

Distribution of Milch Cows in the U. S.

By reference to an article published in the Agricultural Report of 1861, entitled "Consumption of Milk," it will be found that about fifty per cent. of all the milk produced in the United States is directly consumed as food, and that the remainder is manufactured into butter and cheese. It will also be found that more than one-half of the butter and cheese is consumed by the manufacturers, so that at least seventy-five per cent. of the milk produced is consumed at once in the locality of its production.

This constitutes the principal demand for cows, and as nothing can supply their place, the demand can only vary with the population. This is plainly shown by the following statement, which gives twenty-seven per cent. as the constant requirement for the past thirty years. Nothing could be more plainly stated. In all the varying circumstances that have occurred, while we have doubled our territory and our population, the constant demand has required twenty-eight cows to every one hundred people. In 1870 the demand will be the same, but from the constant decrease of neat cattle in general throughout the country, the number actually reported by the census of 1870 may possibly fall to twenty-seven.

A remarkable feature in the distribution of milch cows is seen by comparing the southern with the northern section of the country. At no time within the last thirty years has any Southern State, with the exception of Louisiana, Virginia, and North Carolina, had less than the required number of milch cows, namely, twenty-eight for every one hundred people. On the contrary, their average per cent. is far above. At the same time, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin have not, at any time within the past thirty years, had the average number of milch cows.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island have not one-half the average number required. In these States this deficiency is undoubtedly partly made up by the cows being of a better breed; but it is more probable that in these States a large part of the milk is used for food, and the butter and cheese supplied from other sources. We also find that Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky have largely diminished their number of milch cows in the past ten years. In general, all of the southern part of the United States has largely diminished its stock of cows, and yet is better supplied than the northern sections. In the north, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have all, with the exception of New Hampshire and New York, less than the requisite number, and have varied in the last thirty years less than two per cent. Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan have considerably increased their stock, and doubtless the central west will soon more than supply the east with the required amount of butter and cheese.—*Report Department of Agriculture for 1863.*

Stock on Dairy Farms.—An interesting paper was lately read before a farmers' club in Cheshire, on the "requisite necessary for the successful management of a farm," in the course of which the author, Mr. Daine, remarked that on a dairy farm, "your chief business will be the selection of your cattle, and your judgment will be put to the test as to your knowledge of the milking properties of a cow. We would say buy such stock as your land will carry. If your land be good, sound, rich land, then it will carry well-bred and large cattle; if wet or thin skinned land, then Welsh, or Ayrshire, or cross-bred small cattle will be more suitable. But in any case select such as will fill your cheese-tub rather than adorn with their marble beauty the butcher's stall. On poor or medium soils it is questionable whether any breeds will leave more profit than properly selected Welsh cows and crossed with a well-bred Shorthorn bull."

He also strongly urged that "if you want to make a large quantity of cheese, your cows, both before and after calving, must be kept up to the mark with proper nourishing food, so that after feeding good calves you may commence to make a large cheese, and to continue your good start, you must turn out to good dry pastures, well manured, and thus of good herbage. To keep up your make of cheese in the autumn when grass begins to fail, demands your special attention; and I know of nothing better or more economical than having a proper supply of common turnips, grown after rye and vetches, early potatoes, or grown as a self crop."

Rural Architecture.



Cheap Piggery and Corn House.

The above illustration of a farm-building is designed for a small farm, where only a few hundred bushels of Indian corn are raised, and where only a few swine are kept.

It is 14 feet wide at the base, and about 16 feet wide at the plates, and 20 feet long, and 8 feet to the top of the plate. The frame is built in the balloon style, except that the studs at the lower ends are morticed into the sills, inch boards, 6 inches wide and 16 feet long, are nailed on the studs for joists, which make the upper floor come just to the lower side or bottom of the door, in the gable end of the building, which is hung on hinges to open upwards. A door of slats is made in the end of each crib, as shown in the end of the building; and the ears of corn can be shoveled directly into the cribs from the wagon on to the main floor, or into the attic window.

The door-way is about 8 feet wide, and the cribs 3 feet wide on the bottom, and ventilators placed lengthwise in the cribs.

The building was erected on a substantial stone wall, and in the rear of the building is a door to enter the feed room, which is 6 feet wide and 11 feet long.

The apartment for the animals is about 14 feet square, and the three-lighted window in the wall opens into the apartment of the swine, and the four-lighted one into the feed room.

On the opposite side of the building is a window into the feed room, and a door where the animals enter their sleeping and feeding apartment.

The apartment of the swine is 4 feet high in the clear, while in the feed room it is 6 feet in the clear, and there is sufficient room for swill barrels, meal-box and a small furnace for cooking food if desirable.

THE PARTITION AND TROUGH.—A trough made of plank 10 inches wide and 4 inches deep—which is sufficiently deep for holding all the swill that will be fed at one time—extends entirely across the pen, between the feeding room and the swine's apartment. The partition is made of a flap-door or kind of board gate, hung on hinges, directly over the trough, to a sleeper or beam overhead. The bottom of the flap can play from one side of the trough to the other, and a wooden button holds it at either place.

When feed is put into the trough, the flap is fastened to that side of the trough near the swine; then as soon as their feed is arranged in the trough, the flap is drawn to the other side of it, and secured with a button, when the swine all come up to the trough.

At one end of the flap there is a small door where one could enter the apartment of the swine from the feed room. Directly over the trough is a small door, about 2 feet square, through which grain can be obtained from the floor of the corn-house.

The floor of the corn-house is 20 feet long; but a portion of it, 6 feet long, which is over the feed room, is 2 feet higher than the other part, which is about 12 feet long and 8 feet wide, which affords ample room for assorting corn or for threshing it with a machine.

A few loose slats are placed against the studs on the inside as the cribs are being filled, and when it is desirable to get ears out of the crib are slipped a little endways with a crowbar, and the corn will slide out as fast as it is shoveled away, and no faster.—S. E. Todd, in *Tucker's Annual Register*.

TO STOP LEAKAGE AROUND CHIMNEYS.—Remove the shingles and fit them again close to the sides of the chimney; then mingle a lot of coal tar and sand together, making a stiff paste; spread it neatly all around the chimney on the roof and press it down hard, and the water will be effectually excluded. This plastic material will adhere to both the brick and the shingles; and neither frost, rains nor dry weather will cause it to peel off.—S. E. Todd, in *Annual Register of Rural Affairs for 1865*.

FARMERS' PAINT.—Farmers will find the following profitable for house or fence paint.—Skim milk, two quarts; fresh slaked lime eight ozs.; linseed oil, six ozs.; white Burgundy pitch, two ozs.; Spanish white, three pounds. The lime is to be slaked in water, exposed to the air and then mixed with about one-fourth of the milk; the oil in which the pitch is dissolved to be added, a little at a time, then the rest of the milk and afterwards the Spanish white. This is sufficient for twenty-seven yards, two coats. This is for a white paint. If desirable, any other colour may be produced; thus, if a cream colour is desired, in place of part of the Spanish white, use the ochre alone.—*Working Farmer*.

STUFFING THE CRACKS OF A DOOR IN WINTER.—Dress out some wooden rods, about half an inch or more square, and cover them with strips of woollen cloth. Strips of list wound around these sticks will subserve a good purpose; now close the door and nail the strips on the door, not on the casing, as it is usually done, close in the corners, on the sides and at the bottom and top. A door can be made air-tight or wind proof more perfectly by nailing the strips on the doors than to nail them on the casing, as it is usually done. When mussels are put on a door in this way, a door will shut easily but very close and tight. It would be a good improvement to fasten them on with small screws, as they could be more readily taken off in warm weather.

CAPACITY OF BARN.—Very few farmers build their barns with any precise calculation as to their capacity or fitness. They guess at their contents and conjecture their adaptation. Not unfrequently it is the case that the barns are too narrow for the crops and too unhealthy for stock. It has been found that every ton of hay or straw requires 500 to 600 cubic feet. A horse should have seventy-five square feet of space; a cow forty-five feet; and sheep about ten feet. A bay or mow, forty feet long and 19 feet wide, holds a ton of hay for every foot in depth. The basement of a barn, 40 by 75 feet, according to this calculation, will stable thirty cattle, one hundred and fifty sheep, and eight horses, and the upper part hold all their winter fodder. A friend of ours has an octagon plan with 30-foot sides, that seems admirably adapted to dairying stock, on level ground, which we hope to see developed. A barn cellar is a poor place to keep stock, and especially horses. Experience teaches that the dampness of the ground renders animals or men liable to take cold.

THATCHING BUILDINGS.—A gentleman from Iowa writes me, inquiring as to thatching buildings, requesting an answer through the *Country Gentleman*. When abroad I saw frequently the thatched buildings, stacks, &c., and many of the buildings must have had the covering on for many years, and it was still useful as roofing. The manner of putting on the thatch is this: The straw should be fresh and sound, without bruises if practicable. Wheat straw is best for the purpose, though rye is used where wheat cannot be had. When long straw is made use of, the operator begins at the eaves or bottom of the roof, depositing it in handfuls in regular breadths, till the top is reached—the different handfuls being so placed endways as to overlap each other, and the upper ends being constantly pushed a little into the bottom parts of the sheaves. In this manner the operator gradually proceeds breadth after breadth, till the whole roof is covered, which is usually done to the thickness of four or five inches. To retain the thatch in its place, short sharp pointed sticks are occasionally thrust in, in a slanting direction upwards; but as the water is apt to follow the course of the sticks, it is a better practice to make use of ropes or twisted straw for the purpose, and the thatch carefully prepared and secured, will last for a long time. This is a brief outline of a thatch upon a stack or roof of building. The inquiry is made how long will a thatched roof last? If made complete, five inches thick, and carefully attended to, it will last as long as the wooden erection which it covers. I inquired a few days since of an English gentleman from Canada as to the durability of thatch-roofing in Great Britain—he said they will last for ages. Where straw is as plenty and cheap as in Iowa, I should think a thatched roof a good investment.—J., in *Country Gentleman*.