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Do You Put Your Knowledge of Feeding into Practice?

At this season the feeding of the livestock is likely to seem a more important matter to the farmer than it appears in the spring or summer, but we fear there are still many farmers who fail, at any season, to attach to this work the importance it deserves, or to give to it the thought it justly demands. Even now there are still some farmers who regard the feeding of their livestock merely as the portioning out of so many ears of corn a day to the horses and the hogs, or of so much meal and hulls to the cow. Most farmers, however, have come to understand that it is possible to give a growing animal all it can eat and still have it stunted because of a lack of some element necessary to its growth. Most farmers know that a cow cannot give a full flow of milk on a "wide" ration. The majority of farmers no longer shy around "protein," "carbohydrates," "nutritive ratio," and similar words when they meet them in their reading. In a word, farmers generally have come to recognize that there is a science of feeding and that the farmer can obtain sufficient knowledge of this science to apply it to the feeding of his own livestock to their benefit and his own.

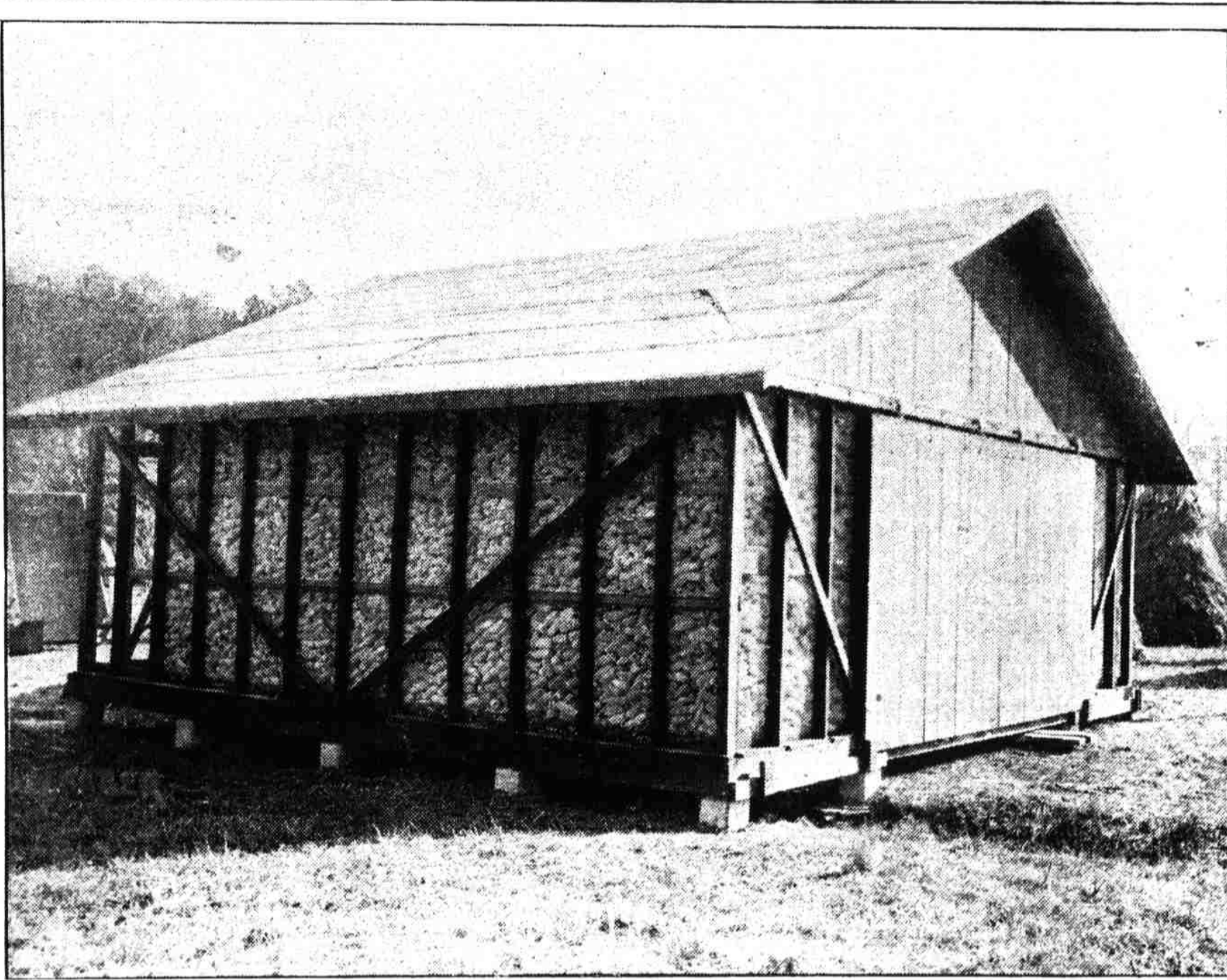
Most farmers, we say, have come to recognize these facts; but we are afraid that most farmers still fail to attach enough importance to these facts to put them into practice. It is to be expected that the men who believe that to give the animal what it wants to eat is all there is to feeding, should waste feeds and fail to get the most out of their livestock, but it is not so easy to see why so many farmers who know better than this still continue to feed their animals without any serious attempt to balance rations or even to find out what would be the cheapest and best ration for them. The average farmer knows that corn and corn fodder, or corn and grass hay, contain an excess of carbohydrates and a deficiency of protein for a growing colt; yet how many farmers are there who, if they have a crib full of corn and no legumes or other feeds rich in protein, will go to the trouble of selling part of their corn or part of their hay and buy cottonseed meal, or

peavine hay to balance up the ration? Not many, it must be admitted.

Yet, farmers must come to realize that the correct feeding of their animals is a matter of vital importance, and that the results of wrong feeding are not to be escaped. If the stomachs of the work-stock are overloaded with roughness in the effort to secure sufficient nutriment, there will be less than a full day's plowing done in a day. If the cows are carried through the winter on nibbins and fodder, the milk supply will be short. If the pigs are fed on corn alone, they will not make the growth they should.

These are not theories or matters of guesswork, but plain facts which cannot be escaped. The man who will not learn how to feed, must pay for his ignorance, and he need not trust in some happy chance to deliver him. Careless feeding is one of the great wastes on the average farm; and if

farmers can only once come to understand how great and how inevitable this loss is, we feel sure that they will take the necessary steps to prevent most of it.



DON'T WASTE THE CORN BY IMPROPER FEEDING AND DON'T LET THE RATS WASTE IT. This Rat-Proof Crib Pays for Itself in Three Years. See Directions on Page 6 for Building It.

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