

Water Supply for the Farm Home

The four major items for comfort in the farm home are a beautiful supply of good clean water, an efficient sanitation system, a good lighting system, and a satisfactory heating system. Of these comforts water supply is the most important for the saving of drudgery and the making of an ideal country home. The sanitation system should be planned with the water system.

Practically all farms are supplied with water from deep or shallow wells or from springs. A well protected deep well is probably the safest source of water supply, although the spring is usually free from contamination if properly protected from surface water and if there are no dwellings or other sources of contamination above the spring. The cistern

may be classed as a shallow well, its degree of purity depending on the care taken in catching and storing the water. Water from any source should be tested at intervals to determine its purity. Clear water does not always indicate pure water, nor does cloudy water indicate pure water.

Perhaps the most dangerous source of water supply is the open well with buckets. In addition to the danger of rats, birds or pets falling into the well, everyone who draws water from such a well must necessarily wash their hands as they pull on the wet chain or rope. If one is opposed to a pump the well can be ^{tightly} curbed and a windlass used for winding up the rope to prevent its coming in contact with the hands.

Now is a good time to consider the installation of a water system in order to have the equipment on hand and get it installed before cold weather. There is a water system to fit every condition and every pocket book. A simple overhead barrel system may be installed at a cost of only a few dollars to supply water for the kitchen, and in some cases for the bath, or a complete system, including bath room fixtures and sewerage system, may be installed for ^{a greater cost} ~~several~~ hundred dollars. At least a start should be made by installing a system to provide water for the kitchen and a sink to carry away the waste water. This will save hundreds of miles of piping, steps and hours of ~~work~~ ^{back breaking} toil. The work should be so planned that each part installed is a step toward a complete system.