

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 10, 1890.

## Farm Notes.

Corncocks are exceedingly rich in potash. Save them, burn them, and carefully collect the ashes therefrom.

When hay and straw are stacked do not forget that the most important matter is to have the stack shed water.

If your peach trees are not thrifty look for the borer. If grass has grown up in the peach orchard the trees will probably have made but little growth.

Rye sown as late as now will come up and provide green food for poultry, as the hens can pick the blades even when but very little growth is made.

Before disposing of animals select such as have shown merit to be retained for breeding purposes. Selection will largely assist in the work of improvement.

Put plenty of manure around the canes of the raspberries if you wish a full crop next season. The manure serves as a mulch, protects the roots and provides plant food.

Although the blackberry grows wild in some sections, and can be had for the picking, a row of them on the farm, cultivated and manured, will be found of value during the fruit season.

If you do not wish to carry the soapuds to the manure heap (which is the best place for them) throw them on the asparagus plot, as they always show beneficial effects when used on asparagus beds.

Crops intended for plowing under give the best results if they are in seed in just at the period of blooming, or when the seeds are being to form, but such plants should never be allowed to produce seed.

Low fences induce cattle to attempt to get over, and when the vice of jumping over fences has been captured, cattle will attempt to do so on high fences. The rule should be to have all fences in good condition.

The farmer who carefully saves all the manure, and uses every endeavor to preserve it, is the one who also uses fertilizers. Such a farmer is never over-supplied with the materials that are necessary to increase the fertility of his soil.

If the winter supply of food seems liable to fall short do not wait until that time to reduce the surplus stock, but sell off the fat stock as early as possible, so as to lessen the consumption before the season for feeding the stored arrives.

It has been conclusively demonstrated that it will cost no more to raise a large hog, with a fair proportion of lean and fat, and of equal weight in the same period of growth, than to produce pork that is very fat and containing but little lean meat.

The experiments made in Ohio for the purpose of arriving at a knowledge of the best method of cutting potatoes for seed, and the production therefrom, show that cutting the seed reduces the yield. In other words, the smaller the cuttings the smaller the yield.

No matter how many varieties of strawberries may be introduced no variety will thrive in all sections. Experiments should be made on each farm and selections made in favor of the variety giving the best results according to climate and conditions of soil.

Farmers who raise sheep for wool should combine and grade their wool in large quantities. In some sections the same price is paid for all grades of wool, the best wool being mixed in with the inferior in order to secure a better price for the whole, the practice being confined mostly to country merchants.

The sanitary condition of the barns, stables and other outbuildings are as important to observe as are those pertaining to the dwelling-house and its surroundings. Disease may have its source in the manure heap or a filthy barnyard, and be communicated not only to every part of a farm but to an entire community.

The mole does not attack roots or vegetables but feeds on beetles, worms and other insects. To destroy moles is to increase the number of pests in the ground. While some gardeners object to the ridging and hilling of the earth by moles and witness damage done in that manner, yet the presence of the moles is evidence that insects are abundant, and that the moles will afford more benefit than cause damage.

If, in feeding stock, due regard be paid to the ages of the animals, and to their capacity as producers, better results will be obtained from the food allowed. Young animals will require less food of certain kinds and more of others than do matured stock, and the cow that is yielding milk will need more food than the cow that is dried off. Farmers should know each animal, and its requirement, so as to be able to feed with judgment and to avoid loss and waste of food.

Rich, well-managed manure is the cheapest, as it costs less to provide the plant food to the soil when the manure is concentrated. Handling and hauling tons of bulky and insoluble material is expensive. Apparently a large amount of manure is being applied when bulky material is hauled, but a careful review of the expense of so doing will sometimes show that it is more economical to reduce the bulk by first permitting it to undergo decomposition in the manure heap. The finer and more decomposed the manure the better its condition for providing plant food.

## General Grant's Courtship.

Mrs. Grant tells how the Great Soldier Proposed.

"One summer day we were going to a morning wedding, and Lieutenant Grant was also invited. He came for us on horseback, and asked my brother's permission to drive me, in exchange for his saddle, to which he gladly consented. The day was beautiful, the road was a little leavy from previous rain, but the sun shone in splendor. We had to cross a little bridge that spanned a ravine, and when we reached it, was surprised and a little concerned to find the gulch swollen, a most unusual thing, the water reaching to the bridge. I noticed, too, Lieutenant Grant was very very quiet, and that the high water bothered me. I asked several times if he thought the water dangerous to cross, and he told me I would rather go back than take any risk. He assured me, in his brief way, that it was perfectly safe, and in my heart I relied upon him. Just as we reached the bridge I said: 'Now, if anything happens, I shall cling to you, no matter what you say to the contrary.' He simply said 'All right,' and we were over the planks in less than a minute. Then his mood changed, he became more social, and in asking me to be his wife, used my throat as a theme. After dinner that afternoon, Lieutenant Grant asked me to set the table. I wanted to be engaged and told him it would be much nicer than getting married—a sentiment he did not approve. We were very quiet that evening, and neither said a word of the secret. After supper he went back to regiment, and a few days later General Taylor sent him to Camp Salubrity, in Louisiana. He was too shy to ask father, so he waited till he was stationed, and wrote to him. Father never answered the letter. I was his favorite daughter, and he thought my life would not suit me. 'Besides,' said father, 'you are too poor. He hasn't anything to give you.' 'I rose in my wrath and I said I was poor too, and hadn't anything to give him.' 'The next year he came back on a leave of absence, and I can remember just how he looked as he rode up in his new uniform. Father was going to Washington on business, and we were all on the front porch kissing him goodbye, and stuffing his pockets with notes of things he was to buy. Lieutenant Grant asked for my hand, and he, in a hurry to get off, consented. 'My soldier lover was in and around Mexico for four years, including the war. Every mail brought me a letter. Every one of them full of sweet nothings, love and war, and now and then some pressed leaves and flowers. Some were written on drum-heads captured from the Mexicans and others on sheets of foolscap, folded and sealed with red wafers. I read each one every day until the next one came. I have them all.' —Mrs. General Grant in *October Ladies Home Journal*.

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It is for you who want, or use anything eatable, either as meats, fish, groceries, fruits, nuts, relishes, or in fact anything from a piece of chewing gum to a first class beef steak, that we write and pay the printer to print this invitation for you to come and see us.

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