

SUNNY HOME SUGGESTIONS

Handling the Fly Nuisance—Caring for the Hogs in Warm Weather—The Farmer Has a Right to Higher Pay for His Labor

IT IS true that livestock on the farm help to maintain the fly nuisance, and care must be exercised during the summer months else the flies will make for trouble about the home.



MR. FRENCH

I am fond of cattle and love to have the pastures near the house where one can look upon the grazing beasts in the cool of the day. But I decided some years ago that it would be necessary to forego this pleasure or have the family overburdened with flies. So we moved our summer pasture to the rear of the farm and to a distant farm and since then have been less troubled.

If the pastures are fenced hog-tight a bunch of six-weeks to three-months-old shoats running with the cattle will help greatly to keep down flies by destroying the pests in the maggot stage of their development and we find too, that this same mischief-making pig, if allowed to go about the barn at his own sweet pleasure, will break up the breeding places of swarms of flies. Hens also, although a nuisance about the barn, certainly do a good work in fly destruction.

When the hard February freeze came and our beautiful 25-acre field of winter oats was burned brown and when in succeeding days the high winds blew the old dead oats crowns out of the land and left it looking almost bare, I said things about winter oats that I have since regretted saying; for the old bare field, where not more than one-fourth of a stand was left, bids fair to outyield any spring oats in the country. A very few stalks of fall-growing oats if growing on rich land will produce a better crop than a full stand of spring oats nine years out of ten is our experience.

As the weather gets warmer, more care should be given the hogs to insure sleeping places free from excessive amounts of dust. Better the hogs sleep out of doors than in a house where a cloud of dust rises with every rising of the hogs. Then, too, the hogs should be dipped or sprayed more often in hot weather to keep down the eternal parasites. We used to favor the dipping vat for hogs, but with the passing of the years and the multiplying of duties that came crowding on we find a good spray pump to take far less of our time and give about as good results. Fifty hogs may be sprayed very handily in ten minutes—or double that number if one is so fortunate as to have the hundred head.

To those who think they cannot afford to have water in the house because of high-priced plumbing, I want to say that I knew a farmer nearly fifty years old who makes no pretense to being a carpenter or plumber, who during odd spells in the past winter built a bathroom, starting at the ground, installed a complete water system in bathroom and kitchen, and painted the bathroom, finishing with enamel, hiring only two hours work on the whole job. And this farmer is handicapped by reason of being a "book farmer," too. However, this farmer would advise those contemplating putting water in the house at this time to patronize the old swimming hole until the close of the war or until pipe and fixtures come down in price.

I am resentful by nature, I suspect; anyway my wrath becomes uncon-

sciously stirred at times over what others might consider small matters. As a case in point. A few days ago I read an article by a man who should have some sense, at least, when the position he holds is considered, touching upon the food situation in the world. In the course of his remarks he stated that the farmer's time was worth no more than before the war when prices of foodstuffs were 50 per cent lower than now.

For a public man to make such a statement in the face of the fact that young men have been leaving the farms in crowds during the past two years, taking advantage of the extremely high prices labor has been commanding at war munition and other manufacturing plants, in government yards, on railroads and elsewhere, seems absurd, to say the least. Must the farmer stay by the soil, doing the work others won't do, and receive no additional pay for his labor over what that labor commanded before all manner of outside industries, through their big wages, short hours, and other so-called advantages, teased his help away from him, deprived him of the society of some of the brightest young men raised in his community, transferred to his shoulders the burden of church, roads, schools, etc., that would otherwise have been carried by these young men? I say the farmer's time is worth more than it was, as much as other men's work is worth more than it was before. The young man who has had the good sense and courage to stay by the land in the face of the call of the city should be and will be paid for his service to mankind. A. L. FRENCH.

Breeding Ewes

IT IS very important to get the ewes bred as early as possible so as to get the lambs on the market before the heavy season. The first ewes should be bred about July 1. All of the ewes should, of course, be bred as early after this date as possible.

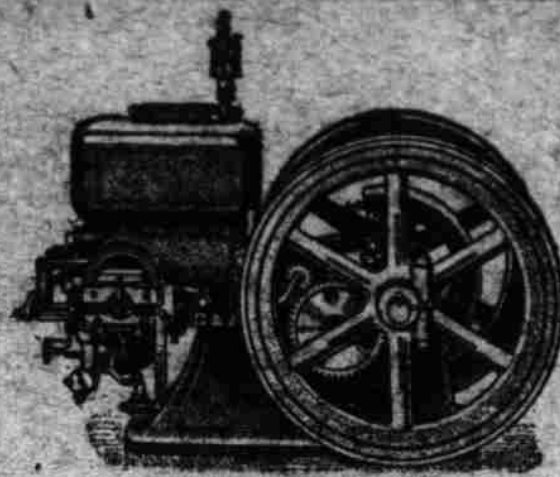
During the breeding season the ram should be kept in a paddock and he should be fed a liberal grain ration. A mixture of 300 pounds cracked corn, 100 pounds wheat bran, 100 pounds cottonseed meal and 50 pounds oil meal has been found very satisfactory as the grain ration for the male. During the breeding season it will be well to feed from 1½ to 2 pounds of this grain mixture in addition to good pasture. During the winter the pasture may be supplemented by feeding 3 pounds of corn silage and 2 pounds corn stover. When the ram is not in service about one-half to three-fourths pounds of the grain mixture will be all that is needed in addition to the pasture or roughage.

Care of ewes.—Each day before being turned with the ewes the ram should be painted on the brisket with some standard marking liquid. Paint should never be used as it will injure the wool. This liquid will get on the ewes when they are served and they may then be removed from the unserved ewes.

After the preceding lambs have been weaned, which should not be later than June 1st, and until it is time to breed again, which is July 1, the ewes should be flushed. They may receive one pound to two pounds of the same grain mixture as the breeding ram in addition to good pasture. Temporary grazing crops such as cowpeas or clover, are excellent for flushing ewes.

During this period the ewes should be culled and all broken mouth ewes or ewes with bad udders should be discarded. These discarded ewes should bring a fair price on the market and it is folly to retain them as breeding ewes. Ewes should not be bred under one year of age. The practice of breeding ewe lambs is almost sure to result in a stunted ewe and one that will not make a good breeder. JAMES H. ROGERS.

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