

Agricultural.

From the American Farmer.

Work for January.

Grain Fields.—Have the surface drains in your grain fields carefully examined and cleared out, as the health of winter grain is greatly promoted when kept dry.

Winter Ploughing.—All stiff, inflexible soils, intended for spring culture, should, if possible, be ploughed in the winter. Besides placing one ahead in his work, the texture of the land is greatly mollified by the action of the frost. Such lands, however, should never be ploughed when frozen.

Fencing.—Be sure that you cut down and prepare as much fencing as will serve all your purposes throughout the year. Let the *but-end* of the posts be charred sufficiently high up as that, when placed in the ground, three inches of the charred part will be above the earth. Posts thus treated, will last for a half century. It is useless to merely char the part buried in the earth, as the mischief, by decay, occurs just above it.

Breeding Mares.—These should receive all proper attention from now until grass time. Their food should be regulated with some care; it should be well supplied with the raw material. Every day, they should receive salt, or the mixture recommended above, twice a week; so, also, should they daily be curried, or carded, and braided down, and watered thrice a day.

Cold.—See that your colts receive full allowances of hay or fodder thrice a day, and a feed of grain once a day—that they are early accustomed to being handled and also bathed. Such treatment renders them docile and relieves one of half of the trouble usually attendant upon breaking them. It is the custom of some to treat their colts the first winter, with very indifferent fare, under the supposition that it conduces to their hardness; but, for our life, we never could get our own consent to believe in the reasoning by which such philosophy was attempted to be sustained.

All young animals should, in our view, be sufficiently well fed to keep them in a continually growing condition. And how, we would ask, can this be sustained, unless they receive such food, and in such quantity, as will encourage the processes of manipulating bone, muscle, flesh, and a moderate portion of fat to be continually going on? While we would not pamper a young animal, by over feeding, thereby encouraging goutiness, we should certainly give him enough to enable his system to carry on its healthy elaborations. Colts should also receive water as often as grown up animals, and twice a week to an ounce of a mixture composed of equal parts of salt, ashes and lime. This mixture keeps the stomach in tone and assists digestion.

Milk Cows.—If you desire that these should yield liberally to the pail, you must feed them with something better suited to the secretion of rich milk than dry provender. Roots or meal crops of some kind should be given them twice a day, at least, say morning and evening. They should have littered beds, dry loddings, moderately warm, be regularly watered thrice a day just before being fed, be curried or combed and rubbed down with a whip of straw twice a day, and receive twice a week an ounce of salt, or the same quantity of salt, ashes and lime, mixed together.

Young Cattle.—These should be regularly fed and watered thrice a day, have dry shod, facing the East or South to resort to as they may please. Their food should be sufficient to keep them growing and in good condition, and should be treated to salt, or the mixture above recommended, at least twice a week.

Gates.—Have you a gate to every field on your farm? If you have not, provide them at once; the time which it takes to pull down and build up bars, will, in a single season, more than pay for gates for all the fields on your farm or plantation. Affix to each gate a chain, staple, and hook, to serve as additional security, and insist upon your hands fastening the chain every time they pass through a gate.

threshing Grain.—If this work has not been completed, press on until finished. Corn Sheller and Corn cob Crusher.—Have you one of each of these machines? If you have not, procure them. You should never sell your corn on the ear, but shell it and grind the cobs into meal for your milch cows and working oxen. In every five bushels of cob there is as much nutritive matter as there is in two bushels of grain, besides the expediency for distillation, which, in feeding cattle, is a matter of very grave importance.

Family Sleight.—Have you had these furnished up so as to look and be almost as good as new? If not attend to this part of your duty without further delay, as the sleigh in which your wife and daughters may ride should, at least, look as well as any in the neighborhood.

Fir Wood.—If you have already piled up in your yards as much wood as will serve you for the first few days of December, go ahead, push ahead, until you can say your year's supply of wood is cut down,

banded in, and piled up in the yard; the comfort of your family and dependents require the performance of this duty at your hands.

The Root Culture.—Every farmer and planter who may keep milch cows, should cultivate a few acres in roots, as carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, mangel wurtzel and sugar beet, for winter feed* or his cow. A very few acres thus appropriated if well manured, ploughed and cultivated, will keep a very respectable number of milch cows to their milk all winter and spring provided they shall also receive their long prouder also. We allude to this subject early in order that you may have time allowed to provide manure, and make the other necessary arrangements.

Sows and Store Hogs.—Provide these with plenty of raw materials, and they will convert it into good manure. Peat, marsh mud, leaves and mould from the woods, and all such substances, if put into their pens, will be speedily manufactured into active fertilizing bodies. While the hogs may be thus laboriously occupied for you, don't forget to feed them with a moderately generous measure, and to provide them with fresh water, charcoal, rotten wood and a rubbing post.

Manure-making.—As manure is the basis on which agricultural success can alone depend, it should be regulated with some care; it should be well supplied to draw the materials for making it from every possible source. Your cows, and hog-pens should always be well supplied with the raw material. Every load of marsh mud, peat, scarpings of the roads, lime, yards, wood-piles, wood-mud and leaves, and the accumulations of old lands, fence-sides and fence-corners, thereby deposited, will, in a few weeks, be transformed into good manure.

Poultry and Poultry Houses.—See that your poultry, of all kinds, are regularly fed and watered. Provide them sand, lime and gravel, and have their houses and nests thoroughly cleaned and white-washed.

Outhouses.—Generally should be cleaned and white-washed.

Cellars of Dwellings.—These should be cleaned out and receive a thorough white-washing. This done, dust the floor with lime or plaster, and repeat this once a week for some time.

Mari and Peat.—If you have both on your estate, let us tell you how to treat them so as to bring their virtues into immediate activity. Your peat must be dry, spread a layer of dry peat, six inches thick, say a surface seven yards long and three yards wide; on that spread thirty bushels of recently burnt lime, made of stone, the coarser the better; on that place another layer of peat, twelve inches thick; on this spread thirty bushels of freshly burnt stone lime; cover the lime with peat, say a foot in depth; on that place a layer of marl, two feet in depth; on the last place another covering of peat, say six inches in depth, to be covered by marl, one foot deep. Cover the whole with clay, and in twenty-four or thirty-six hours it will take fire. When the fire is fairly kindled, more peat may be added, from time to time, to be covered with clay. As the ashes accumulate, draw them down. After this body shall have been burnt out and cooled down, mix the whole together, and you will have a manure which, when fertilizing will make you confess that the time you appropriated to its preparation was wisely expended.

Care of the Peat.—Care must be taken not to let the fire burst out into a blaze; this can be prevented by covering all vent-holes, as they occur, with clay.

Toads and Implements of Husbandry.—Were yours overhauled, carefully examined, repaired and put away, securely, under cover, last fall? If not, go at once and attend to this duty.

Caught in the Act.—We saw a funny spectacle the other day. A dozen ounibus with their live freight, were about starting on a pic-nic, when a young woman ran hastily up and said to a gentleman of the party, who had just seated himself easily by the side of a pretty girl: "Ho, sir, I want to know what right you have to be going on pic-nic, and your wife and child at home?"

"Hush, S-s-p-h," whispered the gentleman, hastily getting out of the omnibus, "the people will hear you."

"Who cares if they do? Why didn't you think of the people or of your child, instead of running off to pic-nic with other men?"

"Well—there—now—don't—" "But I will though. And as for you, miss, if you ever dare to look at my husband again!"

"I didn't look at him, ma'am," tremblingly replied the poor girl; "I thought he was a single man when he asked me to go on a pic-nic with him."

"So, you're bound to your didees, have you? So—so—I'll give you a lesson which you'll remember—(taking him by the ear) now walk with me!"

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