

The Bloomfield Times.

Tuesday, July 14, 1874.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

Cost of Keeping a Cow.

It is a question of some importance to know the cost of keeping a cow, where the feed and hay are to be purchased and the probable yield of milk in a year. In reply to a correspondent in the Tribune, Mr. Arnold estimates that a cow will consume three tons of hay and 1 1/2 tons of bran, counting the hay at \$10 per ton and bran at \$20 the cost of keeping a cow a year will be \$65. Without varying the cost much, if any, a little oatmeal in summer and a little corn meal in winter may be used as a substitute in part for bran, by way of variety, and better results will be obtained if the hay is thoroughly wet and the feed mixed with it one meal in advance, of feeding, that both may become well soaked and softened before feeding. The refuse from the house, apple and potato parings, &c., may also be given with advantage. Thus kept an ordinary cow would produce 1,000 to 1,800 quarts of milk in a year at an average of six cents per quart, it would be worth \$96 to \$108, which would afford a handsome profit. If the milk be churned into butter it would not afford much profit unless the skimmed milk and butter be considered valuable. Perhaps not more than a hundred to 150 pounds of butter could be made, which at an average of thirty cents would be \$30 to \$39 counting the skimmed milk worth three cents per quart it would amount to \$48 to \$56 and the price of the butter added, would make \$78 to \$93 which would still leave a fair profit for price of cow, trouble, &c.

Gapes in Chickens.

In a recent conversation with an experienced chicken grower, he informed us that he had been very successful in conquering that precarious disease in his young fowls, by the application of air-slaked lime. As soon as manifestation of gapes in his fowls appears, he confines his chickens in a box, one at a time, sufficiently large to contain the bird, and places a coarse piece of cotton or linen cloth over the top. Upon this he places the pulverized lime and taps the screen sufficiently to cause the lime to fall through. This lime dust the fowl inhales and causes it to sneeze, and in a short time the cause of the gapes is thrown out in the form of a slimy mass or masses of worms, which had accumulated in the windpipe and smaller air vessels. This remedy he considers superior to any he has ever tried, and he seldom fails to effect a perfect cure. He has abjured all those mechanical means by which it is attempted to dislodge the Entozoa with instruments made of whalebone, hog's bristles, or fine wire, alleging that people are quite as certain to push the gape worms farther down the throat of the fowls, as to draw them out. —Lancaster Farmer.

Pumpkin Seeds Kill Chickens.

Those feeding pumpkins in the fall or winter to stock, will be careful not to let the chickens eat the seed, as it will make them sick, and generally kill them. I experienced it. Last fall, when I fed pumpkins to my milk cows, the chickens would eat the seed, and I did not care. I thought if they would eat pumpkins that they would eat less corn, but I soon found out the result. I soon observed sick chickens about the place, crawling and lingering about, but did not know what was the matter, until one day a neighbor lady came to my house, and we got to talking about sick chickens. I told her that we had some on the place that could not walk; whenever they attempted to walk, they would fall over backward. She asked me if I fed pumpkins. I told her I fed to cows, and the chickens would eat the seed, and the lady said that was the cause of it; the pumpkin seeds are too flat and tough for them to digest. If any one has chickens affected thus, let him coop them immediately, give them plenty of shelled corn and gravel. This will often cure them and clean out the pumpkin seed. —Cor. Rural World.

About every six weeks we have an inquiry as to the best method of tanning sheepskins with the wool on, for the use of door-mats, rugs, etc. Here are the directions; Tack the skin upon a board with the flesh side out then scrape with a blunt knife; next rub it over hard with pulverized chalk until it absorbs no more. Then take the skin from the board, and cover it with pulverized alum; double half-way over the flesh side in contact; then roll tight together, and keep dry for three days, after which unfold it and stretch it again on a board or door, and dry in the air, and it will be ready for use. —American Artisan.

A common flower pot, inverted over a plate of butter, and kept covered with wet cloths, will keep butter in that state of solidity which is essential to its attractiveness.

Never put a particle of soap on silver ware, if you would have it retain its lustre. Soap-suds make it look like pewter.

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