

Plans for Farm Buildings

INTRODUCTION

At the present time, when the tendency of agriculture in this Province is more and more toward mixed, instead of grain farming, there is naturally a good deal of interest in the subject of farm buildings. Stock must be well housed if the best results are to be secured from them. A building is built but once, and mistakes are costly, since they are difficult, if not impossible, to remedy after the building is once put up.

The College receives a large number of enquiries for plans of the various farm buildings. These requests come largely in the winter when, on account of our work with the students, it is the most difficult to find time for getting out the desired information. It was therefore thought advisable to publish a brief bulletin on farm buildings to at least in part meet this demand for information along building construction lines.

WHY SO MANY MISTAKES ARE MADE IN PLANNING FARM BUILDINGS

Someone has aptly said that one must build at least two houses before he can plan one that is in every respect satisfactory to himself. The same might have been said concerning barn planning. It is the common experience of many men to build a barn only to find, after the building has been in use for a time, that serious mistakes have been made which cannot be remedied without the expenditure of a large amount of time and money. There are two main reasons why these mistakes are made. In the first place, the prospective builder often does the planning in the reverse from the proper order. He decides to build a barn about 40 x 60, or whatever the dimensions may be, and afterwards tries to divide this space according to the stock that he wishes to put in the barn. The enquiries coming in to the Agricultural College, papers, and builders of barn equipment, are most often worded along the above mentioned lines. In a large percent. of these letters no definite statement is made as to just what is to be put in the building. The only satisfactory way to go at the proposition is to first decide just what shall go in the barn—how many stalls for cattle, how many for horses, how many box stalls, etc.—then look up and decide on the proper dimensions for these items; and finally proceed to see how a plan can be best arranged to meet one's individual and local needs.

In the second place, there is a strong tendency for farmers to closely follow the practice of barn building in their own locality. This is partly due to the owner, and partly to the carpenter who puts up the building, with whom there is a tendency to get into a rut along building lines. By studying plans of buildings erected in different localities one is certain to get more suggestions, and will therefore benefit by the broader experience of many builders of barns.