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# THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE PARMER

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 tarmers may have the venefit of it. communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

### Setting Strawberry Plants.

The best time for this work, as every one is aware, is in spring just as the young plants are beginning their growth. Next to this in the season is immediately after fruiting, while be of such height above the roof that the plants are in a partly dormant it will protect the whole building if state, and before they fully recover not too large. It must be understood from the exhaustion of bearing, but that a rod will attract the lightning more care is then required. Most of from a radius twice its height above the the old leaves should be removed, the roof. It should never run level upon fine mellow earth pressed on the the roof, but always at an incline. It spread roots, and if the soil is dry should penetrate the ground at least they should be well watered, and a four feet, and end in a body of from mulching of manure given an inch or two to four barrels of charcoal. The two in thickness. This mulching end should be heavy and bent at an will prevent the ground from crust angle of forty-five degress, on which ing or baking if a second watering a stone, weighing from one to two becomes necessary. Setting potted hundred pounds, should be placed, plants late in summer succeeds well, which will keep the rod always taut. Country Gentleman, tells how she but the operation, first and last, is at- Glass insulators are of but little or keeps cabbage worms away from her tended with considerable labor, and no use. These are simple directions, plants. She always has nice cabit is only adapted to limited garden and if strictly followed will protect bages. She keeps an old tin pan full beds. An easier, and quite as suc- any building against being what is of fine dry earth, and every time she cessful mode, where the plants to be called "struck" with lightning. Such goes into the garden she sifts a spoonset are near at hand or in the same a rod will attract the fluid for the ful or more of this dust over the garden, is to take up blocks of earth radius named, and will pass it down cabbages, and the worms never mowith the plants by using a spade, into the earth without noise or danger. lest them. Also, by putting plenty of and to set them with their mass of When convenient, a rod may termin. sawdust around current bushes she earth, into openings previously cut ate in a well of water, which is prob. saves them from the worms, and it with the spade, where they are to re, ably the very best way to get rid of makes them bear larger fruit, as it main. We have now (June 20th) a the fluid harmlessly. long bed of the Cumberland, and another of the James Vick, both in full and abundant bearing, set in this way during the latter part of last August. The plants were scarcely checked in growth by removal. With dry, light soil the work would be difficult, as it would readily crumble from the roots, unless the plants were carried one at a time on the spade; but with a strong loam suffl. ciently moist, two or three dozen may be taken up in compact blocks ing then shown, we really have no and carried on a wheelbarrow to the place for planting. It is hardly nec- lieve the sentiments of those who essary to remark that last autumn rooted runners must be selected if the work is done now, but later in the season the new plants of the present year's growth may be chosen .- Country Gentleman. no other remedy. Sent by mail for 25 cents, box of 30 pills; 5 boxes, \$1, (in stamps). Address, DR. SWAYNE & SON, Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by Drug-

one of the most laborious parts of farm labor, yet up to the present time we have no machine by which the crop can be cut and shocked and the corn husked. We believe there have been several attempts at something of this nature, but we have heard of none that fully fills the bill genius to exercise his skill, and it is any successful person. Again, there is the hard labor of cotton picking. If there could be some machine hit the cost of cultivating the crop would be saved. But here the difficulty is in the fact that in gathering the bolls the crop has to be gone over repeat edly, picking them off as they reach a state of maturity. It is true that a machine to make the selection it would be impossible to contrive, but there might be such as would, with man's assistance, reduce very much the hardest part of the labor.

We see the sulky plow of the west doing its work admirably, with the least possible manual labor. In fact it may be regarded as no labor at all in riding over the fields and simply and easily handling a lever. Then we have our corn planters operated by merely drawing it along a marked outline, the seed being dropped a certain distance apart and covered without any assistance whatever. Such being the case, why should we not have a corn and cotton harvester, such as we suggested? We will. The inventive powers of our people will assuredly supply this want in due

It is best to feed young stock frewhich is injurious.

Lightning Rods From the fact that farmer are so

frequently imposed upon by lightning

rod venders with their nice, showy looking things and gilt tops, which they call first-class conductors, accompanied with a glib, elaborate explanation-we have from time to time taken occasion to give them some facts concerning such rods as would be of some real use in protecting their buildings. The best rod is made by a good blacksmith. It ought to be about one inch square, and the pieces should be hooked firmly and tightly together, leaving no space between them. It should have a good, genu ine, plantinum point, or four points, which are better, and the rod should run from the centre of the roof, and

## Soiling Cattle It is a matter of surprise to us that

the soiling of cattle in portions of country where the farms are small, and where the dairying is the most profitable branch of the farming business, that can be pursued within reach of our large cities. There was time when it appeared to have taken an active start, but whether it has in creased or even maintained the footmeans of knowing. If we can be have experiment with this system of dairying, it clearly showed that no other branch of farming paid so handsomely. "Soiling" is the feeding of cattle in their stalls or yard, instead of grazing them in the open field, allowing them to roam at will and destroy a large part of the pas-The harvesting of the corn crop is turage, while to a great extent the manure was wasted. It is said the principal drawback was the increase of labor which the system required, cultivating and hauling the grass to the cattle three or four times a day. While we admit that the labor is increased as well as the expense connected therewith, yet at the same Here is a chance for some inventive time the saving of manure is a strong point on the other side; and the drivone that would secure a fortune to ing of the cattle to and from the pasture is another; and the saving of at least one-half the land required for pasture is the strongest of all, and upon to gather the bolls, full one half together would far more than over. balance this one of labor.

Spinach.

This is one of the easiest things to grow in the whole garden list of vegetables, and yet how many gardens there are among our farmers in which it never makes its appearance? There is nothing in the range of what we call "greens" to be compared to spinach, which will grow at all seasons of the year and a bed may be sound in October, and as hard frost comes on can be lightly covered up, and be ready for cutting earlier in the spring than any other crop except perhaps rhubarb. It is a common sight to see women and children in the spring hunting the edges of woods and stirring up the leaves of old hedges along fences, etc., for the young 'poke' plant to be used as greens. This consumes much time and frequently ends after hours of labor in obtaining only half enough for a meal. Spinach seed is very cheap, and leaving a small portion of a bed run to seed, enough can always be had on hand for sowing, and this sowing can go on throughout the season, affording a quently, instead of too much at a supply at times. There are several single meal, as they often gorge when varieties of spinach, but the best is very hungry, and overfeed themselves, the "Bloomsdale," which is extremely tender.

PEARS, whether early or late, should never remain on the tree until they become mellow. Whenever they have made their growth they should be gathered. It is easy to tell the proper condition by observing the ease with which the stem parts from the tree. If, on taking hold of a pear and lifting it, the stem readily breaks away from the spur to which it is attached, the fruit has received all the nourishment it can get from the tree and the sooner it is gathered the better. Pears are sent to market in crates and in half-barrels; especially fine specimens are sent in shallow boxes, only deep enough for a single layer of fruit, and each pear is wrapt in thin white paper. Extra specimens of any of the standard kinds will bring enough more to pay for this extra care in packing. The early varieties mature quicker after gathering than the later kinds, but all should reach the market in a firm and hard condition. As with all other fruit, it will pay to carefully assort pears. Make three lots, the first and second for market, and the third for keeping at home-for the pigs, if

# Gleanings.

A farmer's wife, writing to the keeps the ground moist and rich.

Atlanta, Georgia, is to have a large mill for the manufacture of peanut flour. The kernels of the peanuts are ground between ordinary mill stones, and the flour is "bolted" or sifted through wire sieves, in order that all the shucks and coarse, sharp pieces may be removed. The refuse-if it may so be called-makes excellent food for pigs and is very fattening. There is one objection, however, to peanut flour as a steady diet. It is very injurious to the teeth, causing them to turn yellow and decay.

If the squash branches are vigorous and long stretch them over a level surface and bury every fourth or fifth joint, as wherever the plant is buried new roots are formed for the better nutrition of the stem and fruit. The squash bears male and female blossoms on the same plant, the lat ter only producing the fruit. If the fruit is allowed to remain on the vines after ripening much of the flavor will

Plants that have been kept dry during summer, intended for winter flowering, should be watered more frequently as soon as they start into growth; when growing vigorously they may be kept standing in a saucer filled with water at all times. As a rule, callas should be planted in comparatively small pots, as in large ones they are apt to produce too luxuriant foliage, to the detriment of

Water lilies can be grow in gardens. Put them in large holeless seed pans eighteen inches in diameter. These pan are filled with rich compost, then filled with water, the bulbs be ing set in the centre. Water lilies may be easily cultivated in this way. either in the green house or out of doors.

It is as much the farmer's business to sell as it is to grow, and the more familiar he is with the changes of the market and the causes, the times, and seasons when these causes come, the better qualified he is to sell so as to realize the profit he deserves and should receive for his brain and hard work and his investment.

Dr. STURTEVANT, of the N. Y. Agricultural Station, finds volunteer tomatoes coming up from the previous autumn's chance seeding to ripen fruit about as early as plants from the hot bed.

THE time of blossoming of different apples and pears is often an indication of the variety. By comparing the times of different sorts with some such standard as the Baldwin, in the same orchards, one may arrive at interesting and useful results.

ARTICHORES are being cultivated more and more every year as a food for stock. They are considered profitable in some sections.

