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The Centre Democrat.
BELLEFONTE, PA.
AGRICULTURAL.
NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.
THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLECTUAL 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 CENTRE 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.

The Egg Machine.
The hen is literally an egg machine, her chief purpose being the production of eggs. Like any other kind of machine, she must have the raw material with which to manufacture her products. She also has a limit to her capacity, and should not be expected to perform service beyond her ability, but should, however, be kept in constant running order, as long as she is needed by her owner. The material upon which she should work must vary according to the requirements of the manufactured article, and as her instinct teaches her how to select, all that is necessary is to place within her reach that which she desires, and everything will be well.
To produce an egg the hen must have a certain kind of food for the yolk, or fat portion, known as carbonaceous, and for the white she needs food rich in nitrogen, from which she makes albumen. For the shell she needs lime, while many other substances enter into the composition which it is unnecessary to detail, the omission of any of them being detrimental to good work on her part. Thus, while we may feed a hen liberally, apparently, by omitting to allow that which it is needed to complete the process, she may remain idle for want of a single substance, though fully supplied with everything else. She often gives indications of her wants, for the "soft shelled eggs," occasionally noticed, admonish the breeder that lime in some shape is needed. The change of color in the comb and wattles, the drooping of the wings and the anxious, nervous appearance are all signs for when the productive organs are not healthy the vigor of the fowl is likewise affected by such derangement.
How important is it, then, to endeavor to keep different kinds of raw material within reach of the hen in order to realize from her all that she can do as an egg machine. She is specially adapted for that purpose, and her health is better when she is in good laying condition than at any other time. Every machine sooner or later wears out, and in order to keep them in working order they are oiled, and carefully watched, but the hen attends to her own details if supplied with material, as she is a living factory for egg production. If she wears out she supplies her place with her descendants, and is ever ready to act well her part if her owner will do likewise.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

The Best Seed Corn.
A great many of our experienced farmers agree that corn for planting taken from the middle of the ear is the best, and of course to avoid taking any from the ends: and we have always heretofore commended this as worth following. Recent investigations, however, have shown that what nature might call the best for her purposes is not always the best for ours, because the objects are different, and it will not do to take nature as our guide in everything we want to do. In corn, for instance, we may want to get plenty of grain; or it may suit us best to have plenty of fodder in the first place, leaving the quantity of grain as a secondary matter. Then again we may want in some cases early corn, and in others late corn; and even in the height of the stalks at the adaptations of the peculiar soils or climates, we need peculiar varieties; and for all of this nature cares but very little. As a general thing, however, those who have experimented considerably with corn in the selection of seed, have looked to only one single point, and yet we see in how many points we may want to be accommodated. Yet there is one point that seems to be

clearly established—at least it is generally believed and acted on—and that is that corn left to ripen on the stalk as it grows is not as good for planting as that which is taken from stalks that have been cut before the frost appears, in order to use the fodder. Why this should be so we are not prepared to say, but it would seem to show that corn secured before the plants are quite ripe is better for planting than the corn would be which is matured in nature's own time and mode.
There would appear that in all these things, no matter what has been our experiences, there is room for more. The seeds from the top of the ear may give plants that will produce more grain in proportion to fodder, or the reverse, and so may the seeds from the middle or base of the ear. We really believe that there are all of these differences in seeds, and it is well worth finding out just what the differences are and reap the benefit.—Germantown Telegraph.

Grape Pruning.
Grape vines that have come to a bearing age may generally be pruned so scientifically as to make the prospective results very certain. By examining the vines while they are growing one can very readily see from which buds of the previous year's growth have sprung the branches that are producing the fruit of the current year. This will serve as a guide to the pruning for the next crop, and so on from year to year. Shoots from canes older than the last year very seldom produce anything but wood, but that wood is all right for a crop the next year. Shoots from the auxiliary buds when the old and new wood are joined will hardly ever produce fruit. The first bud beyond an axil will be found fruitful, but the clusters that grow from the next bud, and for several further on, will generally bear the shouldered branches of the crop. I have found that six buds on a strong cane, so selected, will generally yield three fine clusters each, and occasionally four. We may look for this number of clusters from the buds of very strong and vigorous canes of the last year's growth up to the capacity of the vines so pruned. Hence, according to the number of perfect clusters we estimate the vine capable of producing, we can readily select those giving the best promise, and cut all the others off.
This plan of pruning is scientific, and, while it greatly reduces the labor as compared with old method of having spurs of one or two buds all over the vine, it as surely gives as good prospect of less wood and more grapes.—W. W. Meech.

Farm Notes
Mutton is tender and juicy when made with the aid of turnips, and a wether three or four years old can be made to eat as tender as a chicken.
It is estimated that the value of the garden products of Massachusetts, exclusive of potatoes and beans raised on the farms, equaled \$5,000,000 last year.
Mr. Green, of New Albany, Ind., says he finished the borers in his eighteen acre peach orchard by scalding them with hot water, poured on from the spout of a tea kettle.
It is common in some quarters to use any kind of salt for butter, but unless the best be used the butter will be inferior, and necessarily will sell low. It is economical to procure good salt for such purposes.
Gleanings.
Delos Hotchkiss, of Cheshire, Con., has an apple tree, which is supposed to be the oldest, largest, and most fruitful in New England. It is the last survivor of the orchard which was set out by the first settlers of the neighborhood, and popular belief fixes its age at 180 years. The tree is sixty feet high, and the tips of its uttermost branches are 104 feet apart. Mrs. Hotchkiss affirms that she has picked 125 bushels of sound apples from it in a single year.
The American Dairyman says there is one point that should be deeply impressed upon the dairyman's mind, and that is if he wants to make a first class article of butter he must churn often. Never let the cream get over three days old, no matter how cold it may be kept. If cold, it will

get old, flat and frinky. If sour, the whey will eat up the best butter globules. Churn as often as you can.
The annual production of Oil of Peppermint throughout the world is estimated at about ninety thousand pounds, two thirds of which is produced in Wayne county, N. Y., where over three thousand acres of land are devoted to Mint culture. The State of Michigan furnishes the next largest quantity.
The American Grocer says that in 1883 3,000,000 cases of tomatoes were packed in the United States, each containing two dozen tins. The exact figures are 70,645,896 cans. The value at wholesale was probably \$6,000,000. Maryland puts up about one half of the product, and New Jersey over a fifth.
A goose belonging to A. S. Martin, of Orange, Vt., died recently of old age, after having outlived three generations of the fat fly to which it belonged. Its age was believed to be one hundred years or over.
A WELL-TO-DO but unsophisticated farmer from one of the border counties of Indiana was in the city lately, attending the fat stock show, and brought along his wife and daughters to see the sights and do some shopping. Among other places they visited was Mandel's new store, and, after wandering around the first floor for awhile, the party came to a stop near the elevators. One of the daughters was the first to discover the cars moving silently up and down, receiving and discharging their cargoes of passengers. She jerked her father's coat-sleeve to direct his attention to the phenomenon, and, in a tone that was audible to the clerks in the neighborhood, asked: "What's that, paw?—that thing going up and down, with sofy's in it?" The old man gave the elevator a long calm, deliberate, scrutinizing stare, and exclaimed with joy: "By gosh! it's a telephone! the first I ever see!"
A PREVENTIVE OF POTATO ROT.—A correspondent of the Husbandman says that sulphur is a preventive of potato rot, and this is confirmed by the experience of a Vermont farmer, who rolled his cut potatoes in fine sulphur at planting and dusted the plants as they appeared above the ground. Neither rot, worm or insect touched them, though potatoes on neighboring farms were badly damaged. His potatoes were excellent and the crop yielded. There is no doubt that sulphur will assist materially in preventing fungus growth in other plants as well as potatoes, and it would be well if farmers would give it a trial for such purposes the coming season.
THE Country Gentleman, reporting its experiments in sub-soiling during the past season, claims to have had best success with potatoes. With this crop the increase in yield over those planted in the ordinary manner was about 33 per cent. in quantity, while the quality was much improved, the tubers being larger, fairer and less affected with rot. The results with corn were less flattering, although an increase of about 20 per cent. was secured. The improvement in the crop of potatoes was certainly sufficient to make it worth while for farmers in general to give the plan a thorough trial.
If you don't believe that it is the salt in the butter that causes it to present a mottled appearance just take a sharp-pointed knife and dig a little out of a dark spot and taste it, then try some from a light colored spot and see if one sample does not taste much more salt than the other. If this experiment is satisfactory then work the butter over gently and the mottled appearance will be gone.
SUCCESS IN PEACH RAISING.—One of the most successful persons in raising peaches is Mr. Andrew Sweeten, of New Jersey, according to the Farm Journal. The land is sandy, but he plants the trees deeper than they were in the nursery. At time of planting he places two quarts of lime and a small quantity of manure on the surface about each tree, cultivates well and raises truck on the land until the trees are large. He removes the surface earth around the trees for two or three feet when manuring, making the depth, about three inches, and after filling the manure in covers it with earth.

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