

HOUSE AND FARM.

Shall We Wash Our Sheep?

The Passumic Farmers' Club have been discussing this question, and what the members said, as reported in the *Vermont Farmer*, is so expressive of general experience, we think, that it is well to open the discussion among shepherds by publishing it:

J. P. Foster—I am opposed to washing. It injures the sheep and the men who wash them; but as long as buyers offer a premium for dirt we shall be tempted to wash. If buyers would pay strictly according to cleanliness and careful packing no such temptation would exist. I carried two small lots of wool to a buyer, both washed—one well washed and nicely put up, and the other washed lightly—and manufacturers said there was full five cents per pound difference; still each lot was sold to the same man and at the same price. I believe that no farmer should wash his sheep. We could shear one month earlier without washing with greater safety for the sheep. Buyers make one-fourth difference between washed and unwashed wool. Poor sheep are nearly spoiled by driving to the washing place and back, carrying the weight of water in the wool. It is much better to shear before the sheep leave the barn. In shearing late we lose much of the wool. I once sheared in June. There had been some very hot weather, but a few days after shearing it came on very cold, and I lost two and a neighbor seven from the cold. Manufacturers prefer to buy unwashed wool.

C. R. Barker—I wash clean when I wash. I find I get no more for well-washed wool than those who do not wash. I think we should none of us wash, then the price of wool would be more uniform.

J. G. Lawrence—There is a great difference in the unwashed wool, as much as between ordinary and well-washed. It is very difficult to make an even thing of this wool business. Those who wash and shear late lose in wool what the bushes in the pasture pull from the sheep. Should we all adopt the plan of not washing we would get nearer the real value for our wool than now. I think we should encourage all the farmers to dispense with washing.

J. Morrison—I wash my sheep. I get more money to wash than not to. I wash clean, put up well, and get a fair price for my wool. I do not think it hurts sheep very much to wash them. Always keep them under cover in stormy weather.

J. Dow—I find that I get the most money for my wool when I half wash, and the least when I do not wash at all. The men who buy the wool are not judges; they pay so much for washed and so much for unwashed, and often buy without looking at the wool at all. If we get any advantage of the manufacturer we are smart, that's all. I believe there is nothing to be gained in the long run by washing. We should all wash or none. I think we had better discard washing entirely.

R. P. Harvey—Does it pay to wash sheep? Coarse wool sheep poorly washed may give better returns than unwashed, if we let them run two or three weeks after being washed, and let them roll in the sand and dirt as they will when they can find it. The great trouble is the entire ignorance of the buyers. They cannot tell half of the time whether the wool is washed or not. The manufacturer has nothing to do with the buying only to make the price, and he is careful to make it low enough for all the poor washing, and if his buyer finds poor washed wool the price is all right, and if he finds well-washed wool it is his good luck, and so much in his favor. I sorted wool ten years in a factory, and know how the wool is bought and handled.

A. Warden—For three years past I have not washed my sheep; I get better returns than when I washed. I shear the last of April, before the sheep leave the barn. By shearing early we get rid of the ticks that are so troublesome to the sheep. If a few have gone from the sheep to the lambs a little snuff will kill them. I have both sheep and lambs do better than when I washed and

sheared late. Often the stock will lose as much wool as the discount that is made by the buyers between washed and unwashed wool.

ELASTIC VARNISH FOR LADIES' SHOES.—The *Manufacturer and Builder* furnishes this receipt: Three pounds of rain water are placed in a pot over the fire, and when well boiling there are added 4 ounces white pulverized wax, 1 ounce clear, transparent glue in small Senegal, 2 ounces white soap scraped fine, 2 ounces pulverized sugar; the ingredients are placed in one by one, and, every time stirred up; it is well to take the pot from the fire every time a substance is added, to prevent boiling over; when all is added the pot is removed from the fire; when sufficiently cooled, 3 ounces alcohol are added, and finally three ounces fine Frankfort black, well incorporated by continued stirring. This varnish is put on the leather with a brush, and is very valuable for boots and shoes, as it can be afterwards polished with a large brush like ordinary shoe blacking, shows a high polish, and does not soil the clothing.

BREAKFAST PUFFS.—Take 2 eggs well beaten and stir into a pint of milk a little salt, a pint of butter and a pint and a half of flour. Beat the eggs and stir the milk. Add the salt, melt the butter and stir in. Then pour all into the flour, so as not to have it lumpy. Stir up thoroughly, and grease the cups into which the batter is poured, filling them two-thirds full. Eat with sauce.

JELLY CAKE (to roll).—Three eggs, 1 teaspoon of sugar; 1 tablespoonful of cream; 1 small teaspoonful of soda. Bake five minutes.

PIE CRUST.—Good pie crust is made by wetting it up with cream instead of water and not taking so much lard for shortening. It is sweet, tender and melting, and a good deal more healthy. I should have said I take sour cream.

CUSTARD CAKE.—Three eggs, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of flour. Bake in jelly cake tins 2 layers. Custard for the above: Half a pint of milk, 2 tablespoons of sugar, 2 tablespoons of flour, 1 egg. Boil the custard and flavor with vanilla.

CRACKER PIES.—Take 6 soda crackers, break them into a dish and pour over them 2 cups of cold water. Let them stand until they can be reduced to a pulp. Add 1½ cups of sugar, 2 teaspoons of tartaric acid and flavor to taste with lemon. This is sufficient for two pies.

DISH FOR BREAKFAST.—Take half a dozen or as many as necessary, good cooking apples, cut them in slices about a quarter of an inch thick; have ready a pan of fresh, hot lard. Drop the slices in and fry brown. A little hot sugar sprinkled over improves them. Serve hot.

HOMINY PUDDING.—How to make a hominy pudding. Prepare as for batter cakes, add 1 egg for each pint, some whole cinnamon, sugar to suit taste, and a few raisins; bake like rice pudding. A little butter or chopped suet may be added. Serve hot or cold, with or without sauce.

AN OMELET.—Four eggs beaten separately, 1 small teaspoonful of milk, a piece of butter the size of a walnut melted, and put in the milk, an even teaspoonful of flour. Put in lastly the whites of the eggs well beaten, bake in a quick oven, either in a tin or earthen pan.

STEWED CELERY.—Wash 2 large heads of celery, throw away the leaves and green stocks, and cut the heart and white stocks into pieces about an inch long. Put these in fast boiling water, and boil them till very tender. Put into stew pan a gill of cream, a little salt, white pepper and pounded mace; put it over the fire, and when it simmers drain the celery and put it into the cream. Boil up once and serve.

RIBBONS.—To iron ribbons take a moderately hot flatiron on the ironing board, then place the ribbon on the left side of the iron and pull it through underneath the iron. If the ribbon is not pulled too fast, and the iron is the right warmth, this will be found to be a much better way than simply rubbing the iron over the ribbon.

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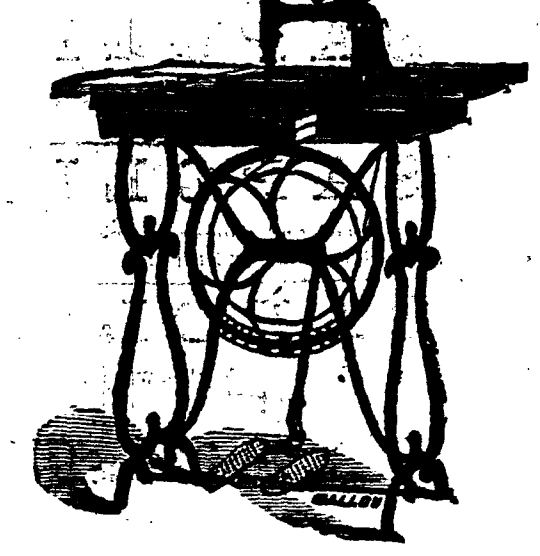
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A NEW FRAME HOUSE OF SIX ROOMS, well finished, and a large frame barn with other outbuildings. Plenty of good water at the house; running water on the place. Price \$5,000 in payments. Adam Kirk, Jr., owner.

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In Big Beaver township, Beaver county, Pa., containing about 140 acres—of which 120 acres are cleared, 35 acres first bottom land; 20 acres in oak timber; balance of cleared land; gently rolling; all under fence, on the P. F. W. & C. Railroad; building on a good township road one-half mile from Home wood station; soil is first class and all can be worked by machinery. Improvements, one newly weather-boarded log house of 5 rooms, two stories high, veranda and frame kitchen; two pleasant surroundings, one new two-story frame house of 4 rooms, portico in front; a good cellar; spring of water and well close to house; one new lot barn, with stone foundation, filled with plenty of stabling for horses and cows; corn crib, smoke house, and all usual outbuildings; a first-rate orchard of various kinds of fruit trees in good bearing condition, and a young orchard. This place is in a very pleasant part of the county, with every surrounding object to make it agreeable and attractive, and is a first-class farm in a good neighborhood, close to schools, churches, post-office and station—will subdivide this tract if desired by the purchaser, for sale. Price, \$80 per acre, in payments. George E. McCready, owner.

A SPLENDID GARDEN OR DAIRY FARM.

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