

On the Farm

Plan the Dairy Barn Carefully.
Experience has shown that elaborate and costly barns are not necessary for permanence, sanitation, the production of clean milk, or convenience in Money invested in elaborate barns is seldom recovered when the farm is sold. Some of the most expensive barns have been the most inconvenient and impractical. In many cases this is due to the fact that they were planned by architects knowing little or nothing of the operations necessary in handling cows and milk. In building such barns, display and fancy ap- pears often the first consideration.

Ordinarily the building of a barn is an event which occurs very seldom in the life of a farmer and for this reason a great deal of thought and study should be given before beginning the project. By careful planning, the labor of caring for the cows may be reduced one half. Many mistakes may be made in building a barn and frequently these are not discovered until it is too late to correct them. Mistakes in arrangement may compel a great many unnecessary steps and require work to be done at a great disadvantage, day after day, year in and year out. Mistakes may be made in the location of the silo, in the placing of doors, or in the dimensions and platforms, gutters, passageways and alleys, and the location of posts. These details should all be considered beforehand and such mistakes avoided.

The cost of the barn should be kept with the value, size and income producing capacity of the farm, and within the bounds sanctioned by conservative business management. Money invested in a dairy barn should be required to pay at least ten per cent a year. This is necessary to cover interest, taxes, insurance, etc. Thus if \$1,000 were invested in a barn to house twenty cows, \$100 a year would have to be charged for barn rent. This would amount to \$5.00 per head. If milk is sold at an average price of fifteen cents per gallon, 33-1/3 gallons of the milk of each cow would be required to pay rent on the barn which she occupies.

A good business farmer seldom puts more than \$30 per year in a dairy barn. Good substantial barns are often built for much less. Whether the man sometimes builds barns which cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 per cow, 47 men were charged the cows for use of these buildings, it would amount to \$100 to \$150 a year for each cow. Such expense, of course, makes it utterly impossible to secure profits from such barns even with the most economical methods of feeding and management.

Sometimes too little money is invested in dairy buildings in which case undue labor is required in taking care of the cows. Work is to be done at a great disadvantage, for instance, when sows must be carried to the cows in baskets. This work must be done twice a day every day in the year, and a large fat pig arrangement may mean a large amount of extra work in a year's time.

Stormy Days Made Useful.
Instead of spending the stormy days loafing about and napping, the farmer may find it a profit to him. There are broken pieces of harness or machine which need attention. The har- ness and fitting some sick stock and mending. The stormy days are an opportunity for this work. No man who has built a house for stormy day work, where he needs harness, menders, spares for machinery, manufactures new tools and single tools to replace the broken ones. Often he makes his own article equipment for his home. In fact, his workshop often consumes more of his time than the stormy days give him.

Detective Vision.
She was of a somewhat haughty nature and, being on a shopping trip with a friend, happened to catch a glimpse of an acquaintance whom she did not wish to recognize. "I don't use this way past the sick center. I just saw someone I don't know."

"Who is she?" asked her friend, who did not see anyone near them. "Oh, some horrid woman with a snarl on her face. Of course I have seen her before." And although her face is familiar, I cannot remember her name." They finished their shopping and the two women found themselves at the same point where one of them had seen her disagreeable acquaintance.

"There she is again. Why, I do believe she's been here all the time," she said, pointing to the person in question.

"That woman! Goodness sakes, you'd think you see in the mirror there!"

Even the thirsty chapter tries to save the bar of justice.

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