

over a good road at a fair road pace. The question is often asked: "How shall I breed these mares with reasonable probability of producing a useful animal, and one that will have a fair demand at good prices?" This is a hard question to answer. If crossed with a Thoroughbred, the progeny will probably be too small, except for a lightweight saddle horse. If crossed with a sire of her own breed, it is probable the foal will be too small for valuable service, and not fast enough to make him valuable. If crossed with a heavy harness horse, as a Hackney or Coach horse, the same trouble as regards size, with lack of quality (unless the mare has very good quality), will probably be noticed. And, of course, it would be unwise to cross her with a draft horse. What, then, can be done? If the mare be too small and too slow to be of any value for work or driving purposes, my advice is not to breed her. If she have size, but lack speed and quality, breed her to a good big Thoroughbred, with the idea of producing a saddle horse, or, at all events, an all-round or combination horse. If she have both size and quality, but lack speed, breed her to a Hackney, and expect to produce a heavy harness horse, but if she have neither size nor speed, even though she has quality, do not breed her at all, but, if we must breed her, select a Hackney, with the hopes of producing a high-acting cob, or a blocky Thoroughbred, with the prospects of producing a polo pony, but, in my experience, either of these lines of breeding is very liable to be disappointing. "WHIP."

STOCK.

Docking the Lambs.

Serious complaint is made by drovers, dealers and butchers, owing to the neglect of farmers to dock the tails of their lambs and castrate the males while young. This is inexcusable indifference, and is unbusiness like, causing loss and worry to the breeder, the dealer and all concerned. The cleanliness, comfort and general appearance of the lambs as they grow up are greatly improved by docking. Ram lambs that are not pure-bred or suitable to sell for breeding purposes should be made wethers by the time they are two weeks old, as they become restless, discontented and a nuisance in the fall if allowed to run with the general flock. And their selling value is then heavily discounted, as buyers will not pay as much by nearly a dollar a head for them in the fall or winter. A Toronto dealer has said, "hundreds of thousands of dollars annually are lost to the farmers of Ontario by their neglect to dock and castrate their lambs and dehorn their cattle." By attending to these operations when the animals are quite young, there is no cruelty or pain of any account involved, and there is great gain in the thrift of the stock.

Lambs should be docked and castrated at ten days to two weeks old. The operation of castration is simple in the case of lambs, the lamb being set upon its rump and held by an attendant, the end of the scrotum simply being cut off and the testicles drawn out separately, casings and all, the fingers of the left hand being pressed upon the abdomen to keep it steady. Or, it may be done by making a slit on each side of the scrotum, cutting well down to the bottom to allow drainage of any pus that may arise. Ranchmen claim that the operation can be safely performed when lambs are a week old by clipping off the whole scrotum and its contents with a pair of shears.

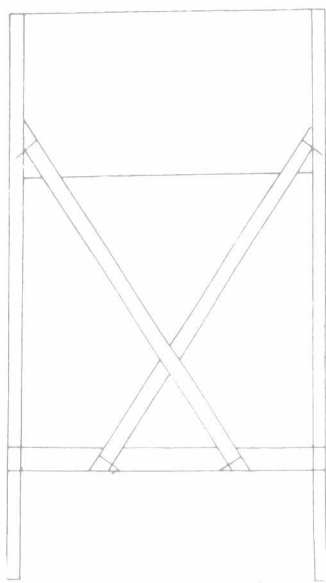
When docking is done within two weeks of birth, very little loss of blood results, and very little danger from any cause. The best way is to let the lamb stand, and, with a sharp knife, cut upwards from the lower side of the tail against the thumb, just as you would cut a carrot. By this method the shock to the spine, caused by holding the lamb on its back and cutting downwards, is avoided. The tails of ewe lambs should be cut short, say at the second or third joint; rams a joint further down. If in any case bleeding continues, it may readily be stopped by tying a piece of soft cord around the stump; this should be cut away in a few hours. The proper and sensible method of dehorning is to touch the little nubbins of the horns of the calf with a stick of potash two or three times when it is a few days old, first wetting the incipient horn slightly, and being careful that the caustic does not run down on the hair or flesh.

First-class Then, and Better Now.

Enclosed please find \$1.50, for which kindly send me the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" for one year. I took the "Farmer's Advocate" over twenty-five years ago. It was a first-class paper then, but I find it has vastly improved in the interval. R. ROBINSON
Vancouver, B. C.

Another Sheep Rack.

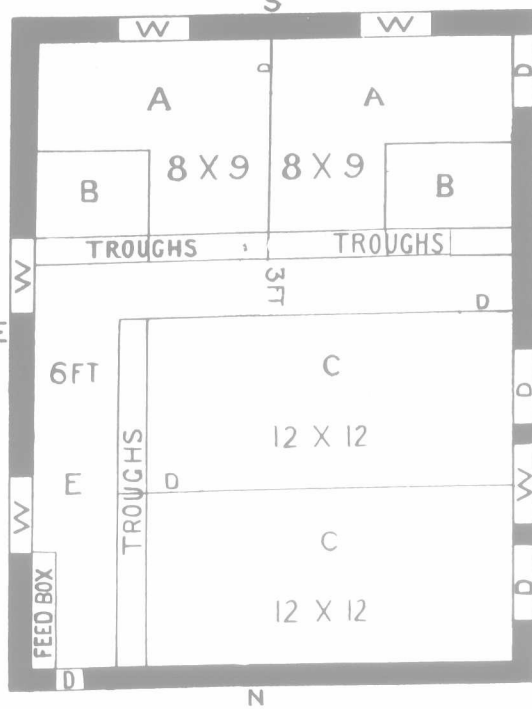
I enclose you plan of sheep-feeding rack I have used with satisfaction for years. The four corner posts are 2 x 3 inch pieces, 3 feet high, with 1 x 3 inch cross strips, to hold up the bottom, which is of the width desired, made of one-inch boards. A 1 x 4 inch board is nailed around bottom to keep grain and roots in. One-inch boards of de-



End View Sheep Rack.

sired width are placed at the proper height along sides to keep the sheep clean. The slats for the rack proper are 1 x 3 inch strips crossed, V-shaped, shown in end view of sketch, into which the fodder is placed. Iron rods and cross-pieces are used for supports. The ends are close boarded. R. WATSON.

A Hogpen.



A, sow pens; B, pens for litter to feed in; C, pens for fattening hogs; W, windows; D, doors; E, alley. Make partition (B pen) one foot from ground to keep sow from trough, which should be 4 in. high; the other troughs 6 in. Walls should be 8 ft. high. Mine is with a concrete floor, and I kill in the 6 ft. alley. L. V. POTTS.

Re Dehorning.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of February 23rd, page 260, I notice an article entitled, "In favor of dehorning." Now, I think dehorning would be all right if all cattle intended for meat were dehorned when calves; but put a lot of cattle in a car or yard loose—some dehorned, others not—and the dehorned cattle would be at the mercy of the others. It is also stated that dehorned cattle are worth more for the export trade, but buyers in this district make no difference. Why should not the Government enact a law, requiring that all cattle intended for meat be dehorned, while calves if possible, but at any rate before shipping. I think this could be done in justice to the farmer, the shipper, and, lastly, but not least, to the cattle; but until this is done very few will dehorn their cattle, as nearly every man will do what he thinks best for his own beast, provided he is not losing by so doing. F. H. W.
Ontario Co., Ont.

Salt as a Preventive of Blackleg.

A long experience on the same holding has led me to form a very strong opinion that we cannot have a better preventive against attacks of blackleg than the constant provision of salt within reach of all cattle and sheep at all times. No case, either of blackleg or anything, has occurred for something like thirty years on this farm since rock salt has been constantly provided both indoors and in the open pasture. Many losses amongst young cattle from blackleg take place on neighboring farms, but I consider that all my cattle are kept immune from attacks by the liberal way in which they consume salt by licking. The rock salt in lumps of, say, five pounds, is kept in every trough for feeding cattle, in every rack in the stable, and in every field in which live stock is kept. The constant necessity of renewing the supply is the best evidence that there is a natural and healthy appetite for salt. Consequently, owners of live stock who are careful of their health ought to look upon salt as an item of their daily menu.

It may be—and probabilities point to a confirmation of this view—that a daily supply of salt taken at the will of our farm stock is a safeguard against attacks of anthrax. The bacillus of anthrax is not identical with the bacillus of blackleg, but there is an unmistakable affinity between the two diseases, which are roughly called blood diseases. I am aware that many authorities in veterinary science advise inoculation, setoning, or doses of medicine calculated to purify the blood. For myself, I have no hesitation in strongly recommending rock salt as a preventive against blackleg, and all the more so because such a preventive is cheap and simple, and absolutely free from the risks inseparable from inoculation or from drenching with physic.—[T. A. S., in the Live-stock Journal.]

Warbles in Cattle.

"Possibly there are few subjects on which there is more misapprehension amongst farmers generally than warbles," writes a contributor to the London Live-stock Journal. "I have on more than one occasion heard witnesses in police-court cases argue that warbles in animals are like boils in the human system—that they were 'healthy'! Boils in human beings proceed from impurity of the blood and a low state of vitality, and boils are the result of the system making an effort to purge and purify itself; but from the days of Job to the present I never heard of a man afflicted with boils say they were healthy. One is the result of a faulty condition of the inward system, the other proceeds from the outward attack of an insect; hence what possible relation can there be between them? The warble fly or beetle is to cattle and horses what the tick is to sheep. In the hot day of summer animals may be seen racing wildly in the fields, with uplifted tails, from no apparent cause. They are trying to outstrip the warble fly, but wings prove too fleet for legs, and the insects manage to deposit their eggs in the backs of cattle. These eggs penetrate the hides and develop into maggots, the hatching process extending over the autumn and winter, the maggots drawing their sustenance from the animal, creating a nasty sore, and increasing in size to about half or three-quarters of an inch in length and the thickness of a little finger during the spring and summer months. If left unmolested until they reach maturity, they roll themselves from their beds in the hides in the hot weather onto the grass, come into the fly stage, and repeat the process of egg-depositing. I have counted as many as a dozen warbles in the back of one cow, and it may be imagined that animals so affected cannot thrive under such conditions, and they are continuously engaged in the act of licking or trying to lick the sores, producing in fattening animals 'licked beef'."

"Again, it has been shown that in the United Kingdom there is a yearly loss of from two to three million pounds sterling to farmers from the depreciated values of warbled hides, to say nothing of the losses from 'licked' beef. I have heard it argued that these are butchers', not farmers' losses. Can we imagine a butcher with so little 'white in his eye' as not to make allowance for these warbled hides when he is buying fat cattle? I have never met so verdant a specimen of the trade. No; the two to three millions come out of the pockets of the farmers, and another round sum might be added to that for loss in thriving and extra food when cattle are suffering from warbles."

"These losses are preventable, and only need co-operation on the part of farmers to exterminate the warble fly. In the hot weather, when the cattle are at grass, the following acts as a preventive: Flour of sulphur, 4 oz.; spirits of tar, one gill; train (whale) oil, 1 quart. Mix these well together, and apply along the spine of the cow once a week with a small brush. The small drives off the flies and prevents them depositing their eggs. The cattle are left to graze at peace, and warbles are prevented. It thus stands to reason that if there are no deposits of eggs the warble fly would die out, and no longer trouble