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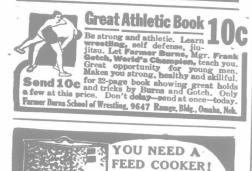
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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous

Stacking Fodder Corn.

Can fodder corn be successfully stacked? If it can, please explain how it should F. C.

Ans.-Corn stalks contain considerable moisture, even when they appear quite dry, and it is rather risky putting them into the stack intending to leave them for any length of time. Corn can be stacked much like stacks of grain, but place them horizontally, and keep them straight, so they may be fed off easily. It will not do to stack them until late in the autumn, when they have become as dry as possible, and it is well even then to feed them out at once. The safer way to handle fodder corn will be to stand the sheaves on end, and they can be brought near the building and stood up against horizontal poles that are placed the correct height for the length of the corn. This is quite likely to be a more successful method of preserving the corn than in the stack.

Tanning Skins.

1. How is the best way to cure the skins of animals so they will not be stiff after they are cured?

2. Should another thin skin come off after they have dried a day or two? If so, will that weaken the skin or loosen the fur?

3. What is the best way to manage the inside of the tail, which is rather

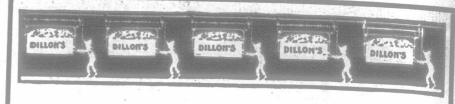
4. Is there anything that can be done to prevent the fur from coming out?

Ans:-1. If the skin has been already dried, soak it in clear water for twentyfour hours, working it with the hands repeatedly during that time, until it becomes soft. Remove any small pieces of flesh or fat which may adhere to it. If the skin is fresh and has not been dried, it need only be washed to remove any dust or dirt. Now prepare the following mixture: Alum, very finely powdered, five pounds; salt, well powdered, two pounds; coarse wheat meal, two pounds. Mix the above in a large stoneware basin or wooden bucket, and add gradually sufficient sour milk or sour buttermilk to bring it to the consistency of cream. Having previously allowed the soaked skin to drain until most of the moisture has evaporated, lay it on a table with the hair underneath, and taking some of the above mixture, rub it thoroughly into every part of the fleshside of the skin, using as much force with the hands as possible, so as to drive the mixture into the pores of the skin. Much of the success of the operation depends upon giving the skin as much rubbing and handling as possible. When it will absorb no more, cover it with a layer of the composition about one-eighth of an inch thick, fold it over with the flesh surfaces together and the hair outside, and lay it aside in a cool place. Next day open out the skin, add more of the mixture, rub thoroughly, fold up as before. Repeat daily for two days more. Now wash the skin thoroughly in clean water, removing all the composition, hang up to drain, and when half-dry rub in a fresh supply of the mixture, and repeat the rubbing daily for four or five days, adding more of the mixture when necessary. Now, wash thoroughly in clean water, repeatedly changed. Make a strong solution of alum, without salt, and after the skin has drained, lay it out on a flat surface, exposed to the sun, if possible. Apply the alum solution to the flesh side and let it dry, working it thoroughly all over. The more the skin is worked the softer it will be.

2. The flesh and fat should be thoroughly removed, but no entire layer of skin need be taken off.

3. You will have to treat this part of he hide much the same as the larger part, but we do not know of any special operation for that part.

4. After treating as prescribed, the hair should not come out after the tanning is thoroughly completed.



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