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The Centre Democrat.

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

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.

Practical Farm Topics. EXPENSE OF WORK HORSES.—The expense of keeping work horses is one of the heavy items of the farmer's outlay.

The National Live Stock Journal makes some pertinent suggestions on this point, and answers some of the excuses made by farmers for the idleness of teams.

It is not true that teams will wear longer and remain sound and healthy to greater age if kept in the stable for long periods without work.

Regular and steady exercise, with judicious feeding, is most favorable to long usefulness. It may be true that an idle team can be wintered more cheaply and without grain, but the labor would be worth much more than the cost of the grain saved.

and the team would be much more capable of doing full work in the spring if kept seasonably active and well-fed through the winter.

The food of a team represents a large fraction of the production of small farms, and the proper employment of the time and strength of the team is a subject which every forward-looking farmer should carefully consider.

BUTTER IN CROCK.—A correspondent who writes to the Rural New Yorker for an explanation of the unpleasant fact that butter made from Jersey cows last summer and packed carefully in five gallon crocks is now faded from its original golden yellow, and smells and tastes like tallow, receives some instruction which should be generally heeded.

Other butter makers who have put their trust in jars and crocks have taken up this same lamentation, for, in truth, these are the most unworthy of butter packers.

If they are perfectly glued, that is, covered with a vitreous coating so thick and hard that the salt and acid and fat of the butter will not eat through it, the content is safe. But the enamel is usually thin, and whenever it is cracked or eaten through the butter is exposed to a porous clay surface.

Clay is an excellent absorbent and deodorizer, and it will take away the flavor of the butter as readily as it will absorb offensive odors.

It will soak up the olein like a sponge—and with the olein goes the color partly—leaving that portion next the clay bleached almost white.

If anyone will try the experiment of dropping a little oil upon the raw surface of a crack he will be surprised at the rapidity with which it vanishes, and he need not be surprised afterward if butter packed in a jar of this sort soon becomes tasteless.

It is said to be a good plan to burn a little sulphur in the cellar occasionally. The fumes sweeten the air and kill the germs which taint the butter, meat and other provisions, and will do no harm in a sanitary way.

WHEN your grandfather left a few husks on each ear, and then braided all together and hung them in a granary or attic where they would be kept dry and safe from rats and mice, they adopted as good a plan as ever has been discovered for keeping seed corn.

Market Gardening.

Increased attention is being given to this branch of husbandry, and it has proved profitable to nearly all who have engaged in it.

There is exceptional years when some crops are short or fall altogether, but where one understands the business and is not too far from a good market, success may be expected.

This kind of farming requires a larger outlay for "plant" than common farming. Glass houses, or glass "hot-beds," must be provided, and increased capital will be required for dressing to be supplied to the land, for two or three crops a year, and good produce for the market means very heavy manuring.

We have heard of one case where a man only cultivate forty acres, and yet annually uses one thousand cords of manure, at an expense of about seven thousand dollars.

In other ways than those we have mentioned, capital will need to be employed, so that no one with quite limited means can successfully engage largely in this business.

It is true, there are cases where men have commenced with small means and worked up, and it is possible perhaps to do it, but the majority of those who attempted it would be likely to fail under such circumstances.

This business requires brains and much hard work as well as capital. It is not like ordinary country farming, in that there is really little or no leisure time, winter or summer, rain or shine.

When one is successful the profits are good. Some adopt certain specialties adapted to their soil or location, and so make more money than they would to grow a larger variety of crops.

In selecting land for a market farm, one should have in view somewhat the kind of crops he wishes to raise. If he wishes to raise celery, he must have moist land naturally, or that which can be irrigated.

Other crops may require peculiar soil. Glass is used much more than formerly. Without doubt, there are single vegetable growers in the vicinity of Boston who have more glass employed in their business than could have been found twenty years ago with all the farmers of the whole town and perhaps of a whole county.

The demand for lettuce all through the winter and for forced cucumber has increased immensely, and these two crops alone require a large amount of glass and labor.

The market for early grown and fine vegetables is constantly increasing, so that one need have no fear in entering upon the business that there will not always be a ready sale.

Young men, whose tastes lead them in this direction and who are able to command the necessary capital, should look carefully into this matter, and if they decide to enter upon the business study the best methods and resolve to produce only the very best crops; and they will be quite sure to reap satisfactory returns.

GEESE may be picked, says the Farm Journal, two or three times during the summer. The time to pick is when the feathers are ripe. This can be learned by plucking a few. If they come out easily and the quills are clear they are ripe, as it is called.

If they pull hard and the quills are filled with a bloody fluid, they must be left a little longer. In picking take only a few feathers between the thumb and finger and give a short quick jerk downward. Practice will give the knack of picking easily and rapidly.

Under each wing will be found a bunch of rather long and coarse feathers. These support the wings and must not be plucked. Before beginning operations it is prudent to draw an old cotton stocking over the head of the goose.

It is said to be a good plan to burn a little sulphur in the cellar occasionally. The fumes sweeten the air and kill the germs which taint the butter, meat and other provisions, and will do no harm in a sanitary way.

WHEN your grandfather left a few husks on each ear, and then braided all together and hung them in a granary or attic where they would be kept dry and safe from rats and mice, they adopted as good a plan as ever has been discovered for keeping seed corn.

Feeding Ewes in Winter.

In growing market lambs, the feeder should remember the lamb must be sustained on the food eaten by its dam, and she must eat enough for two.

This consideration shows her food must be liberal and of good quality. The lamb should increase in weight at least one-half pound per day if growing for market, and this alone requires a fair ration to produce; and there, feeders must deal with ewes' suckling lambs with a liberal hand.

The ewe must produce a profitable fleece beside growing her lamb and keeping up her own flesh. We have produced most satisfactory results in feeding ewes upon the following combined ration:

Ten bushels of oats, nine bushels of corn with one of flaxseed, all ground together into fine meal, and then mixed, at the time of feeding, with one-half wheat middlings. Each ewe had of this one and a half pounds per day, with about the same weight of fine-cut hay. This was all eaten clean.

But the hay is not necessary, equal gain can be made on straw, and if the straw is cut short all the better. A good shelter is supposed in this case, else such growth on lambs as we have mentioned cannot be made on such ration, nor perhaps on any ration, in cold weather. This small amount of flaxseed has a remarkable effect in modifying the heating quality of corn. It keeps the bowels in a healthy, active condition, and prevents all danger of getting in the ewe.

A TELEPHONE FOR FARMERS.—To make a good and serviceable telephone from one farmhouse to another, only requires enough wire and two cigar boxes. First, select your boxes and make a hole about half an inch in diameter in the center of the bottom of each, and then place one in each of the houses you wish to connect; then get five pounds of common iron stove-pipe wire, make a loop in one end and put it through the hole in your cigar box and fasten it with a nail; then draw it tight to the other box, supporting it, when necessary, with a stout cord. You can easily run your line into the house by boring a hole through the glass. Support your boxes with slats nailed across the window, and your telephone is complete.

The writer has one that is 200 yards long, and cost forty-five cents, that will carry music when the organ is played thirty feet away in another room.—American Farmer.

LATE MOULTING.—Fowls that moult late are especially liable to contract diseases such as roup. The older a fowl is the later it moults. When this period arrives they become reduced in flesh, lose their feathers and appetite, and need tonics and stimulants. Warm washes, savored with pepper, salt and considerable grease, give tone to the failing appetite and encourage a steady growth. A plentiful supply of animal food is also good. Iron in the drink is of service, but do not dose too much; only sufficient to even the failing appetite. Frequently a change of food will bring about these results.

CORN.—When corn is partially injured, says the New England Farmer, the few sound ears should be hung up by their husks in a dry sunny place, or a warm room where they will dry in a short time. Sweet corn is more difficult to dry than field varieties, and accordingly extra pains should be taken, for this too will doubtless be scarce and bear next spring. The poor, frosted corn that is sprouting should be fed out as rapidly as it safely can be to all kinds of stock this fall. It should be made to save hay at the stable and take the place of purchased grain at the pig pen.

GIVE the pigs plenty of muck and other absorbents, and they will only be too glad to keep their quarters neat and clean. Pigs, like children, need to be well brought up. A clean pig in a neat pen, well fed, is inoffensive in the last degree, and these are the only conditions under which pork should be made.—Farmers' Review.

Well, yes, the pig is no dirtier than the baby. But it will require a great amount of bringing up, we think, to make the pig keep his feet out of the food, or even to deny himself the pleasure of taking a bath in his drinking water.