

Grades and Pure Breeds at Local Shows

The letter from "Fairplay," which appears elsewhere in this issue, drawing attention to the practice at many local fairs of combining the grade and pure-bred classes in the same section in the prize-list is well worth considering by managers of such shows. There is nothing much to be gained by a breeder of pure-bred hogs competing in the prize-ring with grades of all classes, especially where the judge is not likely to be the best that could be secured. In the pure-bred classes at our large fairs all animals are judged as to their conformity to the breed type, though since the evolution of the bacon hog a change is noticeable in this particular, and breeders in all classes are endeavoring to have their pure-bred hogs conform to the bacon type as much as possible. If pure-breeds and grades at the local shows were competing for a prize given for the best type of hog for bacon purposes, there should be no great injustice either one way or the other, but otherwise it would be better to have separate classes for each breed.

But the difficulty with most local shows is that there are usually not sufficient funds to provide separate prizes and classes for the various pure-breeds and grades and consequently they have to be combined, thus causing the difficulty referred to. This could be overcome to a very great extent by combining the local shows as suggested in last week's FARMING. This would give the fair management a larger amount of funds which it could divide in such a way as to give prizes for each of the different pure breeds of live stock that would make it worth while for breeders to compete for. Indeed "Fairplay's" letter, though evidently not intended for that purpose, furnishes a very strong reason for combining the small local fairs into larger and better ones. We do not think it would be the right thing to do away with grade classes at the local fairs, any more than we think pure breeds and grades should be placed in one class. But as we have already pointed out, we fail to see where sufficient funds are to come from to make prizes for each class unless our local fairs combine in the way we have indicated.

The Caring for Farm Machinery

If you have not already done so, take a little time at once and put all the farm machinery away for the winter. For this purpose a special building adapted for storing such machinery is best. If you have no such building make an effort to store the machinery in the barn, shed or under a roof of some kind. A building in which to store farm machinery can be built very easily and cheaply. Only last summer we visited a farm where a machinery building had been built after the following plan: Cedar posts about 10 or 12 feet long were placed in the ground about three feet, leaving about eight or nine feet above ground. These posts were set up about eight feet apart and a sufficient number of them to make a building of the required size. On these posts were placed scantling or planks for plates and on these a roof was built. The whole was boarded in with plain lumber put on perpendicularly. There was no flooring in it, the machinery being run in on the level ground. A building of this description could be built very cheaply and would more than pay for itself in one year in the saving that could be effected in the purchase of new machinery.

The expenditure for farm machinery is an important item in the management of any farm, and any farmer who thinks he can make his farming operations pay, and neglect to keep the farm machinery stored and in proper order will soon find out that he is very much mistaken. The amount of work that can be done on the farm by machinery is every year increasing. It is not so very long ago since

the self-binder, the hay-loader, the rack-lifter, the sulky-plow, and such like up-to-date machines were unknown on the farm. True some of these we have named have replaced older kinds, such as the self-binder, the reaper, etc., but a great many of them are of an entirely new kind and supply a place not before filled by any other machine. The tendency now is to lighten the hand labor on the farm and to have its place taken by machinery. This is along the right line and quite in keeping with the advancement that is constantly taking place in lessening the labor and cost of production of all goods. But with this advancement a new department of work, we might say, has become a necessity on every farm and that is the farm machinery department. A farmer can make money by giving special attention to this branch and having all the machinery on the farm specially cared for when not in use, just as he can by giving special care to his live stock. Sometimes it is not what we make but what we save that brings the balance on the right side at the end of the year.

Killing, Dressing and Shipping Turkeys

The dressed poultry trade with Great Britain is assuming large proportions. It is estimated that already this fall between 80,000 and 100,000 dressed turkeys have been contracted for for this trade. The opportunities for the expansion of this trade are almost unlimited, provided



Figure 2 shows the back of the bird with one wing twisted into position. The other wing should be treated the same way.