

FARM NOTES.

That one egg is as good as another is a mistaken idea. Eggs from hens that have been well kept and fed on wholesome food are very different from eggs laid by poorly fed or diseased hens.

One of the best devices for feeding loose oats and hay to sheep is to place the feed just outside the sheep lot fence made of palings placed such a distance apart that the sheep can reach through to eat.

The growing of trees, whether for fruit or shade, is an important matter, and the trees deserve a rich soil, care and fertilizer. If a tree dies or becomes diseased there is a cause, which should be discovered, and some remedy applied.

The custom of loading farm wagons so that the heaviest weight is upon the front wheels is all wrong and adds materially to the draft. The heaviest weight should be carried by the hind wheels. This has been proved by official and careful tests.

A farmer can bring an orchard to the bearing point, and at the same time produce nearly as much corn, potatoes or other produce as if it were not there. It will add greatly to the value of his farm, whether he intends to make it his home or sell the place.

When fowls are afflicted with vermin the most practical remedy is a thorough dusting with a good quality of insect powder, applied with a blower. The habit of applying grease or oil to a fowl is of ancient origin and exhibits poor judgment. Insect powder is just as cheap.

In laying drains it is best to cover each joint with a collar so fitted that the soil will not wash in and fill the tile. If the bottom of the ditch is cut down to a point exactly the size of the tile the latter will not move laterally, nor cause trouble. It is best to make it secure and safe in the first place.

The warm weather is acceptable to string beans, especially if the season is not too dry. The green varieties are best for pickling, but there is nothing to compare with the German wax for the table, though they are not so prolific as the majority of the other kinds. Plant them every two weeks for a succession. A row of them planted every week is better, and if the garden is rightly managed in that way it is surprising how many different crops can be grown, as it is not necessary to wait for warm weather.

It is time lost, and broken backs, to undertake the sowing of garden seeds by hand. Use a drill, which puts the seeds in regularly, evenly, marks the rows and covers them at the right depth. There are many handy little implements suitable for the garden that are not in frequent use. Even a trowel does excellent service in transplanting, and a weeder will tear out the weeds much quicker than can be done by hand. Hand implements are being improved—even the hoes and rakes, and their use is economical and convenient.

No vegetable is more popular than lima beans, and they are suitable for all classes of persons, as well as for all manner of dishes. The difficulty with them is the poles, which are sometimes expensive; but if strings are used, as is done for climbing flowers, the vines will grow and thrive equally as well. All that is necessary is to keep them off the ground, and it is not necessary to pole them if inconvenient. The late crop should be a large one, not only for the purpose of supplying the family with a sufficiency of green ones for the table, but also that they may be dried and laid aside for winter. If stored away they are very serviceable at that season, as they may then be soaked and used, for the same purposes as when they are green.

The pickle crop may now be put in at any time, preferably in June or July, as the vines grow fast and bear early. The long green varieties are best, but there is a kind called the Jersey pickle, which is better for those that are intended for the salt barrel. The Gherkin should not be overlooked, as it is one of the best for pickling, though otherwise unsuitable for the table. Bugs are very destructive to the vines at times, but a solution of soap and water, with a small proportion of kerosene, will do much in the way of preventing their attacks. Pick the cucumbers when they are young, so as to have them coming in frequently, as they are worthless when ripe. As they are picked green it is an easy matter to have them continuously until fall.

Breeding and feeding should go hand in hand. As variety of plant food is needed for the crops, according to the nature of the soil, so is variety required in the food of animals according to the characteristics of the breed. No single article of food will suffice to supply the demands of the system. An animal will thrive for a short time on any kind of food, but when the body is drained and exhausted of those substances that have been stored and used it will gradually fall and the animal will perish for want of a new supply. The fat in the body will be used up if food deficient in carbon be fed, as consumption is constantly occurring in the body, and the bones, tissues, skin and nerves will gradually feel the need of elements necessary for their renewal when the proper food is withheld. Lime, soda, magnesia and other mineral elements must be provided in some shape, and any deficiency thereof will render feeding unprofitable.

What has destroyed the dairyman's opportunities is that he directs his work in the wrong direction. He is constantly building a structure without giving a thought to the solidity of the foundation. The success of all enterprises is to begin right and take time for doing the work properly. The foundation of dairying is the cow. The dairyman has fully understood the value of improved appliances to be used in dairying, and is not slow in the acceptance of every tool and implement that saves labor, but he has refused to breed his cows, going on the market to buy them in order to replace those that have dried off with others that are fresh in milk. In so doing he has wantonly sacrificed all that has been done in his interest by breeders, and made himself poorer by using animals that could not possibly afford him a profit under any circumstances. He estimates the cost of raising the calf, and buys his cows because he will not wait for the calf to mature, although the calf might return four-fold for his investment. It is the raising of better cows, those of breeds which will insure greater capacity of production, that is at the foundation of successful dairying, for with the best animals to be used the farmer can convert his products into milk and butter at less cost, and meet the market prices well fortified against the losses he now frequently endures by using inferior stock.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

Val is the summer lace, and as such will be most used to trim wash gowns.

Wide ribbons that are from four and a-half to eight inches wide are the ones favored by Dame Fashion this season.

A shower proof walking suit is one of the novelties of spring.

The covert jacket in 22-inch length is the popular separate jacket of the hour.

Draped sashes of liberty satin with a pointed front will accompany many dainty yet quaint summer costumes of baltise, flowered muslin, etc.

Buckles for garniture or girdles are made larger and richer than ever, either simply chased or jeweled.

Boleros continue to maintain their extraordinary vogue.

Collarless effects distinguish many new bodices.

White continues to out-distance all others as the correct separate waist.

Bayadere tucks, sometimes of uniform width, sometimes growing narrower toward the waist, constitute one of the season's most favored skirt trimmings.

Colored linings for transparent gowns are slowly but surely returning to fashion.

Wide sashes of soft silk trim many of the smart summer gowns.

Much cream lace is used to tone down gowns of otherwise too vivid coloring.

The days of Dolly Varden are recalled by the fancy fronts of lace, embroidery or brocade seen upon some very stylish gowns.

The two very definite skirt styles in mode this summer will be the revived flounce style of 50 years ago for soft stuffs, and the close-fitting habit out of skirt with full length tucks or pleats for firm fabrics and tailored effects.

Loose coats of black lace, unlined, or lined with thin black liberty silk, are the style for elderly women.

A floating lace veil attached to the hat, but seldom worn over the face because it is unbecoming, is a recent fashion revival.

Parasols for morning are of linen, though the new shaded taffeta to match the gowns. Embroidered and Dresden silk sunshades, with handles enameled to match the covers, are carried with afternoon gowns of net or voile.

Short skirts are only correct for gowns for informal wear; the round skirt, with its fullness sweeping to the floor, is much smarter for those intended for dress.

Berthas and deep collars, fichas and surplice effects are the universal bodice design for swaggar gowns of light-weight stuffs.

Linen de soie, which seems to combine many charms of both linen and silk, although of a somewhat coarse texture, is one of the latest among desirable summer fabrics.

Shirring is no longer confined to yokes either on the skirt or bodice, but it appears in numerous other ways on the spring gowns.

Creosents of shirring are seen on a stylish blouse of dull blue pongee. The creosents are applied like so many medallions, just where the motifs of lace would be used. As the blouse fastens in the back, there is nothing to disturb the arrangement of the group of creosents on the blouse front, and down, not sideways. This is more becoming to the figure. Arrange the group of creosent-moons so that they dip up and down around a full moon central motif, or if you prefer it, a central design made of creosents radiating like the spokes of a wheel.

Tennis shoes are in white linen. Dress white shoes are of buckskin. Buckskin may be cleaned any number of times. Oxfords with Louis heels are seen in mauve kidskin. Three worked eyelets on each side mark the new Oxford. It's hard to find a dress that cannot be matched in shoes. Crimson shoes are no longer to be confined to the boudoir. There are navy blue pumps in suede, more novel than pretty. Cuban heels in leather are on most of the smart walking shoes. Though smartest, the Cuban heel is not at all suited to many feet. Some wear even a French heel with less discomfort. Ties are no longer the modest affairs that they were of yore. Instead of woven silk half an inch in width ribbon quite an inch and a-half may be used.

Llama thread is the novelty this season. It is fine gold thread with a peculiar luster of its own, but unfortunately kills the coloring of any other thread used with it, and therefore is invariably used without any other trimming. As a general rule it is not considered on the materials themselves, the embroidery being so fine and close that it produces almost the effect of concentrated sunlight.

Rattan Novelties.—Among the recent developments in rattan furniture is a chair with a rail at least two feet above the top and surrounding the chair on three sides. From this a curtain is hung to protect the sitter from draughts. The Sheraton high-backed chair is also used as a model for rattan shapes, its wide side winds projecting forward from the back to protect the head. High-backed settles may also be purchased, and these, as well as the easy chairs, are also provided with parasol holders, or side pockets for books, papers and magazines.

To Clean White Velvet.—It is almost impossible to clean white velvets in a perfectly satisfactory manner. However, it may be greatly freshened by an application of chloroform. First brush and beat the velvet free of all dust. Pin the velvet out smoothly on an ironing board, or it may be stretched in an embroidery hoop, and have plenty of clean white cloths at hand. Dip the cloths in chloroform, rub lightly over the spots until it disappears, then, with a clean cloth, rub over the entire surface of the velvet to remove all soil on the nap. Do the work very rapidly and finish by rubbing with another clean white cloth. Haste is absolutely essential because of the volatile nature of the cleaning fluid and also to avoid a stain.

Seeding the Corn Crop. The Busy Period of the Year With Farmers.

Corn ground should be plowed, if possible, as soon as the weather permits, as the action of the frost will render it fine and save labor of preparation later in the season; but May is an excellent month to prepare for corn. One mistake usually made with corn is that of not thoroughly pulverizing the soil previous to putting in the seed. As the ground cannot be planted until danger of frost is past, time may be obtained by performing the work of preparation early, not only by plowing but by frequent harrowing. If plowed as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and the land left in the rough condition (without harrowing), the clods and lumps will be torn to pieces by expansion and contraction due to heat and cold. The land may be left until nearly time for planting, which will give the early grass and weeds a chance to germinate, when the pulverizer and harrow should be used. These implements should be passed over the ground until the soil is as fine as it is possible to make it. Plow as soon now as possible.

MANURE FOR CORN. The best method of manuring is to haul the manure to the ground and spread it as soon as it can be done. It should be evenly spread and plentifully applied. It may then be plowed under as the first plowing. Some farmers prefer to haul out the manure in the fall, in order that the frost may operate upon it during the winter; but this should not be done unless the manure is to spread over the ground and plowed in, as the rains will wash away much of the soluble matter. If applied in the spring it will also be subject to such danger, but not to so great an extent. But for the heavy labor of hauling manure over plowed ground, the best way to apply manure is spread it over the ground after plowing, allowing it to remain until the pulverizer and harrow are used, which will incorporate the manure intimately with the soil. If the manure is hauled in small loads, however, and broadcast over the ground from the wagon, it should be spread over the plowed ground and harrowed in.

VARIETIES AND CLIMATE. In using seed the climate must be taken into consideration. Corn is a semi-tropical plant, and requires plenty of warmth. Many farmers are led astray by tempting inducements to try varieties that are prolific, endeavoring to secure certain kinds that produce from three to four ears on each stalk. What is most desired is early maturity; but the greater the number of ears and the taller the stalk the longer the time required for growth, and hence the farmer should aim to select the kind that he knows will mature in his section though he should endeavor to secure the best that is most suitable to his soil. Corn is a gross feeder, and cannot be injured by too much well-rotted manure, especially if a "starter" in the hills, which is not necessary on all soils, some good brand of fertilizer may be used.

MODES OF CULTIVATION. Corn may be "cheeked" four feet apart each way, and the cultivator should then be kept in use until it grows too large to admit of being easily worked. No grass or weeds should be permitted to grow, and in the dry season the frequent use of the cultivator will be found beneficial. Another method of planting is to lay off the rows four feet apart and plant the corn one foot apart in the rows, thinning out all the plants in each hill but one. This gives each plant plenty of room and produces the largest yield. As soon as the corn is six inches high a one-horse plow is used, which should turn the earth from the corn. After it makes further growth the plow is again used, but this time throwing the earth back to the corn. After the grass begins to appear the cultivator is used, but once during the season the hoe may be required between the hills. Such method, however, is never used in this section, though practiced elsewhere.

DEEP AND SHALLOW PLOWING. The finer the condition of the soil the easier the facilities allowed the plants for feeding, and the greater the feeding room the greater the feeding of roots, which are essential during times of drought and lack of moisture, to say nothing of the vigorous growth and rapid progress of the corn by reason of its greater root surface. Many controversies regarding deep and shallow plowing would perhaps find an amicable solution if the nature of the soil and method of plowing were considered in exact relation to each other. Some farmers have found deep plowing highly advantageous, especially on clay soils, simply because the roots were permitted to search through a quantity of soil for food, and also to more easily procure moisture from below as well as through absorption of moisture by the soil. Other farmers have found deep plowing advantageous, especially on light soils, which assist in the establishment of a greater mass of roots near the surface, while the porosity of the soil and its light nature enable the corn to go downward as easily as may be desired.

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