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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.
AGRICULTURAL.
NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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.," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

KEEP the sheep on the high lands as much as possible. The heavy rains keep the low lands too wet for the best results in sheep grazing.

THE plentiful rains and warm weather have assured splendid "fall feed," and stock should go into winter quarters in good condition. Encourage them to do this, by giving regularly small rations of grain in addition to the grass. There is no other way in which flesh can be added to stock so cheaply as this.

FROM present indications, early pigs will be about as profitable stock as the farmer can have next spring. Every breeding sow should be kept over. Those who have a stall to spare in the horse stable, or some other warm and suitable place, may make arrangements to have them farrow in February to good advantage.

NINETEEN out of every twenty farmers in the country are now, or soon will be, fattening stock of some kind for the "fall killing." It should be remembered that the very best results, both as to economy, and as to quality of meat, are only to be obtained by making the process as quick as possible. It is all important in this matter to "push things."

KEEP cutting away at the Canada thistles. Do not neglect them because it is getting along toward fall. It is a "growing season," and the pests will find time and opportunity yet before winter sets in to make such a growth as will greatly strengthen and encourage them, unless they are kept remorselessly "trimmed"—close to the ground.

We have not yet discovered the "prominent seed house" that made the effort to have the tariff on seeds increased four hundred per cent., but we notice that Messrs. Hiram Sibley & Co., of Rochester and Chicago, who are the largest seed growers in the country, if not in the world, were wise enough, and patriotic enough, to appear before the Tariff Commission, and denounce the attempt to lay this onerous burden upon 7,000,000 of seed users for the benefit of the handful of seed growers. For this action we commend Messrs. Sibley & Co. to the seed buying public.

WALDO F. BROWN advocates (and practices) growing rye for "long straw," and instead of permitting the grain to ripen, and then "falling it out," he cuts just after the blossom falls, and before any grain was formed. He claims that when managed in this way, with heavy seeding, the straw makes excellent chop feed for stock, being clean and soft and free from dust. Of course, it is needless to add that it is more nutritious than when allowed to ripen the grain and then is threshed out. In the same article he mentions a new use for rye as follows: "It sometimes happen on our grain farms that clover makes a failure, and we find that we are likely to be left without a pasture field the coming year, and our rotation will also be broken up. In this case the remedy is to seed with rye and timothy. They rye will give pasture a month or six weeks earlier than clover would, and by the time the rye has become too old to make nutritious feed, the timothy will furnish good pasturage. Before I had tested this, I supposed that the young timothy would be badly killed out by tramping in pasturing the rye, but practical experience shows that it is very little injured. I find that the stock not only relish the rye, but do well on it, and its growth is so rapid that it will bear quite heavy stocking."

POTATO tops make an excellent addition to the compost heap.

Fall Care of Calves.

Live-Stock Journal.
It often happens that calves make a fair growth in the early part of the season, while they get whole milk, or even a plentiful supply of skimmed milk; but when these are withdrawn, if suddenly, they are not able to keep up condition. If they have been supplied for some time with a good pasture, or fed green food, or hay in racks, and become accustomed gradually to depend upon such food, they will not fall off much in condition. But the skillful feeder will strive to keep his calves constantly growing—constantly developing every part of the system. And as milk is withdrawn, it becomes important to substitute some concentrated food in its place, so that the nutriment may be abundant to keep up its calf flesh. Any check in growth is at the loss of the feeder, for it will cost more extra feed to regain it afterward, besides the loss of time. The pasture, also, usually becomes less nutritious, and there is the more necessity that some extra food should be given.

Here, the most important food that can be given as a substitute for milk is linseed oil cake or oil meal. It is the food principally used for this purpose by the best English feeders. The calf is quite apt to become constipated when the milk is discontinued, and the oil meal is slightly laxative, having a small percentage of oil, which has a very soothing effect upon the stomach and intestines. It is also very nutritious, being, in this respect, similar to milk. It is not necessary to feed more than one pint of oil meal per day to each calf. Calves may be accustomed to eat a quart of oil meal and middlings mixed before the milk is wholly withdrawn.

Oats are an excellent food for calves, and they should be taught early to eat them. The calf seems to have the power or digesting oats very well without grinding. A pint of oats given to each calf at first, and soon increased to one or two quarts, will keep the growth steady. Oats are the best single substitute for oil meal, but wheat middlings and oats make an excellent combination. A little corn mingled with these will do very well; but corn, as a single food, should be avoided for young animals. The albuminoids and phosphates are in too small proportion in corn to grow the muscle and bone.

As a simple question of economy, calves should get a small grain ration all through the fall months. This extra food will pay the greater profit, for it will add, as a general rule, two dollars to the value of the calf for each dollar in food given. Another important consideration is, that the better the condition of the young animal the better it will stand the cold weather when it comes. A nice layer of fat on the outside is equal to a heavy overcoat to the human being. Every feeder must see that his success in raising good cattle will depend largely upon his treatment of the calf.

Fertilizing Effects of Drouth.
Farmers who carefully observe things connected with their business have not failed to notice that a very dry summer is generally followed by a vigorous growth of crops the following year. The fact was never more fully verified than in the wheat crop of the present year. The drought of last summer was severe and long continued—reducing the corn crop of several of the Western States at least fifty per cent., and almost entirely cutting off the potato crop. The drought was broken by a heavy rain early in September, and the fall was seasonable. Though much of the wheat crop in this section was not sowed until the 1st of October, yet it came up promptly and grew with an unusual vigor, which it maintained, almost unchecked, till harvesting time. The spring was too cold and wet to favor early corn planting, but now that the "storm of the leaves" is past, we expect to see a vigorous growth of corn, corresponding to that of the wheat. Drouth fertilizes by two processes. It produces a shrinkage, especially in clayey soils, which causes them to crack open and freely to admit the air, thus breaking down the large particles and reducing the earth to a favorable state of firmness. The moisture evaporated from the surface is, to some extent, replaced with water raised by capillary attraction from deep down in the soil. The water comes up holding in solution all the substances in the soil capable of being dissolved in water. But when evaporation takes place nothing but pure water goes off. This leaves the potash, lime and soluble phosphates in the surface soil, to manifest their presence by vigorous growth of the succeeding crop. What was lost by last year's drought the diligent farmer will gain by this year's fertility. This is a world of compensation, if we but understand its checks and balances.

CABBAGE for early spring use can be sown this month, but should not be forced. In fact, they should not be encouraged to grow, the object being to keep them small. Wooden frames are better for them than sash covered hot-beds.

"Greens" in Early Spring.

In our last issue we spoke of a "cold frame," and the early vegetables which may be had through its use. We find in *Farm and Fireside* the following note from a correspondent, which may be of use to those who wish to try the plan, but have not time to make frame and sash now. By this correspondent's method the plants may be started now and the frame and glass be prepared and put in during the winter leisure:

Last fall, in October, I spaded up a little plot in the garden, twelve feet by six in size, manured it well, smoothed it off, and planted onion, lettuce and spinach. Just before winter set in I top-dressed with well-rotted manure and spread some corn-fodder over it. Early in February I removed the fodder and part of the manure, made a frame of boards about the bed, and covered it with sash brought from a defunct greenhouse. The plants grew rapidly under the glass, and by the middle of March we had onions. The lettuce came in by the last of March. This was nearly two months in advance of that which was planted in the open ground. And all this time, when garden sashes tasted better than at any other time of the year, we enjoyed all the lettuce and onions we wanted, while those who planted in the open ground in April were waiting for theirs to grow. As we removed the onions we filled a part of the space with lettuce, and in another part we sowed tomato for early plants. We also put a few radishes in vacant places. Next time I mean to plant the radishes in the fall. I will mulch with straw, too, instead of fodder. My experience in this matter has been so happy, and the cost so light, that I heartily recommend my farmer friends to try it. It would pay if it cost five times as much.

Double Cropping—Farming that Pays.

Last year my wheat lodged badly, and the seeding was apparently killed out in spots or strips, as your correspondent says. As soon as the weeds were fairly started, we ran the Eureka mower over the piece, set just high enough to discourage the weeds without injuring the grass and clover. This has been my practice for some years. Then in about six weeks I mow again close down and get about a ton per acre of pretty good rowen. There will be some stubble and weeds in it, but the hay the next year will be free from both, and I think the heavier for this frequent mowing.

Taxing Seeds.

We see it stated that "a prominent seed house is circulating petitions and working vigorously to induce the Tariff Commission to recommend a 100 per cent. tariff on seeds in place of the 20 per cent. tariff now in force." We have not, as yet, received a copy of this circular, nor do we know the name of the house, but we promise them that if they will send us a copy, we will give them a free advertisement. Any seed selling establishment which would advocate or support such a movement as this should have its name made known to the farmers of the country, who happen, by the way, to be the seeds buyers; and if it does not permanently retire from the seed business within a short time thereafter, we miss our guess.

UNDERDRAINING should be the immediate work on our clay farms. It is here where the harm to clover results, also to wheat, and to some extent to timothy and some of the other grasses. We have to come to the underdraining sooner or later, and why not get the benefit now? There are many excuses, I know, but "where there is a will there is a way." There is little profit and often loss in farming wet clay. Drained, it will in general be profitable for several years without manure, sure to pay the expense of underdraining in that time.

VERY many men are now working land that does not pay for its culture. Teams are worked down—much is paid for hired help—hands are boarded when the whole crop will scarcely pay the wages and value of board, throwing in the use and keeping of the teams, the implements and the land. We know this is so. What is the remedy? Work fewer acres. Double, quadruple what you have done for each acre worked, curtail expenses by hiring less help—feeding less teams—using less seed—wearing out less plows and harrows—but taking fewer but more profitable steps on fewer and more fertile acres, and let the rest lie idle, or sell it.—*Practical Farmer.*

PRUNE in autumn to insure growth, and in spring to insure fruitfulness, is a grape maxim.

INDIANA is making claim to the largest yield of wheat over any other State.

VARIETY in feeding does more for the animal than feeding of one kind of food.