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BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE 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 Demograph, 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.

Do not forget to open surface ditches in all the low places in the wheat fields as soon as you are done seedinb. It's dry enough now, to be sure, but it's a splendid time to "make provision for a rainy day."

MR. JOHN JENKINS, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, was lately gored to death by a bull. Another argument in favor of the polled or hornless breeds them. The September number, from of cattle, and one which we should judge would make many converts among breeders.

THE terrible dry spell has delayed seeding to such an extent that it may yet be time enough for some one of our readers to try a little experiment in thick and thin sowing of wheat. It will be a very easy matter, with a good drill, to regulate it to sow onehalf or one-fourth of the usual amount for a half acre or so, and the benefits derived may much more than repay the trouble. In another column on this page, we quote from Prof. Blount, one of the best farmers of the day. some very emphatic words in favor he backs up with convincing facts-Sixty-one bushels per acre in a very conclusive argument.

Inquiries Answered.

Messes, Editors: Please tell one of your readers what Alfalfa grass and Alsike clover are like; also Sweedish clover. Where should they be sowed? How high do they grow? Where can How high do they grow? Where can the seed be obtained, and at what cost? Where can Genessee millet be obtained and at what cost? W. A. K.

Alfalfa is but little grown in this country as a farm crop, excepting on the Pacific slope, where it is valued rope, and the "Chilian clover" of South America. Efforts have been made, of late years, to introduce it in the South, with a fair degree of success. It is chiefly used in a green state, though not without value as a dry fodder. Its chief characteristics are its very long roots, and rapid growth, and these adapt it to localities where hot and dry weather prevail. "Its peculiar home seems to be in a warm, dry climate, where the ground never freezes, and parts rarely, if ever, occur," and, of course, would prove of but little value in Pennsylvania.

"Alsike" clover and "Swedish" clover, are different names for the same plant. It originated in the parish of Alsike, in Sweden-hence its name. In its home it is said to grow in great abundance in every ditch, and at every woodside, though even there, the agricultural authorities say it is second to red clover. In appearance it seems to be intermediate between our common red and the white clover. It has some value when sown in connection with grass seeds of various kinds for the purpose of permanent pasture, or when sown with timothy for hay. It is not, however, nearly so valuable as our common red clover, and is not, in our opinion, worthy of any attention at the hands of our practical farmers. Honey growers esteem it highly for bee pasture. It does best in a

moist, rich soil. German or Golden Millet we are inclined to regard with considerable favor. It is an annual, cuitivated like oats or barley, and may take their places in the rotation of crops. On good ground it produces largely; is greedily eaten by all stock, and by many farmers is preferred to either of the above grains. All of these seeds, can be obtained at any of the leading seed stores. Messrs. D. Landreth & Sons, of 21 South Sixth street, Philadelphia, or Messrs. B. K. Bliss & Sons, of 34 Barklay street, New York, both of whom advertise in the DEMOCRAT during the seed season, and whom we know to be entirely re-

twenty to forty cents per pound. And ly to the fields, killing every living this remiuds us of rumors which plant for several years. Not uncomwe heard from several sources last spring, that some fellow was travelthrough the county, and offering the new and great thing, and asking for case it becomes superior for raising it three dollars per pound. We did crops to the marl which does not not see the chap, and do not know whether or not he sold any seed. If he did, he sold his purchsers at the it after it is wet by rain. But the same time, and very badly too.

Our Exchange Table. THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK JOURNAL

finds its way regularly to our table, and is always warmly welcomed. It is stand. ard authority upon all matters relating to farm stock. A lively interest in improved stock of all kinds is rapidly developing among the farmers of our coun try, and we should be glad to see the Journal have a wide circulation among which we make an extract or two in another part of this page, is filled with its usual assortment of matter especially interesting to those who are engaged in stock raising in any of its branches: "Buying Breeding stock at the Fairs." 'The drouth," "Object Lessons at the Fairs," "Stock Feeding with Fruit Culture," "The Water Supply in Pastures," "Food and the Prize animals." "Death of the Fœtus in Domesticated Animals,' "Shade in Pastures," "The Barbed-Wire Controversy," "Prevention and Treatment of Milk Fever," "Prevention of Abortion." "Summer Care of Heifer other parts of New Jersey through Calves," "Difficulties in Churning," "Tendency of the Wool Market," "Seeking Breeding Swine at the Fairs," "Green Corn for Swine," and a number of valuable and interesting articles on of thin seeding, which as will be seen Horse, Cattle, Dairy, Sheep, and Swine matters will be found in this issue. Published by the Stock Journal Co., Chicago, llis., at \$2,15 per annum. Send 20 New Jersey can sell her farms for cents for specimen copy.

New Jersey Marl.

C. D., in N. Y. Evening Post,

The great marl belt or New Jersey time. stretches from the head of Delaware Bay northeastward to the coast opposite Staten Island, a distance of about one hundred miles. The belt varies from five to fifteen miles in width. At some places the marl crops out on the surface, and is easily dug as common dirt; at others it lies fiftaken out by machinery. There are thirty or forty pounds to the acre. four great marl layers in New Jersey, made up of (1) the clay marls, 277 feet thick, with dark-colored clay as ppear a reensand marl, much used along with sand and other earthy sub-

Exactly 'what marl is chemically the following analyses of Woodstown -a fair specimen of other analyseswill show:

Phosphoric acid..... 1.05 Oxide of iron 95.84

The value of potash, which acts like wood ashes, and of the phos-phates is well known to many farmers. elements in marl.

-Marl was first found in New Jersey in 1768. An Irishman in Monmouth county digging a ditch threw some of the greensand out on a meadow, where its fertilizing qualities were noticed. By the early part of this century it had come into pretty common use, until now it has become essential to successful agriculture throughout central New Jersey. In the whole State several millions of bushels are spread each year, and its use constantly increases. The farmers usually spread it in the autumn, putting sometimes several hundred bushels on an acre. Now and then they find a deposit on their own farms which can be dug with spades, but more often they have recourse to the systematically worked beds, where they pay forty cents for each load of twenty bushels. In Woods-town during the autumnal days the marl wagons move through the streets importance, therefore, that in fitting our lands for wheat, hollows should be filled in or thoroughly drained. take their hue from the green sand

which have sifted through the boards.

The marl is good for all crops; it renews them on exhausted land, it increases them on land already productive. For potato plants it is a not only strew the manure thickly, angelific, killing warms enlarging the land to feed on small spaces they not only strew the manure thickly,

would cost about two dollars per locally as "poison marl," the effect of bushel, and the alfalfa and aliske from which is quite opposite. It contains twenty to forty cents per pound. And an excess of copperas, which is deadmonly a stratum of good marl runs into one that is noxious, and serious injury to a farm follows. The poisonous marl, however, can be cured farmers Swedish clover seed, as a by mixing it with lime; and in that have to be chemically treated. The poisonous marl is detected by the length of time that is needed to dry farmers have what they regard as a more radical test. If white clover grows on the marl a few days after it is thrown from the pit the compost is good; otherwise it is poisonous. The best marl has thus a singular affinity for the germs of white clover floating in the air, and in a few weeks the biggest heaps may become blanketed with the little flowers. The more general results of the

continuous use of marls on the soils of Salem and adjacent counties are very striking. Lands that used to be worth five dollars an acre have been enriched within a few years to a value of one or two hundred dollars an acre. The surface stratum of this county consists of a light sandy soil easily exhausted unless some artificial fertilizer is used; consequently it is not too much to say that the county has been absolutely reclaimed as to farming by the greensand which underlies it. The Salem farmers brag that no lands in the Union can compare with theirs in average selling value, and so long as ordinary farms here bring a hundred dollars an acre the boast seems justified. What is the marl belt runs, and one effect has been to increase during the last half century the average value of the farm lands of the whole State in a most extraordinary manner. Probably 1,000 square miles in the wild southern counties of the State are absolutely unimproved, yet the new census is likely to show that more money per acre than any one of her sister States. The story of her agricultural redemption is registered in marl, and, though written in sand, the record only grows plainer with

Strong Advocacy of Thin Seeding. L. E. Blount in Germantown Telegraph.

A great stride towards successful wheat-raising was made when the drill was brought into use, and a much greater stride could be made if the drill hoes were twice as far apart for grass. It is the "lucerne" of Eu- teen or twenty feet deep and must be and were made to sow not more than

In order to make the greatest possible quantity on a given area, the wheat-plant (or any other plant) a large constituent element; (2) the must have room to carry out its lower marl bed, 30 feet thick, in which | habit and develop according to its nature. One grain of wheat cannot for triling; (3) the middle marl do this on less than sixteen square bed. It thick, where appear a inches. One kernel should make on marl of chocolate color and also of an average all over a field at least olive green; and (4) the upper marl bed, 37 feet thick, where are found should produce at least forty grains. two marls-ash colored and blue; ma- Every pound should be made to proking altogether 389 feet of marl stra-duce its bushels all over the world. ta under New Jersey. The marl was One pound has been made to produce formed by the chemical decomposi- from sixty to one thousand fold. tion of ogranic matter, chiefly shells, These facts are from thin-sowing. No instance is on record where thicksowing ever produced more than seventy bushels per acre.

Sowing much wheat "to get a good stand" is the worst kind of economy. The farmer loses his seed, and never, in any instance, can make as large a yield as by thin-sowing.

The greatest enemy wheat has to

contend with-is wheat. Instead of giving each kernel about an inch square, as most farmers do, they should in every case reduce the quantity per acre, and sow thin enough to give it sixteen. Thousands of instances are on record where one grain has produced from ten to one wood ashes, and of the phos-is is well known to many far-These are the chief fertilizing as many heads without dividing. Last year from seventy-six kernels ten and one-fourth pounds of good, plump grain were raised. On fiftyone square rods this year I sowed just twenty-eight ounces of picked seed in rows one and two feet apart, and what I have now to show as the product is 191 bushels of as nice grain as the sample enclosed.

To thick-sowing in every State and locality I can offer many objections, but to thin-sowing and cultivation there is not one that can be made tenable.

Or all wheats, many of which were sown as winter wheats for the first time, very few would have been appreciably winter-killed had the land in all parts been so drained or leveled, that the water could not have long remained on the surface, or beds of ice have formed. There is no wheat hardy enough to grow under such conditions, and it is of the first Rural New Yorker.

the most vroninent and cultivated women main have graduated, offers most thorough aids and highest standard of refining integralisated, offers most thorough aids and highest standard of refining integralisated, offers most thorough aids and highest standard of refining integralisated, offers most thorough time. The prices, of course, flucturate according to the condition of the saturated and fair. There is a mark, but we judge that millet seed interested them of hadd already productive. For potato plants it is a not only strew the manure thickly, but press it firmly into the earth with their feet. It is very rich in akting the potato smooth-akting and fair. There is a mark, but we judge that millet seed in the ductive. For potato plants it is a not only strew the manure thickly, but press it firmly into the earth with their feet. It is very rich in akting the potato smooth-akting and making the potato smooth-akting the potato smooth

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