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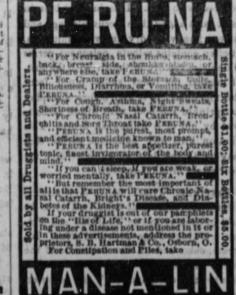
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BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL. NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE 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'u," that other farmers may have the venefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Improving Cows.

The cardinal rule in raising cows for producing milk and butter, and the one most frequently urged by those who offer advice is: "Raise the heifer calves only of the best cows." The idea is: if no calves are raised from poor milkers there will be fewer unprofitable cows. There is much of truth in this rule or it would not have been clung to for so many generations. [And it stands to reason "like produces like." ED.] But practical experience proves it to be insufficient; it does not cover all the ground. We find that by using a bull of an excellent butter family, potent to transmit this quality, a good cow can be raised other rule should be adopted and as strongly urged as the other: Never use a buil except from the very choicest cows in your herd.

In raising cows for my dairy I have often had heifers from extra good cows that did not equal their mothers. I know I have thrown away good opportunities of improving the butter yield of my cows by a short-sighted view of important principles in breeding. I can better illustrate this by relating an experience. I paid three dollars for a beifer calf two days old, and raised. I knew nothing of its antecedents except that its mother was a good cow. I grew the calf to a cow, and when she came in at two years old I was greatly pleased with her. She proved to be a very profit able cow. She was medium in size, of fine form, color, cherry red, and we called her Polly. Her udder was well shaped; teats well placed and of good size, and she was an easy and quiet milker. She was without blemish, perfectly sound, healthy, and vigorous; always a hearty eater, and never had an ailment. From the time milk, and never failed to give her usual flow. She went dry eight to ten weeks, and was always fleshy when she calved.

Her first four calves were bulls, and how I did wish she would drop a beifer calf. They finally came, four of them, and not one of the four was worth more than half as many dollars as their mother.

We know that in the human animal daughter as frequently inherit the traits of the the father as of the mother; and sons as frequently inherit the traits and disposition of the mother. A son oftener transmits to his daughters the traits and disposition of his mother than of his father It is a common remark that boys re semble their mothers and girls their fathers. A critical observation of the families about us will show the truth of this. Those men who have brought the pure breeds of domestic animals to their present state of perfection seem to have had an intuitive knowledge of these far-reaching prin ciples, and a genius for their successful application. But the fact is, they were diligent, close, thorough observ' ers, and their enthusiasm in their work intensified their vision. Their success resulted from their wide knowledge of facts and principles. I heard one of Wisconsin's famous sheep breeders relate how he produced one of his famous rams. He had an ewe of extraordinary qualities and bred her to one of her own progeny-The product was a ram of great val. ue, having a wonderful prepotency in transmitting his excellencies.

In my own case, I, at first, limited my own efforts to the venerable rule raise your heifer calves from your best cows. I could see and so thought further. It did not occur to me that one of Polly's sons could transmit to numerous daughters the superior qualities of his mother, and that if I had bred her to one of her sons I might have raised an animal of skin secretions, and is materially in-doubled prepotency in transmitting strumental in preserving their health.

The Centre Democrat. her excellencies, her beauty in form and color, vigorous constitution, perfeet health, etc. I kept Polly until 12 years old. Her sons were slaugh, tered for veal-not one left to trans mit her good qualities. I know other farmers who have thrown away like opportunities .- Prairie Farmer.

Keep the Pig Growing.

It is a serious mistake for farmers expecting to make hog raising profit able to entertain the idea that all that is necessary is to feed stock hogs barely sufficient to keep them alive. It is this style of feeding pigs which makes it necessary to keep hogs un. til they are eighteen months or two years old before they are fit to market. I can remember when such was the rule of feeding and fattening hogs. Spring pigs were kept until eighteen months, and fall pigs until two years old. Even then they did to get the land well set with bluenot weigh more than good stock hogs any more.

er and more healthy than heavy feed- ject of permanent pasturage." ing of corn. Pigs ready for market money comes in more rapidly. Keep nure heavily, and cultivate thoroug'sthe pigs growing.

Washing Butter.

"There is a stage in the churning she came in she never had a caked or process at which it is comparatively inflamed bag, never gave any bloody easy to remove the buttermilk and all parts of the whole mixture. The butcaseine, etc., is mostly heavier than the water. After agitation, the butter rises to the top of the water, and with the water, with a tendency to fall to the bottom. By drawing off the buttermilk, or water, from the bottom, the solid matter foreign to with it. Two or threee repetitions of sufficiently at least for practical purpeas, or grains of wheat, or even pinheads, and smaller, will not pass solid metter, which is too small to be visible to the naked eye, to pass through it."-Indiana Farmer.

It is certain that raising poultry for egg production pays the farmer-As a general thing the fowls that a farmer keeps in his barnyard, and on which he expends but little, pay best of all his live stock, but when attention is specially paid to fowls, properly fed, housed and attended, after deducting the cost of keeping, care interest per cent. from the amount for which their eggs sell, their is in nine cases out of ten, a larger balance on the credit side of the ledger than is found in connection with any single department of farm industry.

THE dust heap is absolutely neces sary for fowls. It cleases their feathers and skin from vermin and impurities, promotes the cuticular or different breeds, the Brahmas, and

Grass for Permanent Pastures.

A correspondent of the National

Stockman, after stating some of the points in favor of permanent pastures says: "There are three varieties of grass which I find exceedingly valuable in permanent pastures, viz., blue grass, orchard-grass, and re.-top. Blue-grass flourishes on all limestone lands, and makes the best sward of any grass I am acquainted with. * It starts very early in the spring, is lit tle injured by tramping or close graz ing, and I believe it to be the most nutritious of all the grasses. It is surprising how soon well-wintered cattle will be fit for the butcher when pastured on this. One disadvantage is the long time it takes to form a sward; but to compensate for this, when once formed it will, with fair treatment, last a lifetime. My experience is that it takes four years grass, and it will improve for several do now at nine months when properly years longer. I sow just as much of fed. I remember two Berkshires other grass as though I did not u-e killed when seven months old that the blue grass, and then add one busb weighed 150 pounds net; at that time el of seed of the latter. In the spring this was son ething wonderful. They of 1879 I seeded ten acres, using one had been pushed right along from the | bushel of blue-grass seed to the acre, start and were never allowed to stop and a liberal quantity of clover and growing. This (the stock being good) timothy, with a sprinkling of other made the difference between these grasses. Neither that nor the suctwo and the rest of the lot which ceeding summer could I discoverany averaged at twenty months little if blue grass, but the year following it began to show, and now is crowding Extra feeding when maturing will out all other grasses. - Orchard-grass never make up for neglect when grow- is best adapted to loamy or alluvial ing. I do not mean that pigs should lands, and in seeding a permanent be corn fed; there are a number of pasture, if there are any spots of black articles that are better and more land or creek bottom, I there seed economical than corn for pigs. In heavily with this grass .- Red-top does spring and summer clover or rye will best on the wet lands where other aid materially in keeping the pigs tame grasses would be drowned out; growing right along. A patch of but a little of it mixed with the other early oats will be profitable. Wheat grasses will be of advantage on all and oat fields after the crops are pastures. In fact the more varieties taken off are each in their turn good you can get to grow on the land the economical feed. In fall and winter greater the yield will be, and the catwhen pasture grasses are done, bran the will thrive better for it. It would slop, chopped oats, roots, such as also largely increase the value of our artichokes, parsnips, and carrots are grain farms, to the comfort of the relished. Small potatoes, if cooked, stock, and the profits of the owner, if make excellent hog food; are cheap- more attention was paid to this sub-

It is suggested that farmers take aat an early age often escape disease; small plot of laad, say one acre, maly to learn whether it would pay them to employ sufficient help to work all the farm in the same way.

Why Eggs do not Hatch.

Although every possible precaution it contains. When the butter is yet is sometimes taken to make the setin a granulated form, the churning ting hen as comfortable as possible may be stopped, and the butter wash. the eggs often fail to hatch. The difed with cold water and brine. Advan- ficulties are of a character that cartage is taken at this stage, of the dif. not be discovered, but much depends ferent specific gravity of the several on the conditions regarding the management of the laying hens. If a hen ter is lighter than the water; the is very fat she will lay but few eggs, and the eggs from such a hen will often fail to hatch. When cocks are allowed to range with too many hens the other solid matter remains mixed the vitality of the chicks is lessened, and they die in the shell. Fowls that feed under a torcing process produce weak offsprings, and those that have been bred in-aud-in are not to be rebutter is more or less carried away lied upon to give good hatches or produce healthy chicks. The hen the process complete the separation, that steals her nest is generally successful, but why this is so has been a poses. Advantage may be taken also, puzzle not only to the farmers, but to of the difference between the size of scientific men as well. One thing we the granulated butter and of the solid know is that her eggs are never matter in the buttermilk. The gran disturbed, and they are surrounded ulated butter being of the size of only by the pure and uncontaminated atmosphere. When we place eggs under a hen we know nothing of them through holes, or, in other words, a as a general rule, and if they contain strainer, that will allow the other fertile germs it is only a matter of guess with us in selecting the best. but the hidden ben's eggs are always impregnated. The nests should be secluded, and in a place which will be secure from the approach or in trusion of man or fowl, with the surroundings free from all impurities or odors and every convenience afforded in the way of dusting, food and water. We handle eggs too freely, approach the nest too ofcen, and disturb the setting hen when she should be easy and quiet. There are birds that abandon nests after the eggs bave been disturbed, and this may partly teach us to place the setting alone by herself, with freedom of action, the eggs being from good, strong hens, of which only a few have been mated with a vigorous cock. Avoid setting hens if they are nervous or quarrelsome. Such hens are never careful, and break their eggs, as well as tramping the young chicks to death. A medium size hen is the best, and of