

Agricultural.

Root Crops.

We have heard people say that there is no adequate return from root crops; that it requires a vast amount of labor to raise them, keep the weeds down, and harvest them; that there are no fattening properties in them. Very well; grant it. We will concede that the greater, by far the larger portion, is water. Indeed, from 75 to 90 per cent water yet it doesn't follow that they are not a desirable crop for a farmer to raise for his stock. Stock must have water. We concede that it can usually be obtained without raising it from the ground in the form of roots. Apples and all fruits are largely composed of water. Do we, therefore, abstain from eating them because we can procure it in a more concentrated form? Cattle are not so frugal; they also find a great deal of water. They seem to keep the blood of the animal in a healthy condition. They render the other food of far more benefit than it could be without them. Don't grudge good, generous, wholesome food to any animal that is worth keeping upon your premises. The old notion of wintering stock upon straw is ridiculous. There is no life-sustaining property in it. It is but woolly fiber. Feed your stock and feed them now. Don't starve them all through the winter, hoping that they will come up in the summer when turned out upon the grass. A starved cow can yield no adequate return of milk during the time required to recuperate lost flesh. Give shelter and food. Be human. Treat the poor brutes more as human beings should be treated. A good currying once a day will be of great benefit to horses and cattle. Care for them.

Farmers' Yearly Reckoning.

The unjoined advice to farmers was published many years ago, but the counsel contained in it is as applicable now as then:

The farmer, as well as the merchant, ought to reckon with himself at least once a year. This is the proper time. How stands the balance with you at the end of the harvest? I trust you have had nothing to do with the banks, so we will let them pass. Are your taxes squared up with the collectors? Are there no exactions against you? Are all your laborers and honest tradesmen for the last year paid off? Are all your broken windows repaired? If so, let us go to the barn and see whether the house, stable-door, rafter, and manger and floors are all tight for the winter.

If we find all these things as they should be, then a happy new year to you! but if not, then set your boys immediately to threshing, to shelling corn, and flax-steps of the collector; the visits of the sheriff, and the duns of your laborers and mechanics as soon as possible; buy glass and putty, repair your windows, and sell to the paper-maker the rags which had been used to stop your light; secure your cellar before the frost penetrates further. All this being done, go to the barn and do likewise. You may sit down for the evening by a clean hearth, before a brisk fire in your snug kitchen or parlor, crack a few nuts, eat a few apples, and regale yourself and friends with a glass of pure water, and go to bed when you please.

The Kitchen Garden.

Of the hundreds of thousands of farmers in this country, few give any attention to the kitchen garden farther than to raise a few carrots, spinaches, beet-root, a little corn, some lettuces and cabbages. None of the small fruits receive any attention whatever.

Formerly a few currants were permitted to straggle above the grass yielding the smallest kind of fruit, but now the worm has put a stop to even this.

We maintain that every man owning an acre, or even less, of land which he cultivates, should grow all the currants, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, gooseberries, grapes, quinces, apples and pears which his family can by any possibility consume during the year.

No one is injured by eating good ripe fruit. It serves to keep the system in a healthful condition. It also aids the organs in digesting other food. We are persuaded that it should find a place upon the table at every meal. But we can't make the subject, the very thought of it has placed our mind in a most irritating condition. We want some bread and milk with baked apples. Give us the country and country food. The city of New-York is no place for a human being to live in.

Oysters.

Line a deep dish with good puff paste, not too rich. Roll out the upper crust, and lay on a plate just the size of the oyster-dish; set it on the top of the dish and put into the crust as the crust must be nearly cooked before the oysters are put in, for they require less heat than the crust. While the crust is baking, strain the liquor from the oysters, add a little butter, and season with salt, pepper, and nutmeg—a very little of either—and be sure and taste to be sure that you do not season it too much; to add is very easy, but to take out seasoning in cooking is a difficult task. Let the liquor just boil, then slip in the oysters, and as soon as they come to a boil, stir well and remove the plate and top crust, and pour them and their gravy into the back-dish; place the top crust over and return to the oven for five minutes, and send to the table hot.

Holiday Venues and Measures.

—When four, one pound is one quart.

In meal, one pound two ounces is one quart.

White sugar, powdered, one pound one ounce is one quart.

Brown sugar, one pound two ounces is one quart.

Eggs, average size, ten are one pound.

Liquid measure—sixteen table-spoons are half a pint.

A slice of Breakfast Dine—Grate, when cold tongue or beef, put it into a saucer, with a little pepper and salt, and four handspoonfuls of cream or white wine, then cut it in four, season with pepper and salt, and have ready a slice of bread to wet with it, and spread the tongue on the bread, and have ready a slice of bacon to wet with it, and spread the tongue on the bacon.

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