Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., September 5, 1890.

Farm Notes.

Good shelter, with plenty of bedding, is an important item with stock, whether feeding for market or not.

Convenient arrangements for feeding will lessen the cost in feeding stock of all kinds, as there will be less waste.

There is some truth in the claim that rank and luxuriant growth of vine is not always conducive to earliness of crop.

The farmers of Peru, Ind., have got a binding-twine factory running which makes a good twine out of Indiana-grown flax straw.

The heaviest item of expense on all farms is labor. To save a portion of that expense do not let a singte weed go to seed. Look into the fence corners.

The squash bug lays its eggs on the inside of the leaves, and they may be easily found upon examination. The squash vine borer deposits its eggs in the stem.

Damaged grain is not cheap food, but has been known to do injury in some cases. The animal that produces will thrive better and give a greater profit on the best food than on that which is inferior.

Growing trees of any kind is growing a crop. Now if we will use the trees as we use other crops, giving them good rich soil and decent care, we shall act wisely and likely successfully grow one crop of trees.

Any odd time you have will not be lost if you use it in keeping the fence corners clear of weeds. It may save time next year when you are "short of time." Weeds mature very fast this month; look out for them.

Secretary Sessions estimates that Massachusetts produced under glass last year 2,500,000 heads of lettuce and 3,700,000 cucumbers; estimating the lettuce at 30 cents a dozen and the cucumbers at 3½ cents each, the product is valued at $200,000.

With growing stock care must be taken not to over-feed, as all that is necessary is to feed a sufficient quantity to keep in good thrifty condition. With fattening stock, however, it is necessary to see that they are fed all that they can eat up clean at one time.

Creameries near large towns can make a fine article of pot cheese by scalding the buttermilk to 120 degrees or 140 degrees and hanging up to drain. One-third buttermilk and two-thirds skim milk in the fall makes a very smooth moist cheese for everyday use in winter.

It is better to sow a little plaster frequently than a great deal at one time. There is much question which time is best for this operation, and by repeating the sowing some one will be just right. The cost is slight. Plaster is everywhere the cheapest manure for clover, and 100 pounds per acre, if finely ground, is enough at one time.

Soaked feed should be provided during the summer months for the pigs. This is particularly important where pure fresh water is not accessible at all hours. Soaking all the grain for twelve hours softens it and makes it more inviting. But never allow grain to lie in water until fermentation begins. The fattening property of grain is reduced by fermentation.

In the year 1706 the average weight of fatted steers in the London and Liverpool markets was but 300. This, too at the average age of 5 years. In 1755 this average weight was increased to 482 pounds. In 1830 the weight was 650 pounds, more than double that of 1706. The average weight of the fatted steer to-day is four times what it was in 1706, only 184 years ago.—*St. Louis Republic.*

Some sires show greater excellence than others, and some excell in one sex more than another. In cases well known may be mentioned the imported thoroughbred horse Glencoe, whose daughters were more valuable as broodmares than his sons for sires. This is also noticeable with some trotting sires, such as Mambrino Patchen, whose daughters excelled his sons for breeding purposes.

Some poultry keepers use bedding for their fowls, the same as they do cattle and horses, putting it under the roost and roosting branches every night, then shaking it out well, removing the following evening. In such cases the droppings must also be removed daily, and aside from this unnecessary labor, the droppings are wet, not eastiy handled and when stowed away in barrels for future use, will pack very solid and frequently heat and become offensive.

Each season brings out something new, and many enter and breed poultry on a large scale; few succeed if they start this way, yet not all fail. Mr. Havemeyer, of New York, has quite an extensive establishment, keeping 1200 to 1500 hens for eggs and market purposes, and raising some very fine-blooded stock. This man is a leading sugar refiner, and although he is wealthy he never fails to impart good business methods into his poultry-keeping which is one secret of his success. Being located near an extensive market like New York his surplus stock finds ready sale and good prices.

In answer to J. W. Dowler, Pennsylvania, who asks "What will kill or destroy lice on cabbage and turnips?" we say try dusting fresh lime on them. If one dose does not do the job give a second. Some gardeners consider the salt remedy infallable for those on cabbages. As soon as the lice appear or when the plant begins to head, open the leave scarefully with the fingers and sprinkle common salt between them. A California gardener used two tablespoonfuls of kerosene mixed with a pint of water, and applied by rubbing it on the out-side leaves. Two applications are usually sufficient.

Rattlesnake Farming.

How the Reptiles Are Caught, Fattened and Made to Yield Oil.

J. E. Childs has a monopoly of snake cultivation and production of snake oil in Arkansas in which state is located what is well known through that country as the Childs snake farm. This peculiar and unenvied enterprise is situated in the suburbs of Harrisburg, in the northeastern part of the state, where snakes, especially rattlers, are found in abundance.

The manner in which the rattlesnakes are caught and handled is enough to make cold chills run over persons who are timid. Twenty-five cents to $1 per pound for rattlesnakes, however, makes it an inducement for the natives. Two men go together. One of them carries a long, forked pole or cane, and when a snake is found this pole is used to hold the snake or reptile on the ground. The other snake hunter carries a strong cord, which is looped over the head of the poisonous prey, and is then used for carrying the reptile to market, which, however, is done without injury to the snake.

When the snake catchers arrive at the residence of Mr. Childs the latter, in a careless-like manner, takes the matter in hand, and if a box of rattlers, for instance, is brought to him, he removes the lid of the box and takes the snake (wild from the woods) out just as one would reach in for and take hold of a rabbit. The rattler, as soon as the top of the cage has been taken off, sets up a continuous rattle and hisses fearfully. Mr. Childs, however, pays no attention to this little racket, but simply takes the snake to his farm, weighs it, pays the catcher and is then ready for a repetition of the act. A good big rattlesnake will weigh from six to ten pounds, and if fat will be worth nearly or quite as many dollars.

The size of the snake farm is about half an acre, with a tightly closed pen in its center, which is the abiding place of the snakes. Here the ugly reptiles are kept and fattened, and when they are ready to put under the process for the production of oil the reptiles' heads are neatly chopped off, and by means of a string are tied, head upward, to the side of the pen where the sun is the brightest. The heat of the sun, it is said, causes the oil of the snake to drip out, and it is caught in a receptacle and laid aside to be subsequently sold at from $1.50 to $2 an ounce or from $20 to $32 a pint.

The Corsican Vendetta.

Should a Corsican in revenge for injury done to himself or his relations, or even to his dog, kill another with knife or with *coup de fusil*, public sympathy sustains him, the hills shelter him, and justice in the shape of gendarmes winks with both eyes unless the murderer be very unpopular. True he is termed a "bandit," and has to take refuge in the macqui, as the natural bush is called that clothes the mountain sides. Well-informed Corsicans tell one that there are at this moment in the island over 1,000 in hiding. But please understand, the bandit is no brigand. Should you, defenseless, happen to fall in with him he will not take your purse, but on the contrary offer you food if he has it and shelter in his cave, and most probably refuse any payment for his hospitality. It is only his foes family against which he wages war, and of course in self defense with the gendarmes. These latter he will shoot with as much unconcern as a woodcock. And yet, though the Corsican will not rob you, it is not because he does not love money. For a very few francs, both Corsican gentlemen and English residents aver, you can find a man who will do your killing for you and rid you of your enemies with knife or bullet. And while this utter contempt for human life prevails there can be no hope of the extinction of the vendetta.—*National Review.*

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