

The Bloomfield Times.

Tuesday, October 10, 1871.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Straw Stack and Cattle Shed.

As this is the time for thrashing and stacking our straw for winter use, I send you a plan of a straw rack which I have used, and find it to be preferable to any way I have ever tried.

I cut six posts seven and a half feet long and sixteen or eighteen inches in diameter, square the top ends, set them in the ground two-and-one-half feet deep in two rows, twenty-four feet apart in the row, making a square of twenty-four feet. I then cut three heavy sticks about twenty-eight long and lay them upon the tops of the posts across the row, and across these lay poles about two feet apart, sufficiently strong to bear the weight of the straw. These poles can be about fourteen feet long, to reach from bench to bench, which will form a rack twenty-four by twenty-eight feet, which is sufficient for fifteen or twenty cattle. Then when thrashing, commence your stack by hauling the straw around this rack with a horse and rail, piling the straw on three sides on the ground about twelve or fifteen feet wide, till it is even with the top of the rack, then spread it all over and top it out well, leaving the south side open.

By this means the cattle will always have shelter and bright straw to eat, as they will eat from the inside out, and all the waste straw will be trampled under foot and more easily made into manure.— J. B., in Ohio Farmer.

Autumn Top-Dressing.

We notice in several agricultural journals strong recommendations to top-dress land in the autumn. Now, while we have no doubt of the efficacy of this suggestion in a general sense, and have often advocated it, we think there are some grass lands which would be better if this application were made in spring. In fields where the ground has a tendency to heave, throwing up the grass and exposing the roots to the direct action of the frost, autumn top dressing, which will protect the ground, is much to be preferred, and the application can be made either with the aftermath, straw or manure, as the condition of the soil may seem to require. If the ground is not liable to heave, a coat of manure as early in the spring as can be applied will insure a large crop of grass. There need be no fear of the manure interfering with the mowing of the crop or the making of the hay, inasmuch as we have found it is soon beaten down by the rains and is quite out of reach of the operations of harvesting by the time that period arrives.

Are Oats an Exhausting Crop?

As the regular rotation in Eastern farming consists of clover, corn, oats, wheat or rye, it is worth while to consider if oats are really the non-exhausting crop they are claimed to be. In the ash of oats straw there is over fifteen per cent. of potash, while the percentage of phosphoric acid is very light. Oats can not therefore be considered as a non-exhausting crop, as this is a large amount of potash to carry off, and potash is a substance we find difficult to replace. As oats, therefore, seem to withdraw principally the alkali from the soil, either lime or ashes is indicated as a manure suitable for this crop, and in practice these are found beneficial. Lime in its action on soils is known to liberate and render soluble the potash contained in them, and hence its favorable effects as a fertilizer.—Heath and Home.

Cows Holding up their Milk.

J. A. Wilson writes to the Agriculturist that he has found the best remedy for this fault is to "take a log chain, double it then, lay it gently over the cow's back—on the "small of the back"—so that the end of the chain will clear the floor. The cow loses the power of holding up her milk, and after a few trials will forget the habit.

Vermin on Stock.

A correspondent says he feeds his stock a teaspoonful of sulphur to each animal, with their salt, once in two weeks. When he has done so no vermin have troubled them, and his dairy cows have not been affected with garget, nor his sheep with grab in the head. He has practised this twenty years.

The highest farm in the world is said to be situated four miles from Sherman Station, on the Union Pacific Railroad. It has an elevation eight thousand feet above the level of the sea. Vegetables and grain thrive well on this farm, and two hundred young apple trees have been set out as an experiment.

A preparation of one part calomel, five parts of wheat flour, one part of sugar, and one-tenth of a part of ultramarine, all mixed together in fine powder and placed in a dish, is said to be a most efficient poison for mice.

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Duncannon, 54 tf

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