

FARM NOTES.

FODDER CORN AND FODDER CANE. In a bulletin issued by the Maryland Agricultural Experiment station, H. E. Alvord, director, gives the following conclusions in regard to the growth of fodder corn and fodder cane:

For the greatest quantity of fodder, green or dry, corn or cane should be grown in drills far enough apart to permit easy and sufficient cultivation, the space between the rows to be governed somewhat by the size of varieties grown and the plants to be thin enough in the drills to give ample air and light to assure maturity. For corn of the larger varieties, the nearest definite rule that can be safely given is to plant the rows 3 to 3 1/2 feet apart and single stalks 6 to 8 inches apart in the rows.

For best quality of fodder the same method should be followed as for greatest quantity. The chemical composition of fodder corn grown in different ways is found to be very similar, and the exceptions occurring do not justify any modification of the advice just given for getting best quality. The nutritive ratio and percentage of dry substance digestible are slightly in favor of the thicker seeding, but not enough so to compensate for loss in quantity of crop. Thick seeding appears to cause a decrease in the relative amount of nitrogen in the aluminoid form. This diminishes the value of the fodder as the amide nitrogen is considered to have less nutritive value.

To get the most food value on an acre of corn or cane it should not be cut till the plants begin to show signs of drying and withering and the seeds begin to glaze. The product of an acre of sowed corn, as ordinarily grown, has usually a food value little more than half as great as the product of the same acre in drills, as above advised. The labor expended in the cultivation required by the drill system is profitably applied, as shown by the saving of seed and the increased crop.

A crop of fodder corn, grown in drills and well cultivated, serves to clean and improve the land. Sowed corn (broadcast) or thickly drilled fodder allows weeds and grass to grow and perfect their seeds, and "fouls" the land. To grow a large crop of fodder corn or fodder cane, rich land is needed; but heavy manuring, good seeds and good cultivation are profitable in securing a good crop; twenty to thirty tons green weight is not an uncommon yield, being an equivalent in food value of five to eight tons of good hay per acre. The variety of sorghum known as early amber cane, grown under conditions identical with Indian corn, as a forage plant, and in an unfavorable season, produced from one to four tons per acre of green fodder more than corn at this station. As to quality forage, the cane compared favorably with corn.

IMPROVED stock requires improved food. That is, the best stock is that which requires good care and management instead of being compelled to pick up a meal where it can only be obtained with difficulty. Improved stock, whether full bred or grades, give good results only when the opportunity for so doing is afforded. When the scrub is abandoned the methods of keeping the development and improvement of all classes of stock, and judgment in that direction will still permit of further progress.

THE UTILITY OF ANIMALS FOR ALL PURPOSES ON THE FARM.—It has long been the desire of some breeders to produce animals from all classes of stock that are adapted for every purpose on the farm. They have succeeded in producing many animals that excel in certain characteristics, but as yet no animal combines within itself all the traits and merits that make the perfect animal. The breeder who attempts to merge all the breeds into one must contend with nature to an extent that renders his task one of the most difficult yet encountered; and, though all efforts at improvement are worthy of encouragement, it is doubtful if the attempt to create an all-purpose animal will be rewarded with the approbation of the farming class in general, as such efforts rather lessen the work of improving the separate breeds by directing breeding into unprofitable channels.

A FRUIT ladder is described by E. S. Gilbert in the New York Tribune as follows: Take a long pole of some light wood—poplar is good for the purpose—peel it and bore the holes for the rungs. Now saw it lengthwise with a slit, starting a wedge as soon as you have sawed two feet; drive it till the pole begins to split, following with the saw or leading the crack with it, as it may be; this greatly diminishes the labor of sawing. Leave six feet or so at the smaller end without sawing; slide a strong iron ring or band down to the end of the saw cut; drive a thick wedge into the ring from below until the legs are wide enough apart; put in the rungs and nail them.

AN animal is at its best when it has a good appetite and is thriving. To get it in condition for the butcher in the shortest time is to have it consume all the food possible. The longer an animal is kept at the stall feeding, in order to reach the stage desired for market, the greater will be the loss of food, as a large portion of the food is utilized for repair of waste of tissue; hence the shorter the time the animal reaches the market the smaller the amount of food required proportionately.

THE currant is a hardy plant, and does well on nearly all kinds of soils. The greater growth of the currant is made during the first two months of summer, and it should be cultivated early. It is not laborious to plant them, as a furrow may be made with a plow and the young bushes planted in the row, instead of digging holes for each, as is frequently done.

CORNSTALKS, from which the blades have been eaten, make excellent material in the lanes and roads leading to the barn. They prevent the accumulation of mud, and will be trampled fine during the winter by stock, when they may then be hauled to the manure heap.

COMEDY CORNER.

Two Ways to Propose.

HERE ARE TWO styles of "proposing." This one is the kind you read about, but the other is the one most popular in the realm of facts: "My angel, I have long waited for this opportunity. You must have detected early now the growth of my love for you. From the day I first met you that love took root, and to-night it is strong and sturdy, unwavering, undying. Your sweet smiles have lighted up my life, your every word has been to me a note of exquisite music, thrilling, entrancing me. You have filled a place in my heart, in my affections, that no one has ever before occupied. My life-long happiness depends solely upon the answer you give me. Say you will be mine to love, caress, cherish, idolize, through time and eternity, and make me of all men most envied. But if you refuse—Oh, I cannot! I cannot! The thought is madness. You will be my wife? I see the answer of your heart mirrored in your lustrous eyes; you know I love you as no other man ever has loved you, or ever can love you, darling. I know you will not thrust me off."

The angel assumed a stertyped reality—this is so sudden expression, and assures Mr. Wordie she would derive great pleasure from being his sister.

Here is the other way:

"Maude, I've been thinking seriously lately."

"Really, Fred, you ought to be more judicious than to do anything so rash as that."

"Yes, I know it is a heavy tax on my mental capacity, but then I always was reckless that way. This time, however, I think I have been thinking to some purpose. In fact, I've been thinking you wouldn't object to having your name changed."

"When?"

"Just as soon as possible."

"Will it be home or church?"

"Church, of course; we want to do this thing in style."

"Have you asked pa?"

"Certainly not; I don't want to marry your father."

"Well, I know, but for form's sake."

"All right, dear, for form's sake I will see pa, and maybe you would better prepare ma for the ordeal."

"Oh, she won't mind it."

"Deep silence reigns again, save as it is broken by the soft sighing of the trees, swayed by a gentle breeze. Glistening stars twinkle; the moon looks beamingly down from heaven to earth, and discovers on a vine-bowered piazza two forms with but a single chair."

A sentimental young man thus feelingly expressed himself, "even as nature benevolently endows the rose with thorns, so does she guard the woman with pins."

When a man's blood boils can be said to be in a stew.

An Irishman being a little fuddled was asked what was his religious belief. "It's me be lafe," said he "the same as the Widdy Brady, I owe her twelve shillin's for whisky and she be lafe I'll never pay her, faith that's my be lafe, too."

"Patrick, where's the whisky I gave you to clean the windows with?" "Oh, master, I just drank it, and I thought if I brathed on the windglass it would be the same."

The man who undertook to overtake the stage, either did not understand how to run, or he overestimated his strength.

Mother—"Bertie why do you grow so?"

Bertie (aged seven)—"Bawstine"—"I've got a growin' pain, ma."

A son of the Emerald Isle, telling of his adventures in America said, "The first feathered bird I ever saw in America was a forkingpine. I tread him under a haystack, and shot him with a barnshovel; the first time I shot him, I missed him, and the second time I hit him where I missed him before."

The bald-headed man in his family pew Leaned back on his cushion and slumbered, And he dreamed that the preacher these words had proclaimed:

"The hairs of your head are all numbered."

The bald-headed man awoke with a start From weekly devotional slumbers; "Oh, Lord! send me down the bad numbers."

Puck.

A woman, considered to be half-witted, was being teased by her neighbors on being an old maid. "How is it ye never got married?" said one; "O, ye see," she replied, "if I had been as easily pleased w' a man as your man's been w' a wife, I might have been married fifty times over."

Dude (posing for a bold, bad man)—"How does water taste, Miss Belays?"

Miss B.—"You don't mean to say they've brought you up all this time on milk?"

Speaking of drinking it may be observed that the man who says he can "take it or leave it alone" generally takes it.

BANKING the earth around fruit trees will serve to protect the roots and also to cause the water to flow away from the trees, thereby preventing pools from forming around the trees. The ground being kept dry, trees will endure the cold better.

The aphid, or green fly, is about one-eighth of an inch long, and is a green-house pest. The spider is a very minute insect, and works on the under side of the leaves. All winter plants must be examined for insects in the green-house.

WALLED PEACHES.—Cut off the top of a loaf of stale sponge cake, scoop out the inside, leaving enough for a substantial wall. Fill with canned peaches, sprinkle lightly with pulverized sugar. Heap with whipped cream.

Do You Suffer

From Rheumatism? If so, read the following "voluntary tribute" from a reliable, conscientious man, which appeared in the Geneva, N. Y., Gazette, Jan. 21, 1887, entirely unknown to me till after its publication:

"Without doubt a large proportion of those who have passed the meridian of life suffer more or less from rheumatism. Up to three winters ago I had never known what sickness or pain was; but during the fall and winter of 1884, I had a slight attack of rheumatism which, however, passed off toward spring, but the following winter it reappeared with greater severity. Not desiring to become crippled I thought I would try Hood's Sarsaparilla. I took three bottles in all, and I am pleased to say the rheumatic pains ceased, my appetite and digestion became better, and my general health greatly improved. I am firmly convinced that Hood's Sarsaparilla effected a cure in my case, as I have felt no recurrence of the blood disease." Wm. Scoon, Geneva, N. Y.

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HOUSEHOLD

GRAHAM PUDDING.—Half cup of molasses, half cup of sweet milk, quarter of a cup of melted butter, one and a half cups of Graham flour, one cup of currants, one egg, a pinch of salt, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of nutmeg, one of cinnamon, one gill of brandy, or a wine glass of wine. Steam 2 hours.

SAUCE FOR SAME.—One large cup of brown sugar, three ounces of butter, half cup of cream, one lemon, or wine to flavor. Stir the butter to a cream, gradually add the sugar and cream, beat until very light, add the flavoring, and steam on top of the teakettle until it melted to a thick, creamy froth.

APPLE FLOAT.—Sweeten and flavor with mace, nutmeg and lemon a small bowl of apple sauce which has been run through the colander; add whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Serve with sugar and cream.

BLANC MANGE.—Sweeten a quart of cream and flavor with rose or orange water. Dissolve a third of a box of gelatine and strain into the cream. Pour into the moulds.

ANGEL'S FOOD.—Put half a box of gelatine and one pint of milk in a saucepan on the fire, and when the gelatine is dissolved add the yolks of three eggs well beaten and four tablespoonfuls of white sugar. Let it boil a few minutes, then remove it from the fire and stir in lightly the whites beaten to a stiff froth. Flavor with vanilla and pour into moulds.

MINUTE PUDDING.—This old-fashioned pudding is now seldom seen, and bids fair to become a lost art. The simple ingredients are flour, salt and milk; but the fourth is not simple—"knack," and it is by far the most important of all. Bring a quart of milk, with a teaspoonful of salt, to a boiling and stir in about a pint of flour. It must be sifted in slowly, and stirred constantly, so that there be no lumps in it. It can be eaten with sugar, nutmeg and milk, or with butter and maple syrup.

SNOW BALLS are a very pretty dessert. Peel and core six apples; fill the core with a little marmalade of any kind, or sugar and spice with a chopped lemon and orange-peel. Place each apple in a separate cloth, and scatter over it two even teaspoonfuls of rice; rather loosely, leaving room for the rice to swell and boil one hour.

A simple and economical sauce for this and many other puddings is made by rubbing to a cream a piece of butter the size of an egg, with a cup of fine sugar; grate on this the rind of an orange; squeeze out its juice, and pour on slowly a pint of boiling water. If a wine sauce is desired, use one cup each of wine and water.

MARMALADE PUDDING.—Butter a tin mould, put some marmalade in the bottom and round the sides, then line the mould with bread and butter cut into strips, half fill with small bits of bread and butter put in loosely and a little more marmalade. Beat up four eggs, mix with one pint of milk, one large teaspoonful of sugar, and a little essence of vanilla. Pour into the mould, cover closely, steam for one and a half hour, serve with powdered sugar. This is very good made with "Conserve of Lemon" in place of marmalade.

BIRTHDAY PUDDING.—One-half box of gelatine soaked in fourtablespoons of water for ten minutes, add a pint of boiling water, juice of two lemons, one cup of sugar—strain and set away to cool. When cold stir in the whites of three eggs well beaten. A thin boiled custard can be used to pour over this pudding, or thick, sweetened cream.

SAUCE FOR THE ABOVE.—ONE egg beaten light, one cup sugar, one-half cup hot water, one sliced lemon, one tablespoonful cornstarch. Boil until it thickens.

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PLUM PUDDING.—A very rich plum pudding is made as follows: Beat to a cream one cup of butter and one of sugar, add one cupful of chopped suet, one of fruit (raisins and currants), half a cupful of candied citron and orange peel cut fine, half a cupful of cream, half a cupful of rum and one of ale, six well beaten eggs, one grated nutmeg, a teaspoonful of cinnamon, and half as much cloves. Stir these altogether until well mixed, and add half a cupful of flour and enough dried and sifted bread crumbs to make it of the proper consistency. Fill a mold two-thirds full, and boil four hours.

A nice sauce for this is made from equal quantities of butter and sugar beaten until very light; add the beaten yolk of an egg and a little grated nutmeg. Have ready heated in a saucepan a glass of sherry and another of water, and stir into this the butter, sugar and egg when just beginning to boil. Stir until all melted, and serve at once.

ROLY - POLY PUDDING.—Make a plain suet paste, roll it out thin, and spread the jam evenly over it, leaving a space of an inch all round, or the jam will run out. Roll it in the shape of a bolster, tie it in floured cloth and put it into a sauce pan of boiling water for 1 1/2 hours.

APPLE HEDGE HOG.—Two pounds of apples pared and sliced, one and a half pound of white sugar, one-half pint of water. Boil all together till quite thick, and keep stirring to prevent burning. Put into a mould, turn out when cold, stick all over it split almonds. Serve with whipped cream.

BIRD'S-NEST PUDDING.—Pare four good-sized sour apples, stew until soft. Make a batter of one cup of milk, butter the size of an egg, two and one-half cupfuls of flour, two heaping teaspoonfuls baking powder, a pinch of salt. Pour over the stewed apples and bake in a hot oven.

SNOW PUDDING.—Soak half a box of gelatine in cold water for half an hour, then add one-half pint of boiling water. When cool stir in the well-beaten whites of three eggs, two cups of sugar, and juice of two lemons. Beat all for half an hour or more, put into a mold to cool, turn into a glass dish and pour round it a boiled custard, made with the yolks of the eggs.

The People are not slow to understand that, in order to warrant their manufacturers in guaranteeing the benefit or cure, medicines must possess more than ordinary merit and curative properties. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is the only blood medicine sold through druggists, under a positive guarantee that it will itself cure or money paid for it will be returned. In all blood, skin and scalp diseases, and for all scrofulous affections, it is specific.

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