

LIVE STOCK.

Bean Straw for Calves.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As the large majority of farmers in my district, as far as I have been able to judge, are quite ignorant of the food values of bean straw, I thought my slight experience on this subject might be of some benefit. In most cases the farmers who grew beans at all used the straw as rough bedding, they told me, and one said that he threw his bean straw into the barnyard, and that the cows picked over the pods somewhat. But what surprised me more was the fact that some of the older hands knew no real use for this roughage whatever, unless for the bottom of the manure pile.

A year ago last fall I harvested a fair crop of Marrowfat beans (my first crop to experience).

Upon examination of the straw, it seemed probable that it might prove capital cow feed. I met with negatives, but persisted in writing to an uncle who had grown forty acres of them in one crop. He told me the straw was of good value, rather rich, and advised me to feed it only once a day. At first the cows were over eager for it but after a few minutes left it by degrees. In a week, however, they were eating all the pods off, leaving only the stalks, and in two or three weeks I could only find a little wad of the coarsest stalks after each meal rolled up in a ball. Only one cow of the eight disliked it to any extent, preferring just the leaves and odd pods, but the rest learned to like and call for it. I gave them only a medium-sized wad to each cow at a feed, just what they would clean up. As I only fed the cows twice per day before, I gave them this fodder at noon, as they would not like it as well after another meal. Upon feeding it, I at once noticed an increase in the amount of milk.

By chance, one day, I threw some miscellaneous bedding containing some of the bean straw into the calf pen. At once the littler fellows commenced stripping off the pods. I threw some more in and found, upon experiment, that the older calves left their oats and pulped roots, at times to get it. It proved its value at once, for the smaller calves that wouldn't before take any rough food began to nibble at the straw and developed a cud. A week or two and they would clean up part of the straw, like the cows. They did so well on it that I soon made it part of their daily ration. From eating it I managed to create in the calves an appetite for roughage and grain which was of great aid in the cheapness and success of feeding. I have a few beans this fall again, and will plant some more this spring, but I will keep the straw entirely for the calves. Of course, the beans were failed, not machine threshed, thus leaving the straw in a more perfect condition.

York Co., Ont.

BROWNIE R. WALLIS.

Barns for All Classes of Stock Farms.

Planning the New Barn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At this season of the year, when you are planning for your new barn, or the remodelling of old ones, it is well to consider a few general

age or mixed feed, to feed all the cattle in one or two trips down the aisle. A small chop box may be carried with the truck and you can mix each individual cow's feed in the truck, as you go down the aisle. Use a litter carrier to clean out the stable, this enables you to keep the manure well back from the barn.

Stanchions have proved themselves the best method of tying.

I do not approve of the continuous manger without partitions, because if you happen to have a dry cow and a fresh cow side by side, the dry cow will steal much of the fresh cow's richer food. The swinging manger that lifts up, enables the mangers to be easily, quickly and thorough-

at the end of the row of cows and form a nice roomy box stall. By this arrangement you can increase your box stalls, or use them in the regular way to tie up cattle.

Regarding trenches behind the cattle, have at least an eight-inch drop from the level of the stall. If the trench is too shallow the cattle will rest in their droppings when they lie down. The passage way should be two inches lower than the stall level, this makes the trench only six inches deep along the passage and is easier to clean out. I do not like the sloping trench as I have seen many a beast fall by stepping on the sloping side of the gutter. This fall may cause serious injury to valuable animals.

Regarding the material for stable floors, cement is most generally used, but where bedding is likely to be scarce, some use square-sawn wooden blocks in the stalls, so that the floor will not be so cold, but the wooden block is likely to be more slippery than the cement. There is a cork brick now made which has proven very satisfactory for horses as well as cattle, but it is rather expensive. The barn floor above is best floored by two thicknesses of one-inch flooring, with joints broken so that dust will not go through the cracks.

After completion, whitewash the whole interior of the stable and don't forget to paint the outside of the barn. The \$100 spent for paint will make the building look \$500 better.

See Fig. 1.

W. H. FORSTER,
Wentworth Co., Ont.

A Handy Barn With Wide Passages.

The barn represented in Fig. 2 is located on 125 acres and is suitable for housing 25 head of cattle and necessary horses, besides two box-stalls. The drive

principles which should govern as far as possible your plans.

First, take into account the general arrangement of your farm buildings. They should be conveniently arranged so that the least possible time is lost in doing work. Consider also the appearance of your buildings from the road and from your own house and have them arranged to give the most artistic and harmonious appearance from this point of view. This is not only more pleasing for yourself and family to gaze upon, but may add many dollars to the value of your farm, in case you desire to sell at any future time.

The location of the buildings should be such as will give good drainage, so that the barnyard and surrounding yards will be as dry as possible. Take into account the direction of your prevailing wind and do not set your buildings where the odor from the barnyard or pig-pen will be carried directly to the house by this wind; likewise in the event of fire, both house and barn would not as likely be burned.

In planning your basement, have plenty of head room and an abundance of windows. You cannot have too much light and sunshine in your stable; likewise do not forget to provide for some system of ventilation. Ventilation has been sadly neglected in the majority of stables built in the past, which has resulted in damp, ill-smelling stables, which are a menace to the health of stock and an ideal breeding place for bovine tuberculosis.

I favor the long, narrow barn with one or two side drives, according to the length of the barn, with granary between the two threshing floors, because this type of barn is best suited to the economical and most healthful arrangement of the basement for stock. If possible I would invariably set the barn the long way north and south, so that the sun could shine into the basement stable, both from the east and west side, then all the cattle and every part of the stable will get an even share of sun and light. This will help to keep the stables sweet and reduce dampness and bacteria.

The interior arrangement of your stable will depend on the number of cattle you purpose keeping. Where twenty or more are likely to be kept, it is a good plan to put your silo or silos at one end of your barn and your root cellar next to the silo and feed-room. Run two rows of cows the full length of the building, providing this is necessary in order to hold the desired number. By facing the cows toward the centre of the barn, a centre feeding aisle will enable you, with a large box truck, holding enough sil-

ly cleaned and also enables you to use the bottom of the manger as a watering trough, which some prefer to the water bowls. Although the bowls are all right if they are kept clean, but too often they get foul and nasty.

Be careful to have different lengths of stalls for different sized cattle, as a small cow cannot keep clean in a stall too long for her. Do not forget to provide some box stalls for calves and freshening cows. By means of removable partitions and a grating to cover the trench behind the cow, two or three ordinary stalls may be thrown together,

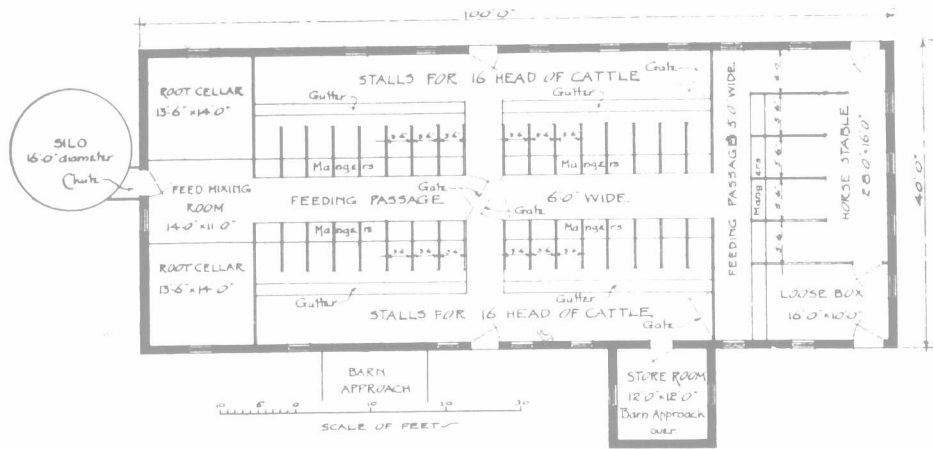


Fig. 1.—Plan of dairy barn suggested by W. H. Foster, Wentworth Co., Ont.

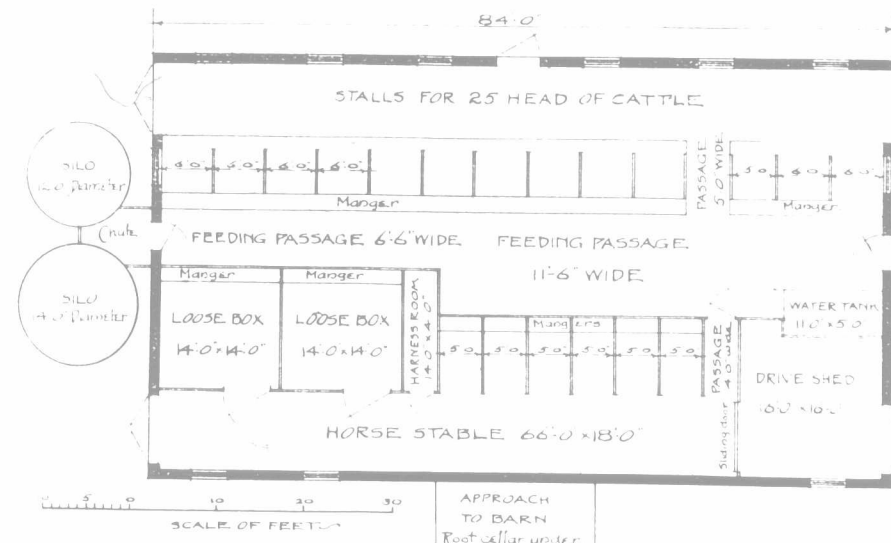


Fig. 2.—A Middlesex County barn with wide drives. Plan of barn of Fred Scott.

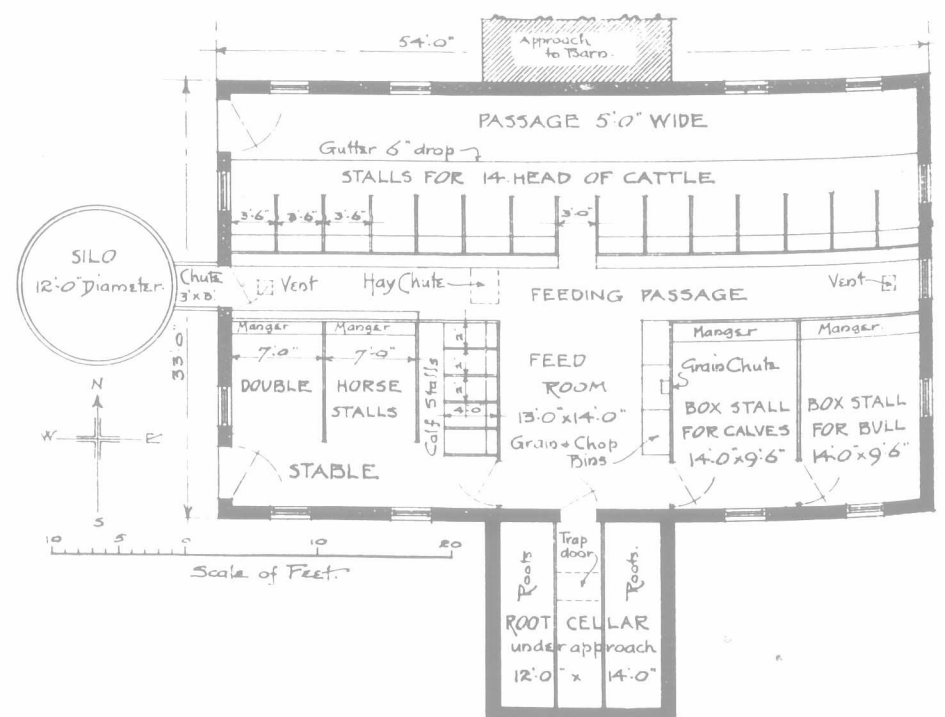


Fig. 3.—A Muskoka District barn. Plan supplied by Roy D. Riley.