

failure will depend upon what he gets out of each acre of land and how he conserves the productive power of his land. It will pay much better to work fifty acres of land well and have it yield a good crop than to work one hundred acres poorly and obtain only half a crop.

Squab Farming

At one or two points in the United States squab raising is carried on with a good deal of profit. Squabs are young doves or pigeons, and are esteemed great delicacies in epicurean and midnight luncheon circles. Four weeks after the young birds are hatched they become marketable as squabs. The birds are in full feather, but not yet able to fly. They are killed by inserting a sharp knife point into a vein in the throat. When the flesh is still warm the feathers are plucked out, the crop is washed out, and the denuded body placed in cold water till ready for shipment. Squabs, dressed, ready for market, weigh about one-half pound each, and the great market for them is New York. They command from \$1.50 to \$3.50 per dozen, and there is money in the business at these figures.

The best kind of doves for squab purposes is the homing pigeon. This is not due to any particular delicacy of the flesh, but to the fact that homers are the best breeders, are diligent in properly caring for the eggs during the incubating period, and keep their young well fed. They bring out six to ten broods a year, each of two doves, and often eggs are in the nest for hatching before the preceding brood has developed to the squab age. The doves usually rest two months in the year, but as there is no recognized season for resting the market can be supplied the year round.

Sunlight in the Stable

Many Ontario dairymen have heard John Gould, of Ohio, at the dairymen's conventions discuss the care and treatment of the dairy cow, and know how competent he is to deal with the question. The following article from his pen, published in a recent number of *The Country Gentleman*, on the above subject, will therefore be read with profit by every farmer and dairyman:

"As it is a custom of mine to pay some attention to the window lighting of the many stables that I see in the course of the year, wherein dairy cows pass most of the winter months, I am struck times without number with the little regard which is paid to the proper lighting of a stable, and the little attention these men seem to pay to the value of sunlight in their stables. The usual rule is to put in a few small windows along the northern walls—few of any kind or size. In a large new barn which I recently visited, the semi basement stable, in which more than forty cows were tied, had no light admitted from north, east, or west sides save when the doors were open, and only four small windows on the south side. There seems to be a prejudice against admitting light full and free into a stable, a belief that comfort in a stable consists of making it dark and without ventilation, and then the owners wonder about a great many things that happen while their cows are in the winter stables.

A stable should be as light as the sun can make it, and the windows so large that the sunlight can fall on the cows and floors, and, if one is afraid that there will be too much falling of temperature during the cold nights by refraction, put outside storm windows on, the air space enclosed by which is a sufficient protection. One of the finest dairy herds I ever saw was actually basking in sunlight. There were large windows with outside storm sashes, the temperature was kept very even, and ventilation was secured by flues and dampers—not by either cracks in the walls or open windows.

The testimony everywhere is that the men who have these well lighted stables are warm in their praise. In my barn I would no more think of going back to the dark little

windows than of readopting the 1850 plan of letting my cows sleep in the wood lot in winter. The verdict everywhere is that the cows are better cared for, do better, and are in better health and strength for the abundant light. A cow with the sunlight falling on her in the stable is having all the advantages of a sun bath, and thus escapes dry weather. In the well-lighted, sunny stable there is a dryness to the air and freedom from staleness or disagreeable smells, which repay one over and over for the little outlay.

I emphatically believe that the cow stable should never be a sub-basement affair or be walled in on the north side with a windowless stone wall. Stables should run north and south and be so arranged that the morning sun comes in on that side, the noon shines in the south end window, and in the afternoon the west windows should get their share. My dairy barn is built this way, and I regard it as a capital plan, though the windows are not extremely large. With sunlight and absorbents I have not the least difficulty in keeping a warm, dry stable, and I know there are very few bad bacteria lurking about. It is not warmth and light that kills cows in their stable life. These are the conditions of June life, ideal days for the cow.

Make the stable warm, comfortable and provided with plenty of air—without drafts—and a clean floor, absorbents to prevent slops, and road dust and land plaster as disinfectants, and deodorizers, and with sunlight falling into the stable and upon the cows, why should not health prevail and summer conditions of production? The dairy gospel of this and that is preached, but an emphatic recognition of the value of sunlight in the stable has never been insisted upon as it should be. Good dairying requires sunlight. It requires a large measure of it poured into a man's brain, so that he can see the kind of cows he has, their feed, and care, and compare these with what good dairying should be, and may be, if lighted up with dairy intelligence and studious care."

How to Make Cement Floors

By Waldo F. Brown, Ohio

I speak from an experience of several years in the use of this material (cement), as all of my stables are floored with it, also a feed room, barn cellar, a hog and poultry house, and I have also 500 square feet of outside walk. I have failed to find a single objection to it. Some have suggested that it was too hard for horses' feet, others that it was too cold for animals to lie on; but, in answer to both of these objections, I would say that we keep the stables bedded so thoroughly that the horses' feet rarely touch the floor, and it makes it sufficiently warm. It is the cheapest floor, durability considered, that can be made, costing in a hog or poultry house less than a common plank floor; but in a horse stable, where a topping of one inch is needed, about the same. I have rarely had a plank floor in a stable that would last five years without repairs, but a floor laid of good cement will last for generations. I would never lay a floor of the cheap grades of cement, as if laid with such material it usually breaks and does not give satisfaction, and, while such cement can be bought for about \$1.25 a barrel, it costs about as much to make a given amount of floor from it as with Portland cement, costing about \$3.00 per barrel, for with the latter eight barrels of gravel, or five of gravel and five of broken stone, can be used with each barrel to make the concrete foundation, and two barrels of sand to each barrel of cement for the topping or finishing coat, while with the cheap grades of cement only three parts of gravel to one of cement should be used in the foundation, and equal parts of sand and cement for the finishing coat, so that an equal amount of money invested in the two kinds will produce about the same amount of finished floor, and, while the work from the cheap grade of cement would be injured by the extreme cold, the Portland cement will endure any degree of temperature, in proof of which I will state that scores of miles have been laid with it in St. Paul and Minneapolis, where the mercury often