

Democratic Matchman

Bellefonte, Pa., Aug. 4, 1905.

FARM NOTES.

—The best way to make a hen happy and start her singing is to give her something to do.

—For Good Fleeces.—Fineness, length and strength of fiber are essential qualities in a good fleece that should always have prominent consideration in the selection of breeding stock.

Anything that impairs vitality results in diminishing the length and strength of the fiber.

—One of the advantages in keeping a few pigs to produce pork for family use is that the pigs can be fed to produce meat of an excellent quality. One cannot easily buy meat of as good quality as he can produce it, and this fact should be considered as important as the cost. Quality as well as quantity is worth something.

—If you do not have enough manure for a large field use it on a small plot, and endeavor to make as much of it as possible by concentrating the manure and work to a limited area. It may be wasted by attempting to make it do service on a large space than it will probably cover, as well as an entailing more labor than the crop can compensate for.

—It has been shown that some cows in a herd will produce 100 pounds of milk, at a cost of 41 cents, while cows in other herds entail a cost of \$1.45 for the same quantity of milk. The cow that produces at 41 cents consequently gives a large profit, and is more valuable than three cows that produce at the larger cost; yet the three inferior cows require as much management, as well as stable room, as do better cows that give the dairyman a profit.

—Should the trees be full of young fruit later in the season it will pay to pick off one-half or more of the fruit when very small, as by so doing the tree will be less taxed and the fruit left on the tree will develop and grow more rapidly. It requires courage in a fruit grower to remove the fruit, as it seems like vandalism, but those who have tried it report more satisfactory results, and state that they would not again allow a tree to bear a full crop.

—Before the dairyman can be successful in either branch he must draw the line between the breeds that excel in yield of milk and those that give rich milk in cream. The first thing the scientific dairyman does is to select the breed for the purpose he may have in view. The next will be to feed in such a manner as to secure the largest yield of either milk or butter in proportion to the cost of food, and the best quality of product upon its adaptability for conversion into the ingredients entering into the composition of milk.

—Raising Calves on Skim-Milk.—There should be no difficulty in raising a calf that is ordinarily vigorous, provided it safely passes the danger from so-called water scours or calf cholera. It is, however, often difficult to get calves well started, if skimmed milk only is depended on from the start.

It is certainly a great advantage to use whole milk fresh from the cow for the first ten days or two weeks, and where so many cows are kept as you have, there are usually enough freshly-calved cows to furnish much of the new milk required while it is still unit in use.

After the calves are two weeks old, they may be changed to skimmed milk, and it is of course unnecessary that this change should be made gradually. Care must be taken that the skimmed milk is fresh, sweet and warm, and that the calves are not fed too much at a time. Two or three quarts twice a day are sufficient at first. In raising calves on skimmed milk, it is necessary of course that the skimmed milk be supplemented with some other food, and our experience has been that it is preferable to use dry food.

For this purpose we have found nothing better than good early-out rye or clover hay, and a mixture of wheat bran, whole or ground oats and old-process linseed oilmeal, equal parts of the oats and bran and about 10 per cent. of the whole oilmeal. Calves ordinarily will begin to look for dry feed by the time they are three weeks old, and we encourage them to use it as much and as early as they will do so, with unflinching good results. Sometimes we even teach the calf to eat the grain by putting a pinch of the dry grain in its mouth immediately after it finishes drinking. We consider such treatment preferable to attempting to use flaxseed jelly and various things of that sort. There are, however, some preparations of skimmed milk now on the market in dry form that are very promising as calf foods.

—Method of Keeping Seed Corn.—The writer is a firm believer in the gospel of good seed corn, and he subscribes to the method of selecting seed prescribed by the seed corn specialists, but he wishes to amend their creed by planting one acre or two acres with the very finest ears that he can find in his crop of corn. Plant it early enough so it will be sure to ripen; husk it as soon as it will do, even before all the ears are dry make it a special order and husk the first days of the husking season, before there are any hard frozes, select the ears wanted for seed while unloading the corn; take plenty of time and make a good selection. After selecting the corn put it in a room over a fire (a room over the kitchen stove is the very best place, for the reason there is always fire in the kitchen stove); put the ears up in the racks or another them over the floor; after a week or ten days move the corn around or pile it up in ranks so the air can move through it and make sure of the drying-out process before the cold winter comes.

Putting seed corn in a dry place is not enough; it must also be kept in a place where there is plenty of artificial heat. Bringing the seed corn into the house has objections; our better halves are of the opinion that corn and mice go together; that wherever corn is there will the mice be also, but we are of the opinion that we have no more mice with the corn than without it. We find, however, make a room mouseproof by filling the walls with mortar or lining the room with sheet iron. If the mice come, go after them with a basketful of traps, using all the known kinds of mouse-traps.

The writer has kept his seed corn in an overhead room for the past twenty years and he assures every farmer that if he will select his seed corn before any hard frozes come, place it in a room over a fire immediately after selecting and keep it there until warm weather the next spring, he will not need to follow any complicated system of testing or germination the next spring. Farmers are now raising much later varieties of corn than they did 25 years ago, so that the need for fire drying the seed is much greater on that account.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A DAILY THOUGHT.

In the supremacy of self-control consists one of the perfections of the ideal man.—Herbert Spencer.

PICNIC LUNCHEON.

The man or woman who has had experience in planning such outings will first of all limit the number of invitations—more than a dozen entails the carrying of the large quantity of food. The spot selected should be planned with reference to its shade and accessibility either by carriage or on foot from station or trolley line. A cool spring near at hand is desirable but it should not be patronized unless its purity is ascertained. Several days ahead of time the menu should be planned, the list of necessary edibles made out as well as lists of utensils and such other articles as are likely to be needed; then, if such articles are checked off as packed, no indispensable will be missing when called for. When carriages are to be used, two large hamper or baskets should be provided, one for utensils and dishes etc., the other for food; if, however, the carrying must be divided among the various members of the party, have on hand a number of stout cardboard boxes of convenient size. When dishes, utensils, etc., must be reduced to the lightest proportions for hand carriage, provide paper or wooden plates and paper napkins; both of these articles are now made in artistic shapes and designs. Telescope drinking cups or bright new tin ones will not be found amiss and the loss of a few new tin spoons will not be a grave matter. When a table cloth is to be used one of bright red and white will be found better than a plain white one, as the grass makes the latter appear dingy. Of utensils, a pocket alcohol stove and a tiny tin pan will make good coffee, provided the ground bean is tied loosely but securely in a muslin bag. A tin pie plate or two will prove just the thing for scrambling eggs, making a rabbit or frying cold potatoes.

—The way in which a luncheon is packed is largely responsible for its appearance at the time of serving. Even when daintily prepared, careless packing will prove ruinous to otherwise delicate dishes. For this reason it is well to erase from the menu all such articles as would be easily crushed or broken. Food should be firmly and compactly put up to ensure satisfactory carriage. In wrapping the edibles, waxed or paraffine paper should be freely used—a ream of five hundred medium sized sheets costs considerably less than a dollar, and is sufficient for a whole summer's outings; it is much better than unglazed light brown or white paper, as it excludes odors and keeps the food in good moist condition.

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