pounds of feed to put on this first 50 pounds of flesh, which, at present prices, would cost about \$1.50. The second 50 pounds would cost about \$3.00, making the total cost of the first 100 pounds \$6.50. Where pasture grass forms a part of the ration, these gains would be made a little cheaper, which would bring the cost down to probably \$6.00. The second hundred pounds would cost about \$6.90. Green food would also reduce this, so, at feed prices which obtain this winter, there is little difference in the actual cost of the pork in the first and second hundred pounds. If feed were lower in price, the difference would be in favor of the second hundred weight, but when it is high, as it is now, the first hundred has a slight advantage. Market requirements must also be considered. Our bacon-hog trade demands a pig weighing from 160 to 200 pounds.

THE FARM.

Hairy Vetch as a Crop.

I would like to know about sand or hairy vetch. Once seeded, does it stay in the ground, or do you have to seed every year?

2. Would it be likely to get a catch on poor, run-out land?

3. If sown in the spring, would it be ready to cut the same summer, or, say, pasture?

4. Does it make good hay?

5. Could it be cut twice in one year? Is it hard to cure?

6. Would it be better to sow with some other crop or alone, and how much seed per acre if sown alone?

7. Is it a good crop to clean the land, and is it better to use for pasture or to clean the land?

R. JAS. McR.

Ans.—1. The plants of the hairy vetches die after they have produced seed. If they are sown in the spring, they produce seed the same year, but if sown in the autumn they do not produce seed until the year following.

2.—A very good catch of hairy vetches might be obtained on a poor quality of soil, but the crop would likely be light.

3. When sown in the spring, hairy vetches produce a crop the same year, but the crop is not apt to be as large from the spring as from the autumn seeding.

4. Hairy vetches make very good hay.

5. There is not much of a second growth after hay is made from the first cutting. If the weather conditions are favorable, however, there is sometimes enough for pasture.

Hairy vetches are usually sown alone, although they may be mixed with grain for fodder purposes. They are sometimes sown with rye for the production of seed. The rye tends to keep the vines from the ground, and enables the vetches to produce more seed. The usual amount of hairy vetches to sow per acre is from 1 to 1½ bushels.

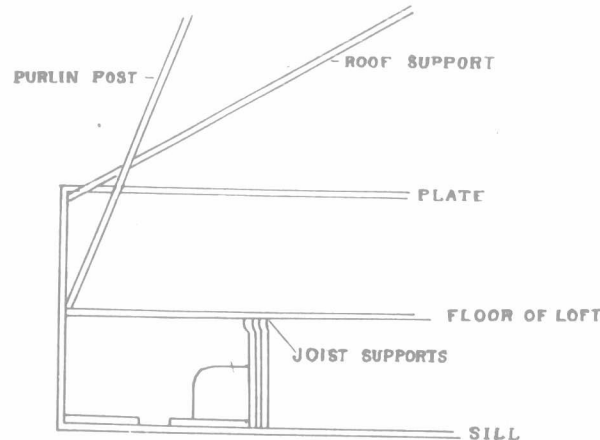
7. I do not consider hairy vetches a very good crop for cleaning the land. It is a very good pasture crop. One of the greatest drawbacks in the growing of hairy vetches, however, is the cost of seed. The seed is mostly imported from Europe, and frequently costs \$5.00 or more per bushel.

C. A. ZAVITZ.

Another Plank Frame Barn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In "The Farmer's Advocate" of December 21st there is a question regarding plank-frame barns which I think I can answer, as we have just finished one similar to that which W. M. W. wishes to build, i. e., a plank frame, with truss roof, as described in Mr. Shawver's book, "Plank-frame Barn Construction," because, if it were a balloon frame, with self-supporting roof, the stables, etc., would make no difference. Our barn is 36 x 66 x 16, with gambrel roof, the purline plate being 14 feet above main plate. It has barn floor on level with cow stable on one side, and horse stable and granary on other side of barn floor. The purline post starts from floor of loft, instead of from sill, thus:



If the floor joists are properly secured in walls, and strongly spliced, the walls will be much stiffer and stronger than if the purline post started from the sill. When we found we should have to build, I wrote to you, asking if you could give me the address of someone who could draw out the plans and specifications we needed. You replied that my contractor could do that, and I have since seen the same reply to another inquirer. You forget that in most localities the plank-frame barn is unknown, at least so far as the truss frame is concerned. I found, when I spoke to builders about it, that the only form of plank frame they had any idea of was the balloon frame, though one contractor wanted to know if

first heavy wind, or that the floor would give way when a load was put on it; and on that account he made it stronger and used more material than necessary. The cost of the barn and the silo, which is connected with it, was about \$1,500. Had we got the detailed specifications we wanted, it would have saved us at least \$100.

The barn has cement foundations and cement floors throughout. The first parts erected were the stanchion posts in the cow stable, of which there are two rows running the length of the stable. The posts are made of three 2 x 4s, with the center one projecting 6 inches above the others, and on the shoulders thus formed are placed two 2 x 6 planks, which support the floor joists. As the cows' heads are turned in, the supports are 10 feet apart, leaving a span of 13 feet to the outer wall, or about 12 feet in the clear. The end of the joist is supported by a 4 x 8 stud, one plank being cut 8 inches shorter than the other to form a shoulder to receive the joist, which is spiked to the other one. The joists are made of two 14-ft. and one 12-ft. 8-in. planks, giving laps of two feet at the joints which come on the supports, these laps being securely spiked together. At the center of the stable, where the interior bent comes, the joist is inserted between the planks which form the post, another piece put under the end, also between the planks, and the whole spiked together. An 8-inch plank was placed on top of the joists between the posts, and when the stable was sheathed inside and out, the frame was tied together beyond possibility of spreading. This lower part was sheathed and the loft floor laid before the roof was touched, and very little scaffolding was required, the work being done from a movable tower and ladders. I forgot the end bent, which puzzled us more than the others, as Shawver's book gave few details about it. It is formed like an M, the different members being fastened to feet on the plate. If I were building again, I should carry the posts to the loft floor, using three 2 x 6 ties, instead of the box plate, the center tie passing between the planks.

We were advised to stand our cows heads out, but have placed them heads in for convenience in feeding. The silo is placed at the center of the end of the barn, and is connected with it by a small house which opens into the feed alley, and at the end of the other alley a large sliding door opens onto the barn floor. A passage runs from one side to the other, with gates to prevent cattle getting through. There are doors to the barn floor from each aisle, making three doors at each end of the stable. The horse stable has three single stalls and a double one. The manger of the double stall can be removed, and the partition between it and the last single stall swung round at right angles, making a large box stall. The roof is corrugated steel, with eavestroughs and water-pipes, and we intend to connect the pipes with the ground by wire rods. The silo is roofed and covered with a prepared roofing, and a lightning-rod placed on it. We are not certain whether the rod should be connected with the silo rods or insulated from them. Can you advise us? I am sending you photos of the barn in course of construction and complete. C. W. BEAVEN.

Prescott Co., Ont.

[Note.—Our apologies are respectfully tendered and thanks expressed. We receive so many inquiries which could be better answered by conference with a local contractor that we sometimes get tired of the importunity, and answer briefly. In the case of plank-frame construction, however, we have recently learned by personal experience that many carpenters are deplorably uninformed, seeming actually less able to grasp the idea than many farmers possessing a mere "speaking acquaintance" with carpenter's tools. We have published much information on plank-frame construction, but it is necessary to repeat frequently for the benefit of new readers, as well as old ones newly interested in the subject. This letter by Mr. Beaven, and others recently received, should prove very helpful. Connect your lightning-rod with all the silo hoops.—Editor.]

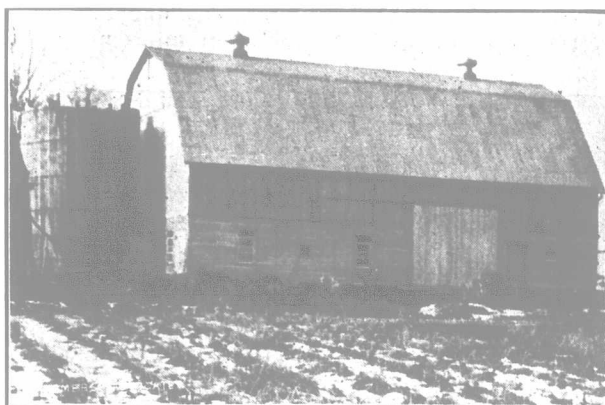
Soaked Shingles in Crude Petroleum.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

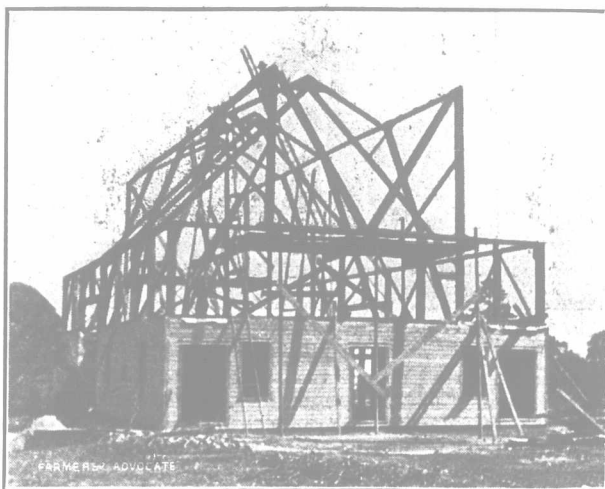
I notice an inquiry from E. G. M., in your issue of the 18th January, about the liming of cedar shingles. Twenty-four years ago I shingled a barn with cedar shingles, first soaking the bunches in a tank of crude petroleum, and to-day they are practically as good as ever. We dipped the shingles in a tank without loosening the bunches, leaving them to soak about ten minutes. It does not cost much, one cask doing for 15 M. About 15 years ago I resingled my house, and painted them with fireproof paint, not once only, but every time the house was painted, with the result that this year the roof leaked so badly I had to resingled it. It is needless to say that this time I used the crude oil, which, while it preserves them, also stains them a very good color.

Queen's Co., N. B.

MORRIS SCOVIL.



Barn of C. W. Beaven, Grenville Co., Ont.



Frame of barn built by C. W. Beaven, Grenville Co., Ont.

I intended to build in elevator style—i. e., planks laid flat one on top of the other, making a solid wall. W. M. W.'s difficulty shows it is about the same in his locality. I had to draw out rough plans of what I wanted, and trust to my carpenter for the details. He has made a good job of it, but, having no experience in this form of construction, he had to feel his way, and took much more time than he otherwise would have done. Also, we had a number of visitors, as the building was quite a curiosity while going up, and most of them predicted that it would blow over in the