(Model.)

A. F. BUTTERS.

SHEEP RACK.

No. 261,997. Patented Aug. 1, 1882.

Fig. 1.

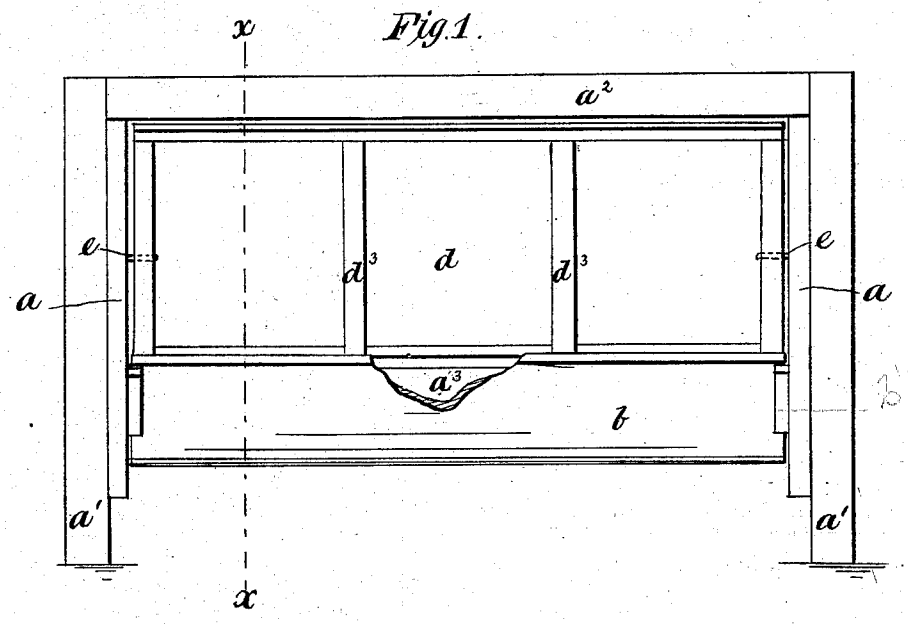


Fig. 2.

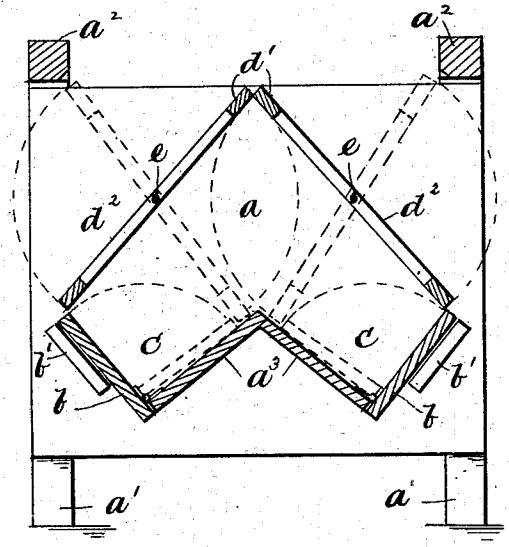
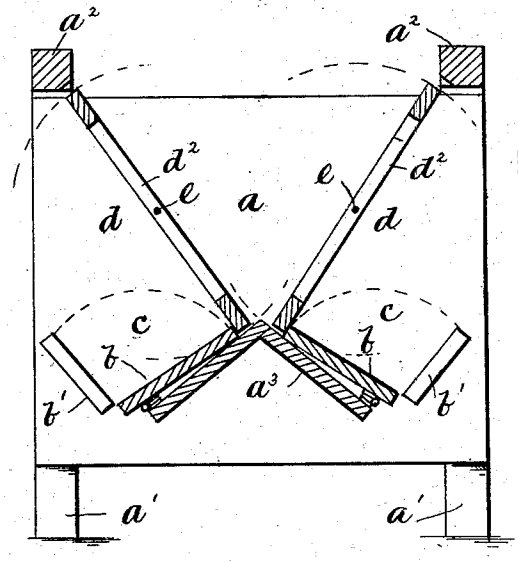


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON F. BUTTERS, OF MARSHALL, OHIO.

SHEEP-RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 261,997, dated August 1, 1882.

Application filed April 29, 1882. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AARON F. BUTTERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Marshall, in the county of Highland and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sheep-Racks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in feeding-racks intended especially for feeding sheep.

It consists essentially in the combination, substantially as hereinafter described, of the hinged trough and pivoted slat-frames, arranged and operating as set forth.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side view; and Figs. 2 and 3 are transverse sections on line *x x*, Fig. 1, of a rack constructed according to my invention.

In carrying out my invention I employ the framing composed of the end boards, *a a*, properly supported on legs *a'*, top beams, a^2 a^2, and the boards a^3 a^3. These boards a^3 a^3 extend from one to the other of the end boards, *a*, and their tops are joined together, and they are inclined outward from the joint, exhibiting in cross-section the inverted, V shape, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

b b represent the boards which, in connection with the boards a^3 a^3, form the folding troughs *c*. The lower ends of boards *b b* are hinged to lower ends of boards a^3, and when turned up against said boards there is sufficient space between the upper end of boards a^3 and *b* to permit the side bars of the pivoted slat-frames to rest down below top of board a^3 and bear against board *b*, as indicated in dotted lines, Fig. 2. These hinged boards *b*, as shown in Fig. 1, extend the full distance between end boards, *a*, forming a folding trough the full length of the main frame.

b' are stops or cleats fixed to inner side of end boards, *a*, and adapted to limit the outward movement of the hinged boards *b*.

d are the pivoted slat-frames, made as long as the space between end boards, *a*, and of proper width to turn between the top beams, a^2, and tops of boards a^3 when properly pivoted, as will be described. These frames *d* are composed of the side bars, *d'*, end bars, d^2 and slats d^3. I employ two of these frames, one over each trough. I pivot them on pins *e*, extended from end boards, *a*, directly over the center of troughs *c*, and about midway the distance between top of troughs *c* and top beams, a^2, as shown. The end bars, d^2, of the frames *d* are pivoted centrally on these pins *e*, and the frames can readily turn on the pins, as indicated in dotted lines, Figs. 2 and 3.

In the use of my invention in feeding fodder, the boards *b* should be turned up against boards a^3, and the frames *d* should be turned with their side bars together at the bottom, as shown in full lines, Fig. 3, and the fodder should be placed in the rack formed by the frames *d*. It is then in easy reach of the sheep, and the troughs being folded no dirt can get into them. For feeding corn, oats, or other grain the boards *b* should be turned back forming the folding trough *c*, in which is placed the feed, the frames *d* remaining in the same position as before, and preventing the sheep from getting into the troughs with their feet. In feeding hay the troughs are left in the same position as when feeding grain, and the frames are brought together at the bottom, as when feeding fodder. The hay is then placed in the rack so formed, and the frames are turned, bringing the side bars together at the top, the hay falling into the troughs, where it can be easily reached through the slats of frames *d*.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a sheep-rack, the combination, substantially as hereinbefore set forth, of the inclined boards a^3, having their upper edges abutted together, the boards *b*, hinged to the lower edges of boards a^3, and turning outward and forming troughs *c*, and the frames *d*, pivoted and turning inward to bring their lower ends near to the apex of the inclined boards a^3 or outward to bring their lower ends near to the outer edge of the unfolded boards *b* and over the troughs *c*, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

AARON F. BUTTERS.

Witnesses:

DANIEL L. BUTTERS,

ROBERT R. WATTS.