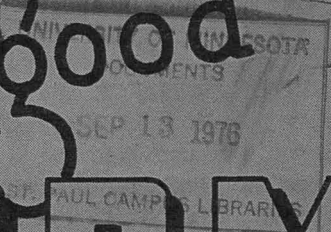
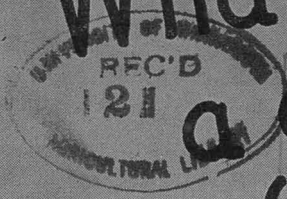


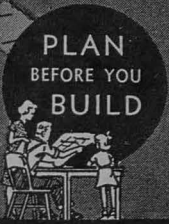
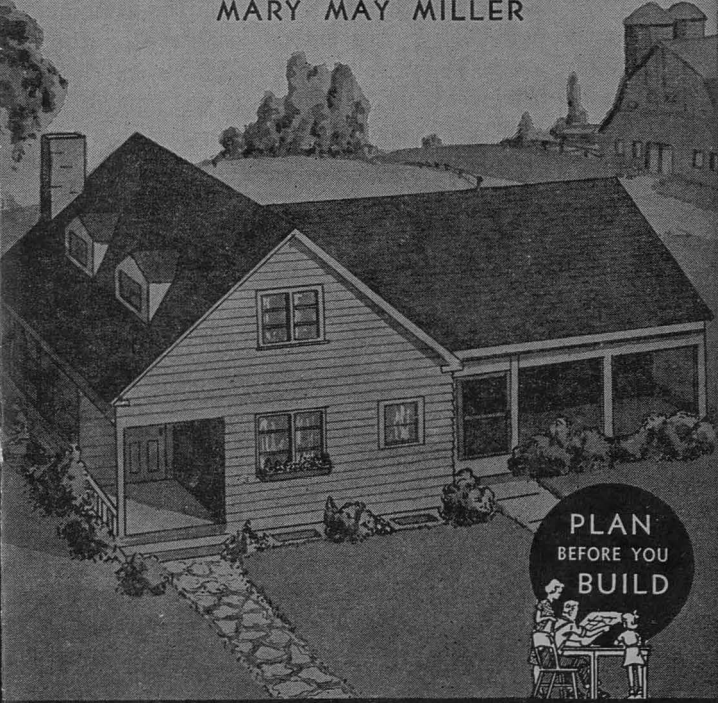
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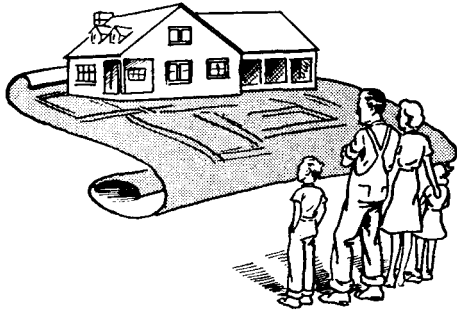
FARM HOUSE

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Agricultural Extension Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A Farm House Should Fit the Needs of Farm Life



THE FARM FAMILY planning to build or remodel a house usually collects ideas from homes already built and from catalogs, bulletins, and magazines, leaving major decisions to the carpenter or contractor. Unfortunately, the builder does not always have the training or the intimate knowledge of farm life to adapt a plan to meet the needs of farm family living. All over the country there are farm houses which copy city houses. Although this acceptance of city designs indicates an improved standard of comfort among rural people, it usually results in serious inconveniences to the farm family.

WHAT DO FARM WOMEN WANT MOST?

According to a study made by the American Home Economics Association, farm women rate sanitary facilities in the following order: sink, bath tub, flush toilet, lavatory, shower, laundry, sink in workroom, sink or lavatory in men's wash room. A drain connection at each fixture was considered more urgent than water. Cold water connection came before hot water. Hot water at the bath tub preceded hot water at the sink.

The same study shows that farm women have definite ideas about room combinations:

Six-room house (most desirable): Kitchen with dining space, dining room, living room, and three bedrooms.

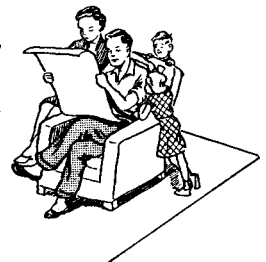
Five-room house: Kitchen, dining room, living room, and two bedrooms.

Four-room house: Combined kitchen and dining room, living room with studio couch, and two bedrooms.

IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL HEATING—A central heating system comes early in any modernizing program because it contributes so much to the family's comfort. Adequate heating is a necessity if plumbing is to be installed. Farm people do not readily discard the wood range for a gas or electric range because of its convenient heat. On the farm it is especially important that outer clothing and boots should have a place with enough heat to dry them overnight.

Why Is a Farm House Different?

- The rear entrance is more important than the front entrance. Continuous traffic from house to the barn and other buildings governs the household routine.
- More space usually is required for large-scale household activities—cooking, baking, meat cutting, canning, laundering.
- The nature of farm work makes it desirable to have a special place for work clothes and for washing up.
- Farm help is fed and lodged in many farm homes, and crews of men are fed during busy seasons.
- The dining area is more closely related to the kitchen than to the living room.
- The basement continues to be an essential place for the storage of fruits and vegetables and for the handling of produce.
- The farm house is more often a center for more community activities than the urban house.
- The farm house is the farmer's "office," the center of his business.



The Home Is for the Family . . .

THE IDEAL FARM home has properly planned rooms—wisely furnished—suited to the interests and activities of the family.



DINING. The dining room with a direct connection to the kitchen saves steps. Access to the dining room from a rear entrance should be possible without crossing the kitchen. A dining place in the kitchen, and a dining room are both desirable if there is space. Allow three feet from the table to each wall of the dining room.



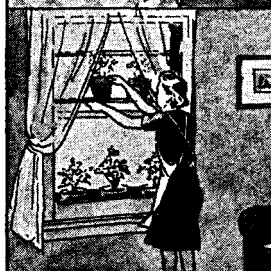
PLAYING. Children should play where it is comfortable and safe. A play pen near a low window is usually adequate for the baby. An enclosed place in the yard, with protection from the hot sun and within sight of the kitchen window, will reduce a mother's worries. The screened porch is a play asset when weather does not permit yard playing.



ENTERTAINING is an important activity of the farm family. A large living room, about 14' x 21', will accommodate a group of 25. Suitable wall space for the piano should be planned. Young folks like to entertain without disrupting the household. Folding doors between the dining room and the living room make an easy solution. A room in the basement, if dry and well ventilated, is an ideal spot for noisy recreation.



SLEEPING. Three bedrooms should be planned—for the parents, the boys, and the girls. The bedroom should be large enough to permit space on both sides of the bed. Each occupant should have adequate closet and storage space for clothes and personal possessions. Farm homemakers agree that a bedroom and toilet facilities on the first floor are among the "musts."



HOBBIES can be a source of pleasure to the entire family. House plants, for instance, given proper care and arranged in a specially designed window can be enjoyed by all. Placed on glass shelves they will offer the least interference with light and view. Every member of the family should be encouraged to have his hobby and should have a place for it.

GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO EFFICIENT WORK SPACES

KITCHEN—Most of a farm homemaker's time is spent **in, to, and from** the kitchen. Therefore, a centrally located kitchen that is close to the dining space, stairways, and back entrance will reduce daily mileage. In arranging the kitchen remember that work usually proceeds from right to left, from food supply to preparation, cooking, serving, and dish washing. Cupboards with adjustable shelves are needed at each center. Their capacity should be determined by the requirements of each household. The dining space with adequate room around it should be at one side or at one end.

UTILITY ROOM—By providing a room for canning, laundering, and other special jobs, a more compact kitchen is possible. This workroom should have a stove, a large table, and a few shelves for the equipment involved. A sink and an exhaust fan are desirable. There should be enough room for the washing machine, tubs, and ironing equipment. Space in the workroom where the men can wash up and hang their work clothes would be practical.

SEWING CENTER—Farm homemakers prefer a sewing center on the first floor. Suitable facilities could be provided in the downstairs bedroom, dining room, sun room, or in the utility room. A large cutting surface, as well as storage for equipment and supplies, is needed. Exact requirements will depend on the amount of sewing done by the homemaker.

BUSINESS NOOK—A desk or a filing cabinet near a table will suffice if only a depository and writing surface are needed. A light corner of the hall, accessible to the back entrance, would be an ideal spot for the business desk and lamp. If a farm office is desirable, it should be convenient to a rear entrance.

PORCHES—A utility porch, protected from sun, summer storms, and flies, situated near the kitchen for serving meals, is a great convenience on the farm. In a two-story house, an upper deck is always useful for airing bedding and shaking dust mops. It also serves as a fire escape, and can be used as a sleeping porch. The door to the deck will improve ventilation.

BEFORE YOU BUILD CONSIDER THESE

- *The long-time view*—the house will probably serve a succession of families differing in size, age, and sex. There should be possibility of future expansions at reasonable cost.
- *The building site*—with respect to view, prevailing winds, drainage, and other buildings.
- *Rear entrances*—convenience to driveway, other buildings, and to basement stairway. The desirability of a grade door.
- *Compactness*—the short center hall for traffic lane to various rooms. Telephone in hall.
- *Doors and windows*—with relation to furniture movement and placement, ventilation, light, convenience.
- *Hand rails*—for stairways and outdoor steps. Other safety measures.
- *Switches and outlets*—location and adequacy for lighting and appliances.
- *Outside features*—protected entrances, walks, surfaced driveway, enclosed yard, parking space.
- *Weatherstripping, insulation, dampproofing, waterproofing.*

There Must Be Places to Put Things

ADEQUATE STORAGE is essential for comfortable living. Well-planned closets and shelves encourage orderliness.

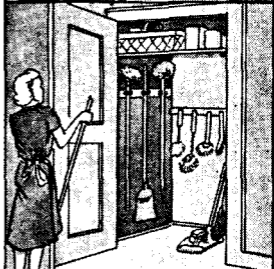
CLOTHES. For clothes on hangers, the closet should be 24" deep to prevent the rubbing of garments against wall and door. Allow 30" or more for the width of the closet. Two small closets in a bedroom are usually more desirable than one large one. Space the shelves and rods according to the articles to be stored, and the reach of persons using the closet. A shelf for shoes above long garments is convenient.

CLEANING EQUIPMENT. Ideally, there should be a large cleaning closet on the first floor (near the center of the house), and a small one on the second floor. List and measure items for each place, and plan the closet to fit them. Shelf space for the cleaning kit is important.

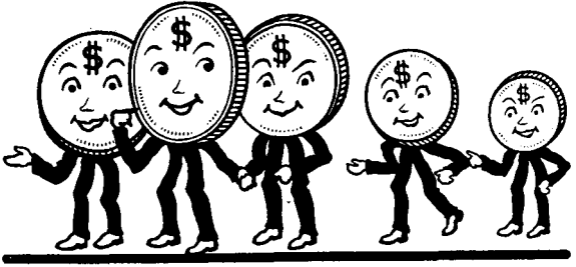
LINENS AND BEDDING. Measure the articles to be stored, to determine correct sizes and spacings of drawers and shelves. If space permits, include a place for toilet supplies. A shelf on which to sort linens should be placed at a convenient height. In a two-story house, a small linen closet on the first floor is also desirable. Plan suitable storage for blankets, quilts, and spreads.

TOYS, GAMES, SPORTING EQUIPMENT. Plan open shelves for mechanical toys and a chest for miscellaneous ones. A built-in cupboard with pull-out shelf is ideal for games. Plan a place for card tables and table games. The men in the family will appreciate a closet for sporting equipment, a section of which could be locked for safety.

WINTER FOOD SUPPLY. The farm family usually raises a large share of its winter food supply. A modern house presents a special problem because a furnace will heat and dry the basement. A special storage room, insulated to keep it cool and moist, should be built in one corner. Extension Bulletin 226, "Home Vegetable Storage," gives complete plans.



WE WILL GO *FARTHER* IF YOU PLAN CAREFULLY



- Which improvement should come first?
- Will it pay to wait?
- How much will it cost?
- The family should decide!

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