

STOCK.

Care of the Sow and Her Litter.

The pregnant sow should be fairly well fed, but not sufficiently to make her fat. Her food should be varied, not all of any one kind, not too sloppy or cold. To make her take exercise, which is very necessary, a good plan is to scatter grain on the ground or on a floor, so that she may eat it slowly and masticate it well. A whole mangel or sugar beet thrown to her will help to keep her busy and healthy.

A week or ten days before she is due to farrow she should be given a pen to herself, in order that she may get used to the place, and such food supplied as will have a tendency to relax her bowels. In the meantime, the attendant should get on good terms with her by scratching, brushing and handling her, so that in case of special attention being needed at farrowing, she will not be frightened or excited by the attendant's presence. Her quarters at this time should be dry and warm, and her bedding of short straw, and not too plentiful. When the pigs are born, if the weather is cold, the attendant should be present to see that the youngsters get to the source of nourishment, and if they are weak it is well to rub them with a flannel cloth, and put them up to the milk vessel. If the sow is restless and excitable, it is sometimes well to place the pigs in a basket covered with a blanket until all are born and the sow has become quiet, when the family may be placed with her. It is better not to disturb the sow by feeding her for ten or twelve hours after parturition, and then only a warm drink should be given. Her feed for the first two or three days should be bran and kitchen swill, and richer food should be given gradually till she is on full feed, when she should be liberally fed, as a litter makes heavy demands on the sow. When the pigs are a week old they should be hustled around the pen for exercise, and as soon as the weather is warm enough they and the sow should be encouraged to run out on the sunny side of the building for exercise for a short time. There is danger, if they are closely confined and the sow fed liberally, that the pigs will become too fat and contract thumps, a disorder due to a surplus of fat around the heart, and which is apt to prove fatal. The object should be to make the pigs grow, rather than get fat, as a pig started as a "fat" is likely to end in that class, instead of in the lengthy, lean-fleshed class required by the market.

Care of the Ewes.

The lambing season is approaching, and unless the ewes have been receiving pretty liberal rations and are strong and in good condition, they should have, for about a month before lambing, a little extra, in the form of a feed of oats and bran and roots, daily, to tone them up and induce the flow of milk that will be needed when the youngsters are born. The demands made upon the system by the growing fetus, the ordeal of parturition, and the secretion of milk are such that if the ewe has been allowed to become thin and weak, her health may give way under the combined strain, and mother and offspring may both be lost. A very small amount of grain soon makes a great improvement in the condition of sheep; one quart daily of oats or a mixture of oats and bran will prove a tower of strength to the in-lamb ewe in the course of a few weeks, and she will pay well for it in increased weight of fleece and lamb, and be less likely to give trouble to her owner in nursing her after the birth of her lamb. If it is known that part of the ewe flock will lamb later than others, it is well, if the circumstances admit, to divide the lot so that those due to lamb earliest may be fed more liberally, otherwise the late-lambing members of the flock may become undesirably fleshy, and their offspring be born weakly, as is not infrequently the case with fat ewes that have not had sufficient exercise. Where lambs are expected before the warm spring weather comes, the pen should be made comfortable by closing any cracks or openings in the walls to prevent cold drafts, and the doors should be closed at night. It is well to have a few low short hurdles ready to be used, if necessary, to improvise a pen in which to enclose a ewe, for a day or two, that has a weak lamb or twins that are liable to get separated from her and possibly disowned. The careful shepherd, during the lambing season, will not retire for the night without first looking through the flock for signs of an increase, and if he has reason to expect such an event, will not mind losing a few hours' sleep, in order to be on hand when a lamb is born to see that it receives nourishment and a fair start in life. Usually ewes require no assistance in parturition, but in cases where labor is unduly prolonged an examination should be made to ascertain if the presentation be normal, and if so longer time should be given for nature to work out her own deliverance, while if the presentation be not correct it should be made so, and then more time given nature to do its work. In the

case of the presentation being the reverse of normal, namely, hind feet first, assistance should be prompt, the lamb being brought away in that position. In cases where there has been much difficulty in parturition, a weak solution of carbolic acid, say one part to forty of water, poured into the vagina from a bottle, will tend to prevent inflammation and after trouble.

Herdwick Sheep.

The principal habitat of the Herdwick breed of sheep is the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. The Herdwicks possess properties which adapt them for a mountain life, and their management partakes of the general simplicity of sheep farming in mountainous districts. They are very independent and able, in a great measure, to take care of themselves. Their essential points are a heavy fleece of fairly strong wool, disposed



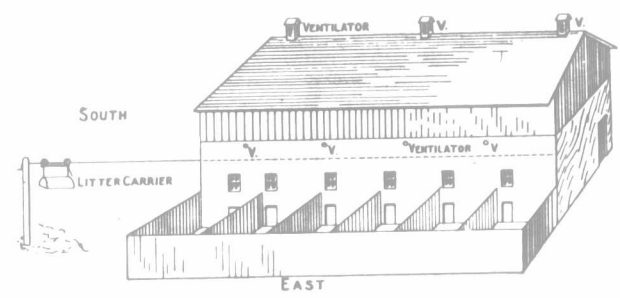
Herdwick Ram.

to be hairy on top of the shoulder, growing well down to the knees and hocks. In the color or markings of the face and legs there should be no spots or speckles, nor any token of brown. When the lambs are born their legs and heads should be perfectly black, with the exception of a little white on the tips of the ears, and, perhaps, a few white hairs around the feet. These white hairs gradually increase so that at six months old one-half the ear will be hoar-frosted, and there will be distinct bands of the same round the feet and muzzle. This change of color goes on until some at the age of three years are perfectly white, while others remain a steel gray. Horns in the rams are desirable, and white hoofs are much preferred. There is still a class for this breed in the prize list of the Royal Agricultural Society, and at their show in London last year there were half a dozen pens exhibited by two exhibitors.

Plan of Pigpen.

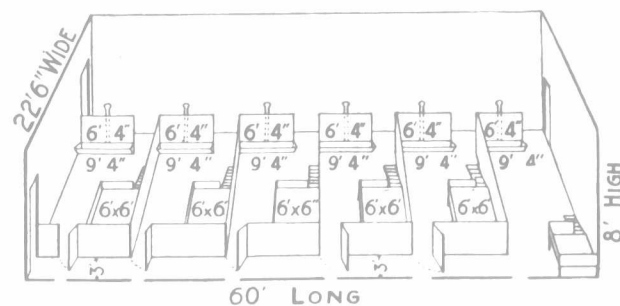
To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I herewith send you a plan of a pigpen which I built on my farm last summer. It might be of some little advantage to intending builders of pigpens, as it cost me considerable time studying it out. Figure 1



View of Piggery.

On farm of Mr. Dennis O'Connell.



Inside plan of Mr. Dennis O'Connell's Piggery.

shows building from outside looking from north-east corner; figure 2 shows inside of building. The walls are of stone, 8 ft. from floor to floor, and 4 ft. frame on top of that, making a loft to hold straw for bedding. The floor is cement, with fall of 2 inches from troughs to manure passage and drain. Manure and

feed passages are 3 ft. wide each, leaving the pens entirely away from the stone walls, and the beds or sleeping places are elevated so that the pigs can walk around underneath them, and floors open so that any wet that pigs may make in same will leak away, thereby keeping them clean and dry. The troughs are of cement, with iron plate on top, fastened by means of bolts placed in cement, heads down. This plate is to protect troughs and save feed. It projects inside the trough about 1/2 of an inch, so that if a pig puts his feet in the trough when feeding he cannot pull out the feed, as this iron scrapes it all off. In front of the troughs there is a swinging door for convenience in feeding, on the inner side of which there are pieces of iron (old boiler plate) fastened with bolts to divide the troughs so as to give each pig 12 inches of feeding space to himself, and hinder him from getting lengthwise in trough and keeping the rest away. Then the trap-doors going out into the yards are swung on pivots, by means of a piece of iron bolted onto it about 1 1/2 inches from top, and rounded at each end, and projecting one inch, which works in a hole in side of frame, letting the door hang in center. When the pig puts his nose against it from inside it pushes out, letting him pass out under, and drops back in its place shut; then when he wants to come in it works just the same, so it is always shut, and still always open for the pigs to pass through. Then I have a manure carrier run on a tight steel coppered wire, firmly fastened to joists at rear end of passage, and drawn up tight by means of a threaded eye bolt (with handle nut) through post out in yard. Manure box, as shown in cut, is dumped to let manure out. It revolves quite easily, is held in place by hook hanging at end, and is easily dumped by tripping. Any further information desired will be gladly furnished. DENNIS O'CONNELL.

Ontario Co., Ont.

FARM.

Grand Prize Seed Corn.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Replying to yours of a recent date, will say that the corn with which I won the grand prize at the Interstate Corn Contest at Ames, Iowa, was Reid's Yellow Dent. It is classed here as a medium early variety, and is almost invariably of good quality. I usually select part of my seed corn as soon as the grains are fairly well dented, and the remainder at husking time. It is hung up in a dry, cool place where the air can circulate freely, and becomes well dried before freezing weather. During the winter it is kept in a bin in my seedhouse. I usually select more than I need, then re-select before planting time, shelling each ear by hand. Our soil is a black loam and very fertile, being especially adapted to the growing of corn. My method of soil preparation is not materially different from that of many farmers about me. I aim to get my ground in good condition before planting. Sometimes this means only to plow and harrow; at other times it necessitates going over the ground five or six times with disk, harrow, drag, etc. I sometimes drill my corn on new ground, dropping one grain every twelve or fourteen inches, but on the older ground always check, planting two grains to the hill, three feet six inches apart, in rows three feet four inches wide. W. E. JOHNSTON.

Menard Co., Illinois.

How a Round Cement Silo Was Built.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Having noticed in your issue of Feb. 16th, page 248, enquiries as to the building of a round cement silo, and having built one last summer, I will give your enquirer my experience. I bought my cement from the St. Lawrence Portland Cement Co. of Deseronto, Ont. That Co. having rings or moulds for the express purpose of building silos, I rented them—cost, \$25, with an expert workman, \$2.50 per day. Their moulds leave the silo with a diameter of 12 ft. 2 in. inside, and 32 ft. high. It is not necessary to build it so high, but I would advise G. W. T. to build it as high as possible. The rings leave a wall 8 in. in thickness from the bottom to the top, and to give it more strength I put in three strands of common black wire every two feet all the way up. The mixture I used was eight parts broken stone, four of good sharp river sand, to one of cement—that is, 12 to 1. I used thirty-five barrels of cement. If gravel is used entirely, field stones, 4 to 5 inches in diameter, could be used in center of wall, always being careful to leave space enough for the mixture to get all around the stones. No necessity to plaster if gravel is used, as the moulds will come off leaving a perfectly smooth surface if well rammed. The total cost of silo was \$205. I would advise G. W. T. to write for information to cement manufacturers advertising in the "Farmer's Advocate." W. H. WALKER, Huntingdon Co., Que.