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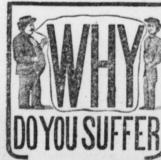
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AGRICULTURAL.

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 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.

FARMERS who have suitable land mistake and submit to an annual loss or more importance than they imagine in the absence of a good flock of improved sheep.

Are your wagons, plows, harrows, cultivators, mowers and respers, and all yoar other farm implements in good order for an active season's when you come to want to use them.

WE farmers are very apt to think that we know all about plowing, and take to teach us anything on this subject is little less than presumption. Perhaps this is all true, yet it will either from indolence or ignorance. not hurt the best and most experienced farmer among us all to read the article entitled "Plowing the Land," in another column of this issue, and which we reprint from South and North

so good success in securing a "good catch" as when we waited until the ground "settled," ready for working, and then sowed the seed upon the freshly harrowed land. The harrowing will do the wheat good, and vastly help the cloversed. If the wheat might be advisable to dispense with the harrowing, and sow the seed upon the land just as the frost leaves it, and follow with the roller. This will benefit the wheat that has been heaved out, and, in a great measure, take ing the germinating power of clover spread it thinly on a very hot stove. The good seed will immediately 'pop,' while the poor will not." If this be a sure test, one can speedily deterseed will grow by counting those placed upon the stove, and then those that remain whole.

Don't forget the annual spring cleaning up, about the premises, and do not leave it off too long. Of course we don't refer to the "houseto that without any reminder from us, but we mean rather that thorough cleaning up which should be underthe cistern dry, and give it a good and potash. washing out. Above all don't forget when they can be shoveled into a wagon partly filled with more dry dirt, and hauled away to the cornfield, where the cost will find ample reward. Then dash a thick limewash, in which a liberal portion of copperas has been incorporated, all over the walls of the vault. Apply the same limewash, thin enough to be easily applied with a brush, to the cellar, hencoop, stables and hog pen. All this for health's sake. And don't wait until some member of the family is seized with typhoid fever, before you do it, but begin

What Freezing Does the Ground.

Few fully appreciate how much a expands about one-eight of its bulk, and with tremendous force. Water, if confined in the strongest rock and frosen, will burst it asunder. The smallest particles of soil, which are, in fact, only minute bits of rock, as in fact, only minute bits of rock, as the microscope will show, if frozen while moist, are broken still finer. This will go on all winter, in every part of the field or garden reached by the frost; and as most soils con-

The Centre Democrat. iain more or less elements that all drier the better, except when it is of growing plants or grows need, a good a very stiff claver nature, in which richer in plant food. Turn up the spring, and admit earlier working, at their command, make a very great day or two may decide in favor of a successful crop.

Plowing the Land.

There are few points in agriculture about which farmers differ more in practice than plowing, and this dif-ference, like most others, occurs from want of reflection on the principles that should govern each particular The breaking up, or turning campaign? If not let us suggest the surface of the cultivated land, that it will cost far less to put them in good condition now than it will reception of seeds, is a process so universally practiced, and indispen-sable to the well being of crops, that it seems incredible that such a common and simple business should not be universally understood; and yet that for a newspaper man to under- it cannot be denied that frequent and great mistakes are often committed in the matter, which must proceed

As the surface of the earth is the natural station for most plants, and where they obtain the necessary elementary food for their development, certain conditions of the surface soil are absolutely essential. Humidity, heat and air are indispensable both to the fibrous roots, which are ex-Don't be in a hurry about sowing your cloverseed. We have never had your cloverseed. We have never had There is always more danger to you," I answered. plants from an excess of moisture than from almost any other natural cause, bouse, where because when the soil is saturated and stopped. with water the access of the air is prevented, and the small fibrous roots actually choked, it may be said, for want of breath, languish and die. That a porous, loose soil is requisite for the free growth of all crops is an be badly "frozen out," as will be the axiom in agriculture, and it is on operations of plowing, ditching, etc., are based.

Soils are various in quality, and particularly in texture and consistency. The success of a crop depends as much upon the texture of the land as upon any other characteristic. For where air and rain can permeate the place of harrowing as far as the freely, a constant supply of carbonic clover seed is concerned. We have acid is formed by the contact of the lately learned of a novel way of test air with the humors in the soil, and the rain brings down ammonia, which is readily carried to the roots of the seed, which we give for what it is crops. But on the other hand, if worth: "Take a small quantity and the soil is compact, baked hard by drought, in consequence of having been previously stirred when too wet, no plant can flourish. The conclusion therefore is, that plowing should never be impervious to air from being mine what proportion of a lot of saturated with water, nor impervious to both air and water from its dry, baked condition. Sandy, loose soils are never liable to be drenched with water, except for only a short time after a heavy rain. All the water absorbed by such a soil sinks deep into the subsoil, and far below the and it is as fine as meal." roots of ordinary crops. Such soils never need subsoiling, and such work is generally, a waste of labor. In the South there are many very large tracts of such lands where the cultural is case and it is as me as meal."

"But what do you do with the dead furrows?" asked the 'Squire.

"I leave the center one open, as it is, where the water will naturally run, and if, as is sometimes the case, where the case, and the same as meal." cleaning," the good wife will attend is generally, a waste of labor. In the to that without any reminder from South there are many very large ture is easy and done at moderate ex-

the privies. Throw down into the vault, if you are so unfortunate as vault, if you are so unfortunate as remain exposed to the ameliorating furrow is nearly full." to have one constructed in this way, influences of the rain and frosts, that a load or two of dry dirt. This will they may be disintegrated and rendered loose and porous. One good well," said the 'Squire.

"Not a great deal," I answered. best guano sold. But sandy, light Winter such soils are liable to have their best qualities washed away, and therefore during this season they cannot be kept too close and level if it is intended that they should be cultivated in the Spring.

While the great object of plowing is to render the soil loose and pervious to air and moisture, this can be attained only by the timely application of efficient implements. so much upon the character of the weather, that plowing cannot always be done at times that are most convenient to the farmer. When land is very wet it never should be plow-ed; as it will inevitably cake, and be

growing plants or crops need, a good freezing is equivalent to adding manures or fertilizers. Hence, it is desirable to expose as much of the soil as possible to the frost action, and the deeper the better, for the lower soil has been less drawn upon, and is plowed. If the earth around plants is very wet when it is worked it will become compact, settle closely around soil in February wherever practicable. become compact, settle closely around If thrown into ridges and hollows, in the fine rootlets, and cause the plants field and garden, the frost will penetrate so much deeper. Further, plowing or spading the soil now exposes render the soil impervious to air, insects and weed-roots to kill by when the direct contrary is the only freezing. Still further, soils thrown motive for plowing at all. But when up loosely will dry out earlier in the the soil is dry it should be often worked, and particularly light soils which is often a great gain when a during drought. A good plowing day or two may decide in favor of a loosens the dry soil around the roots, and admits air to them, and in Summer, particularly, protects them from the heat of the sun, and acts like mulch. The drier the weather, the more frequently the plows and cultivators should be run through the growing crops. The heat of the sun is much less injurious to plants when their roots are covered with loose porous soil, than when the soil is hard and compact.

The Garden Spot.

W. F. Brown, in Rural New Yorker.

"I don't see how you manage to have such an early garden," said the 'Squire to me the other day. "Your farm is a clay upland like mine, and yet, as I have passed your house in early Spring, I have seen the peas, lettuce and other early truck showing in the row before I could plow

my garden."
"Jump out and hitch," said I, for he had stopped in the road in front of my house, "and come and look at my garden, and I think you can easily why mine is earlier than yours.

"I don't see what you can show that is worth looking at in January,"

"That's just what I want to show We walked round back of the house, where my garden is located,

"I vum," said the 'Squire; "is that

the way to fix it?" My garden is eight rods long by six wide-a little over a fourth of an acre—and it is plowed in six lands with all the loose earth cleaned out of the dead furrows; and as there case in all spouty land this spring, it this well known necessity that all our are several inches of slope the long way, it is impossible for the water

to stand on it at all. "Now, 'Squire," said I, "there are several points about this garden that I want you to notice: First, it is well underdrained in addition to the surface drainage you see. Second, it is well located. There is a strip of warm black land here. If I had located this garden five rods either north or south of where it is, it would be on a stiff, cold clay. Third, it is protected from the north wind. I set out that cedar hedge you see for that purpose. Lastly, you will find, if you examine it, that the land is in a very lively condition, easy to work and quick to warm up, and this condition has been brought about by fall-plowing, manuring and the addi-

tion of a little sand." "But don't this turn up cloddy when you plow it over again in the

Spring?" asked the 'Squire.
"We don't plow it," I answered.
"All we do is to stir the surface with a cultivator and harrow, and drag it,

we have a very heavy rain in the pense; but such description of lands Spring or Summer, this will carry off taken out of doors, and around the are easily exhausted unless their fer- the surplus water and prevent it from outhouses, and barns. Open drains, tility is kept up by a frequent manur-damaging the garden. I plant pota-ing with such fertilizers as contain toes in the others. In harrowing rake up and burn all rubbish, pump an abundance of vegetable matter they get six inches of mellow earth in the bottom, and I drop the seed on Stiff black and clay soils should, in this and cover it with some coarse

"But it must have cost a good deal

more to the crops than an expendi-ture of 200 pounds per acre of the drain; two days' work with a hand and team hauling sand, and 25 cedar soils require no such exposure, and as a general thing the less they are exposed to the heavy washing winter dollars' worth of manure on the garexposed to the heavy washing winter dollars' worth of manure on the garrains the better. When plowed in den every year, but that the crop always pays for.'

"I believe that you have a spot here that is naturally mellow and warm," said the 'Squire.

"Naturally warm after I drained it, and mellow after what I have done to it; but for some years I could not plow it six inches deep. It was a tough, waxy soil, and turned up very cloddy, and nothing helped this till I tried fall-plowing. I found that, soil is sometimes in a fit state to be after it was thoroughly dried out in worked, and sometimes it is not, and the Summer and there would come a freezing of the ground does to set at this must be determined by the farm-rain, I could put the plow down ten liberty the plant food locked up in almost all soils. Water, in freezing, The condition of the land depends plowed in the Fall.

> THE value of all manusactures, tilizers depends upon their solubility, and these manures should all be appropriated by the growing crops. To THE value of all manufactured fer-