

Importance of Water Supply.

It is usually advisable to be sure of the water supply before committing yourself to a site too definitely, such as by the erection of a barn on it. Decide where the well should be in relation to the house and barn as you propose to put them, then sink the well. If you secure water well and good; you can proceed to build with an easy mind. If water is not found a rearrangement of the locations or an entirely new site may be required. The water supply is the one feature of the farmstead that is outside the farmer's control or arrangement, so be sure of that first then cut your coat according to your cloth.

Outline of General Scheme.

Preferences vary as to what point of the compass the house and barn respectively should face, and probably this question, in the case of the house at least, is of less importance than the site itself. Other things being equal, however, we should face the house to the east and set the barn east and west.

We should face the house to the east because we should build a square or rectangular house with at least four rooms downstairs. Of these the parlour would be in the front of the house and in the south-east corner, the dining or living room behind it and in the south-west corner with windows in two walls; the kitchen would then occupy the north-west corner which is the coolest both summer and winter. (The kitchen needs the cool location in summer and can best stand it in winter on account of having the range to heat it.) The fourth room, be it a bedroom, den, study, office, library, sewing room, nursery or what-not, would then occupy the north-east corner. The next best arrangement is to face the house to the south with the rooms in the same relation to each other.

Our reason for placing the barn with its ends east and west is solely in order that the interior may receive the maximum of sunlight in the winter. This can be secured if fanlights are placed above the doors east and west, with possibly a window flanking the doors on each side, and the whole south side is studded with windows as numerous and large as structural conditions will admit of. These windows should be placed sufficiently high in the wall that they will not shed light directly into the eyes of horses facing them, and will enable the sun's rays to reach the centre passage and stalls on the north side of the building. To secure this result an extra high ceiling is needed or else the loft floor may be sloped up for eight feet or so along the south side of the building.