

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the Agricultural Editor of the Democrat, Bellefonte, Penn., that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

THE State Agricultural Society's next annual exhibition bids fair to rival the "Centennial" itself, and will certainly be the largest and most comprehensive ever held by any State Society. We have already alluded to the International Sheep and Wool Show which will be held in connection with it, and now we learn that the State Dairymen's Association has joined hands and has placed its exhibition and premium list under the control of the Agricultural Society. This list includes prizes for foreign as well as domestic dairy products, and will thus have the character of an international exhibition, in company with the Sheep Show. There seems to be a disposition on the part of all concerned to make this occasion a red-letter day in Pennsylvania agriculture, and we cannot do less than wish those upon whose shoulders the great labor and responsibility must rest—the officers of the State Agricultural Society—abundant success.

In this connection, the DEMOCRAT suggests that the State Fruit Growers' Association, the State Board of Agriculture, the State Grange and the State College all join in the good work, and unite in making such an exhibition of the "landcultural" interests and capabilities of Pennsylvania as has never yet been seen in this country.

"In time of peace prepare for war" is a maxim as good for the farmer as for the soldier, and in the preparations which every good farmer is now making, if he has not already completed them, for the activities of the coming campaign, the necessities of hay-making should be borne in mind, and every facility provided which will tend to relieve the hurry and worry of that anxious season. Of course, every farmer who has twenty acres of smooth ground to mow should own some one of the many good mowers that are to be found everywhere, and most do. The tedder has not yet come into general use, and probably never will, though under some circumstances, we consider it of as great importance to the large hay-farmer as the mower. The horse-rake is almost universally used and may be had of all grades, from those which are almost worthless—"made to sell," like many other things manufactured for farmers' use—up to those which are carefully made, of good material, and which work so easily for both horse and driver, that they are a comfort and real help. Of these, more hereafter. The loading machine, like the tedder, will be found profitable only under exceptional circumstances, and on farms where larger quantities of hay or barley are raised upon smooth, level land. "Pitching hay" on the wagon is one of the heavy jobs of farm work, which will continue, for many years at least, to be done by hand, but from the labor of "pitching off," which every farmer knows to be infinitely harder than the field work, the inventors have entirely relieved us. Of this class of farm helps, as in rakes, there are many sorts, running all the way from those which are really worthless to those which are nearly perfect. Our own combination for unloading consists of a "Church" elevator, hung to the rafters at the comb of the roof, and extending its entire length, upon which runs a Double Harpoon Fork, and nothing can be neater than the work done by it. The elevator is simple, cheap, correct in principle, easily put up, and always does its work.

This is the time to put one up. The barn is in good condition, and you have plenty of time. Get it done, and "off your minds." Mr. Jacob R. Leathers, of Mountain Eagle, put one up, and, we presume, can give all needed information. Of course, the fork can be obtained at

almost any time, but it is well enough to be on time with this, too, as we know of parties who sent in orders at the latter end of last season which could not be filled. But no matter when or where you get it, take our advice, and get a double harpoon.

Grist or Toll?

We copy the following paraphrase of one of Watts' Hymns from the American Miller. If the author had used one of J. A. Field, Son & Co.'s Big Giant Feed mills, and made all his chop at home he would have been spared the necessity of making such unkind innuendoes about toll:

Teach me the measure of thy grist, Thou maker of my meal, I would survey what I have missed And learn how millers deal. See the vile miller lifts the pole, The mill begins to crawl, He keeps the grist, sends home the toll, And tells the boy that's all. What can I look or hope for, then, From miller's meal and dust, Who keeps a portion of my grain And disappoints my trust. Now all such millers I'll forsake, My empty bags recall, And give my custom to such men As send me back my all.

Pumpkins Among Corn.

We have recently noticed brief paragraphs floating about in the agricultural papers to the effect that growing pumpkins in the corn field tended largely to diminish the yield of corn, while the pumpkins themselves were of but little benefit. In the light of our own experience we have been rather inclined to accept this statement as true; but the following statement, in a late number of the Country Gentleman, from so good a farmer and careful adviser as Jonathan Talcott, somewhat unsettles us:

Last fall, after the severe drouth of the summer, and consequently short fall feed, those farmers who had a liberal supply of pumpkins to feed their cows, were highly pleased with them, some feeding at evening after milking, others giving them out in the morning. In either case there seemed but one opinion and that was that they were of great benefit in the increased quantity and quality of milk.

The past season we tried the experiment of cultivating the pumpkin in the corn field, in such a manner that the experiment was fairly conducted. Supposing we had pumpkin seeds enough to plant the entire field, I neglected to get more, till I found that we were short, and while I went for seeds the men planted some two acres of corn without any pumpkin seeds. We began cutting corn early in September, and not having help when we began, myself and son nearly finished before we had help. The first day, when done cutting, we looked over the ground and were agreeably surprised at the number of large yellow pumpkins. We also found that the corn was much better than we had anticipated, fearing the drouth had cut short the ears, which did not seem to be the case. When the entire field of corn was cut there was no perceptible difference between those portions where we had planted pumpkins or where none were used. The soil was alike on the whole field, and the manure was drawn on and spread in an opposite direction from which the corn was planted, so it would seem that the experiment was as fairly conducted as it could have been, if done intentionally.

Make Haste Slowly.

Spring is the generally accepted time for planting fruit trees, though for what good reason we cannot tell. In alluding to this fact, Major Freas, of the Germantown Telegraph, says:

There is one thing upon which people need cautioning. A large number of persons start to plant as soon as the first bright sun shines through a snow-cloud, and before the earth is dry enough to powder about the roots. No matter how fine overhead, the earth should not be wet or frosty at the time of planting.

"As a general thing the best time to plant trees in the Spring season is just before the buds push, or even after they have just started. This implies an active condition of the root, and it generally occurs at a time when the earth is in the best condition for working in and about the roots. As evergreens push later than deciduous trees, their removal may be extended long into May."

Tile Draining.

The following question and answer, which we quote from the Country Gentleman, will prove entirely self-explanatory, and serve as a reply to questions which have been propounded to us upon the same subject:

Will you explain to a non-agricultural subscriber how tiles drain wet land? I understand they are fitted close together at either end. If so,

how does the water get inside? Does it soak through the porous brick? N. H. Chicago. [The seams between the two contiguous ends will admit water freely, 150 of which are in every ten rods of length. So that if those seams were less than the hundredth of an inch wide, they would be sufficient for the water to fill the whole tile in a few seconds. But, in addition to this, most tile is so porous as to allow the water to pass as freely through it. In one experiment, a tubular tile, stopped at both ends, was full of water in two minutes when immersed beneath the surface.]

Spring Care of Dairy Cows.

National Live Stock Journal. Dairymen are looking for quick returns, and many of them are not willing to wait for the results of good feeding. They are doubtful about trusting the cow for two or three months for extra winter feed, fearing it will not be refunded. They are too often unwilling to give a liberal ration even for the month before calving. As the cow is not giving milk, they think it sufficient to feed enough to keep her from losing flesh rapidly. If they quite understood the rationale of milk production they would have the greatest confidence in the cow as a saving's bank for surplus food. A good cow can always be trusted to repay with liberal interest all the extra food she can digest during the time she goes dry. Such a cow is usually thin after a season of milking, and unless she is fed so liberally as to recover her fleshy condition, she will not give her full quantity of milk. Every dairyman is familiar with the fact that a good cow, coming in in full flesh, will milk down thin unless liberally fed during the milking season. They ought to see from this that the extra flesh is laid up in winter to be drawn out in milk during the summer. Every pound of extra flesh represents about one gallon of milk, to be drawn during summer.

If two cows of equal milking quality are taken, the one poor and the other in good flesh on coming in milk, and both placed in a good pasture, the one in good condition will be likely to yield a gallon of milk in excess of the other, during the season, for every pound of extra flesh she possesses over the other. If dairymen would make such accurate observations upon the effect of condition upon milk cows—as they have every opportunity to do—they would require no argument to induce them to feed their dry cows most liberally.

The winter season is now so far gone as to leave only four to six weeks of feeding before the milking season will commence, according to the various times of calving; and the dairyman who has not fed his cows as well as his interest required during the early part of the winter, should do what he can to recover his lost ground, by feeding judiciously during the few weeks left. It being so near calving time, he should be cautious about giving food of too heating a nature. Cornmeal alone should not be given, if that can be avoided; and, if nothing else is at hand, it should be fed upon cut hay, so as to have it thoroughly mixed with fibrous food before entering the stomach. Corn and oats, ground together—one bushel of corn to two of oats—makes one of the best foods for dry cows. The food most needed by the cow at this season is such as will build up her muscular system, and re-invigorate her vitality. The food should be rich in phosphate of lime; for she is often depleted of this during the milking period, so as to render her bones spongy; and the diseases that afflict cows in spring are usually occasioned by the poverty of the food given through the winter. Cows that are fed upon good clover hay during winter, usually recover their vigor, because clover is rich in muscle forming matter and phosphate of lime. Oats, peas, wheat-bran and oil meal are all rich in phosphate of lime, and are excellent to give the cow renewed vitality during her non-lactating period. Care must be taken to give oil meal in very small quantity at this period, as the time of calving approaches, and especially if it has not been given through the winter; yet one pint per day through the whole period of going dry will assist very materially in keeping the cow in health; and it often prevents the evil effect of dry, in nutritious fodder. When given through the winter, we have never known impaction of the manfolds.

Oats and bran, mixed together, will be excellent food at this period; and if this food is continued after calving, it will help to establish a good yield of milk. During the first week after calving the diet should be spare—not so necessary if the cow is thin—but if fleshy she should be kept on hay, except a quart of oil meal, which is laxative and cooling. After all danger from milk fever is past, the feeding should be most liberal, so as to start the cow on a large flow of milk. After ten days from calving, no better extra food can be given than oats and wheat bran, with one or two quarts of cornmeal. Much will depend upon the feeding of the cows before grass comes, to insure a

good yield through the season. From dairymen who withhold the feed now shall be withheld the season's profits.

Magazines, Catalogues, &c.

Scribner for April closes the NINETEENTH volume of this magazine, and brings it within one volume of the close of its tenth year. The one article which will most interest our agricultural readers is the concluding chapter of Mr. Roe's brilliant series of "Success with Small Fruits." It is one of the largest and most interesting of the series, occupying no less than twenty-eight pages of the magazine, and enriched by some thirty of the beautiful wood-cut illustrations for which Scribner's has become so justly celebrated. In this number Mr. Roe treats of Raspberries, Blackberries, Currants and Gooseberries, and gives practical hints as to picking and marketing which in themselves are well worth the price of the magazine.

We are in receipt of five of the seven catalogues issued by Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of the Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N. Y. This firm, whose reputation is world-wide, deal only in trees and plants and not in seeds, and yet their business is so large as to require a series of catalogues, instead of one. Those of our readers who intend planting trees this spring, and who prefer to send abroad, instead of getting those grown nearer home, cannot do better than send to Messrs. E. & B. for them. Not only do these gentlemen offer fair prices and liberal terms, but their extensive experience enables them to send out the very best stock, and it is all the better for having been grown in a latitude considerably to the north of us.

Small Farms Solve the Problem.

From the Atlantic Monthly. An industrious man can always find a day's work on a farm which he owns, the remuneration of which, though small, goes into his fixed capital. The regular operations of seed-time and harvest should yield a support to him and his family, and the rest of the year can be filled with work of improvement, such as under-draining, planting and trimming trees, gathering and preparing fertilizing material, and the thousand and one "odd jobs" of repairing. Thus a small farm solves the great problem of the day. It finds a "fair day's work and pays a fair day's wages" at all seasons. The capitalist farmer cannot afford to buy the minute, careful work a man puts on his own acres, and the land must have it or deteriorate. The subtle combinations of lime and potash and phosphorus which nature has elaborated in the soil become exhausted. The capitalist cannot replace them at a profit by buying commercial manures. The old law reasserts itself: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

Sweet Corn Fodder.

From the American Agriculturist. A trial of several varieties of sweet corn for fodder for milk cows the past season has resulted very successfully. Many good farmers have for years past considered sweet corn fodder to be worth more than that from field corn. The large quantity of sugar contained in sweet corn makes it a nutritious food, sugar being as much a nutriment as starch—indeed, it is strongly believed by some physiologists that the starch of food is changed in great part to sugar during digestion and before assimilation. But it will be found in practice that the most valuable fodder is that which is grown so widely apart that the juices of the stalks are matured and the ears are considerably developed before the crop is cut. Small early varieties, planted in May and afterward, may be gathered in July and August; and the medium late varieties, such as the Triumph, will come in August and September, while the late Evergreen will last until frost stops the growth.

A cow that is milked three times a day will give more milk and yield more cream than one that is milked at intervals of twelve hours. When the udder is filled a process of absorption goes on and part of the milk secreted is thus lost. It will pay to take the milk from copious milkers at intervals of eight hours as nearly as possible. A cow that is milked at 5 o'clock in the morning, 1 in the afternoon and 9 at night will yield from 10 to 20 per cent. more milk and more cream than if milked twice a day.—American Agriculturist.

COLONEL MEAD, Superintendent of Agriculture of Vermont, says that in five years after he fixed his stables so as to save his liquid manure he had doubled the products of his farm. The greatest waste of agriculture everywhere to-day is this waste of the liquid excrement of cattle. It is five times greater than all the taxes, and there is no need of it.

It is a good plan to cut scions for spring grafting the first open spell, and bury away in earth. The reason why so many fail with spring grafting is they cut the scions too late.



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Y. M. C. A., Prayer-meetings are held every Sunday at 4 and every Friday at 7 1/2 P. M. in the room of the Association above the Post Office. A Union meeting is held in the room the first Sunday in each month at 4 P. M. Room open every night from 6 to 9 P. M.

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Table with columns: BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE, R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877. Includes routes to Snow Shoe, Milledburg, and Harrisburg.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.

Table with columns: ROAD—Time-Table, December 31, 1877. Includes routes to Tyrone, Mount Eagle, and Harrisburg.

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Table with columns: (Philadelphia and Erie Division)—On and after December 12, 1877. Includes routes to Harrisburg, Pottsville, and other stations.

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