

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, Belleville, Penn'a., that other farmers may have the benefit of it.

THE Farmer's Friend, of last week, is kind enough to speak encouragingly of our fair, and call the special attention of the Grangers, of which society it is the organ in this State, to it.

WHEN the potato tops die the potatoes are ripe and should be dug at once. The fall rains will soon set in, and when the ground is damp the labor of digging is greatly increased.

THE "latest thing" in patents which has come under our observation is that of an Illinois nurseryman who claims to have patented a new variety of cherries, and advertises his trees at fifty cents each.

At this writing, September 23, the weather continues cold and dry, very similar to that of last "seeding time," and in all respects unfavorable to the germination of the thousands of bushels of wheat which Centre county farmers have committed to the care of Mother Earth.

READERS of the DEMOCRAT are aware that it has been a constant and earnest advocate of the doctrine that "like begets like," and has, therefore, always urged the great importance of pure, clean, well-selected seed of all kinds.

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Select half a dozen specially good ears—the topmost ones from stalks bearing two ears—and next spring plant the corn from these in the richest corner of your field; give it a little extra manure, and a good deal of extra care—keeping it perfectly clean of weeds—and grow but two stalks to the hill, with hills at least four feet apart, and from this take your seed for the following year, reserving the half-dozen best ears for a similar experiment.

Mr. F. A. GULLEY, of the Michigan Agricultural College, in a letter to the Rural New Yorker, on the subject of subsoiling, commends the practice highly, and suggests the latter part of summer and fall as the best time for doing it.

WITH the close of "seeding" we are apt to consider the heavy "fall work" as done, and put away the plows and harrows for next year's work. It is well to consider whether we cannot do some of next spring's work now, to our advantage.

"THE FENCE QUESTION," in all its forms and all its bearings, is more thoroughly discussed and agitated than perhaps any other pertaining to the farm. We presume no one will contradict the statement that fences, at their very best, are one of the most grievous evils which afflict the farming community, but all will admit that the evil, in some form, and to some extent, is necessary, and must be borne.

durability at the minimum cost of labor and material; that it can be used with equal facility for either permanent or portable fence, and that it is perfectly adapted to the use of either wire or wooden rails.

As a general rule it is better to avoid pasturing meadows, after the growth has ceased for the season. But there are exceptions to this rule, there being some cases in which we would pasture as closely as possible.

Soiling Cattle. This means nothing more nor less than carrying the green feed of summer to the cattle in the barn or shed, instead of driving the cattle to the feed in the field.

Now suppose that every agriculturist now-a-days has some general idea of the principle of restitution; that is to say, the elements necessary to the growth of vegetables must be replaced; and if they are not, the crop either fails utterly, or at best is deficient in health and growth.

Professor Storer, whose recent paper on the fertilizing properties of wood ashes we find in the Bulletin of the Bussey Institution, gives the latest information on the value of this most useful material. He says that the analysis of thirteen samples of house ashes shows a range of from 6 to 10.8 per cent. of potash, and from 0.4 to 4.6 per cent. of phosphoric acid.

The arguments in favor of soiling may be briefly summed up as follows: More than double the amount of stock on the same number of acres, or half the number of acres for the same amount of stock, less expense in fencing pastures, more than double the quantity of manure, and a large increase in the average flow of milk through the season.

NEVER DESPAIR. I fain would impress on The weary and sad The truths of a lesson In metaphor clad. Still in life's journey the Bravest of best— Still on life's journey We hanker for best.

The great importance of agriculture in the world's economy is in no way more forcibly illustrated than by the increasing attention given to matters which pertain to it, by periodicals of the highest order, even distinctively literary or scientific.

How can I best utilize that big heap of ashes out by the wood pile? This is a question which we have no doubt that hundreds of the same old thousands of farmers who read this paper have suggested to themselves, now that the milder weather renders drats on the wood pile less frequent.

Unquestionably the most profitable course for the general farmer to adopt in improving the quality of his live stock is to begin by the purchase of first-class thoroughbred males. The calves got by a thoroughbred full of any of the well-established breeds, out of a mixed average lot of cows, will invariably possess much of the excellence of the thoroughbred sire, and the females of these half bloods again, bred to a thoroughbred sire, will produce animals, for all practical purposes except that of procreation, quite equal to the average thoroughbred.

Labor and Capital Make Land Profitable. From the Connecticut Farmer. One great reason that many farmers are loth to try the experiment of soiling is the extra amount of labor that it will bring.

ONE of the plainest indications of unsuccessful farming is to see manure going to waste or unemployed. When this is seen there is no need of looking beyond the stable and yards to find out the condition of the farm, or to judge of the success of its owner.

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BELLEFRONT & SNOW SHOE R.R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877. Leaves Snow Shoe 7:30 A.M., arrives in Bellefonte 9:20 A.M.

Table with columns: Exp. Mail, WESTWARD, EASTWARD, Exp. Mail. Lists train schedules for various destinations like Tyrone, Unionville, etc.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD. (Philadelphia and Erie Division)—On and after December 12, 1877. WESTWARD. ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia 11:55 P.M.

How the Stock on the Farm may be Improved. We copy the following true and pertinent remarks upon this subject from the Live Stock Journal, as being apropos to fair week.

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WE think a little management would enable many of our farmers to decrease their fences fully twenty per cent.