

THE TIME OF THE NATIONAL WAREFARE IS THE INTELLIGENCE 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, Bellefonte, Penn'a., that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A course of lectures on agricultural subjects is now in progress at the State University of Ohio, which must prove exceedingly interesting as well as of lasting benefit to all concerned. The privileges of the course are not confined to students, but are free to all, and are intended particularly for the benefit of the practical farmers of the State, advantage being taken of their leisure season. The programme embraces eighty lectures, and will cover four weeks, with four lectures per day, for five days in a week. This is cramming at a pretty rapid rate, and the benefit would be made greater if the time could be doubled. The idea, however, is a good one, and we specially commend it to the authorities of our State College.

WE HEAR and read much of the "Exhausted soils of New England," and yet in last Saturday's Maine Farmer we find items in different parts of the paper in which wheat crops are incidentally mentioned as yielding averages of twenty, twenty-four, thirty-three and thirty-six bushels per acre. To be sure we've heard of much larger averages than these right in our own county, but then this doesn't look much like "exhaustion."

THE NEW YORK STATE Agricultural Society has done itself the distinguished honor of electing HORATIO SKYMOUR to be its President. If the people had been wise he would have been President of a much larger constituency some years ago.

SENATOR DAVIS, of West Virginia, is establishing for himself the reputation of being the farmer's champion on the floor of the Senate. Agricultural interests are receiving their proper share of attention at his hands.

A Brilliant Suggestion.

A correspondent suggests that since potatoes are raised mostly for food, it would seem to be proper for committees to have competing varieties boiled for their private consumption before making up awards.

Yes, and while we are about it, suppose we have a few of the beets and carrots and so on boiled too, with the "backbone" from the "fat pig," and have the cabbage made into "kraut." Then we may as well have the wheat ground into flour and baked, and the beans done up in soup, and the "pumpkins" wrought into pies. And how on earth can we tell which of all the beautiful fat steers will give us the best beef unless we have a sirloin of each roasted?

"Cleanly Practices" Account for it.

There is one little incident in this reputation of Philadelphia butter which must never be forgotten. The followers of Penn made up a large class of our original farming population. With these people, cleanliness was especially one of the virtues. It was not a mere sentiment that it was "next to godliness," but an every-day testimony in all they did. Aided in these cleanly practices by their numerous springs and spring-houses, we have little doubt we owe to them, as much as to any other circumstances, the eminent character which Philadelphia butter enjoys; and we believe that if other quarters would give special attention to these little niceties, as good butter might be had in any part of the Union as here.

Pedigree Wheat.

Go to the wheat field, seek the best, most thrifty and healthy stools, having largest number of stalks, with largest, fullest heads and most plump grain; plant this, and when it ripens pursue the same course with it as before; and so on, year after year, until satisfactory results are obtained, and this will give a highly-improved, reliable and valuable pedigree wheat.

Poultry vs. Pork.

Poultry can be raised and fattened as cheaply as pork or beef, and chicken fixings are certainly more palatable, occasionally, than a steady diet of potluck. If fattened for market, poultry usually brings twice the price of beef. Many farmers have learned the economy of feeding corn to poultry rather than giving it all to pigs, and if more followed their example, it would be for their advantage, and would prove a national blessing.

The fowl business is not so simple a matter as most people imagine. To make it a success requires judgment and persevering effort, such as few boys possess, unless guided by older heads. Let the boys do the work, but let the parents direct about it, and see that it is done. They can not do a better thing for their children than to take the poultry papers, buy poultry books, get them interested in the poultry business, and make them intelligent workers. No farmer leaves the management of his horses or hogs to his children, without looking after them sharply.

The same amount of care bestowed upon a flock of fowls that is daily given to the swine, will, in proportion to the cost and feed, pay much better than will the porker. And the sooner our farmers realize this patent fact the better they will be off, and the more satisfactory will be the result in this branch of ordinary farm management.

Smoking Hams.

Hams are smoked to improve flavor and to aid in their preservation. After smoking they are less liable to be injured by mould, and flies are less likely to visit them. Smoking when properly performed and with suitable material does not impart a disagreeable taste. Corn cobs, burned slowly several feet from the hams, do as well as any other substance—perhaps better. Hard maple chips are good. It is important that the smoke should be cooled before it reaches the meat, hence the necessity of a slow fire and that it be far enough from the meat to prevent heating it.

Trough vs. Barrel.

A trough made out of wide plank is much better than a barrel or hog-head of scalding hogs. With a chain wrapped once around the hogs' body and a man at each end of the chain, the hog is gently drawn from the scraping platform into the trough, and the men by pulling alternately on the chain keep the hog rolling and properly exposed to the air until ready to pull out. In this manner the whole surface is scalded at one operation and the handling done with great facility.

Does Pork Making Pay.

Having a cow, the disposal of skim and buttermilk made necessary the purchase of a pig in June, born in May. Fed it on milk. In the barrel I kept about three quarts of cornmeal, stirring the contents from the bottom each time the swill was fed. Pig kept fat. When corn was harvested fed the nibbins. Cost: Pig, \$2; corn-meal, \$1.25; nibbins, 75 cents; expense of slaughter, 50 cents; total, \$4.50. Result: 160 pounds best quality pork, at 54 cents, \$8.80. Profit, \$4.30, and not a little valuable manure.

Whiskey on The Farm.

Tally one more for whiskey. It kills the poison of rattlesnake bites—on the principle of fighting fire with fire; it kills lice on cattle—on the principle of "dog eat dog," and now a correspondent tells Colonel Colman that half a pint administered to a refractory sow which refused to suckle her infant offspring, had such a "mellowing" effect that she "received her eight little ones with the usual porcine expressions of maternal satisfaction, and has been a kind mother ever since."

A Western Farmer on Fences.

A Western farmer giving his experience with fences says: "I tried osage, and it died as fast as I could reset it. I tried willow, and it spread all over my land till it was more of an umbrella to shade corn than a fence to keep stock. I tried pine board fence, and horses would sit down on it, manufacturing a lumber yard into a wood pile faster than any way I ever saw. Lastly, I tried barbed wire; it did not shade my corn, and when the horses sat down on it—why they got off."

Here are three hints boiled down from The New England Homestead: 1. Kill the parasite that causes scale-leg in poultry by anointing with kerosene. 2. Conduct roadside water over grass-land. 3. Encourage hogs to mix manure by making holes in the heap with a crowbar and filling with corn.

Do not curvy favors with the rich or great. If you must do something of the kind, just curvy your cattle and horses. This will do them good, and benefit you also.

Cooked Food for Poultry.

The practice of furnishing at least one meal of cooked grain and vegetables to fowls daily, is now much more generally in vogue in this country among fanciers and breeders than it formerly was. This method we have continually advised in The Poultry World columns for years.

If this plan has not been customary throughout the year, as a rule, with any of our readers, then we especially commend it at the present season, and through the winter and spring months, as the very best that can be devised.

It matters not whether we keep fowl stock for marketing, for breeding or for fancy sales, this is by far the better system for adoption in feeding any number of fowls. It is more economical than the old plan of feeding wholly upon raw grains. It serves to keep the birds in far better condition. It tends to make them more thrifty, and assists in increasing their steady growth to afford them a portion of their daily feed boiled or steamed.

Such food is more nourishing and is more easily digested. It is more palatable and desirable to the birds. And in every way we deem this the better mode, as we have frequently stated in these pages.

It is best, and usually most convenient to the poultryer, to furnish this meal in the morning. If fed warm during the frigid months, from December to April—it will be still more acceptable to the fowls. And a good full breakfast, hot and fresh, will be quite as well appreciated in the well-ordered henry as it is at our own tables by ourselves. By all means, then, let your fowls enjoy one cooked meal every day in winter-time.—Poultry World.

Managing Bones in a Small Way.

A great deal of valuable fertilizing material is lost or wasted by reason of unacquaintance with cheap and handy ways of utilizing it. This is particularly true of bones, considerable quantities of which lie about and are accessible to farmers and gardeners, but are not used because no cheap way of making them available is known. Now, half a ton, or so, of bones may be easily reduced to a fine powder every winter by burning them, a few at a time, in the kitchen stove. Put five or ten pounds in the stove with the wood during the day, and next morning, when the ashes are taken up, the bones will be found mostly in a pulverulent condition. Any incompletely burned pieces may be left in the stove until the next day. This will quadruple the value of the ashes as a fertilizer, at no expense except that of a little trouble. The bone-ash thus produced is about half the weight of the raw bones, and its commercial value is about \$40 a ton.

Do not unwisely imagine that you will be able to "get along" without books and papers relating to agriculture. Successful farmers read extensively.

Or course you will become the owner and raiser of stock. No farm is complete that ignores stock-raising. Get the best, which is always the cheapest in the end. Give scrubs a wide berth.

A Load of Manure.

The good farmer manures heavily. The farmer must study values, and provide for his crops the plant food from the least money.

Half manuring is not profitable where competition is keen, and land and labor at high cost.

Experience tells us that with abundant manure we can raise on the average maximum crops for our land.

The question should be, how can I get more fertility on my land? How can I get larger crops? How can I get enhanced profits?

How to manure is but a question of cost. Fallow, green crops, manure, chemicals,—all are good; but all are not equally costly. Which is the best for you?

The secret of successful mercantile enterprise is capital, and the use of it. The secret of profitable farming is to utilize the capital of the farm by making every acre in some way productive.

At the day of judgment, the farmer's fields may cry out against him, saying: "We were hungry, but you gave us no food; and when you were hungry, we would feed you, but we could not." Feed them that feed you.

Every farmer can afford to mortgage his crops and buy fertilizer, rather than to manure sufficiently for the maximum crop of his land. No farmer can afford to buy, if he has manurial resources enough at home to thoroughly fertilize his land.

If your plant food is produced or procured at the lowest rate, and you apply enough, and you force your plant to appropriate it all, you are the most successful farmer who lives. He who approximates this, need feel no fear of failure, and is one who will uphold by his success the dignity of a productive pursuit.

HEN MANURE is one of the most valuable fertilizers made upon the farm, but is often suffered to waste. It is a good plan to have a tight, smooth floor under the roost in the hen house, which should be thoroughly cleaned as often as once a week. This deposit should be carefully stored in boxes or barrels, and be kept in some dry place. A little plaster of dry earth added to the manure from time to time keeps it in a good mechanical condition, and prevents any evaporation of amounts.

The odor of your manure heap should be more attractive to you than the smell of the whiskey shop.

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Table with columns: Exp. Mail, WESTWARD, EASTWARD, Exp. Mail. Rows include destinations like Harrisburg, Williamsport, Pottsville, etc.

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