

## Farmer's Department.

Sows Destroying their young.

EDITOR TELEGRAPH.—I have lately seen several inquiries in different papers for some remedy to prevent sows from destroying their young pigs, and various methods have been proposed from time to time to prevent this occurrence. Many reasons have been assigned for this propensity of the sow to destroy her young at the time they are brought forth; but whatever the cause may be I suppose makes but little difference provided the results are prevented.

So far as I have observed sows seem much more inclined to destroy their young in cold than in warm weather; also, that where they were allowed to run out in a lot in warm weather they were less liable to do this than when confined in pens. Many sows at the time they bring forth their young, manifest a very savage disposition, not only to their pigs but to any person who approaches them, and in these cases the pigs are generally destroyed, unless they can be removed out of the reach of the sow. When the sow is naturally quiet and peaceable, or is made so by artificial means at this time there is but very little danger of the young ones being killed.

One of the most successful men in raising pigs that I have ever known, and that for a period of more than thirty years, practices the following plan with his sows: From the time they are small pigs he is in the habit of going into the pen and handling them frequently. In this way they soon become gentle and peaceable and allow themselves to be handled at any time and any way without being afraid. His sows raised in this way seldom show a disposition to injure their pigs; but sometimes this disposition manifests itself and then he resorts to artificial means to make them quiet. His method is this: At the time the pigs are dropped or just before, he takes about six or eight quarts of sour or hard cider and stirs in some meal and gives it to them to eat; they will eat it readily, and this generally produces a sufficient degree of intoxication to keep them quiet. If one feed does not have the desired effect he gives them more. Treated in this way, his sows seldom or ever show a disposition to injure their pigs. This is a cheap remedy and easily given, and almost every one who raises pigs has or can obtain the cider and meal. Other persons who have practiced the above method with their sows have been quite successful in raising their pigs. *Thermomann Telegraph.*

THE FARMER'S DOOR YARD.—"I do wish you would take door-yard, and clear up that old pile of rubbish out there," says the farmer's wife to her husband, as the two stand in the doorway contemplating the miscellaneous mass of old lumber, tools and vehicles in the yard.

"Can't stop now," is the answer. "There is some brush waiting cutting in the pasture." So shouldering his axe he starts for his pasture lot, leaving his wife still gazing with dissatisfied air upon the spectacle before her, and vainly wishing that she had a man's strength so that she could do the work herself, and fix up things around the house.

Having made all things neat and tidy in the house, she does not relish the looks out of doors.

But she fails to interest her husband in the matter, for it is handy to have a place in the yard where he could throw down boards, stumps and old timbers, to use until they are used. It is so much easier to tip up that old slop against the shed than to put it away under cover.

It is so little trouble to have the harrow, the cultivator, the hay-rack, at the door where they can be easily found the next time they are wanted. He will clear up things sometime, he says; so he continually postpones the work of putting in order until such a time as he shall have nothing else to do, and as a natural consequence it is never done.

Finally, he becomes so accustomed to the sight of rubbish that it ceases to be repulsive, and he takes it as a matter of course that a farmer's yard is the best place for all the old rubbish that accumulates about the premises.

There are a few things that the farmer can do in a short space of time which will be so gratifying to his faithful wife as a little extra effort to keep things in order about the house.

Besides this, it will do more than please her, it benefits herself. It will develop taste for neatness and regularity, a regard for appearances, carefulness in the details of all the farm management, which will add to the attractiveness of the place, and consequently to its market value.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.—It is a matter of astonishment that so many farmers appear to be indifferent to the kitchen garden. There are many vegetable-like celery, lettuce, asparagus, rhubarb, and many others that might be named that are absolutely indispensable in their season, and every well supplied table. They are healthful as well as palatable, and no farmer should deprive his family of an abundant supply of them. Besides, the garden, if conveniently located, as it should be, near the house, need not occupy an unreasonable amount of time, but offers a place where many an odd hour may be filled up with pleasure as well as with profit. There is no estimating the saving which might be effected by greater attention to the garden.

The fact is, the farmer is better situated to have upon his table every luxury in the way of vegetables and small fruits, since he can produce them himself, than any other class of people, but in point of fact how few avail themselves of the advantages of this position.

What is more healthful than the rhubarb or pie-plant in its season, and yet how few gardens contain it! Who would deprive his family of celery, and yet how few gardens give it any place!

ONION SETS.—A contemporary commenting upon the high price of onion sets, asks why the vegetable is not raised from the seed.

Soil and climate have much to do with the success or failure in raising any vegetable to perfection. The cabbage that can be grown in California almost as large round as a common sized well-ho, cannot in the East be produced bigger than a half bushel measure. The cauliflower that in England thrives with little care, and year after year from seed grown on the same spot, will not, with the best culture,

produce more than two successive years from seed grown in the plant in Pennsylvania, and the market gardeners have therefore to import it every two years from England. Onions, too, are grown to full size from the seed in Old and New England, and the people there know of no other way of growing them, but in Pennsylvania, chiefly on account of the climate, they cannot produce them to full size from the seed larger than an old cent, in one year. For this reason gardeners have adopted the plan of raising what are termed "button onions," of the size of a nickel, from the seed one year, and by replanting them the next year obtain onions of as fine a quality and growth as can be obtained almost anywhere. There are numerous other vegetables which will grow well in some other States and not come to any perfection in others, such as the Cist Lettuce, &c.

SPICED BEEF.—Take a piece of beef from the fore quarter, weighing ten pounds. Those who like fat should select a fatty piece; those who prefer lean take the shoulder, clod, or upper part of the fore leg. Take one pint of salt, one teaspoon of molasses or brown sugar, one teaspoon of brown cloves, allspice and pepper, and two tablespoons of onion salt. Place the beef in a small pan; rub with this mixture. Turn and rub each side twice a day for a week. Then wash off the spices in a pot of boiling water, and add a quart of cold water, turn in a teaspoonful of cold water. It must simmer for five hours on the back part of the stove. Then add, under a heavy weight, and press under a heavy weight, and press under a heavy weight. Your pickle will be for another ten pounds of beef, first rubbing into it a handful of salt. It can be renewed and a piece kept in preparation every day. This has been used many years by the writer and is good to pickle tongues fresh from the market.

GRASS FOR HORSES.—Many persons think that horses that are kept in the stable all summer should not be allowed to eat grass. They think it will make the horse soft, waxy-waxy, and it will throw him out of condition for hard work. This is particularly the case with some of the trainers of trotting and running horses. And horses that are kept up for farm and other work are refused grass because the drivers think they will not eat hay so well. This was formerly the case more than it is now. But there are all erroneous opinions and practices, and are giving way, gradually, to a more reasonable and natural system of feeding.

Grass is the natural food for the horse. It is cooling and healthful food. It keeps the bowels open and sharpens the appetite. It promotes digestion, and removes fever from the system. Thereby it allows the horse to eat his hay with more relish, and it gives him more strength and endurance. It is a cheap remedy and easily given, and almost every one who raises pigs has or can obtain the cider and meal. Other persons who have practiced the above method with their sows have been quite successful in raising their pigs. *Thermomann Telegraph.*

## For the Young Folks.

## A Bear Story.

We remember a very comical bear that belonged to Mr. Hammond, and named with his tricks the little boy of Paris, in Oxford county, many years ago. He was captured when a little cub, and was brought up by hand as one of the family. He claimed the warmest place on the hearth-stone, and nestled in cold weather with the dogs before the fire. None of the pet animals about the farm were tamer than he; and none loved better to climb up into his master's lap and receive his caresses, or understood the whims of his mistress when begging for a choice morsel. His serious countenance always gave great effect to his antics; and he seemed to understand when he caused a laugh among the household. As he was of a prying disposition, and forever peeping into every hole, the family were obliged to lock up every thing, even the closets where they kept their clothing. When he took it into his head to make up an act it was all the same to him whether the articles he hoped to get were woolen or fur, cotton or silk. If a hen cackled when the egg was laid, Mr. Bear understood it as well as any of the family or the feathered tribe; and if he was not prevented, he would find it and suck it before the sucking fowl had ceased her song.

One Sunday the family went to church, and left the bear alone at home. Bruin improved the opportunity, and rummaged all over the house in search of fun or something to eat. Unfortunately, the good housewife had left the cellar door unlocked and ajar; and he was not long before he had discovered it and crept down the stairs. Once down in the cellar, he espied the molasses barrel, and he was excessively fond of molasses or honey. Bruin pawed over the barrel, licked the tightly-driven bung, and was about abandoning it in despair, when he espied the spile. Grasping it with his strong teeth, he easily withdrew it, and out came the thick molasses in a steady stream, to the great delight of the bear, who clapped his mouth to the hole, and sucked away with grunts of satisfaction.

The molasses laid flowed, and still the bear kept his mouth to the orifice, pausing now and then to take a long breath. At length he was full; his stomach could hold no more; yet his appetite was not satisfied. He squatted on his haunches and viewed the still running stream with disgust, to think that the supply was so abundant, and that, since he could hold no more, he should have had now run out in large quantity, and had formed a great pool on the floor; but Bruin dove into it, and rolled himself a thousand times in the thick fluid, until his shaggy coat was covered from his nose to his tail, with molasses, dirt, and gravel stones.

There he lay in the sweet pool, the picture of self-satisfaction, as cats roll and tumble in a field of the catnip herb. All at once Mr. Bear became sick at the stomach; and it was a new sensation to him—something he had never felt before. As he grew worse he thought of his master and mistress, and crept up stairs to ask for their consolation; but they had not returned from church. Then he crawled up another story, and got into the girls' bed, drawing the snowy white sheets over his head, and there he lay groaning and grunting, the sickest bear ever seen in that part of the country.

When the girls arrived they were horrified at the scene, and were going to lay the broomstick over Bruin, when he started on the run for the haymow with the sheets sticking to his back! It was some time before the bear got well, still longer before his mistress forgave him.

## Our Boys and Girls.

## MISCELLANEOUS.



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