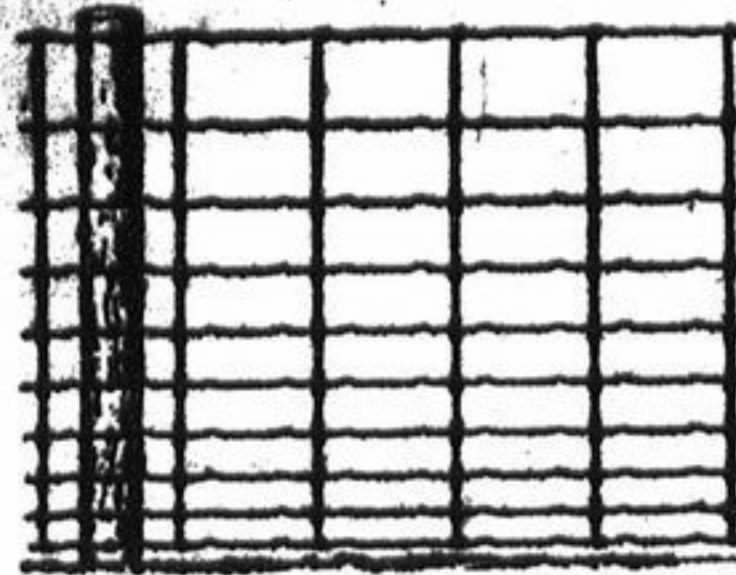


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# FARM NOTES

## Barn for Mixed Farming.

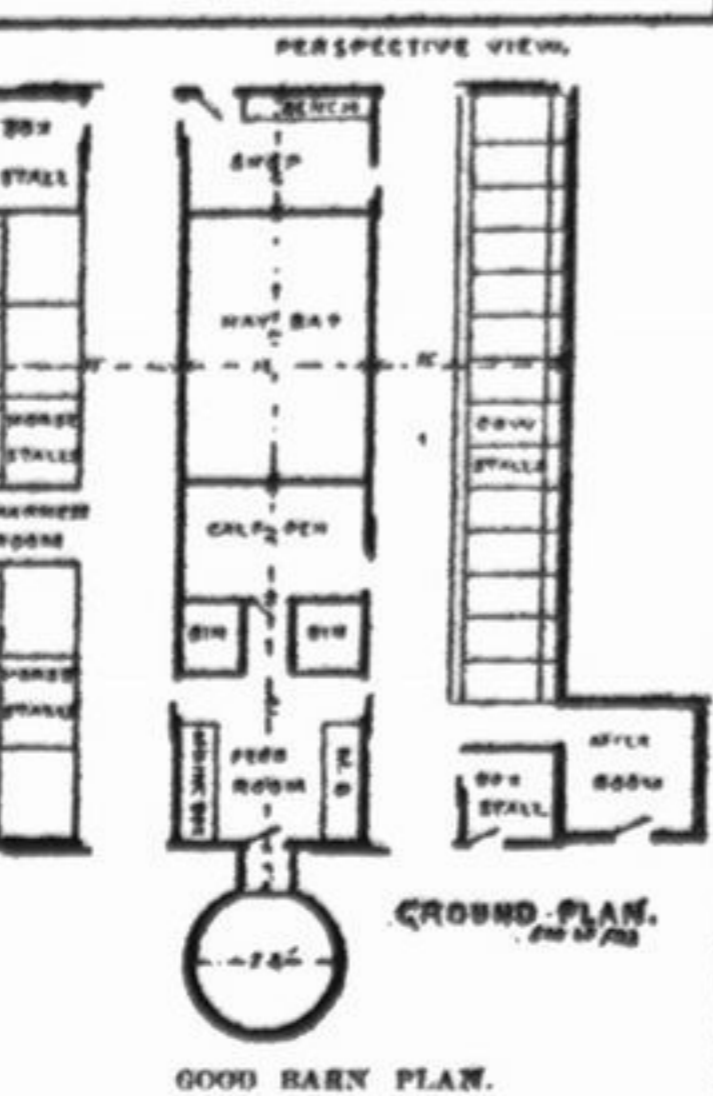
The farmer who can so adjust his work that he may dispense with the help of one man is lucky indeed, but many a farmer has done so by simply changing his system of feeding and caring for the stock; also by so disposing of the grain and hay that instead of hauling many tons of it to market it is fed on the farm, and the beef, pork, butter, cheese, etc., sold. This allows the farmer to restore to the ground at least a part of the fertility in the shape of manure.

The barn plan shown herewith in the two illustrations, the ground plan and the perspective view, is so arranged that one man may feed and care for the stock in a short time. As shown on the floor plan, the barn will accommodate fourteen cows, twelve horses, has box stalls for both the cows and horses, also a large calf pen. The installation of manure carriers and hay fork is very easy, and these will soon pay for themselves in the labor saved. A feature of the barn not to be overlooked is the arrangement of the feed room and silo. The four-foot chute extends the entire length of the silo, and has small windows for light, a tight door below separating same from the feed room to keep out dust and odors. The silage is dropped down this chute, and from there shored to the mixing boxes—one for the cows and one for the horses. There are two bins in the feed room and two more may be located on the floor above and connected by small spouts for drawing off the grain. These spouts may be located directly over the mixing boxes. All hay is supposed to be fed from above, one hay chute being provided for each two stalls.

The milk room being located as it is, the milk may be taken to it at once. In this room should be located the separator; also plenty of clean water; if possible running water should be provided. The shop is a very necessary room, and it will save many small repair bills. In it may be stored the nails, bolts, etc. In the horse barn the harness room is located in the center, which makes it handy to all parts of the same. The two box stalls provide room for both male animals as well as sick and ailing ones.

The hay bay is supposed to be open clear to the roof. However, some farmers may wish to arrange this space different. The partition separating the cows from the center section is boarded or plastered up tight, except the calf pen, to separate the cows from any odors, dust or dirt from the other animals. The box stalls, however, in both the cow and horse barn are so constructed that the inmates may have a good view of the other animals. They like company, and will do better if they can see their neighbors.

The floors of the cow stable, the milk room, feed room and silo are of cement, the gutter being formed in the floor and having a four-inch drain at the rear leading to the manure pit. The stalls are made to fit both long and short cows. The first stall in front is four feet wide and five feet long. The rear stall is three feet six inches wide and four feet eight inches long. The stalls then slope from front to the rear, each stall being slightly shorter. Stalls are now constructed in so many different ways that it is hardly worth while to men-



GOOD BARN PLAN.

your purse will allow it to be finished. —Wallace's Farmer.

## Fuel from Annual Crops.

For the energy of future ages the United States has its enormous water power, and, as the coal diminishes, F. W. Ballard, addressing Ohio engineers, has suggested that a fuel supply may be developed from vegetation. The internal combustion is far more economical of fuel than the steam engine. 8.10 lbs of a pint of alcohol in the former producing one brake horse-power hour. A bushel of corn yields 2.5 gallons of alcohol, while a bushel of white potatoes yields 8.10 lbs of alcohol. The corn crop for 1905 in the United States was 2,700,000,000 bushels, sufficient to produce 20,000,000 horse-power for ten hours a day throughout the year, which is equal to two-thirds of the horse-power now used in the entire country. The land still available for agriculture is at least ten times that devoted to corn in 1905. The raising of yearly crops for fuel must add much to the importance of the new fertilizers from the nitrogen of the air, and it is noted that calcium nitrate, now produced electrically at \$20 per ton, is claimed to be better than sodium nitrate costing \$48 per ton.

## Small Temporary Smokehouse.

If one butchers only once a year, says a correspondent of Farm and Home, it is not necessary to build an expensive smokehouse, for almost any good



SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE SMOKEHOUSE.

results can be obtained from a device such as the one shown herewith. It is made by taking both ends out of a barrel and mounting it upon a box or above a fireplace in the ground. The meat to be smoked is hung from the sticks laid across the top of the barrel, the fire built underneath and the lid put on.

## Feeding of Hens.

Hens will not refuse to lay providing the conditions which surround them are favorable for egg production. Of course, a hen cannot keep on laying all the time, nor will some hens lay even for a majority of the time, but the farmer who provides the correct conditions of housing, feeding and general management will find that he will not be entirely without eggs at any time of the year. Of course, it is not the hen's nature to lay at this time of the year, but if she is comfortably housed and well fed, the farmer will find that the hen after all really has little sentiment as to just which season she shall produce her eggs.

Getting eggs is not entirely a matter of feeding, yet if we feed correctly the hens will not have that as an actual obstacle to laying. Maturity and vigor are two important things in the hens that are to be heavy winter layers. Keep the hens in a thrifty, vigorous condition, and be sure and feed a variety. These things count for a great deal toward success. Corn, oats and wheat are the three principal grain feeds, but there are others that may well be fed by way of variety and the meat and green stuff in some form should never be neglected. Give any kind of meat scraps or prepared meat foods, as it pays. Try to keep the hens under conditions as near like those in existence at spring time as you can, and you will not suffer severely from an egg famine. This is nothing impossible, and, briefly, only means comfortable housing, a variety of feeds, green stuff and meat scraps, and sanitary quarters. —Agricultural Epitomist.

## To Increase Fruit Yield.

One orchardist is said to have increased the yield of his orchard from fifteen to 250 bushels in the following manner: He reduced the tops of the trees one-fourth; then in the fall he pruned between the trees. After pruning well he planted corn, beans and pumpkins, and harvested a nice crop of each. The next spring he repeated the same form of cultivation, and that year, in addition to the good crops of corn, beans and pumpkins, harvested seventy bushels of good apples. The next spring he matured for the third time and planted potatoes, which did not do well, but he harvested 250 bushels of fine apples from the orchard.

## Distraction by Rats.

There are those who declare that nothing is created in vain, and that rats and mice are in some way a benefit to mankind. It is hard to see just how. The statistician of the Agricultural Bureau at Washington computes that they create \$15,000,000 damage a year. That is the real money damage, saying nothing of the annoyance. As an offset, the rat catchers of the world sell about \$1,000,000 worth of skins per year, and the furrers work them and sell them for five times that sum. It is estimated that a full-grown rat will eat six bushels of corn per year.

## Champion Butter Cow Dead.

Pedro's Estalla, champion butter cow of the world, with a record of 71 pounds in twelve months, was killed by an accident at the Missouri Agricultural College farm.

# BIRDS FRIENDS OF FARMERS.

Prof. Hankinson Reports Stomach Contents of Many, With Some Surprises.

It is very difficult to tell at a distance what a bird is eating. Doves and quail apparently in the act of eating grain, were found to have only weed seed in their crops. Thirty-one blackbirds that seemed to be pulling corn were shot; the stomachs of nineteen contained nothing but cutworms, one having twenty-two; the other twelve had eaten chiefly beetles; a little corn was found in but five stomachs. Crows have also been killed when they appeared to be destroying young corn, and white grubs and cutworms were found in their stomachs. The Quail—The quail eats many weed seeds and noxious insects, and probably does little if any damage. The United States Biological Survey examined 800 quail stomachs from twenty-one States, and found fifteen per cent of the food to be insects, of 116 kinds; 100 potato beetles were found in one stomach. The farmer may well ask, "Is it profitable to have quail killed on the farm," even though they be excellent food.

The Hawk—No birds have more undesired persecution by man than the hawks. Extensive food studies have shown that the majority of the hawks do much more good than they do harm, chiefly by killing insects. Of the sixteen kinds in Illinois only three, the goshawk (scarce), Cooper's hawk, and the sharp-shinned hawk are injurious. The red-tailed, red-shouldered, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk and others are beneficial. The sparrow hawk lives almost entirely upon insects, especially grasshoppers, in summer, and upon mice in winter.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo—This bird, seen about the orchard or woodlands, and known as the "rain crow," destroys a host of injurious insects, especially caterpillars; 2,771 of the latter were taken from 155 stomachs; 43 tent caterpillars from a single stomach.

Woodpeckers—Little damage to trees is done by woodpeckers; they are usually after insects, and they protect both forest and fruit trees. Some woodpeckers also feed upon grasshoppers, plant lice, caterpillars, white grubs and other noxious insects. The flicker or yellow-hammer runs its long bill into an ant's nest and collects insects on its sticky tongue. It is thought ants compose half its food, as many as 5,000 have been taken from one stomach. These birds do some harm and the yellow-billed woodpecker or sap-sucker has a bad habit of making series of holes around limbs of fruit trees. In fruit growing regions this species may be positively injurious. The little black and white spotted, downy woodpecker, often found about our dooryard trees, especially in winter, is one of the most beneficial species. It destroys codling moth pupae on the bark of apple trees.

The Nighthawk—This bird does no harm and feeds entirely on insects which it catches on the wing. Four nighthawks had, respectively, 60, 38, 22 and 19 grasshoppers in their stomachs. As many as 1,000 winged ants have been taken from one bird, and 20,000 ants were found in the stomachs of 87 nighthawks.

The King Bird or Bee Martin—This noisy, alert member of the fly-catcher family acts somewhat as a policeman by keeping away such large birds as hawks and crows. It does little harm in catching bees, which were found in only 14 out of 241 stomachs examined. The bulk of their food is noxious insects.

The Bluejay—The bluejay is a friend of the farmer although it eats some corn and does a little other mischief. The food of nearly 200 bluejays taken at different times of the year from twenty-two states showed that nearly a quarter of it was insects, mostly harmful ones. Grasshoppers, caterpillars and beetles constitute nearly two-thirds of the food taken in August.

Blackbirds—Blackbirds appear to do much damage to the corn for a short time in the fall, but during the rest of the year they do much good by eating insects. The examination of several thousand stomachs by the U. S. Biological Survey showed large numbers of white grubs, cutworms and grasshoppers.

Meadowlark—The meadowlark is one of the most beneficial of all birds to the farmer. It is estimated it saves \$1.20 a season by killing grasshoppers alone.

The twelve common sparrows are all beneficial except the English sparrow. The rose-breasted grosbeak is an important enemy of the Colorado potato beetle. They have been seen to gorge themselves with potato beetles until they could scarcely fly.

The cardinal grosbeak or common redbird is a valuable insect destroyer. The Swallows—The several species of swallows, including the large purple martin, are among the most valuable insect destroyers. The English sparrow drives them away and destroys their young and eggs and many farmers pull down their nests. They eat very little that is of value to the farmer and are especially adapted for capturing insects in midair.

The catbird eats some small fruit, unless there is enough wild fruit, but it offsets this by destroying ants, beetles, caterpillars and grasshoppers.

The Brown Thrush—Dr. S. A. Forbes studied the food eaten by ninety-two thrushes (or brown thrashers) shot in Illinois, and says, "Insects amount to about half of the food for each month except May, when they raise to three-fourths, and in July, when they drop to one-fourth." June beetles, curculionids, ants and some caterpillars were found.

The robin destroys a great many insects and in this way undoubtedly pays for the fruit it eats except in regions

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where a great deal of fruit is raised. It will eat wild fruit instead if such can be found. Dr. Forbes found robins eating cutworms extensively in spring.—Prof. T. L. Hankinson, Illinois Farmers' Institute, Springfield, Ill.

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Jerseyites and Israelites.  
At a university dinner, President Butler of Columbia, and President Wilson of Princeton, were present. Dr. Butler took particular delight in scoring Princeton. He said the town, the student body, the faculty, and the president were a sleepy lot.

Dr. Wilson replied: "I admit the truth of Dr. Butler's charge, but I congratulate Dr. Butler on being exactly the opposite, i. e., very wide awake, in fact. As it is written in the Bible, 'He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.'—Success Magazine.

Evolution of the Overcoat.  
It is surprising to what an extent the motoring pastime has influenced the shape of the present day overcoat worn by the man of the street. If the ordinary individual appeared muffled up in a heavy D. B. button overcoat with storm collar worn in conjunction with a light one-piece tweed cap some five years ago, he would have been dubbed a crank or a weakly individual from the tropics.—Tailor and Cutter.

If the average man really knew himself he probably wouldn't be very proud of the acquaintance.