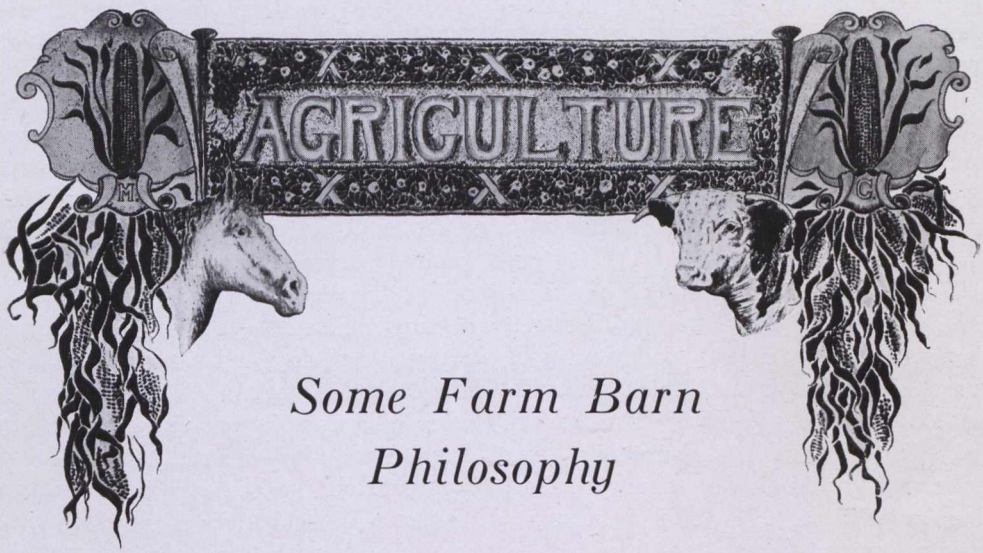

Some Farm Barn Philosophy

ECONOMY and efficiency are the two paramount factors to be considered in barn planning The farmer may secure efficiency but usually it will be at the expense of economy. Rarely does he secure the two combined. It has been found that elaborate and costly barns are not necessary for permanence, sanitation, convenience or the comfort of the cows. In fact some of the most expensive barns are the most impractical and inconvenient.

The Cost.

The cost of any farm barn should be in keeping with the income-producing capacity of the farm, and within the bounds sanctioned by conservative business management. A good and wise farmer will seldom invest more than $40.00 or $50.00 per cow in a barn, *e,g.*, suppose the farmer has 20 cows, then $1,000.00 would be all that he could afford to invest in a barn. The farmer must charge at least 10% on the money invested to cover interest on investment, depreciation, insurance, taxes, etc. That is $100.00 a year or $5.00 per cow per year. This $5.00 deducted from the profits of each cow often leaves the owner with a very small surplus. The foregoing example will show how necessary it is to keep down the total outlay, and how desirable it is to figure on a per cow basis.

Storage Capacity.

Storage capacity, like the cost of the barn, should be figured on a per cow basis. Thus for example suppose the farmer has 20 cows, and is feeding two tons of hay per cow per year. Roughly one ton of hay occupies 500 cubic feet of space. Therefore 20,000 cubic feet of space will be required for his hay. To this he will have to add space for grain, etc. Now, in parenthesis, it might be wise for the farmer to consider just what crops he should grow to supply the roughage fed. Mr. Archibald of the Central Experimental Farm says, "Three tons of corn silage is equal in feeding value to one ton of the best clover hay." It is a well known fact that corn outyields hay in the proportion of 9 or 10 tons of silage to one ton of hay. Again, a ton of silage requires about 50 cubic feet of storage space, whereas, a ton of hay requires about 500 cubic feet. The difference in yield per acre from a feed value