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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'a."

Report of the Statistician of the Agricultural Department. Mr. J. R. Dodge, the statistician of the agricultural department, has just completed preliminary estimates.

The average yield of corn per acre for the present year, Mr. Dodge says, is nearly 23 bushels or, more exactly, by preliminary estimates 22.7, which is 12 per cent. less than the average yield for a series of years.

The quantity of the present crop. The quality, he says, is another consideration. If soft corn is cribbed in masses, and after a few weeks of mild and moist weather is badly injured.

An effort will be made later, after the worst of the crop has been fed, to test the feeding value of the year's product. It is not proposed, however, to reduce the product to an equivalent of "merchantable corn."

DOUBLE WORKING APPLE TREES. A statement is given in some of the papers, on the authority of Harrison Wier, that a tree of the Early Strawberry in a decline was restored to handsome vigor by grafting it with the hardy and free growing Duchess of Oldenburgh.

WHAT DRAINAGE DOES.—The late John H. Klippart condenses the advantages of tile drainage under the following twelve heads: 1. The drainage removes stagnant waters from the surface.

Mr. Samuel M. Shoemaker, of Baltimore county, has at his farm, "Burnside," in Green Spring Valley, the following high-priced cattle: The bull, Forget-Me-Not, cost \$2,150; Princess 2d, \$4,850; Queen of the farm, \$2,000; Khedive Primrose, \$5,150; St. Clementine, \$2,600, and Miss Muffett and Butterfly, which cost something less.

Applying Sand to Grass Land.

Those who have meadow land that has been drained and seeded down to the better qualities of grasses, often find it necessary to apply a dressing of sand; experience teaching that it very much improves the condition of the grass roots and increases the crop of grass.

The application of sand to a meadow often accomplishes a double purpose. First, it lightens up the soil and gives the water a chance to drain off, and second, it furnishes silica to the grass, which is necessary to strengthen the stalk.

Meadow land that is composed entirely of partially decomposed vegetable material, settles together sometimes so closely that water will not readily pass through it, except in small streams. This is very unfavorable to the growth of any crop that the farmer may desire to grow.

In reclaiming meadow land the first effort is to drain off the surplus water; ditches are dug low enough to draw the water, perhaps two feet below the surface; but if the meadow be composed entirely of decayed vegetation, advanced to just that stage which makes it so compact that the water can not pass through it.

Such land needs a few inches of sand to bring it into a favorable condition for vegetable growth. When it can be done without too much expense, the application of sand will be much more beneficial if mixed with four or five inches in depth of the soil.

Veal should be white, fine and fat. The kidneys should be full of fat. When veal is red, or yellowish it is not good. Good veal must be two months old; if younger than this the meat is insipid and flabby; if older than two months the meat becomes hard.

A good insecticide for garden plants is made by boiling four ounces of quassa in a gallon of water, and adding two or three ounces of soft soap, diluting as may be necessary, so as to be fully thrown over the plants with a syringe.

An experienced sheep raiser says that a good way to control a flock of sheep is to take a ewe lamb to the house and make a pet of it. Use nothing but kindness, and give it a name, teaching it to come at the call.

FROST IN THE CELLAR.—While it is true that all kinds of fruit and vegetables will keep better in a cellar with the temperature as near freezing as may be without injury, it is also desirable that there be proper protection afforded to prevent the entrance of frost when there is a season of protracted and severe cold.

Without some protection, at such times frost is liable to enter unawares, and do much mischief to both fruit and vegetables. In older times it was believed to be necessary to "bank up the house" with earth, but this practice has given way to one equally as effective and much easier, and that is by the use of leaves.

Set boards or planks up on their edges, a little distance from the underpinning, supported by stakes driven in the ground, and then cover all the intervening space as compactly as possible with leaves, and all the protection necessary will be afforded. If the cellar becomes too warm at any time the temperature can be reduced by ventilators when cold weather is approaching, rather than to take chances without protection.

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