

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.

A whole afternoon of a recent convention of the Michigan Sheep-breeders and Wool-growers Association was given up to a debate on the question of washing sheep, and the result was an almost unanimous verdict to the effect that the practice is not only useless and barbarous but unprofitable, taking into account the often fatal effect on fine animals thus shocked by being forced into water.

WITHIN an hour or two after starting our plows in the sod last fall for this spring's corn crop, a careless plowman broke the shank that carries the jointer on one of them, and fearing that frosts would stop operations in the field, we allowed it to run a day or two without the jointer. That this was a mistake is now easy to see. Lines of bright green mark each furrow made by the plow without the jointer, while those made by the plow with the jointer attached are as clear of grass as when newly made. We should have stopped the plow until it could be put in proper order, and it would only have been right to have charged the man who broke it with the loss of the time, in addition to the cost of repairs, because ordinary care would have prevented the so-called accident. The importance of always using a jointer when plowing sod, and the folly of employing careless, heedless men, because they will work for a dollar or two less per month than good hands, are the two lessons learned from this experience.

TAKE our advice and try a small piece of fodder corn this year. We mean corn grown expressly for fodder, and to be fed, ears and all, without husking. Prepare the ground just as for the ordinary corn crop. Then if you have a grain drill adapted to the purpose, you can drill in three rows at a time by using the middle and the two outside teeth. This will leave the rows wide enough apart to cultivate, and this is essential to the success of the crop. Use some of the larger varieties of sweet corn for seed. Any will do, but this is better. If your drill is not a suitable one, mark out the ground one way about the usual width for corn, and sow the corn in the furrow by hand, twenty or thirty kernels to the foot, and cover it with the plow by dragging it on the mouldboard side, as in covering potatoes. Cultivate well, as in the ordinary corn crop. This will not only keep the weeds down, but stimulate the corn to produce small ears, adding much to its value. You will probably feel a portion of this crop to your cows in a green state in August and September, and what is left for curing, will be worth as much as good hay for winter feed.

Currant Worms.

We have no more useful small fruit than the currant, and it is to be regretted that so many have yielded to its special enemy, and checked its ravages at the expense of abandoning the delicious fruit. A little watchfulness and care will easily circumvent this pest, by the use of the following, from the correspondence of the Practical Farmer:

Take one pound of hellebore, two pounds of sulphur, and one-half bushel of dry, unbleached wood ashes; sift the ashes through a flour sifter, mixing the sulphur with them through the sifter, so as to get the lumps all out; then mix the ashes and sulphur and the hellebore thoroughly with a shovel, being careful not to make it fly, or raise a dust, any more than possible, as it is injurious to the lungs. As soon as it is thoroughly mixed, dust the mixture on the bushes with the sifter, while they are wet with dew. This should be done about the time the worms are hatching. Watch the bushes closely and whenever the first leaf is seen eaten by the worms, use the mixture, and I think there will be no further trouble during the season. I used this mixture two years ago,

dusting them thoroughly on the upper side of the leaves, and also on the under side as much as possible. I had no further trouble during the season, and last season I did not see one worm nor any signs of a leaf being eaten. I would also say that my family used the currants freely without the least injury, as the mixture was used a month or more before they were ripe and the rains had washed it all off. I would like very much if the readers of The Farmer would try the above remedy and report the success they have with it.

Keep Them Growing.

Mr. J. M. Smith writes an article to the New York Tribune giving his method of growing strawberries. The closing sentences in which he gives a sample of the results he attains, and the principle upon which he attains them, contain a great agricultural "moral," and we quote them for the benefit of the DEMOCRAT'S readers:

In the summer of 1875, by this system, we picked from an exact quarter of an acre 3,571 quarts of merchantable berries. This was at the rate of 440 2/3 bushels per acre. But the great principle with this, as with other branches of agriculture, is to have our land in such condition that plants must grow and cannot help it; and then keep them constantly going forward, and never, if possible to prevent it, allow them to stand still during the growing season.

Green Manuring.

We have frequently heard the practice of plowing down heavy green crops for fertilizing purposes objected to on the ground that they "sour the land." The following from a correspondent of the Practical Farmer, seems to throw some light on this matter:

As the subject of plowing under green manures seems to be agitated, I shall give my experience under that head, that others may profit by it, as I myself have done since. Some three years ago, having twenty acres of land left over that I wished to put in wheat, and not being able to obtain peas for but ten acres, I seeded the other ten acres in buckwheat—something entirely new in my section of country. Having a wet season, there was a luxuriant growth both of peas and buckwheat, and when ready to seed, to expedite matters I harrowed, plowed, and seeded with my drill, and kept all working at the same time. You can imagine the result—the fermentation taking place just as the wheat was sprouting, very little came up, and what did come turned yellow and died, noticeably more so in the buckwheat than the peas, but none of it was worth cutting, and that on land that has since and previously brought me twenty bushels per acre without fertilizers. That land was permanently improved, and I have used peas since with very beneficial results, but am careful to give green vegetable matter more time to decay before seeding.

Importance of "Pushing Things" with the Calves.

The published figures of daily growth of 102 fat cattle exhibited at the late show of the Smithfield Club, are to the effect that the older the animal, in every instance, the less the percentage of increase. Mr. J. W. Sanborn, of the New Hampshire College Farm, cites in The Manchester Mirror memoranda of his own experiments that teach the same lesson, and clearly indicate, as he believes, that "under average conditions the steer that is not matured early is made at a loss," for the reason, among others, that "food is digested and assimilated so much better by the organs of the young in their full vigor." Mr. Sanborn controverts an "entirely mistaken," the notion that rapidly growing animals are dainty. "A calf requires good food, the first winter; after that such an appetite will have been acquired, and such a capacity for the storage of food, that the appetite will gratify itself, and fill the stomach on poorer food than will slower-grown beasts." As evidence of this he mentions his home-raised year-old steers as "far better feeders than purchased year-olds of but little more than half their weight."

Action of Manure.

Manure acts upon the soil in two ways, mechanically, and chemically, generally in both. In the first instance, by rendering the soil less compact, as in the plowing in of coarse manure, or in the mixing of sand and clay, which allows a better circulation of air, heat and moisture through the soil. In the case of clay upon sand, it is made more retentive. Manure acts chemically in furnishing plant-food, or in combination with minerals or other material already in the soil, which by this means is put in a condition to enter into the growth of plants. Sometimes the effect will be of short duration from the poor quality of the matter which enters into its composition; its good effects will not more than pay for its production and application.

Thorough tillage is the best and cheapest manure.

Extracts and Comments.

There is a good deal of sentimental nonsense about giving cows a shade in the pasture. The idea seems to be that a cow is the tenderest animal in the world, and cannot stand heat like the man and horse that are plowing in the next field. If given shade and a pond to stand in, she will idle away half her time, with a certain loss to the dairy.—Exchange.

That's true enough. But if the cow were kept in a comfortable stable or shed, and her feed carried to her, she could have the benefit of the shade, and eat at the same time, and not be compelled to "idle away half her time." The purpose of feeding a cow is to have the food she eats converted into milk and butter, and this can be best and most profitably accomplished when she is enjoying the greatest comfort. The food consumed by "the man and horse that are plowing in the next field" is intended to produce muscle and "strength to labor," and in farming, this must be expended in the open field. The question is not, how much discomfort can a cow endure; but how can she be made most comfortable, that she may yield the largest returns for provender supplied?

A piece of rye, highly manured and sowed early in autumn to make it for ward and of thick growth in spring, will provide an excellent supply of rich food for the ewes and lambs in April and May.

We all wish now that we had thought of this last fall. These days of "short feed" would have been helped out wonderfully by a little forethought in this direction. Cut this out and stick it up where you will be sure to see it about next September.

The Arch Enemy of the Apple.

By Professor Cook, Michigan Agricultural College.

There is no other fruit raised in the United States which in real value can rank with the apple. Therefore, anything which aids the orchardist in growing the finest apples in perfection, receives close attention from the pomologist. We see then why aught concerning the arch enemy of the apple-grower, the codling moth always secures an attentive ear among fruit growers. This insect passes the winter as a larva, concealed in some crevice, and wrapped in a thin cocoon of light colored silk. Early in May it assumes the pupa state, and soon after emerges from its concealment, as a small gray moth. The moth, whether from the cellar, the kitchen or the orchard, steals forth to the bearing apple-trees, where on the blossom end of the forming fruit, it lays its small eggs only one in each apple. These moths will continue to emerge from their winter home for six weeks. Here at Lansing they come forth from the time of the fruit blossoms—the middle of May—till the first week in July. The eggs soon hatch, and the wee larvae eat into the apples from which they emerge sleek and well-fed in about five weeks.

So the larvae from the first brood will be leaving the fruit from the last of June till the last of July. About half of the apples which are attacked—rather more in early varieties—fall to the ground before the larvae leave them, and unless the apples are destroyed, the "worms" crawl forth and seek a crevice in which to transform. In the absence of rubbish or stumps beneath the trees they crawl up the tree trunks and hide beneath bark scales, in cracks, or wherever concealment is offered. Those in the apples, which adhere to the trees crawl down on a like errand. In from ten to twelve days—sometimes eight, if the weather is very warm—the second brood of moths comes forth to prepare for a repetition of the same destructive work. This second brood behaves very much like the first, except that the larvae do not assume the chrysalid or pupa state till the next summer. So we see that the moths cease to emerge after the first of September.

If hogs or sheep are kept in the apple and pear orchards they will eat all windfalls, and so destroy all the "worms" that fall with the apples to the ground. As many of the larvae which leave the apples while the latter are still pendent will be destroyed by sapsucker, blue-jay, robin, cuckoo and shrike, the above remedy is more complete than we would at first believe, and should never be neglected, unless a better one be made to take its place. The best remedy, and one which has given excellent satisfaction in Michigan whenever applied with thoroughness, is to trap with bands. This demands the removal of all rubbish from beneath the trees and all bark-scales and bird-nests from the trees, which should be done before the first worms leave the fruit. In this latitude June 20 would do. Further south June 1 would be none too early. This work can be done any time in April or May, when most convenient. Five weeks from the time that the trees bloom the bands should be placed around all trees that are bearing fruit.

The bands should be woollen cloth or carpet paper. They ought to be about five inches wide, and long enough to reach around the tree and lap sufficiently to tuck. First tack one end of the band to the tree, about four feet from the ground, driving the tack clear to the head. Then pass the band around the tree, bringing the untacked end over the tack first driven. Through this end a second tack should be driven, though not quite to the head, that it may be easily removed with a claw. Seven weeks after the trees bloom the bands should be examined. It is well to go first to the trees which bear early apples. If no worms or cocoons are found the examination may be delayed for ten days, when all the bands should be carefully unwound and all the larvae and pupa killed. This is easily done by pressing them with the thumb. After all are killed retack the band. To make the tacking and drawing of the tacks quick and easy, a small tack hammer with a good claw may be suspended about the neck. After this the work should be repeated every tenth day, and if very warm, every eighth day, for seven or eight weeks, and again after all the fruit is gathered, in November and December.

Of course to be fully effectual, this work should be done by all orchardists, and should be thoroughly done. As it comes at the season of the farmer's busiest hours, it is too much to expect that all will do the work persistently through the season. A better plan, and an inexpensive one, is for a neighborhood to hire a man to do the work. The contract should state that only thorough work will be rewarded. The Michigan Pomological Society, with characteristic enterprise, has offered two prizes of \$50 and \$25, to be awarded to the society or neighborhood that shall work the most wisely and efficiently in destroying these insects the coming season. Cellars and other buildings where apples have been stored the past Autumn and Winter should be closed against all egress of the moths during May and June. Fine wire gauze at the windows will accomplish this and still afford ventilation.

It is claimed by Mr. J. S. Woodward and others, of western New York, that an application of Paris green or London purple, mixed with water, at the rate of one pound of the poison to one hundred gallons of water, is sure destruction to these insects, if applied the last of May. The apples are then small, with the blossom end up, and it is claimed that enough of the poison lodges on and about the calyx to kill the newly hatched "worm," as it begins its tunnel. I know nothing personally of this remedy, and only mention it that others with myself may try its efficacy the coming season. The pomologists of Sagatuck, in our State, claim that they have found a remedy in sour milk, which attracts and captures the moths. It is very desirable to find a remedy which shall lure the moths or newly-hatched larvae to destruction, as the band-remedy only captures the enemy after he has done much mischief, though, when generally practiced, this soon overcomes the evil.

A successful farmer's life is not a lazy life. It is work, work, to bring his farm into good order; and after it is in the most fertile condition the labor does not cease, for the better the farm becomes the more work there is to be done; but with the increased work there is the faster growing disposition to do it, because work on an economically maintained and fertile farm yields the best agricultural results.

The grand secret of manuring for corn is to keep the fertility near the surface supplied, and it is rare that another course is advisable.

Some people will allow the hens to use the nest for laying and hatching in all summer. This is slovenly and wrong.

An offensive war on weeds is five times less expensive than a defensive one.

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