# Agricultural.

## Facts for Farmers.

The New York State Agricultural Society have issued their list of premiums and regulations for the 34th annual fair to be held at Rochester September 14 to 18th 1874.

Chicken cholera is a malady of which little is known. There is a very maliguant type which almost always proves fatal; and a milder form which appears in some localities, destroying not more than half or one-third of the birds attacked. The best medicine, that has been reported, is alum-water made strong, and given for drink, mixed with their soft feed. Many of the medicines advertised for the cure of the disorder are entirely worthless.

Sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol), diluted with fifty times its weight of water and sprinkled over the vines, is said to be a perfect remedy for potato bugs without injuring the vines. This is much safer than Paris green, as, after dilution with fifty parts of water, it is entirely safe to handle and sprinkled on with a common watering pot. This acid is not always of the same strength, and if the druggists acid is obtained, use seventy parts water to one of acid. This also is the cheapest remedy.

It has been found by accurate trials of different dairies, that it takes from twenty-seven to twenty-eight pounds of milk to make one pound of butter, and a gentleman in a late agricultural meeting stated that it would take twenty-seven to twenty-eight pounds on hay. W. W. Cheney, of Belmont, has cows that have given seventy pounds of milk a day. Simpson of Cambridgeport, has a cross-bred Holstein cow that gave six thousand three hundred and ninety quarts of milk in a year, the half-bloods, it is said, being nearly as good for milk as thoroughbreds.

"A Breeder" asks the *Live Stock Journal* whether there is any known way of producing sex at will? There have been several modes proposed, and on single trials have appeared to succeed, but on the next trial proved valueless. There appears to be a law controlling the animal world, that the sexes shall be produced in about equal numbers, and it does not yet appear that the breeder can change this; therefore, any proposal to give information as to how this may be done, for a consideration, must be regarded as a swindle. There can be no exception taken to any breeder's experiementing for the purpose of finding out some way of controlling sex, but let him beware how he gets sold by some charlatan, who proposes to sell him a sure mode of doing it.

SENSIBLE ADVICE TO FARMERS.—A good many farmers are rushing into the dairy business under the impression that the profits are large and sure. They figure only on the profit side of the ledger, and do not take into account losses liable to occur in the different departments. We do not wish to discourage any one from entering upon dairy farming, for we believe it will compare favorably in its profits, when well conducted, with other branches of farming; but we have named some of the disadvantages in one department—that of live stock—in order that men may see their way more clearly and not get too high notions of the profits to be realized.

We advise every farmer who is doing well and making a fair income from his special kind of farming, to be cautious in changing it for other branches concerning which he is not familiar; for the chances are that the new business will not yield any more profit, and perhaps not so much as the one with which he is acquainted. We believe the profits from dairying are often over-estimated; and while its advantages are often the topic of discussion and laudation, it is proper that some of the disadvantages be made to appear, and then the balances of account may be struck, and no one need be led astray.—[*N. A. Willard, in Rural New-Yorker.*

COWS FOR MILK.—Much diversity of opinion exists among agriculturists as to the best breed of cows for the production of milk. It is only by making careful tests, that a satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at. In ordinary dairies, twelve quarts of milk to one pound of butter is considered a fair average.—A test made between the milk of several grades of cows, showed that 18 quarts of milk from a grade Durham cow will produce one pound of butter; while 6¾ quarts of milk taken from a thoroughbred Guernsey cow, produced the same amount of butter. The above test shows that the milk of the Guernsey cow was almost three times as rich in butter as that of the Durham. In this respect, however, different cows of the same breed may, and doubtless do, very much. The quantity of milk given by each cow should also be taken into account. A Durham cow that would give three times as much milk as a Guernsey, even though not so rich, would be more valuable.

PERSONAL MATTERS.—The *Maine Farmer* says: We need again to urge farmers to have greater regard for their personal health and comfort than is generally the case. We know just how hard farmers have to work, and how pressing are the demands of the present season. But nothing is gained by hard and long-continued application. Work in the morning and at night, and if possible enjoy a long "nooning"—it will do you no harm. Bathe frequently, and never repose a night in the inner clothing in which you have worked during the day. Have a light, clean, nightshirt, to take the place of that full of perspiration and dust, and enjoy to its fullest extent the refreshing influence of the night's rest. Eat wholesome and well prepared food, but avoid an excessive use of fresh meat. Drink sparingly of cold water during warm weather—great injury often results from this cause.

HAY TEA FOR CALVES.—A farmer who had a calf of value and no milk to give it, was advised to give it hay tea. He did so, and the calf is reported as doing finely, though it has neither received hay nor meal since he got it. He cuts the best and finest hay he has, about two inches long, and pours boiling water over it; lets it stand until cooled to about the heat of milk from the cow, when the tea is given to the calf and the hay to the cow. Both calf and cow thrive on their feed. We have fed a great deal of hay tea to calves, with good results.

# Miscellaneous.