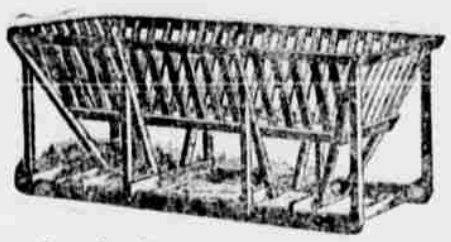
LIVE STOCK

Good Feed Rack.

Last spring we published a description of a feeding rack to be made with or without trough, which plans were furnished us by a subscriber whose patents on the rack had expired and who had no further use for the plans. Mr. Ira I. Nixon, a prominent stockman of Dewitt county, Illinois, writes concerning this plan as follows:

"I have added a trough all around the rack floored to the outside of posts and used pieces 1½ feet by 8 inches nailed on out side of posts, which catch what would waste if the trough was not there. I have built mine of 3x4's where this man used 2x4's for posts, which makes it very strong. I have used oak lumber, and I think I have the best rack I ever



saw for shock corn, straw, hay, or ear corn, as ear corn or ground feed can be fed all around in the trough, which is forty two feet long and large enough to feed a car load of cattle. If built with 3x4's you will be compelled to use one inch longer bolts than this man has in his rack where the 3x4's are bolted together. My rack has 2x4's for the bottom bolted full width of rack and one on each end to hold the floor. I have used 1½x4-inch stuff for slats instead of 1x6, and placed them eight instead of six inches apart.

"I am feeding cotton seed meal with ground cob meal and will give you my results when cattle are shipped out. I am feeding 100 head, and I never saw cattle do better or look nicer."

Any changes in the original plan will of course necessitate corresponding changes in the bill of material, but as originally planned and as shown in the cut the following materials are required for the rack sixteen feet long: Two pieces 2x8 16 feet long; 3 pieces 2x6, 14 feet; 4 pieces 2x4, 16 feet; 2 pieces 2x4, 14 feet; 1 piece, 2x4, 12 feet; 2 pieces 1x6, 18 feet; 2 pieces 1x6, 16 feet; 5 pieces 1x6, 14 feet; 9 pieces 1x12, 16 feet; 1 piece 1x12, 14 feet; 56 pieces, 1x3, 4 feet; 4 wood screws, 8 inches long; 4 bolts ⅝x9 inches; 4 bolts ⅝x7 inches; 16 bolts, ⅝x5 inches; 30 bolts ⅝x4 inches; 8 bolts ⅝x3½ inches; 3 pounds 8-penny wire nails; washers for all bolts; 4 pounds 10-penny nails. —Wallace's Farmer.

Gambling in Breeding.

The man that shuts his eyes and breeds hit or miss with the hope of getting a good dairy cow is simply gambling in breeding. Some have tried to cross shorthorns with Jerseys, Gvernseys, Holsteins and Ayrshires, knowing full well that the product could not be in accordance with any known dairy conformation. They satisfied their curiosity and got an animal that was not a special purpose cow nor a general purpose cow. Their hopes of obtaining an animal that was good for both milk and beef were blasted. Sometimes the calf obtained grew up into a good milk producer and sometimes into a good beef producer, but more often it grew up into an animal that had neither virtue. They had gambled and drawn a blank. Someone has said that the general purpose cow is a speculation pure and simple.

Sheep Notes.

Fattening sheep should not be allowed much range to run over, but be kept reasonably closely confined.

He who produces an inferior commodity will always work cheaply. This is especially true of the sheep breeder

AGRICULTURE

Winter-Grown Asparagus.

Asparagus can be grown in the cellar in winter wherever the owner heats his house by means of a furnace. The natural conditions in such a cellar are favorable to the forcing of asparagus, as the temperature at night usually hovers around 55 degrees and in the day time runs from 65 degrees to 80 degrees. We do not believe that the amateur will find much profit in this, but some of the professional gardeners do, and it may interest some of our readers to try the experiment and have a few messes of tender asparagus in winter.

To get the results named, roots are dug up in the fall before the ground is too hard frozen to make digging them out possible. If the roots have been frozen, so much the better, as they then respond more quickly to the forcing process. They are placed in boxes in the cellar near the furnace. Two or three inches of soil should be under the roots and five, six or more inches of earth above, as the shoots need to be protected from even the dim light that is found in a cellar. Light is not needed to make the roots produce shoots, as they produce them from the substance laid up in the roots, but do not take anything from the soil. Nevertheless, much moisture is needed, as the shoots cannot develop without the help of a good deal of water. A neglect in supplying moisture will soon render the roots unproductive.

Roots should begin to produce shoots in about twenty-five days after being placed in the cellar. At some of the stations roots placed in the cellar about the first of December have produced four or five good cuttings before the middle of February. When the roots are done producing they have to be thrown away, as they will thenceforth be of no good for the developing of tops and new roots.—Farmer's Review.

The Potato of the Future.

A new potato is being grown in Uruguay in the valley of the Mercedes river. It is purplish-green in color and is said to be so far superior to the common "Irish" tuber in flavor and in yield that it is destined to drive all other varieties from the market—eventually. Horticulturists say that the tuber is probably the result of a horticultural accident. Claim is made that it is immune to the diseases which ordinarily afflict potatoes, but whether or not it can resist the operations of the predatory potato bug is not stated. There is no vegetable to the improvement of which more attention has been devoted than has been bestowed upon the potato. It has been mainly, however, for increasing the size of the tuber and to augment the yield. Flavor has been almost wholly ignored, and, as a consequence, the potatoes of to-day have less flavor than those which our grandfathers ate fifty years ago. Furthermore, all of the market varieties taste pretty much alike, whereas formerly there were recognizable differences.—Farm Magazine.

Potato Scab.

The potato tubers are often made rough and scabby by the growth of the disease on their surfaces. These injuries vary from a rough or russeted appearance to deep scabs or ulcers that greatly injure the appearance of the potato. Singularly enough, scab is more common in the best potato soil than it is in localities where the crop is precarious. Sandy or gravelly soils, when first brought under cultivation, often give a large per cent of scabby potatoes, but after one or more crops of altalfa have been plowed under, this tendency is partially corrected.—Michigan Farmer.