A COMMON SENSE BARN.

How to Build a Structure Suitable for Housing Three Horses.

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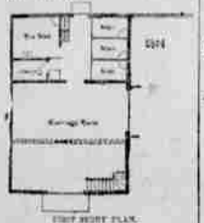
To present rules can be given for the construction of a barn, which can be universally adapted. As in house building, much depends upon the location, climate, special requirements to be met and the individual taste of the owner. The horse requires more care than any other domestic quadruped. The stable in which he is lodged should be warm, and arranged so as to remove the midnight damp some portion of the year. The stable should be well lighted, with convenient windows blinded on the inside, and provided with stoves, such for the cold weather north of Mason and Dixon's line and with mosquito netting or screens for summer adjusted on the outside of the windows and secured in place by means of hooks and screw eyes.

BARN AND OPEN SHED.

A liberal supply of pure fresh air is necessary to the comfort and health of the animal, and the allowance should be not less than 1000 cubic feet of air space to every pound of live weight. The ventilation should be arranged so as to secure a change of air without creating a perceptible draught, and so as to maintain a temperature of 50 degs. in winter and from 60 to 65 degs. in summer.

The floor on which the horse stands should be nearly level; otherwise, when raised to feed the horse's head, it has been found injurious to the back sinews on the stretch, and this to relieve the animal when it ought to have rest. With regard to the proper dimensions of the stable for horses there is a difference of opinion, some horsemen claiming that the width of a stall should not exceed four feet; others say that it should be fully five feet in width. From careful measurements the writer has found that a horse of average size may be confined in fastening a wedge 6 feet long, 6½ feet high, 2 feet broad at one end and 3½ feet broad at the other. In extreme cases it may be considered that the largest horse will form a wedge 7 feet long at one end and 4½ feet at the other. The horse in repose of lying down and rising up is a space of 1 foot all around, which would give a stall 10 feet long, 4 feet broad at one end and 5½ feet broad at the other, on an average. The extreme case would be in a case of nine-ft. feet broad at one end and 6 feet at the other.



FIRST HORSE PLAN.

In practice, however, the wedge shaped stall is rarely used, the best horsemen choosing the parallelogram stall, varying from 4 to 5 feet in width, for single stalls, with not less than 10 feet square for box stalls.

The disposal of the liquids from the stable is best done by an open gutter formed by a concrete floor, to which from 2 to 3 inches of water is set to conduct the same to the cesspool or sewer. If a concrete floor is used over the entire stall the space where the horse stands should have a wooden slat floor upon which the horse may stand. The liquids will then pass between the slats to the gutter, and the bedding for the horse will be kept dry and clean.

The rack in or which hay is fed to the horse should be of wrought iron, the feed board not less, with the top smaller than the base, so as to prevent the horse from wasting the feed.

In fitting a horse the halter strap should be unjointed and run in a tube behind the manger, to prevent his feet becoming entangled in it. The practice of having a strap over the halter, through which the horse can be fastened, but which can be thrown, is a common method employed, but should be condemned, as it is liable to fill the horse's eyes, ears and nostrils with fine dust, which is likely to give the animal a cough. The most sensible way, according to some authorities, is to throw the hay into the feed at the head of the stall, and stack the halter altogether.

SECOND STORY PLAN.

The barn here illustrated is designed for a grocer or light business man who keeps three horses. The carriage room is of sufficient size to accommodate a market wagon and one carriage. There are three single stalls and one box stall, a harness room, grain bin and watering trough. Outside the main building is an open shed for the accommodation of extra teams and storage of wagons when not in use. In the second story is the hay loft, granary, manhole and chute for throwing down hay.

The foundation walls are of brick or stone, the building above the foundation wall is of timber, framed with the outside walls and gables clapboarded and well stayed. The floors of the carriage room and hay loft are of plank. The doors are of white pine, hinged with heavy iron hinges, and are provided with locks. The exterior of the building is painted in two coats. The building can be erected for about $1,200. D. W. KING.

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