

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE 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.

No more important reading for farmers can be found anywhere than that embodied in the continuance of our selected paragraphs on "Wheat Culture." Mr. Reed's statements as to the value of ground limestone are well worthy the earnest attention of wheat growers in this limestone region.

PERHAPS potatoes suffer more from weeds than any other crop. One weed will take up and evaporate a good deal of moisture from the soil, and rob the crop of what it greatly needs. This loss of moisture is not often thought of in considering the effects of weeds, but it is very important. It is too late now to eradicate the weeds by cultivation, but all the large ones should be hand-pulled. It will pay.

The officers of the State Agricultural Society seem to be making every possible effort to have the coming exhibition at Philadelphia the finest that the Society has ever made, and we hope they will succeed. Perhaps one of the most attractive and instructive departments connected with the fair will be that of poultry. The officers are now furnishing blank forms for entry to all who apply to the Secretary, and will furnish comfortable and attractive coops, and an experienced person to feed, water and take general care of them while the fair lasts. We should be glad to see our county well represented in this and all other departments, and as arrangements have been made with railroad and express companies to furnish transportation at half rates, it should be done.

The transplanting of green plants for the season is probably at an end, and we shall now have to wait until next year for an opportunity to profit by the lessons learned; but while in mind we wish to place before you what we have this summer been getting out young celery, and how we have succeeded in growing it.

It is a good practice on fertile soil to sow grass-seed two weeks after the wheat is put in. Thrifty growing timothy keeps the wheat back, as proved last season on the writer's field. Other farmers corroborate this.

When all else is done, make the necessary water furrows at once. There may come a heavy rain the next day and do damage. Disperse the water into the several channels, rather than permit it to collect in one or two.

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Wheat requires a fine mellow soil for the seed, and a light soil to be well compacted about the sowed grains. If any vacant places are left, as would be the soil cloddy, the rootlets being exposed to air, will dry and perish. Therefore, after plowing, roll, cultivate and harrow repeatedly until all the clods are made fine.

The roller should be used immediately after the plow, to break up the lumps; then the cultivator and harrow will finish the work. This is the proper use of the roller. Its misuse is to roll the ground after the seed has been sown, thus leaving the surface packed down close and solid, in which state it will crust over after the first shower.

that agricultural implements are so well and carefully made, and so thoroughly serve the purpose for which they are intended that farmers find profit in their use, and it gives us pleasure to be able, from actual experience, to commend to our readers one that comes up to the standard.

Wheat and Its Culture.

THE EXPERIENCE OF PRACTICAL AND SUCCESSFUL GROWERS, GATHERED FROM ALL SOURCES.

If we sow too early we run great risk of having the crop injured by the Hessian fly.

Wheat after oats, is a faulty practice. The soil is filled with weeds—of which the sprouting oats are the worst—and the rag-weed, and many others work mischief.

Harrowing disturbs the Hessian Fly. Doubtless this is because the wheat is pushed forward by the stirring of the soil, and many maggots are certainly destroyed.

Manuring for wheat is less common than it should be. A little rich, well-rotted manure spread on the surface before or after the seed is sown often has a wonderful effect.

It will be found decidedly beneficial to use a sloping-tooth harrow soon after sowing, and before the spire shows above ground, and again as soon as it has become well rooted.

The great aim of the wheat-grower must be to get a vigorous, healthy plant in the autumn. He must endeavor to secure this by having rich, moist, and mellow land rather than by early sowing.

Winter wheat needs better culture than we have been giving it. We must make the land richer, cleaner, and mellow. The better the variety the better land and better culture will be required.

It has been found by experiments, that at one inch below the surface every seed of wheat grew, if the ground is moist, while at two inches seven-eighths of the seed grew, and at three inches, three-quarters grew.

At the July meeting of the Eastern Experimental Farm Club, a member requested the voice of the club as to the kind of plant to produce the best results. The majority agreed in recommending the Fultz.

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The roller should be used immediately after the plow, to break up the lumps; then the cultivator and harrow will finish the work. This is the proper use of the roller. Its misuse is to roll the ground after the seed has been sown, thus leaving the surface packed down close and solid, in which state it will crust over after the first shower.

ing the seed into one furrow; sowing somewhat less seed. Then the spaces may be cultivated by adapting an ordinary spreading cultivator, or using a wheat hoe.

Last year my wheat was seriously injured by the Hessian fly. This year the crop is almost entirely free from it. I have been thinking whether the harrowing, which I gave the wheat last fall, has any connection with this fact. As I understand the matter, the Hessian fly lays its eggs on the leaves of the young wheat plant early in the fall, and it is just possible that the repeated harrowings interfered in some way with the process of hatching.

It would be well not only to select seed wheat for the fall sowing with care, and to free it from seeds of weeds even by hand-picking if necessary, but to prepare and sow a portion of the field with more than usual care for the production of seed for next year's crop. Much may be done in this way to improve the crops, and instead of farmers paying high prices for seed to persons who will take this care, they should do it for themselves and save this tax.

The seed is the parent of the crop, and poor seed will invariably produce a poor crop. The heaviest, plumpest, and ripest seed is to be chosen, if we would secure the most profitable harvest. Of course no farmer should sow weeds, and expect to reap wheat, therefore the seed must be perfectly clean. It will pay to pick out cockle, chess, and such seeds by hand, rather than sow them to stock the ground hereafter. This present labor will be far the lighter than the after one of killing weeds. The proper selection of seeds for the fall-sowing is of the greatest importance. This is no new discovery, but is a fact that needs no frequent repetition.

A few years ago we divided a ten-acre field into five portions, and sowed them with wheat at the rate of one bushel, five pecks, six pecks, seven pecks, and two bushels of seed per acre. There was no perceptible difference in the soil of the field, nor any in the manuring, preparation, or sowing. At harvest time there was a very perceptible difference in the yield, the thinnest sowed portion being by far the best field, and the thickest portion the worst. Near the edge of the field, upon the thinnest sown part, where the seed had been thinned out by some pigeons, there were some stools of wheat with 30 stalks, each bearing heads; and in this part of the field the difference was mostly shown in the length of the heads. The other side of the field, where two bushels had been sown, produced much shorter heads than this portion.

Smut is a fungus. It is produced from "seed." As a rule, smut is produced by sowing seed-wheat that has the spores or seeds of the fungus attached to it. We must kill these spores before sowing the wheat. They are easily killed. Chamber-lye and lime will kill them; so will weak solution of common salt and water, say one pound of salt to a gallon of water. This will not hurt the seed, but a strong brine will seriously injure its germinating properties. We think it very likely that a weak solution of carbolic acid will prove useful, but we have not yet tested it sufficiently to recommend it.

The remedy that we have the fullest confidence in, and which has been repeatedly tried, is as follows: For each bushel of wheat take three ounces of blue vitriol and dissolve it in a quart of boiling water. When cool, sprinkle it over the wheat and turn the grain till every seed is moistened with the solution. Nothing more is needed. It is not necessary to use lime to dry the wheat. It will be dry enough to sow with the drill as soon as it has been treated, but it will not be hurt if it remains for days or weeks before sowing. The quantity of blue vitriol named above is sufficient to kill the smut, but double my quantity may be used without the slightest injury to the seed. Our own plan is to place, say 20 bushels of wheat in a heap on the barn floor, and sprinkle on it, while it is being turned, about six gallons of water containing 5 pounds of blue vitriol. If old wheat is used for seed, or if the wheat is very dry, more water will be needed to moisten it, say eight gallons for the 20 bushels. The great point is to be sure that every kernel and every part of the kernel is wet with the liquid. The heap will need to be turned over half a dozen times, and the scattered kernels on the outside of the heap should be swept up to the heap and mixed with it so as to moisten them.

I sowed 14.92 acres with Lancaster red wheat last fall, and used salt, guano, phosphate, bone dust, and ground limestone on different sections, leaving 3.83 acres with no fertilizers except a little slacked lime that was intended to make that portion of the field equal in fertility to the other sections before using the fertilizers on them. The result was as follows:

Section one contained 2.28 acres, and had one barrel of salt per acre, sown over the ground after the wheat was drilled in. This yielded 29.6 bushels per acre.

Section two contained 2.09 acres, and had 400 pounds of guano drilled in with the wheat, costing \$4.50 per acre. This yielded 29.3 bushels per acre.

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Section three contained 2.12 acres, and had 810 pounds of phosphate drilled in with the wheat, costing \$7.28 per acre. This yielded 37.5 bushels per acre.

Section four contained 2.11 acres and had 590 pounds of bone dust drilled in with the wheat, costing \$5.16 per acre. This yielded 37.7 bushels per acre.

Section five contained 2.06 acres, and had 800 pounds of ground lime stone drilled in with the wheat, costing \$1.20 per acre. This yielded 35.7 bushels per acre.

Section six contained 3.83 acres, and had a little slacked lime scattered over it, intended to make it equal in fertility to the other sections before they were fertilized. This yielded 14.3 bushels per acre.

All the above quantities are thresher's measure, and, as the wheat weighs 65 pounds to the bushel, the actual quantity will be from 10 to 15 per cent. more. Assuming that the average of the field without fertilizers would have been 20 bushels per acre, (which is 5.7 bushels per acre more than the yield of the portion not fertilized), the profit from the use of fertilizers (calling the wheat worth \$1 per bushel) is as follows:

For salt, 2.28 acres, at \$8.00 per acre profit, \$19.44
For guano, 2.09 acres, at \$4.50 per acre profit, 10.03
For phosphate, 2.12 acres, at \$10.22 per acre profit, 21.66
For bone dust, 2.11 acres, at \$12.04 per acre profit, 25.46
For ground lime stone, 2.06 acres, at \$14.50 per acre profit, 29.87
Total profit from fertilizers on 10.66 acres, \$107.63

This ground was carefully measured and staked off, and the different sections harvested and threshed separately, and every precaution taken to secure accurate results. The field is a clay soil, mixed with some gravel, and has been thoroughly under-drained. It was sown to barley the spring before the wheat was sown, and yielded eighteen bushels per acre. Before the wheat was harvested, the sections on which salt and guano were used, looked equally as well as those sections treated with phosphate, bone dust, and limestone; and, if they had not been threshed separately, it would not have been possible, from the appearance of the wheat, to determine which was the best. This fact has convinced me, that the only way to arrive at accurate results is thresh separately, as in this case. Sections yielding thirty-seven bushels per acre, looked no better than those yielding twenty-nine bushels per acre, I think it is not improbable, that fertilizers have been condemned as useless, in many cases, when, if the grain had been threshed separately, they would have shown favorable results.

In this case, the ground limestone proved to be the most economical fertilizer, showing a profit over bone dust of \$1.96 per acre; over phosphate, of \$4.28 per acre; over guano, of \$9.70 per acre; and over salt, of \$5.90 per acre. I am using the ground limestone on about seventy acres of wheat this fall, and hope I may not have occasion to change the opinion formed from the foregoing tests, that, in proportion to cost, it is the best fertilizer for wheat. The field, on which the above tests were made, is being again sown to wheat, with a uniform dressing of one hundred pounds of bone dust, three hundred pounds of ground limestone, to the acre, and will be again harvested and threshed separately, to ascertain the yield of the different sections the second year.—W. W. Reed in Agriculture of Pennsylvania, 1878.

Farmers Upholding the College.

Want of space prevents us from publishing entire the address of Overseer Leonard Rhone, at the late meeting of the Pomona Grange of this county, but we gladly make room for a portion of his very plain and just words regarding the late Legislature's report against our College:

The late attack on the Pennsylvania State Agricultural College by the State Legislature was an indirect attack on our order and the farming class. On former occasions, when farmers received no consideration at the College, the ones that now denounce the only institution that farmers have were those who loudly applauded the College. Such an underhanded attack on the only agricultural institution in our State by a set of mere demagogues, who have crept into the State Legislature, deserves the derision and the contempt of every good citizen of Pennsylvania. The College may have faults that can be overcome in time, but it was never better conducted, nor was it ever so well patronized as at present, or in better favor with the farming or mechanical class. The present president of the College is the most common-sensical of any that the institution ever had. He has identified himself thoroughly with the agricultural class of our State; he is in great favor with our people, and is lecturing for them in nearly every county in the State, as he can find time between his high and important duties.

A few fowls sometimes prevent waste.

A hole cut in the boot of a farmer made it fit easier, but it also gave an opportunity to a copperhead snake that he stepped upon in his barn. He was bitten upon the exposed spot and killed.

The best shaped, best marked pullets should be preserved on the same principle and for the same reason that the best sow or cow, or mare should be kept where breeding is contemplated.

Hens fed on clear, sound grain, and kept on a clear grass-run, give much finer flavored eggs than hens that have access to stable and manure heaps and eat all kinds of filthy food. Hens feeding on fish and on onions flavor their eggs accordingly, the same as cows eating onions or cabbage, or drinking offensive water, impart a bad taste to the milk and butter. The richer the food, the higher the color of the eggs. Wheat and corn give the best color.

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Leaves Snow Shoe 7.30 A. M., arrives in Bellefonte 9.20 A. M.
Leaves Bellefonte 10.20 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 11.25 A. M.
Leaves Snow Shoe 2.42 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4.12 P. M.
Leaves Bellefonte 4.55 P. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 6.27 P. M.
DANIEL RHODES, General Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD

ROAD—Time-Table, December 31, 1877.

Exp. Mail WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail. A. M. P. M. A. M. P. M. 7:55 6:32 Arrive at Tyrone Leave... 7:08 8:30 7:46 6:23 Leave East Tyrone Leave... 7:15 8:47 7:42 6:17 " Bald Eagle " 7:23 8:47 7:29 6:03 " Hannah " 7:56 9:02 7:22 5:55 " Fort Matilda " 7:44 9:11 7:14 5:47 " Martha " 7:52 9:20 7:05 5:38 " Julia " 8:01 9:30 6:56 5:27 " Unionville " 8:11 9:42 6:47 5:15 " Lock Haven In " 8:24 9:53 6:43 5:15 " Millburg " 8:32 10:05 6:33 5:05 " Bellefonte " 8:40 10:15 6:23 4:55 " Millburg " 8:48 10:25 6:08 4:40 " Mount Eagle " 9:00 10:30 6:00 4:35 " Howard " 9:08 10:40 5:50 4:25 " Eggleston " 9:16 10:52 5:46 4:15 " Beck Creek " 9:24 11:02 5:33 4:05 " Mill Hill " 9:32 11:10 5:25 3:55 " Elmington " 9:40 11:18 5:15 3:45 " Lock Haven " 9:42 11:24

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

(Philadelphia and Erie Division)—On and after December 12, 1877.

WESTWARD. ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia... 11:55 p. m. " Harrisburg... 12:25 p. m. " Williamsport... 8:55 a. m. " Fort Matilda... 7:55 a. m. " Renovo... 19:55 a. m. " arrives at Erie... 7:35 p. m. NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia... 7:20 a. m. " Harrisburg... 7:50 a. m. " Williamsport... 2:40 p. m. Passengers by this train arrive in Bellefonte at... 4:35 p. m. EAST LINE leaves Philadelphia... 11:45 a. m. " Harrisburg... 12:30 p. m. " Williamsport... 8:25 p. m. " arrives at Lock Haven... 3:20 p. m. WESTWARD. EASTWARD. PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven... 6:40 a. m. " Harrisburg... 7:55 a. m. " Philadelphia... 3:45 p. m. DAY EXPRESS leaves Renovo... 10:10 a. m. " Williamsport... 12:40 p. m. " arrives at Harrisburg... 4:20 p. m. ERIE MAIL leaves Harrisburg... 7:20 p. m. " Philadelphia... 8:55 p. m. " Lock Haven... 9:45 p. m. " Williamsport... 11:05 p. m. " arrives at Harrisburg... 7:20 p. m. EAST LINE leaves Williamsport... 12:35 a. m. " arrives at Harrisburg... 3:58 a. m. " Philadelphia... 7:20 p. m. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, and Day Express East, make close connections at Northumberland with L. & E. R. R. trains for Williamsport and Scranton. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, and Lock Haven Accommodation West, make close connection at Williamsport with N. C. & W. R. trains north. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven with B. & E. V. R. R. trains. Erie Mail East and West connect at Erie with trains on L. S. & M. S. R. R., at Corry with O. C. & A. V. R. R., at Esopus with B. N. Y. & P. R. R., and at Bradford with A. V. R. R. Parlor cars will run between Philadelphia and Williamsport on Niagara Express West, Erie Express West, Philadelphia Express East, and Day Express East, and Sunday Express East. Sleeping cars on all night trains. Wm. A. BALDWIN, Gen'l Superintendent.

1879. THE PATRIOT. 1879.

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