

# Time For You to Begin Your Christmas Shopping



## GOOD BARN FOR MIXED FARMING

Good barns cost money, but when the farmer once knows that by the proper construction of his barn, and other outbuildings, he can often save the work of a man, it will readily become clear to him that the investment will pay big interest in the long run.



The barn shown herewith was designed by a Missouri man.

The building will accommodate 14 cows, 12 horses, has box-stalls for both the cows and horses, and also a large calf-pen.

Manure and hay-carriers can easily be installed, and these are great labor-savers.

The arrangement of the feed-room and silo is excellent. The four-foot chute extends the entire length of the silo. It has small windows for light, a tight door below, separating the same from the feed-room, and keeping out dust and odors.

The silage is dropped down this chute, and from here shoveled 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 a small spout 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 is so located that the milk may be taken to it at once, and it contains plenty of clean water, running water, if possible. Here, of course, should be located the separator.

The work-shop is one of the necessities of the farm, as with a few tools, many bills for repairs can be saved here.

The harness-room is located in the center of the horse-barn, and the two box-stalls provide room for both male and female animals, as well as sick ones.

The hay-bay is open to the roof, but this can be arranged differently. The partition separating the roof from the center section, is boarded or plastered up tight, except the calving pen, to keep out any odors, dust or dirt.

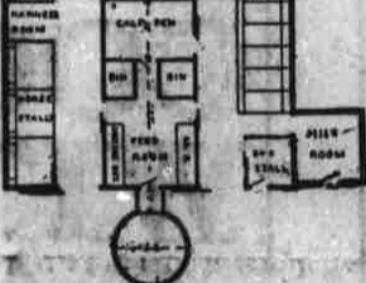
The box-stalls in both the cow- and horse-barn are so constructed that the inmates can have a good view of the other animals. They like company and will do better if they can see their neighbors.

The floors of the cow-stable, the milk-room, feed-room and silo, are of cement, the gutter being formed in the floor, with 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 slope from the front to the rear, each stall being slightly shorter than the one next to it.

The floor of the horse-stable may be made of cement or clay; but the writer prefers clay for horses, and we quite agree with him, for horses confined on cement floors are apt to injure the joints of their legs by continual stamping; besides, we do not believe that any animal should be allowed to lie on a cement floor that is not covered with boards.

The barn, as shown in the illustration, is 50x60 feet, 12 feet to the eaves, 33 feet to the peak. The silo is 33 feet high.



The construction of the foundation may vary, according to the material, and can be more easily and cheaply secured, but the man who builds any barn, on a poor foundation, is making a bad investment. The foundation should be made to stand for all time.

## PLAN TO RAISE STRAWBERRIES NEXT YEAR

FEW OTHER OCCUPATIONS AFFORD LARGER OPPORTUNITIES OR GIVE SUCH QUICK RETURNS

By W. M. Burke.

Government statistics tells us that next to the apple, the strawberry is the most universally grown fruit in this country, and that the amount of annual revenue received from the strawberry crop is second only to that received from the apple crop.

Viewed, therefore, from the standpoint of pleasure and profit, the strawberry may be ranked among our greatest and most promising products.

First, let us consider the soil. The strawberry, although not requiring an extremely rich soil, still is a heavy feeder, and responds very quickly to generous treatment in that regard.

Any soil that will grow good corn, potatoes, or a general line of vegetables, also will grow a good crop of strawberries. However, a light dressing of barnyard-fertilizer, scattered over the plot during the winter or early spring, will aid greatly in producing the desired results.

Plowing or spading should be done to the depth of six or eight inches, depending upon the nature of the soil, and then it should be thoroughly harrowed until it is as fine as an ash-heap, when it will be ready for the reception of the plants.

If the soil be composed largely of sand, or what is known as a sandy loam, it will be well to roll the plot, or drag a plank over it, before setting the plants. This will firm the soil, and put it in just the proper condition for the plants. If the soil inclines to clay, or is a clay-loam, then this will be unnecessary, as the soil is by nature compact.

The next consideration is the quality of plants. During the last fifteen years, no other feature of agriculture has been more strongly emphasized by the scientific and practical tillers of

time. For the small strawberry-plot, we would prefer to cultivate these plants by what is known as the hill system. This means that no runner plants should be allowed to grow, but that each plant as purchased and set, shall be permitted to develop to the full: its own fruiting powers. These plants may be set 15x15 inches apart.

Where the plot is somewhat larger, and is to be cultivated with the hoe rather than with a horse-cultivator, the single-hedge system may be adopted if desired, and rows may be made 30 inches apart, and the plants set 20 inches apart in the rows. Under this system the grower will permit the maturing of two runner plants from the mother, or original plant set, and these plants will be layered in line with the mother-plant in the row.

This will give the grower three plants for fruiting in the season following instead of one plant, and as there will be ample room for sunshine and air, there probably will be an actual increase in the quantity of fruit as compared with the hill system, although it must be said that the hill system is the one which will yield the greatest number of large berries.

In setting plants, there is nothing so convenient in the way of a tool as the dibble. This is a large steel blade with a handle, and while the plants are being set is held in the grower's right hand. The dibble should be forced to the depth of six inches, when pressed outward, so as to make an opening large enough to take in the roots of the plants.

The roots should be placed in this opening before the dibble is withdrawn. After the roots are placed in the opening and the dibble withdrawn,

the rule to observe is to trim the roots by at least one-third. This may be done by taking a large pair of shears and cutting off the lower end of the mass of roots. Then when you place these roots in the soil, spread them out like a fan.

The plants should be cultivated every ten days during the season, and a good rule to observe is that after every rain, just as soon as the soil will crumble in the hand, the plants should be cultivated. By so doing, the surface of the soil is covered with fine particles of earth which, in common parlance, is a dust-mulch.

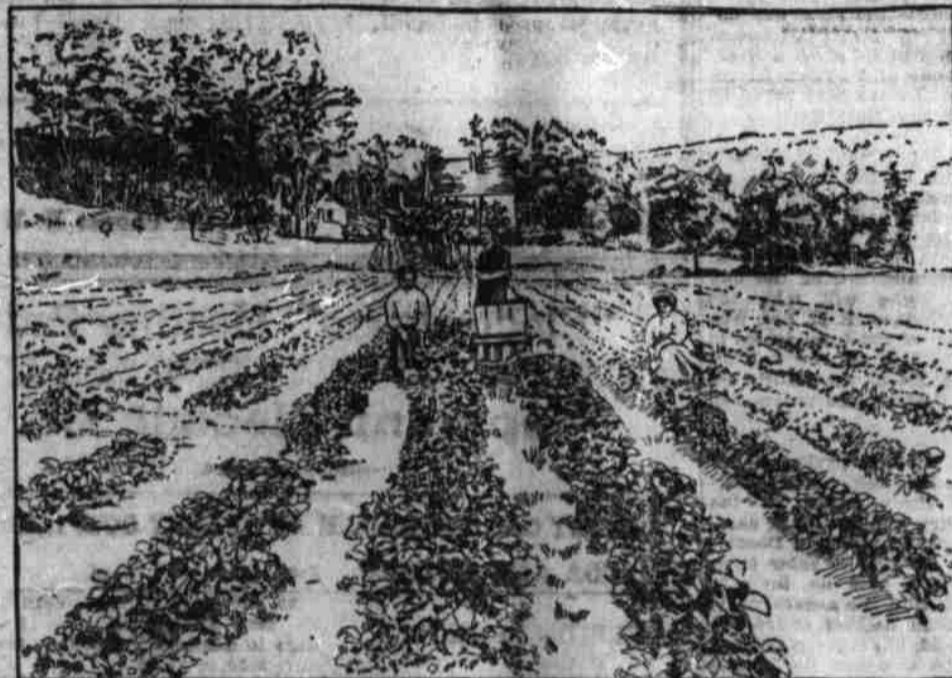
This dust-mulch destroys capillary action, and instead of the moisture in the soil evaporating into the air, it can escape from the soil only through the plants themselves.

Set out your plants in April or May of 1912 and pinch off every blossom that appears during the entire growing season of 1912, but in the spring of 1913 every blossom should be allowed to develop into a large and luscious berry.

After the plants have been cultivated the first season, and when the first heavy freeze has come, the plants should be mulched with straw of any kind. Mulching between the rows should be at a depth of from two to four inches, depending upon the climate, and the mulching over the plants should be very light, indeed, except in the more rigorous climates.

The strawberry is seldom killed by freezing. It is the alternate freezing and thawing, that causes the soil to heave, that is dangerous to the strawberry.

But mulching serves many other and important purposes—it helps to retain moisture in the soil; it adds to the richness of the soil, and it keeps



A Profitable Strawberry Patch.

the soil, than the importance of good seed and good plants.

If one has room, say for 100 plants, he should select twenty-five plants each of an extra-early variety, twenty-five of the so-called early variety, and twenty-five of the mid-season plants, and twenty-five of the very late.

Under ordinary conditions he would then have ripening strawberries over a period of from four to five weeks of

time. thrust it into the soil about two inches from the opening. Draw it toward you, thus pressing the earth firmly against the roots of the plant. When this is done, firm the soil with the fingers about the crown of the plant, leaving the top of the crown just even with, or slightly above the surface of the soil.

In this connection, we should say that all plants should be pruned

## SPROUTED OATS FOR WINTER FEED

There is a general unanimity of opinion among experienced poultrymen that poultry do best upon some form of green or succulent food during the winter months. The function of such succulent food is probably largely in the nature of a digestive stimulant, rather than as an addition



SOAK CLEAN AND SOUND OATS OVERNIGHT IN A PAIL OF WATER.

to the actual food constituents of the ration.

A green winter feed that is greatly relished by fowls is sprouted oats. Experience has shown that in order to make a satisfactory green food, however, the oats must be grown very quickly. In order to get quick growth it is necessary to have three things: first, warmth; second, plenty of moisture; and, third, sunlight.

By sowing oats in shallow, flat boxes about two inches deep, and by sprinkling and keeping the box in a warm, sunny place, the oats will sprout very rapidly, making a growth of from 4 to 6 inches in a week or ten days.

The flats in which the oats are sprouted must be thoroughly scrubbed with half water and half formalin every time before they are used, or the oats will mold in the sprouting.

The best way to sprout oats is to build a small closet into which the flats can be slipped on cleats and supply the closet either with a steam-pipe or if that is not feasible, a small stove, either for wood or kerosene, or sometimes a large kerosene lamp may be used to maintain heat.

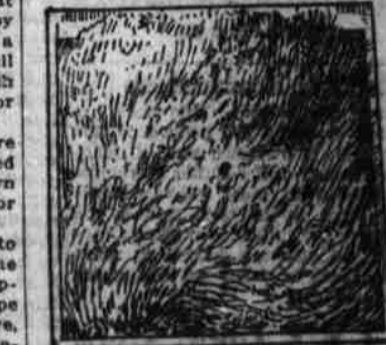
Soak clean and sound oats overnight in a pail of water. Next morning fill the flats about two inches deep and put in the sprouting closet. Place the freshly filled flats near the top of the closet, so as to get the maximum amount of heat and in that way start the sprouts quickly.

Rake the sprouts thoroughly two or three times a day until they have become from half to three-quarters of an inch long, then do not disturb them in any way. The oats should be kept quite wet. They must be sprinkled at least three times a day.

As the oats grow, the flats are moved to different positions in the closets. The taller the material gets, the nearer the flats are moved to the floor, as they then need less heat.

Feed when the sprouts are from 4 to 6 inches in height, at the rate of a piece of the matted oats about 2 or 3 inches square for each 100 birds per day. Break up so that every bird in the pen may have some.

It should be clearly understood that the purpose for which green sprouted oats are fed is their tonic and stimulative influence on the digestive organs. They are not fed for the food value of the oats themselves. If one wishes merely to feed oats, they can be most economically fed not sprouted. The point of sprouting is to furnish fresh, succulent, green food during the winter months.



SPROUTS TWO INCHES LONG.

## A USEFUL WORM

By H. B. Buchanan.

Usually the agriculturist is compelled to keep up a constant conflict, all during the growing season, with injurious and destructive insects; beetles and bugs and caterpillars and worms innumerable, that would destroy his crops in large measure, were it not for the fact that he succeeds his plants from their ruthless invasions. It is a continuous warfare, all summer long, between the farmer and the worm, to see which shall eventually come off victorious, and many a wide potato field, stripped to the stems, testifies to the fact that the former is not always the winner, either.

But there is one species of worm, nevertheless, which the farmer should do all that he can to encourage, which has done more for the cause of agriculture than all other agencies combined, and to which he owes an incalculable debt;—and that is the book worm; the devoted student of agriculture.

Now the life of the tiller of the soil is necessarily a busy and active one, full of duties to be performed, early and late, and it is but natural that he should look askance at everything which resembles meddling with one's time in unproductive idleness, but, nevertheless, if the farmer chances to find a son of his taking to "book learning", pouring over a volume of a useful or elevating character, he should not be too hasty about having it put aside, and relegating

its reader back to the hoe. Let the boys have a chance to read and study, if they will, and if perchance they should display a love of books beyond the ordinary, by all means encourage them in a love of scholarship.

Never mind about the prospective expense of educating a boy; there are plenty of means already at hand by which they, in one way or another, may be met, as many a man can testify, who as a poor boy went to college, though he had not a cent in his pocket at the start.

What our great and rapidly developing country needs most of all, just at this time, is boys familiar with the agricultural problems of the day, who are ready by earnest devotion to scientific training to set about finding the solution of these most pressing difficulties.

Where would we be today were it not for the men of loyalty and far sighted wisdom who devoted their lives to the cause of scientific agriculture? What marvels, veritable miracles, they have brought to pass in the growth and cultivation of plant forms, educating nature herself, to perform her great wonders! Others must follow after them, to take up their work as they lay it aside, and no man is better qualified to follow in their footsteps than he who has known the farmer's struggle from earliest boyhood.

# The Right Pictures in the Right Way

# PALACE and THEATRO

**THEATRO PROGRAM**  
 The Mistress of the Hacienda Del Carro.  
 The Maniac.  
 Pathé Weekly No. 40.

**PALACE PROGRAM**  
 Mike Hero  
 Reparation.  
 Through His Wife's Picture.

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