

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.

At a late meeting of the Fulton Farmers' Club, in Lancaster county, one of the members exhibited an ear of corn containing 1,680 grains.

Tobacco continues to "boom" in Lancaster at an unprecedented rate, the receipts and payments of last Saturday fully equalling, if not exceeding those of the week before. The New York Tobacco Journal takes the packers to task for paying the farmers too high prices for their crops, and calls the figures "insanely high." We notice, however, that prices in the Connecticut Valley run up to about the same standard.

THE more a farmer works with his brain, the more effective is the work of his hands. The successful General is the one who plans his campaign in advance. Now is the time for the agricultural General to plan his campaign for the coming summer. The farmer should always keep his thinking work ahead of his manual labor, and plans laid and well matured now will help forward the summer's work amazingly. It would not be a bad idea to have a little pass-book set apart for this special purpose, and in it make memoranda of your plans. Memory is not always to be depended upon, and your little book will be a great aid to it.

We do not know where the Gouverneur Herald is printed, nor by whom, but we do know that when it publishes, as editorials, articles so good that papers of such high standing as the Dairyman copy them word for word, giving full credit for them to the Herald, it should be sure that they are original, and not "cabbaged" from the American Agriculturist's column of "Hints for the Month." The DEMOCRAT makes pregnant quotations from the Agriculturist, in the belief that its readers are the gainers thereby; but if it failed to give proper credit for matter thus appropriated, it should expect some one to call it a well, "cashier" might answer for a synonym.

DURING one of the stormy days of last week, as we were grinding corn on the cob on our "Big Giant"—making splendid fine meal of it, at the rate of five bushels per hour—a number of neighbors came to see how the machine worked. After expressing much satisfaction with it, one of them wanted to know of us why we ground the cob, stating that he believed it to be worthless as feed, and it certainly consumed time in grinding. Our reply was: "The cob is doubtless worth as much as straw for feeding purposes, and as cattle must 'fill up' on something, why not use feed the cob if it is only to secure the potash it contains.—Record.

To wagon the cob two or three miles to the mill and back again, and pay at least "one-eighth" for having it ground might be "bad economy"; but where a farmer has a "Big Giant" feed mill, such as we are now running, and does all his grinding at home on wet days, and at odd hours, we are sure that it would prove profitable from the standpoint of the manure heap, to say nothing of its value as feed, which on experience proves to be considerable.

The cost of poultry-raising is something which farmers in general do not look into very closely—they generally "guess" that there is a profit in it, and let it go at that. In fact, this guessing habit is peculiar to the business of farming, and is one of its weak points. If merchants and manufacturers were to be content with guesses as to their financial ventures there would be more failures than now. * * * Some years ago I kept an account of what a flock of light Brahma fowls would eat from day to day with a full supply of feed always at hand. * * * I found that, after supplying the flock for ten or a dozen weeks with all they would eat, the amount consumed in a year by each individual was about one and a half bushels. A flock of 100, then, would consume 150 bushels per annum, or its equivalent. At 50 cents a bushel the cost per head is 75 cents. One and a half bushels of corn weighs 84 pounds;

fact that a by far too large proportion of butter makers are so careless, unscientific and uncleanly that the stuff they manufacture is so like the horrible product of the "oleo" factory that it would deceive the very elect. One much-to-be-desired effect of the dishonest competition of this counterfeit will be to awaken dairymen, whether large or small, to the necessity of a greater degree of care and cleanliness in the handling and feeding of their stock, and in all the manipulations of their product.

We recently had the pleasure of a brief visit from a gentleman who farms on a somewhat extended scale in Central Iowa, and were gratified to learn something of "Western Farming" from a man who puts these methods in daily practice, and "makes farming pay" by them; albeit we could not forbear the reflection that a greater profit could be obtained from the use of the same raw material, by the application of more labor, and greater attention to details. The idea of feeding an hundred head of steers under an open shed, on "snap corn" (corn jerked from the stalks as they grow in the field, and fed without husking, while the stalks are permitted to go to waste) with the thermometer marking from zero down to 27°—seemed to us rather primitive. Yet our friend does this, and "makes the farm pay" by doing it, too. True, the corn grown in Iowa does not cost as much, bushel for bushel, as does that grown in the East, but is it not worth as much for flesh-forming purposes? and would it not be better to feed it in the most economical manner? Our friend was hurrying home to make sale of a lot of near three hundred "Poland Chinas," which had, partially at least, been fattened by "following" these same steers, and gleaming from their droppings the corn which had found its way through them whole. No doubt this saves a large portion of corn which would otherwise be lost, but—well, we prefer that our pork should be fed on corn that had passed through a "Big Giant" mill.

Extracts and Comments.

The poultry should be fed meat three or four times a week with their other food, when the ground being frozen, their are neither worms nor insects for them to pick up about the premises.—Exchange.

Milk makes a complete substitute for the meat, and if plentiful should be fed in abundance. For those who cannot conveniently get the meat, and do not have the milk (as often happens even among farmers in the winter) the careful saving of table scraps and the use of the water in which the dishes are first washed for mixing the morning feed, will be found to well repay the trouble.

The cob of Indian corn contains a large amount of potash; its ashes contain twice the amount of mineral than the ashes of the willow, which contains more than any other wood. Potash is one of the minerals for which the farmer pays, in one shape or another, large sums of money, and this frequently when there can be seen lying round his premises uneconomized quantities of this valuable material. When the cob is fed ground with the corn, this large amount of potash will be found in the manure, as the animal economy does not equal the amount of potash which the vegetable kingdom requires. It might not be bad economy to grind and feed the cob if it was only to secure the potash it contains.—Record.

The cost of poultry-raising is something which farmers in general do not look into very closely—they generally "guess" that there is a profit in it, and let it go at that. In fact, this guessing habit is peculiar to the business of farming, and is one of its weak points. If merchants and manufacturers were to be content with guesses as to their financial ventures there would be more failures than now. * * * Some years ago I kept an account of what a flock of light Brahma fowls would eat from day to day with a full supply of feed always at hand. * * * I found that, after supplying the flock for ten or a dozen weeks with all they would eat, the amount consumed in a year by each individual was about one and a half bushels. A flock of 100, then, would consume 150 bushels per annum, or its equivalent. At 50 cents a bushel the cost per head is 75 cents. One and a half bushels of corn weighs 84 pounds;

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hence in a day each fowl will eat 23-100 pounds, and the cost (at 50 cents per bushel) will be \$0.0020516, or a trifle over two mills.—Correspondence of Philadelphia Record.

There's a sample of telling what should be done, and showing how to do it. If the correspondent of our esteemed contemporary calls that "keeping accounts," we should like to see a specimen of his "guessing."

Mr. Thomas Robinson, of Geddes, N. Y., lately showed to the Onondago Farmers' Club yellow butter made the previous week "from the milk of a Jersey cow, fed on clover hay with a portion of shorts and a peck of carrots each day." That is the only kind of coloring material (Nature's own make) that should ever be tolerated in any dairy product.—Tribune.

If the Tribune's mistaken advice were generally followed, the proportion of "wagon-grease butter" which finds its way to the market would be largely increased. There is something in appearances, and nothing is "judged" by them oftener than butter. Experience has proven that if the product of a single winter's churning be divided, and the one-half nicely "colored" while the other is left in all its lardy whiteness, and the two lots put in competition in the open market, the average purchaser will make a difference of from three to five cents per pound in favor of the "June color." Perhaps no one will deny that the kind of "coloring material" used by Mr. Robinson is the very best in the world, but it is not every butter maker who has Jersey cows, or who can feed on "clover hay and carrots." In all respects excepting color well cured fodder-corn makes an excellent substitute for clover-hay as a winter feed for milk cows, and can be had in many cases where clover hay cannot. That this lack in color can be easily, cheaply and advantageously supplied we are fully convinced by a somewhat protracted use of the "Perfect Butter Color" made by Wells, Richardson & Co., of Burlington, Vt. We do not advocate the use of every yellow nostrum that may be advertised for the purpose, but that this is effective and utterly harmless we know from continued experience.

Botanists say that there are 42,000 different kinds of weeds in the United States.—Exchange.

That makes the farmers' war against the weeds look rather formidable. But we must win it if we would "make the farm pay."

"Black Mexican" Sweet Corn.

In the Rural New Yorker for January 24, we find the subjoined opinion of this most delicious of all the varieties of sweet corn with which we are acquainted. Like the Rural, we have tested all the leading varieties, but for ten years past we have not failed to have a small lot of "Black Mexican" for our own table use. In point of productiveness we do not think it equals some others, but in quality we do not hesitate to second our valued contemporary in placing it at the head of the list:

For two years past we have often called attention to the excellence of a variety of sweet corn well known as Mexican. We have tested in our grounds all sorts of sweet corn, and as regards sweetness and a richness that might well be described as "buttery," we believe this Mexican variety should be placed first. That there is no market demand for it is owing to the fact that the ears are rather small (averaging seven inches) and, being as white as other kinds until the kernels begin to harden, there is no distinctive character by which it may become known to purchasers and others, and larger kinds are preferred. The Mexican corn grows about five feet high, is very prolific, often bearing two and three ears to a stalk, and remains for an unusually long time in a fit condition for table use. Even after the kernels begin to color, they are still sweet, tender and well flavored. When mature, they are of a slate-color and much shriveled. Seed is offered by all seedsmen and we hope that those of our readers who have not done so, will give it a trial.

Soiling Stock.

J. D. G. in Connecticut Farmer. I have tried soiling stock for the year past with good success, on natural grass land. I like grass best for this purpose. Clover is good on any land. Either can be raised with but little labor and by top dressing a large crop can be secured. I had this year four acres, on which, in two crops, I cut the equivalent of twelve tons of dry clover, yet my experience is that the best of all crops for milk and butter is sweet corn planted in hills three feet by one foot, and fed with the ears on and while in the milk.

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Among Our Exchanges.

The American Agriculturist for February is an unusually interesting and readable number, and this is saying a great deal for a publication which never gives its readers a poor or even commonplace issue. Over one hundred and twenty-five articles, embracing the widest possible range of subjects of direct interest to the farmer, illustrated by a hundred engravings, every one of which is executed with greatest care and fidelity, together covering forty beautifully printed pages, is a showing of which any publishers may well be proud.

The February or "Midwinter" number of Scribner's Magazine has reached our table. While every article within its beautiful cover pages is of interest to every reader, there are a number which appeal with peculiar force to those who are engaged in the great work of feeding the world's eaters. Among these are Rev. E. P. Roe's Success with Small Fruits, New England Fences, New Fruit Press, and the Mechanical Extraction of Cream. Believing as we do, that the best farmers are those who are most intelligent and best read, we should be glad to know that this number of Scribner was in the hands of a very large proportion of Centre county's farmers.

Feeding Cob Meal.

By J. A. F., St. Louis, Mo. EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—I notice an inquiry of H. N., Mastic, N. Y., asking for information regarding the economy and utility of grinding corn and cobs for feed. While it is true that farmers differ on this question, yet it is not true that this question can be settled beyond doubt or difference of opinion, and if so, why not do so, rather than leave farmers and others desirous of the facts, to exercise their own judgment, when they have no data from which to form a reliable conclusion? Dr. Nichols of Massachusetts says in the Boston Ploughman, that being in doubt as to the desirability of using cob meal for stock, he selected a well formed ear of corn, and removing the kernels, subjected the cob to analysis with the following results:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Percentage. Water 7.45 per cent, Crude fibre 30.95, Ash 3.16, Carbohydrates, fat and albuminoids 60.41, Total 100.

The result of this analysis proves that there is in corn cobs a considerable quantity of fat-producing and flesh-forming constituents, equal in value to the best oat straw.

An experimental test has been made in a more practical way, (one in which all farmers can settle the question) by a joint committee of the Pomfret and Woodstock, Ct., Farmers' Clubs as follows:

Nine thrifty shotes as nearly alike as possible, were kept in tight and tidy pens 65 days, (from March 31 to June 6,) and were fed during that time all they would eat. Dividing into lots of three, lot one was given clear water and meal from shelled corn; lot two was given cob meal and water, and lot three had corn and water. The best northern corn was used in each case. The gain in live weight for lot one was 307 pounds; for lot two, 294 pounds, and lot three, 233 pounds. The net gain in pork for lot one was 219 pounds; lot two, 230 pounds, and lot three 196 pounds. Lot one ate 1,322 pounds of clear corn meal; lot two, 1,361 pounds cob meal—which contained 1,147 pounds of clear corn meal—and lot three 1,194 pounds of clear corn. We find it took 4.5 pounds of clear corn meal in the first pen to make one pound of live weight, and 5.5 pounds to make one pound of dressed weight. In the second pen it took 4.75 pounds of cob meal to make one pound of live weight, and a fraction less than 6 pounds to make one pound of dressed weight. (Reducing this to clear meal we find 3.87 pounds made a pound of live weight, and 5 pounds made a pound dressed meat.) The third pen took 5.75 pounds of clear corn to make one pound of live weight; and 6.05 pounds to make one pound of dressed meat; making a perceptible showing in favor of corn and cob meal. Besides these facts, it is also true that there is an acid and an alkali in the cob, both of which are beneficial.

Add to the above facts the cost of shelling the corn, and the fact that animals require a certain amount of bulk in their feed, and I think the question as to value and expediency of grinding corn and cob for any and all kinds of stock, is settled beyond question.

Hotel Cards.

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BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877. Leaves Snow Shoe 7:00 A. M., arrives in Bellefonte 9:20 A. M. Leaves Bellefonte 10:20 A. M., arrives in Snow Shoe 11:57 A. M. Leaves Snow Shoe 2:42 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4:12 P. M. Leaves Bellefonte 4:55 P. M., arrives in Snow Shoe 6:27 P. M. DANIEL RHODES, General Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.—Time-Table, December 31, 1877.

Table with columns: Exp. Mail, WESTWARD, EASTWARD, Exp. Mail, A. M., P. M., Arrives at Tyrone, Leaves, etc.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—Philadelphia and Erie Division—On and after December 12, 1877.

Table with columns: ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia, arrives at Harrisburg, Lock Haven, etc. NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia, arrives at Harrisburg, Williamsport, etc. PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven, arrives at Harrisburg, Philadelphia, etc. DAY EXPRESS leaves Harrisburg, arrives at Philadelphia, etc. ERIE MAIL leaves Renovo, arrives at Lock Haven, Williamsport, etc. FAST LINE leaves Williamsport, arrives at Harrisburg, etc. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, and Day Express East, make close connections at Northumberland with L. & E. R. trains for Williamsport and Scranton. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, make close connection at Williamsport with N. C. & W. train north. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven with E. V. R. R. trains. Erie Mail East and West connect at Erie with train on L. S. & M. S. R. R., at Corry with O. C. & A. V. R. R., at Emporium with R. N. Y. & P. C. R. R., and at Drifwood 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.

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