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Ills of Hedge Fences.

A valued American contemporary has the following to say regarding the disadvantages of hedge fences, the results of observations gleaned from the costly experience of the southern farmer, who underwent the skinning process at the hands of hedge-fence companies years ago. The "Advocate" was the first Western agricultural paper to warn the farmer against buying a hedge fence at a price far above its value, paying therefor by a lien note, which was practically a mortgage on the man's farm.

Ten or fifteen years ago there was a general craze that went over the country for the hedge fence, and a good many farmers in many localities were taken with the idea, and put out shoots that were to eventually develop into the great panacea of the fence question.

The first great difficulty with the hedge fence is the fact that it is expensive to plant and grow, requiring a secondary fence to protect it and also to turn stock.

Another trouble is the length of time that the owner must delay before he can hope to secure any returns from the hedge. The fence must grow and gradually develop into its form, and this requires time.

A third trouble comes when it is considered that the hedge does not make itself, but must be guided and shaped by the hand of a skilled pruner. This means regular attention every year, or the hedgerow will become a greater nuisance than it is worth.

A similar trouble is that the attention required never ceases, but must be given regularly in the shape of replacing and trimming just as long as the fence exists. Branches are continually growing that must be cut back to keep the row within bounds. Shoots are sure to die out, that must be replaced or there will be openings through which stock will readily pass.

As a matter of fact, we have seen very few, if any, fences of this sort but what had holes somewhere all the time that needed patching, so that frequently barbed wires were stretched either through the hedge for the shoots to form themselves about, or else wires were stretched by the side of the hedgerow. In either case the conditions were the same, and the owner was practically at the expense of two fences instead of one.

We have seen a good many so-called hedge fences, but very few that were really so in fact, and we venture that these had actually cost more in time and money than the ordinary farmer can afford to put into them.

Ordinarily the hedge is set out and given some attention for the first year or two, and then it gradually falls back into an uncared-for, neglected hedgerow that is unsightly, spoils a rod or two of good land, and continues to get worse every year that it is allowed to stand.

We venture that a hedge fence requires more space than almost any other kind, even with good care, and if neglected will demand more room than any two or three fences ought to occupy.

When the farmer tires of one of these fences he awakens to the fact that he has one of the greatest jobs on his hands when it comes to removing it that he ever tackled. The entire growth must be literally grubbed out, root and branch.

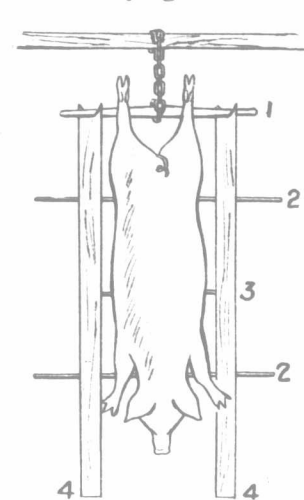
We are of the impression that the hedge fence has had its day, and almost invariably so with the man who has had a little experience with it. As far as we are able to judge, we find very few hedge fences being put out at present, and save in possible cases where one desires a dense hedgerow to serve as both wind-break and fence, we believe there will continue to be fewer as the years pass.

Feeding Value of Rape for Swine.

In the annual report of the experiment station of Wisconsin for 1897, Professor Craig reported the results of two feeding trials with pigs, the object of the experiment being to determine the feeding value of rape for swine. The first trial was begun with twenty pigs about eight months old. They were divided into two lots of ten each. Lot 1 was to have rape in connection with grain feed composed of two parts corn and one part shorts, and lot 2 was to receive grain only. The plan was to keep both lots of equal weight, as it was thought that this was the best way of arriving at the feeding value of the rape plant. The experiment was completed in seventy-six days, and the results as given are interesting from a practical feeder's standpoint. Lot 1 ate the rape from almost one-third of an acre, and required 710 pounds less of corn and 352 pounds less of shorts than lot 2, which received no rape at all. The gains made in the two lots were about equal in both cases. The area of rape eaten was therefore equivalent to 1,062 pounds of grain, or one acre of rape pastured under these conditions would result in a saving of 3,318 pounds of grain. In another feeding trial reported the same year, but which was conducted in 1896, there were thirty-eight pigs used. This trial was not so favorable for the rape, but a little over one-half acre of rape pastured resulted in a saving of 886 pounds of corn and 444 pounds of shorts, making a total

Carrying and Hanging Hog Carcasses.

The accompanying engraving represents a plan for carrying and hanging up hogs: No. 1,



gambrel; No. 2, two round hardwood sticks about one inch through and 3 feet long; No. 3, cross stick in center; No. 4, two pieces 3x3 inches and 6½ feet long, with a notch on the ends to allow the gambrel to rest on. The two sticks, No. 4, to be fastened together with the cross sticks, about 20 inches apart. How to use: Place creel down flat beside hog, turn the hog over on its body and stretch the gambrel back in the notches, and then two men take hold of the handles on each side and carry it to the place for hanging up; then place the creel with the foot on the ground or floor, and one person can steady it while the other person fastens the chain on the gambrel; then draw out the foot of the creel, and your hog is left hanging, as the gambrel slips out of the notches.

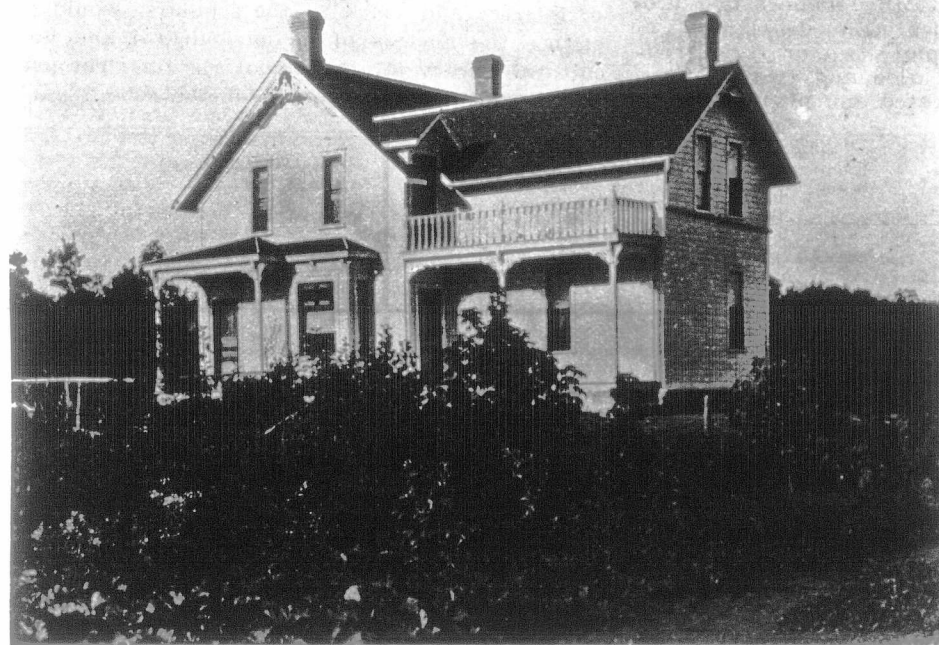
This device will save a great deal of hard work in carrying and hanging up hogs, as you can take the chain. Hoping this will prove of some use to farmers.
WM. CARRUTHERS,
York Co., Ont.

A Comfortable Farmhouse.

I enclose the ground and upstairs floor plans of my house. One of my boys drew the plans. The cellar wall is built of cement, lime, gravel and broken stone, one part of cement being used to four parts of lime. The wall is faced with a thin coat of cement and sand. The cellar floor is four inches thick, cement and gravel. The wall is built wide enough to allow for brick veneering the house when necessary. The house has three ply of lumber outside, one ply sheathing, one of shiplap and siding with two-ply paper. The first two ply are nailed to the window jambs, the latter being made of two-inch stuff, checked out for the sheathing and for the plaster, which makes an air-tight job. The house is heated with a wood furnace made by the Brandon Machine Works, which takes in cord-wood, stick lengths.

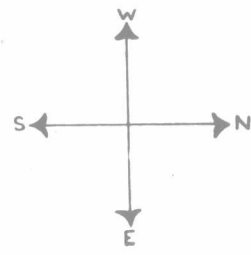
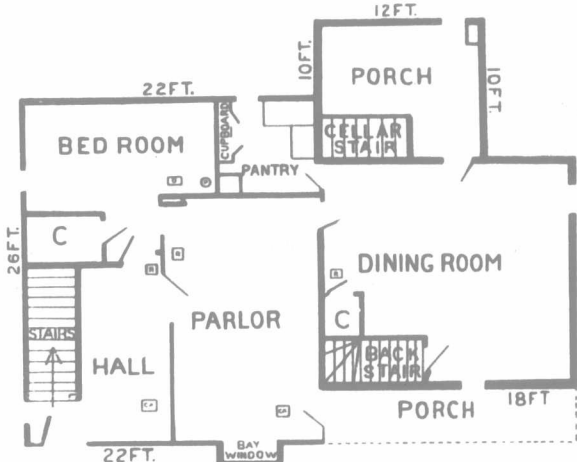
Brandon Hills, Man.

W. H. DUNBAR.



THE COMFORTABLE FARM HOME OF W. H. DUNBAR, BRANDON HILLS, MAN.

saving of 1,330 pounds of grain. An acre of rape in this case therefore was equal to 2,217 pounds of grain. Still another feeding trial was made and reported by Professor Carlyle at the same station during the following year. The object of this trial was to test the comparative value of rape vs. clover pasture for young growing pigs. Forty pigs were selected for this experiment and were divided into two lots as nearly equal in every way as possible. The pigs were between five and six months old at the beginning of the experiment. The grain feed given was the same in character and amount to both lots, and consisted of two-thirds corn meal and one-third shorts. The pigs on lot 1 were pastured on a small area of rape by means of a movable fence, a fresh portion being given them as they required it. The pigs in lot 2 had the run of a ten-acre field of second-growth clover, one-half of the field having been mowed in August. The pigs were given the same care and management in all particulars. The results of this trial indicated that rape was to be preferred to clover as a pasture for growing pigs, since the average increased gain of the nineteen pigs on rape over the nineteen pigs on clover was five and one-third pounds for each pig in a period of nine weeks, or a trifle over one-half pound per pig per week. In the summary of the results of this experiment it is noted that it required 439 pounds of grain to produce 100 pounds of live-weight gain in the lot of pigs on the clover pasture, while it required but 391 pounds to produce 100 pounds of gain in the lot of pigs fed rape, making a difference of forty-eight pounds of feed saved for every 100 pounds of gain in favor of the lot fed rape.



GROUND-FLOOR PLAN OF
W. H. DUNBAR'S HOUSE.