BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI-GENCK 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.

Four hundred and twenty millions of bushels of wheat, garnered in the United States for 1879, means four hundred and twenty millions of dollars for the pockets of the farmers of the country. That sounds like a pretty big pile, but we presume they will manage to find places for it all.

If this department of our paper is not quite up to the standard for the present week, we beg our readers to excuse us on the grounds of "too much to do" the pressure of "fall work" seems greater than usual, and the loss of a week's time by illness threw us so far behind that it keeps us bouncing late and early to eatch up again. We promise to make amends by giving an additional column of agricultural matter next week, and working harder than usual to make it interesting.

now. Dispose of the old hens; select as many of the best young pullets and feed them well. As the and carefully. Give wheat soaked buckwheat, and corn, in equal pro- days to allow the sulphite to exert its portions, may make the rest of the food; chopped cabbages will help. Provide clean quarters, plenty of lime) is a commercial article, costing water, gravel, old mortar, and char- about 40 cents a pound by the bar coal. Make the house warm; do not erowd too many into it, and a good supply of eggs will result.

This is the last opportunity we shall have to urge upon our readers the importance of attending the fair, in the double capacity of observers and exhibitors. The Connecticut Farmer speaks thus sensibly on this subject, and we make its words our own: If you know you have a good thing, don't be afraid to show it. If excess it may prejudicially affect the anyone else has a better you are none taste. the less privileged to go to work at once to beat him next year. It is not encouraging to the officer of a society to be told that if you had only known that Mr. So and So was going to bring those steers or that litter of pigs or display of fruit you would have bought yours, because you know you have a better article. Never exhibit anything you are ashamed of, but when you have a good thing, lend a helping hand and make your fair what it should be.

THE Poultry World and Poultry THE Poultry World and Poultry Will keep wet, which tends to produce decay. My practice is to dig potatoes when the ground is dry, pick them up as dug, keep them covered them. fusely illustrated, and as a rule their illustrations are of the best. The wagon, and place them on the lath in of the leaf stock and suck out the readily as the Brahmas. They yield to Yard of this week, however, has a cut of the American Dominique which thick, and leave them there until fear we regret, falls far short of justice of freezing, when they are placed in bins in the cellar. The air coming up to this very handsome and, we think, from beneath keeps them perfectly most useful farmer's fowl. It seems dry. One fall it was late when I dug coarse and hastily made, and gives them, and I thought it was so near the bird a dumpy appearance which is quite at variance with its really brave carriage and fine style. It is by no means usual for the Poultry in the corn crib, and they dried off Yard to err in this direction, and we regret that its carelessness should inure to the detriment of our favorite -because most practical-fowl. The finest portraits of the Dominiques which have come under our notice are those on the circulars issued by Mr. Geo. R. Hawley, of Glenn's Falls, N. Y.

### How to Preserve Cider.

The cider-making "days have come," and one of the most common inquiries among farmers is "How shall of such inquiries we give the following from that undoubted authority, the Scientific American :

A pure, sweet cider is only obtainable from clean, sound fruit, and the fruit should therefore be carefully examined and wiped before grinding.

In the press, use hair cloth or gun-ny in place of straw. As the cider ny in place of straw. As the calculation of this crop, and runs from the press let it pass through instance, costs sixty cents a bushel, for the production of this crop, and a hair sieve into a large open vessel pork should sell at six cents per this is the real plan for bringing them up to the highest point of fertility.

be expressed in one day. In one day, or sometimes less, the pomace will rise to the top, and in a short time grow very thick. When little white bubbles break through it, draw off the liquid through a very small spigot placed about three inches from the bottom, so that the less may be left behind. The eider must be drawn off into very clean, sweet casks, preferably fresh liquor casks, and closely watched. The moment the white bubbles, before mentioned, are perceived rising at the bunghole, rack it again. It is usually necessary to repeat this three times. Then fill up the cask with cider in every respect like that originally contained in it, add a tumbler of warm sweet oil, and bung up tight. For very fine cider it is customary to add at this stage of the process about half a pound of glucose (starch sugar), or a smaller portion of white sugar. The cask should then be allowed to remain in a cool place until the cider has acquired the desired flavor. In the meantime clean barrels for its reception should be prepared, as follows: Some clean strips of rags are dipped in melted sulphur, lighted and burned in the bunghole, and the bung laid loosely on the end of the rag so as to retain the sulphur vapor within the barrel. Then tie up half a pound of mustard seed in a course muslin bag, and put it in the barrel, fill the barrel with eider, add about a quar-

ter of a pound of isinglass or fine gelatine dissolved in hot water. This is the old fashioned way, and will keep cider in the same condition as when it went into the barrel, if kept in a cool place, for a year.

Professional cider-makers are now using calcium sulphite (sulphite of lime), instead of mustard and sul-IF eggs are expected during the phur vapor. It is much more con-winter, they must be provided for venlent and effectual. To use it, it is simply requisite to add one-eight to one-quarter of an ounce of the sulphite to each gallon of cider in the cask, first mixing the powder in weather grows severe, feed liberally, about a quart of the cider, then pouring it back into the cask and giving the latter a thorough shaking or rollin hot water, once a day. Barley, ing. After standing bunged several full action it may be bottled off.

The sulphite of lime (which should not be mistaken for the sulphate of rel. It preserves the sweetness of the cider perfectly, but unless care is taken not to add too much of it, it will impart a slight sulphurous taste to the cider. The bottles and corks used should be perfectly clean, and the corks wired down.

A little cinnamon, wintergreen, or From the Practical Farmer. sassafras, etc., is often added to sweet cider in the bottle, together with a drachm or so of bicarbonate of soda at the moment of driving the stopper. This helps to neutralize free solds, and renders the liquid effervescent when unstoppered; but if used in

### Keeping Potatoes.

We find the following paragraph floating about among our exchanges without credit, and copy it because it tallies with our own practice and experience:

experience:

All farmers I have known have graneries or corn cribs with lath floor and sides, just the thing to put fresh dug potatoes into. All kinds of fruits, grain and vegetables give off a certain amount of moistured, are gathered as a constitution of the const ering, and if they are permitted to lie in heaps on the floor in cellar or anywhere out of a circulation of air, by a blanket from the sun while in the hatched and crawl down to the foot of fowls that accepts management as bin, about eighteen corn the time to put them in the cellar I would take them there directly. In a few days I found they were decaying; I took them out and put them and did not rot afterward.

"OUR country is full of poor ministers and poor lawyers, and shockingly poor docters, who ought to have been good shoemakers and farmers, who reached their present and unprofitable station by aiming too high." Thus speaks the New Hampshire Mirror and Farmer. "Isn't that a mistake?" asks Dr. Hoskins in the Vermont Watchman. "Didn't they aim too low? But if they aimed too high in trying to be professional men, would it not have been a fault in them to have aimed still higher by trying to be farmers? For it takes a great deal more brains and energy I keep my cider?" For the benefit to be a successful farmer than to succeed in professional life, according to our observation and experience."

Pork sold in the carcass must bring as many cents per pound as the meal fed in fattening the hogs cost dimes per bushel in order to get one's money back and have the manure for the labor of feeding and the general management of the business. If corn, for

#### Farm Intelligently.

Time was, in the history of our could safely rest in the assurance of preparation, has, particularly in the eastern and middle sections of our country, become exhausted; much of it, it is needless to add, has been wan-tonly wasted. And he who would now have success in farming must exercise brain as well as brawn, must combine skill with industry, or, in other words, farm intelligently. "Book-farming," to use a common

expression, can no longer be profitably ignored. If people were endowed with an intuition that taught them how to do all things correctly, there would be no benefit derived from an interchange of ideas, or if a vation, and was so circumstanced that he could spend a portion of each year traveling, he might be able to make such applications of the knowledge thus obtained as to compete with men who farmed on scientific principles. But as intuitive knowledge is scarce, and as farmers, as a drop an egg daily for more than three class, are not given to traveling, there days in succession. Fowls that are remains no better way, and indeed no other way of deriving information on agricultural questions than by reading books and papers devoted to such questions. It is no more to be expected that a man could farm successfully who did not inform himself as to his business, than to expect a merchant, or a lawyer, or a physician | thiner, and some drop with no shells ing without informing himself as to the system, supported by good the nature of that calling. The man wholesome food, produce the shell who, ignorant of the art of navigation, It is a calcareous substance that would attempt to guide a vessel across the Atlantic, would be deemed a lunatic or an idiot, and yet it is scarcely more inconsistent than the manner in which hundreds of men all over our land are conducting their farms. . But the leaven of light and shall become thoroughly waked up to the importance of farming intelli-

#### Wheat Culture,

The time for seeding wheat should be regulated by the appearance or non-appearance of the Hessian fly calities where the fly does not appear, it is well to sow early enough the plant to make a good, strong fall growth. The larger and stronger the roots, the more certain it is to withstand the frosts of winter. But where the fly has made its ap-pearance, it is far better to risk the winter-killing than the fly. The it comes up, the surer it is of escaping the ravages of this insect. The value of guano and kindred ammoniacal fertilizers largely depends on their stimulating such a rapid growth as to overcome the attacks of the

Another way of lessening its deptwice as the blade begins to widen. The wheel hoe runs between the rows. and by stirring the soil, promotes growth, disturbs the fly, and knocks off or destroys great numbers of the larva, which are deposited in little patches on the upper surface of the leaf, where, if undisturbed, they are uices of the plant. It is well known that wheat on rich ground can withstand the fly much better than wheat on poor ground. Anything, there-fore, which adds vigor and strength to the plant, increases its juices, like fertilizers or cultivating with a wheat hoe, will enable it the better to withstand the fly. There can be no doubt, if seed rows were twelve inches apart instead of eight, and then the wheat hoed in the spring as well as in the fall, about the time of the attack of the second crop of the fly, that the depredations of the fly would be greatly lessened and the crop of wheat greatly increased. It has been tried and proved,

### Importance of Grass.

In its direct money value, and in its collateral and indirect benefits, grass is worth more to the world than all the cereal crops combined. Its direct is nothing in comparison to its indirect value in the influence it has in preserving the fertility of our farms by its manurial wealth in all forms. No man can thrive on a farm -no farm can be self-supporting where grass is wholly neglected, or advantage is not taken of stock raised on the grass farms. The old Belgian proverb is true-"No grass, no cattle; no manure, no crops."
It is supposed by many that only such soil as is not fit for cultivation in the cereals or roots should be devoted to grass. This is a mistake. We can afford to take our best soil

Production and Keeping of Eggs.

From the Country Gentlems

Oftentimes it is a matter of imporcountry, when, if a man knew enough to hitch his team to a plow and go into the field and turn over the soil ed in comparative freshness for sevin a rude, half-way sort of a manner, and then plant and sow his crops, he if care is taken to place them on end as soon as brought in from the nest. an abundant harvest, for the sun and One not accustomed to the handling rain and dew of heaven would com- and care of eggs can form no idea of plete the work he had begun. But that day has now past. The rich vir-gin soil which was for centuries in where it adheres to the shell and quickly spoils in warm weather. Always place the egg on the big end. have tried both ends, and have decided in favor of that position. Eggs should be gathered from the nest every day, and where there are many hens kept, twice in a day. It matters not for what purpose we desire eggs, the hens that produce them should always be young and healthy. that are kept for any length of time should always be those from young hens, or if two years old only those in perfect health. If this rule is closely observed by breeders who export eggs for hatching, from one man was endowed with an unusual locality to another, there will be bet-faculty for learning things by obser-ter satisfaction given. It is of much importance that the eggs have perfect shells, and a hen not in perfect health may drop her eggs regularly, yet the shells may possess imperfections that render them unfit either for keeping or hatching.

A hen in perfect health will not

confined in narrow inclosures for any length of time cannot be in perfect health. They are forced out of their natural habits, and the restraining of nature tells on the system, sooner or later. For immediate use, their eggs perhaps, are as good as any. increasing age the egg shells grow would succeed in his particular call- at all. Strength and stamina of forms around the egg after it is perfected in the oviduct. The completed egg consists of several component parts, each one of which draws on the vital energy and stam ina of the bird, which is so formed that its body performs its natural knowledge in agriculture is at work, and let us hope it will continue to work until our farmers, one and all, they are forced out of their natural book and JOB OFFICE BUSH HOUSE BLOCK, order when we feed them up for great egg production. Did any one ever hear of a wild bird that dropped a soft egg, or ever see a shelle that was dropped by a wild bird?
We have produced poultry that do
not sit. Nature intended the hens to sit on her eggs for three weeks, and afterwards to nurse and run with her hicks for four or five weeks longer. In this interval the system gains tone and strength. It is an entire change -a division of labor, and the gathers strength and tone for future egg production. The regular sitters seldom drop more than sixteen eggs in a clutch and then comes brooding

The Eggs dropped in May and June keep much better than those dropped more rapid the growth of wheat when later in the season. The reason is that the fowls are in better condition. After the middle of July the close summer heats and sultry nights come on and the birds are more or less exhaust-The moulting season is close at hand, and the whole system is preparing for a change, the recovery from redations is to cultivate it once or By this time, if left unheeded, their roosting places have become foul and infested with vermin. From this From this time out stimulants and mild tonics should be given to the perpetual layers as required. To be thoroughly profitable, these fowls should not be kept over the second winter, unless it is in exceptional cases. There is no breed onfinement, in time, place and food without repining, yet they are tender and require more care and forethought in feeding than any of the other races of sitters. Perfect eggs, after once obtained, should be set up on end in good, sweet, c'ean oats, and kept in a cool place, and there will be found little difficulty in saving them to obtain a fair price at the fall markets. They must possess good, thick, perfect shells or they will not keep.

### The Amende Honorable.

From the Connecticut Farmer.

We enjoy the modest, and withal very complimentary way that the agricultural editor of the Centre Dem-OCRAT takes us to task for appropriating an item from one of his articles ithout giving due credit therefore. We value your paper too highly, Brothers Shugert and Forster—we mean that part devoted to the farming interests-to do anything to hurt your feelings. It was only an inadvertency of ours, and if we have occasion hereafter to make any selections from your carefully prepared columns (and we strongly suspect we may), you may be sure we shall give due credit for the same.

A MAN who will compel his stock to drink stagnant, stinking water, because it is too much trouble to furnish good water, has mistaken his calling. He has no business to keep

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