

THE BEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTEREST AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the Agricultural Editor of the Democrat, Belleville, Pa.

Agricultural Editor's Table.

We are indebted to JOSEPH HARRIS, of "Moreton Farm," Rochester, N. Y., for his late catalogue of Cotswold sheep and Essex pigs.

The current number of "The Husbandman," a weekly agricultural journal, published at Elmira, N. Y., under the auspices of the "Elmira Farmers' Club," has made its appearance on our table through the kindness of some unknown friend.

WILMER ATKINSON, of the Farm Journal, has placed us under obligations for a neat little pamphlet on the "Culture of Small Fruits."

Care of Poultry in Winter.

We are almost afraid to write what we know on this subject, for two reasons. First, the careful poultry keeper will hardly believe we are stating facts; while the great majority, whom the shoe may pinch, will scarcely thank us for exposing them.

Too many farmers take so little interest in their poultry, as to leave it to take care of itself, for the most part. These are, universally, the ones who declare poultry-keeping does not pay.

On very many farms the fowls may be seen, this cold weather, huddled on the sunny side of a building or straw stack, with frozen combs and wattles, waiting for the warmth of the sun to give them some comfort.

There is a better way to care for fowls. No one should keep fowls who is not able and willing to provide some sort of shelter for them, and give them a reasonable amount of care.

Tallow for wagon grease—says "Brother James"—and there is nothing better or cheaper. Melt the tallow slowly in an old pot or dripping pan, putting in enough to make it use-thin full or less when melted.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER, a farmer of Orange county, N. Y., found thirty-eight of his fine flock of sheep dead one morning lately, and of the remaining fifty-five but five or six were uninjured.

The Patrons of Cayuga county, N. Y., have a "Fire Relief Association" which conducts its business at a cost of less than a one-tenth of one per cent. on the amount of property insured.

As an evidence that the business, or profession, or calling—which ever you please to call it—of farming is rapidly taking its proper place of importance in all the world's affairs, we notice that even the great magazines of the country, supposed to be devoted chiefly to matters interesting to literary or scientific people, are giving a generous share of their attention.

At the late Birmingham, Eng., fat cattle show, a single animal, a cross between a Shorthorn bull and Called cow, and weighing twenty-five hundred pounds, took not only the "first prize in the class of cross-bred," but \$920 in special premiums.

The terrible "cold wave" through which we have just passed will, we fear, tell with adverse effect upon the coming wheat crop. Wherever we went we saw wheat fields blown almost or entirely bare, and the young plants exposed to the severity of the wind.

The Fiction of the Sheep's-Foot.

The erroneous notion, still current in various quarters, that something can come of nothing by the gracious aid of sheep, is successfully combated by a practical flock-master, who, writing in The Cincinnati Times, presents in sprightly fashion a few truths for whom they may concern:

We frequently see absurd statements to the effect that "the sheep's foot turns all to gold"; and that there is no steadier or surer way to fertilize a barren field than to put a flock of sheep to pasture upon the briars and weeds in it; that, in effect, sheep will live upon the poorest food and make the richest manure and are thus the very best stock a farmer can keep on his farm.

Now, having been through the mill, and having turned defeat into victory by disabusing my mind of the common fallacies about sheep, I warn intending shepherds that there is no other domestic animal that needs better care or food for profitable thrift than sheep; that out of their finely grinding manure-mills comes nothing that is not first put into the hopper; that yet with proper care and skill, a well-selected flock of the right kind of sheep, in the right place, can be made to pay 100 per cent. of their cost every year.

To relish this rough herbage, the sheep must be fed liberally upon supplementary food, such as bran, meal, cut clover, grass or green corn fodder, and always a pint a day per head of linseed oil-cake meal, bran or other grain food.

The fact is, sheep are manure-spreaders, rather than manure-makers. We feed them with the material; they take their pay out of it, and give us back the remainder, transformed into a substance of equal value—be-

cause it is more available—with that which they receive, and they get fat meanwhile in doing it. Just as we give the mint a bag of gold dust and we get back exactly the same weight of gold dollars, while the corners are fed upon it—but without the dust we get no dollars. So with sheep; if we don't feed them with the materials needed to make fat for themselves and rich manure for us, they will be as unprofitable as Pharaoh's lean kine.

TIMELY TOPICS.

Barrel a few long keeping apples and place them on the ice in the ice-house for use next April or May.

Tarred building paper, tied about the trunks as high as the full width, is a safe and effective protection against rabbits.

Study up the fruit question now. There is money in growing fruit, but brains are essential to success in the business. Brains are as important as the trees!

Farmers usually kill and market their earliest and best chickens, simply because they are the best and largest. This is a serious mistake.

A small amount of oil cake given to fattening animals will assist greatly in the fattening process. One pound to five pounds of corn meal will be found to have an excellent effect. It is a good way to feed it with cut straw or corn fodder.

Mr. Charles Robinson thinks that if we are properly prepared we can make butter as cheaply in Winter as in Summer. If properly fed and cared for a cow will do as well in the stable and upon grass. Even in the East there is yet much room for improvement in Winter care of stock.

The judges at a poultry show in Canada the other day were discourteous enough to wash all the sable of the legs of Black Spanish, and paint from the feathers of game fowls which an ingenious amateur had fixed up expressly for the occasion with a nice regard to all the artistic points demanded by the standard of excellence for perfect birds.

Farmer Mech speaks of it as "an unprofitable mistake" to suppose that sheep do not need water. He invariably gives them the opportunity of settling that question for themselves, and it is surprising to see how much they drink, especially milking ewes, and all sheep when eating cake, meal, etc., in addition to their green food.

I have found that bees in movable-comb hives require more care in wintering than in plain hives. There is so much more air space around the frames that the hives are necessarily colder than where the movable frames are used. The honey-board ought to be taken off and a piece of wollen cloth or carpet tacked on the top of the hive. One or two strips should be laid across the frames to keep the cold from them; a newspaper folded neatly and laid over the cloth completes the preparation."

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