

Agricultural.
THE FARMER AND HOUSEKEEPER.

CLOVER HAY.—Of all the hays, there is nothing comparable with clover. Cut when just in bloom, when all the juices are in perfection, and the stock is tender and cured—by perspiration, it destroys it and makes it worthless. Such hay is the feed for a single feed. Horses will thrive upon it, without grain, if not worked too hard, always will be in clover with it; no grain needed—and cows—this is the main, the important thing—the dairy is most benefited of all. We happen to know that by perspiration, the preservation of our own premises. Nothing gives more and better milk (in winter) than even the grains. This we have repeatedly demonstrated, and is testified by the dairymen in the best dairy districts.

But the clover must be taken care of.—It is tender—of seed, delicate things to handle. Cut when quite green, when the heads are just opening to blossom, before any or very few are turned, and when many are not yet colored—then cut; when the dew is off, stay in clover for a few hours in the sun, or half a day (which is better) in clouded but warm weather; then put up in small cocks—put up in three or four days, with caps, if rainy; without, if not. They draw in where the roof is not leaky, and ventilate well. In winter, they will still be heavy with all the juices matured, sweet and savory, the honey candied, and the aroma perfected, fresh as a new rose, and much more nutritious than summer hay. It is the best feed for the cow, even the pigs—but particularly the cows, and milk cows at that. It will be eaten most readily; like grass in summer, and will have less feed (than in summer) the skin will be mobile and glossy; and there will be an eye in a breath that remind you of pastures. Give warm water, with plenty of such hay, and fresh water—and you have done your duty.—*Rural World.*

GROWING POTATOES.—The way they grow potatoes at Burlington, Wisconsin, is as follows:—

1st. The ground is worked so that when a heavy rain comes the water will pass directly down from the surface, and be held around the roots. This is what is generally known as a well drained, deeply worked. Surface draining will not do.

2d. If the soil is sandy, subsoil, we generally call this land sandy water—all of our land potatoes seldom rot. The best way to mature potatoes is to put it in the previous year and let it be well cured. It is impossible to get good potatoes on heavy, rich soil. The better your drainage the earlier you can plant and the less rot you will have.

3d. I put a little lime on a part of my potato ground one year ago, and lost the whole crop; while with manure spread and well-worked in the previous year, the crop was sound and fine. Potatoes may be grown on heavy soil, but will be only fit for stock. I have one hundred bushels good sound tubers from two bushels of seed in the previous year. I generally plant from four to six inches deep, and in hills four feet apart, so I can work the ground both ways, and cultivate the ground perfectly level.

WORTH KNOWING.—Last spring I took a small quantity of seed and soaked it in solution of saltpetre, and to test it I planted five rows through the middle of a neutral soil piece with seed thus prepared. Now for the result. The five rows planted with seed soaked in the saltpetre yielded more than twenty rows planted in the usual way. The five rows were touched by the wire worm, while the remainder were not touched by their depredations, and I should judge that not a single kernel saturated with the saltpetre was touched by the worms while the remainder were. The rest of the piece suffered more or less. The worms are little kind of squamish in regard to eating everything that comes in their way. I have seen them eat the fact before the agricultural reader, and hope it will be carefully tested the coming season; as the cost is comparatively nothing when you consider that you get three acres of corn nearly ruined by these pests. All most lands are filled with them and many farmers have not plant corn on them for years. To test it, you will spill your crop here, you will let it lie unimproved year after year, when it might be made to produce a bountiful crop.

DRY EARTH AS A DEODORIZER.—Dry earth of a loamy soil is the most convenient and attainable deodorizer that farmers can use in many places about their premises. The hen house should be floor with this material, and if it is stirred up every day will keep the odor of the small yard emanate from the hen manure. In the time the earth will be formed into a very rich fertilizer especially valuable for the garden. It may also be used with good result at the outlet of the drain from the house sink—down which so much of the household refuse is carried. If you have one from the barn yard which often carries away a stream of liquid manure. In these positions the loam retains all the manure ingredients cast upon it, and it never dries and becomes extremely rich. When thoroughly saturated it should be removed, and fresh put in its place. Dry loam is also excellent to mix with night-soil in the vault.

An English Farmer recently remarked that "he fed his land before it was hungry, rested it before it was weary, and weeded it before it was foul." Seldom, if ever, was more agricultural wisdom condensed in a single sentence.

PLOWING.
How much land can a man plow in a day? I have heard men tell of plowing two acres and a half, and never a day done. In England where they plow narrow furrows, say 9 inches wide and 6 inches deep, a man is considered a fair day's work, taking up a horse and a boy. Here we plow, unwisely as I think, much wider, but do not lose nearly so much time in resting the horses as would make up for the difference. In England, they say, 10 inches wide and 7 inches deep, turned over at an angle of 45°, is both the easiest and practically the best style of plowing, and five plow men, without a driver, and unless we use three horses, no ordinary team can keep steady at such hard work without injury. With a team that walks naturally at a good pace, it is better to plow narrow furrows and let them walk a fair speed, than to tax them too heavily with a wide furrow, which necessitates their resting every other bout. The time lost in this way is greater than is generally supposed. But I am regarding already too much in the light of an innovator to attempt anything more than a very gradual change. I have tried to let men do pretty much as they have been accustomed to. Still I would never like to know that is about the average rate of plowing in different parts of the country, and what hours are kept. By looking at my record, I find that we can plow a thirty acre tract of stubble for say 30 acres in 23 days, or just 1 1/2 acre per day for each team. Hours 10 to 11.45, and from 11.45 to 1.15, and from 1.15 to 3.15. With a furrow slice 10 inches wide, it takes about 1 1/2 miles of furrow to plow an acre and a half. In a field 200 yards long the shafts, about 70 feet of furrow, as given by the shafts, show that over two hours are allowed to break the horses, they would not walk steadily along at the rate of over two miles an hour, and never a day done. I doubt very much whether farmers really plow as much in an acre as I think they do. They do not keep the land as long as they should.

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