

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Young hens lay the most eggs, but old ones make the most careful mothers. Beware of inferior seed at this season. Time lost in the use of such cannot be regained.

The department of agriculture estimates the increased value in the cattle of Louisiana and the adjoining cotton states, due to the use of improved breeds and crossing them on the native cows during the last few years, at 35 per cent. During the last year the increase in the value of every ox is 10 to 20 per cent.

In nothing do we need to exercise greater care and judgment than in feeding. While one cow will only fully utilize from four to six pounds, a careful test will no doubt prove to her owner a larger net profit than the one that consumes but five pounds.

One who has tried the process says that those who will try bringing a few grapes will appreciate the great advantages of fastening on cheap paperbags when the bunches begin to form. There will be no waste, while double the price may be obtained, as they will stay on the vines until after cold weather. The bugs should be attached as soon as the earliest indications of grapes are noticed.

A good condition powder may be cheaply prepared on the farm. A mixture of one pound poultice, one pound gentian, one pound sulphur, one pound sulphate of soda, half pound of chloride of iron and half pound of black antimony, given in tablespoonful doses twice a day, will greatly assist the appetite and promote the condition of the animals.

The farmer's wife is emphatically a partner in his business. On her devolves the care of the dairy in addition to the routine of household duties. Her sphere of action, though strictly domestic, is a wider one than that of the ordinary housewife. As her husband works the soil, she is entitled to the name of landlady with all the cares and honors the name implies, so she is entitled to the name of landlady, and must assume the responsibility as well as the respect.

The continued raising of one crop upon the same soil exhausts the kind of plant food needed by that kind of plant. Some plants have long roots, others short ones; by changing, the nutriment is drawn from different parts of the soil. Some plants draw their nutriment largely from the air, store the nutriment and leave it in the soil. The kind of plants usually have broad leaves; clover, beans and peas are in this class. Wheat, corn, oats, and those plants having a few narrow leaves, are exhaustive to the soil. Upon a sandy loam, the following is a plan for rotation: First year, meadow, second summer, fallow, third, wheat; fourth, corn, and all the undecomposed manure. Sow rye at the last cultivation, pasture it in the fall and spring; fifth year, soy beans or barley and seed down. At the present price of sugar it will not pay to raise amber cane except as a forage crop, for which purpose it is excellent, and especially adapted for light, sandy soil.

The grape rot is now known to be a fungus growth which attacks the fruit successfully through the season. As the spores ripen they break and spread upon fruit not before affected. It is, therefore, important to go through the vineyard early and cut out all berries that show any signs of injury. A still earlier preventive measure is to remove all decayed grapes, cuttings, or other rubbish from under the vines, and then plough the ground, so as to turn under the surface any that are accidentally missed. After the first plowing the ground should not be cultivated except to destroy weeds. Stirring it deeply would bring some of the spores to the surface of the ground, where they would be blown about by winds. The use of sulphate of iron or copperas in water is also recommended as a spray for the vines during the growing season. By adopting these precautions grape growing may be re-established even in localities where successive years of rotting had caused grape growers to abandon the business.

In plowing small fields, says one familiar with it, it is the easiest way to set a plow at the back entering the field, and follow the fence around. Besides, if the work is to be done by proxy, the plowman needs little watching, except to see that he keeps the furrows true and of the required depth, and lays the sod well over, that one is tempted to allow it, and thus at every plowing the soil is heaped up against the outside of the field. "Back-furrowing," or "left about," is of course, the only remedy. Common farm hands make such bungling work of this that it is necessary to stake out the furrows for them and watch them besides, especially in irregular fields. When properly done, the entire field is plowed in one "land" unless it is very much broken up. The old dead-furrows, left when the field was last plowed, may ordinarily be seen, and will serve as a guide. They will probably be found quite accurately in the center. To lay out a lot for back-furrowing, the line of the first furrow should be well staked, midway between two parallel sides. It should not come nearly to the other sides, and in plowing, the land plowed should terminate in its beginning and progress the finish of a field plowed outward from the center. Thus after plowing a few furrows, carrying the plow around at the ends of the land, the plow is run across the ends and not taken out again until the field is finished. In plowing old ground for spring grain, the dead furrows will come in the middle of the field in all probability, unless it is plowed in several lands. To make smooth work after the land is plowed, turn half a dozen furrows "left about" back into the dead furrow, plowing the twin inner ones deep, and the next two mere scratches. Thus plowed, the field may be sowed and seeded down without a dead furrow, if well harrowed.

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Lots of People Say, "OH MY BACK!" Here is Solid A TESTIMONY from Hard Working Men.

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