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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.

Winter and Spring Wheat. CHICAGO, Ill., April 19.—The Times this morning prints a comprehensive report by counties, embracing the winter and spring wheat belts Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Missouri.

Raising Corn Fodder. There are some important points in raising corn fodder which have never been sufficiently settled by accurate experiment, but which are worthy of careful trial by farmers who are willing to give the necessary attention, as well as by experiment stations.

Among other practical questions is whether the fodder should be sown so thickly in the furrow as to prevent the formation of ears, giving all the strength of the land to the stalk, or whether more valuable feed may be obtained from an acre by a thinner growth with well formed ears.

It being understood that whether cut for the silo or fed dry, the stalks shall be cut not more than half an inch long, by which their value is more than doubled.

As to the cornfodder, we have always thought that not nearly as much care was bestowed upon it as its value merited. There is nothing easier to cure, and there is no dry food that cattle like better through the winter.

It would therefore be well to try the following experiment, continuing them through three or four unlike seasons:

Sow the fodder in strips four or five rows together, and extending across the field—first with small northern corn at the rate of one bushel, two bushels, three bushels and four bushels per acre, which will be about ten stalks to the running foot, and twenty, thirty and forty stalks.

Repeat this trial on well subsoiled land; and also on heavily manured land, and observe by weighing if the subsoiling and manuring are paid for by the increase of product.

Try the result of cultivating frequently, say every five days, harrowing broadcast as long as the crop will bear it; and compare this treatment with the common practice of harrowing but two or three times in the season.

Repeat the above experiment with large southern corn, but in quantities of seed, one-half and two-thirds as great as with the small corn.

Various modifications of these experiments will be suggested to those who undertake them; and the result cannot fail to afford valuable information, which may in future and in extensive raising of fodder save large sums.

It is quite important that everything be submitted to accurate weighing and measuring, for mere guess work will be of little avail, if not lead to erroneous conclusions.

D. C. ROYCE, of Williamstown, Vt., is not one of the farmers who think that the West is the only place where a farmer can live and prosper.

He writes to an agricultural paper: To the man who has judgment, energy and muscle to back it, New England offers as great inducements as any part of the farming world.

Land can be bought here from \$10 to \$20 per acre, with good houses, sheds, barns, plenty of wood, and good, pure running water and all other necessary conveniences thrown in.

Vermont raises sheep, cows and horses that sell for \$2000 each. She has cows with a common harrow, before plowing, will be of much value.

Pulverizing the surface well will always render the operation of plowing afterward easier and more perfect, beside the other advantages.

The depth to which the manure should be buried will depend partly on the crop. For corn, but little benefit is derived from spreading manure in spring on sod and plowing it

six or eight inches deep. Fall or winter spreading, with a depth of five or not more than six inches, will be far more efficacious, usually doubling the effect of the manure.

With potatoes the case is different, the root running deeper.

Planting Corn in Drills. At one time it looked as if the planting of Indian corn in drills would be generally adopted, as it appeared to increase for several years; but lately say within the last five or six years, it has lost its growing prominence.

and farmers are inclining to the hill method again. It is not doubted that a little better yield can be obtained from drilling, but not enough to pay for the increased labor which it requires.

And this is the drawback and will always be in the way of its general substitution. There are now machines invented to place the seed in hills as well as in drills, which favors the hill system.

Indian corn is one of the great staples of the country. As food for man and beast it surpasses all others combined. Yet, until within the last few years, the labor bestowed upon its cultivation was never as thorough as its importance demanded.

Formerly the care given it seemed to be grudging. The soil was allowed to remain in lumps, and the grass and weeds to smother the young plants.

Now all this has been changed. A corn field is cultivated with all the attention of a garden, and the yield per acre is a third to a half greater than twenty or thirty years ago.

As to the cornfodder, we have always thought that not nearly as much care was bestowed upon it as its value merited.

There is nothing easier to cure, and there is no dry food that cattle like better through the winter.

If in good order, which we repeat is not often the case, they prefer it to the best hay usually fed by them, and thrive well upon it.

And if cut into inch pieces and lightly steamed, and mixed with a little bran or cotton seed, it is a valuable food.

Gleanings. Mr. P. Pierce, "Agricultural Engineer," writes to the N. E. Farmer: "A compost heap should never be turned after it has once been constructed.

It should be thoroughly mixed by turning or otherwise at the start, and not disturbed again till used, and then should be carefully removed from one side or end of the heap and the moment a load is taken away the opening covered with a tarpauling or something of the kind to prevent evaporation.

This applies to compost and coarse manure heaps, both of which can be readily deteriorated one-half in value by a few turnings a short time before using. In no way can labor be more disastrously misapplied."

It is stated that a contract has been made by the Mexican Government with Mr. Oscar Droege to plant 2,600,000 trees in the Valley of Mexico within four years.

The trees specified are chiefly ash, poplar, acacia, and mountain cedar, with a sufficient margin for miscellaneous kinds, according to special conditions of site and climate; and the arrangements contemplate the formation of national nurseries in which the study of scientific forestry may be pursued on a footing in some degree commensurate with its importance.

The woodpecker, which apparently destroy the trees by their constant drilling, are only after the insects, and often save trees that would be destroyed but for their aid.

There is no bird more valuable in an orchard than the woodpecker, and the surest sign of insect depredations upon the bark is the visits of the woodpecker to the trees. He never attacks the trees unless in search of food.

Every weed that secures growth on a field deprives the soil of so much fertility and robs the crop to that degree. The labor of eradication is also greater the stronger the weed, and it is a well known fact that the majority of weeds are not only gross feeders but tenacious in habit, doing greater injury in occupying and seeding the ground than by depriving it of its fertilizing elements.

The theory that the dew comes up from the earth instead of falling upon it is revived, but we continue to find it in the morning on the roofs of the houses instead of on the ceilings of the cellars; it is on the upper surface of the flat stones instead of being on the under side.

The American Cultivator says: The pruning of grape vines and training them upon their trellises, and the transplanting of blackberries and currants should be attended to among the first warm days.

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