

FARM NOTES.

The weeding out of scrub animals and filling their places with better ones is a work in which all stockmen can engage. The scrub must go to the block, and the sooner the better for all interested in stock raising. It costs about as much to raise an animal which will only weigh 1,200 pounds at maturity as it does one which will weigh 1,600 or 1,800 pounds but the value of the latter animal is nearly double that of the former, and the larger share of difference is clear gain from the difference in kinds of stock. Forcing all meat animals to rapid maturity is another point having many advantages, which must not be lost sight of in raising stock for profit. The cost of keeping an animal a year does not differ materially, whether it is male to increase two hundred or six hundred pounds in weight. At least two hundred pounds of this extra four hundred is clear gain, and the steer which is matured and made to weigh 1,400 pounds at two and a half years is much more profitable than the one which requires four years to reach the same weight. Stockmen who have not tried this method of pushing their animals to rapid maturity should try it on a few at least and compare results with their usual methods of feeding. Well bred stock and good feeding are requisite to obtaining the greatest profit in stock-raising.

All quick maturing crops require much richer soil and better cultivation than those that are longer in maturing. Late peas, like Champion of England, or Marrowfat, will yield a profitable crop on moderately rich land without manure, but the kinds that mature early must be furnished an abundance of plain food in such a form as to be at once available. In all crops that come up thick and require to be thinned, every day's neglect after the plants are large enough to be thinned, reduces the yield of the crop. Beets, carrots, radishes, lettuce, parsnips, and such crops should be thinned as soon as you can get hold of them with thumb and finger. In planting early potatoes some days may be gained by cutting and spreading it in a warm room. To avoid danger of freezing the seed should be crowded into the bottom of the furrow, and covered with two inches of partly rotted manure before the earth is put on.

The most profitable horses for farm work are not the most active, rapid walkers but those of compact, bony build, which secure strength and steady motion. The larger the draft team can accomplish the more economically, of course, it may be managed, other qualities being equal. Much depends, however, on the constitution and disposition of the horse for the sagacity, easy keeping and general temperament of the animal and each worthy of consideration, as well as the size and figure.

Some interesting experiments have been made in France on the advantages of giving water to milch cows warmed, instead of of in its natural cold state. At the agricultural school of St. Remy, two cows were fed on the same food, but one was supplied with cold water and the other with water heated to 113 degrees, Fahrenheit. The latter yielded one-third more milk. Veterinary Professor Cornevin has obtained similar results.

A new way to salt butter—and it strikes us as a good one—is to wash on the butter in the churn after the most approved style and while the butter is in fine grains and after all the buttermilk has been washed out throw three or four handfuls of salt into the churn and work it in by simply revolving the churn. Then lay the butter easy for the salt to set, but put it where it will not become hard, say a temperature of seventy-five degrees and after two or three hours, work the butter over gently to get all the dissolved salt or brine out that will come, and then pack or print.

There is no part of the whole economy of the farm that affords a greater field for investigation, that requires a greater variety of information and more thorough preparation, than the health promoting department, the growth of fruits. Crops of other kinds as grains, cotton, etc., being the bulk of the farmer's income, but fruits are indispensable if a good, healthy enjoyment of life is any consideration. Grains and vegetables all, as a rule, need cooking before they can be used, but fruits come from the tree when ripe just as God made them, ready for man's immediate use.

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