

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Underdraining.

There are very many farms, fields, or parts of fields, that would well repay the owners to underdrain. We say underdrain. Open ditches are a nuisance anywhere, and especially where cesspools, briars, and all kinds of foul weeds abound. The advantages of draining are numerous. We will speak of but three. 1. The land is more easily tilled. 2. It is more productive. 3. It removes the cause of malarious disease. Very many who realize and acknowledge its advantages are deterred by its expense. In many places, at a distance from factories, narrow boards are being used instead of tiles, and it is said they will last a little time. Where wood is plenty, farmers have but little excuse for working around unsightly and unsanitary hog holes year after year.

But it is not enough that a dry melon and clean seed-bed is prepared. The good farmer will keep his land in good condition. The man and with very many farmers seems to be to obtain the largest yield with the least possible expense. Cheapness in obtaining a present crop is not everything. The prudent man will have an eye to the future. He will see that, if he always takes away without adding, the richest land will sooner or later become poor and unproductive. For years this exhaustive system has been followed until a large portion of the once rich and productive soils are nearly worthless; and this exhaustion has been largely aided of late years by the use of the (so-called) concentrated fertilizers, which are being used to produce large crops, but always leaving it poorer than before. Now, the man who does this is like that in the old fable who killed the goose that laid him daily a golden egg. He thought there must be many eggs, but of course there was but one; and he found when too late that he had foolishly destroyed the source of his wealth.

Dressing Poultry.

Farmers frequently have occasion to sell turkeys by live weight, and wish to know what is the fair relative price between live and dead weight. In turkeys dressed for the New York market, where the blood and feathers only are removed, the loss is very small. For the Eastern markets the heads are cut off and the entrails are taken out. This makes a loss of nearly one-tenth of the weight. A large gobler was recently killed, weighing alive 31 1/2 pounds. After bleeding and picking he weighed 29 1/2 pounds, a loss of two pounds, or about one-tenth. When ready for the spit he weighed 28 1/2 pounds, a loss of 3 1/2 pounds, which is over one-tenth of the weight. When the market requires the New York style of dressing, and the price is 15 cents a pound, a farmer could afford, at 14 cents, live weight, or less, if he counted the labor of dressing anything. In the other style of dressing, if the price were 20 cents, he could sell for 18 cents, or less live weight without loss. Farmers who never tested the loss of weight in dressing sometimes submit to a deduction of three or four cents a pound from the middlemen, who are interested in making this large difference.

Keep the soil Mellow Around Trees.

Unless the surface of the ground is mulched around your trees over an area of six to ten feet in diameter, the ground should be kept mellow and mellow. Every farmer knows that a hill of potatoes will not amount to much unless cultivated, and yet there are many who will neglect to give the same care to a tree which is worth a hundred hills of either of the former. In rich soils trees may grow rapidly without cultivation, and no amount of grass or weeds will retard them; but there are other things to be looked after. If the weeds and grass are allowed to grow up around the stems of apple, peach or quince trees, the bark will become soft near their base by being shaded and thereby be in a suitable condition for the reception of the eggs which will eventually become peach or apple borers. Take away the young apple trees in sections where the apple tree borer is abundant, and allow a portion to be checked with weeds and the remainder well cultivated, and then watch the result. From our own experience we believe that the chances are nine to one in favor of those cultivated being exempt from this pest.

Dropsy of the Crop.

When fowls are troubled with this complaint the crop is distended with an ill-smelling liquid, the appetite fails, and the birds are dull and disinclined to move about. In such cases we have opened the crop by making an incision about half an inch in length with the points of a pair of sharp scissors, and after allowing the liquid to escape, injecting with a common syringe some water and carbonate of magnesia, with which the crop was well washed. The water was removed through the opening, the edges of the wound in the crop were then drawn together with a surgeon's stitch, after which the wound in the skin closed in the same way. The bird was then fed with soaked bread and milk, in which a little magnesia was mixed, for a few days, and it recovered at once. This disease may be prevented by feeding the fowls occasionally with bread and milk, or easily digested food, and giving some prepared chalk or magnesia or a pinch of copperas along with the food.

To Wash Woolen Shawls.

Scrape one pound of soap; boil it down in sufficient water. When cooling, beat it with the hand; it will be a sort of jelly. Add three tablespoonfuls of spirits of turpentine and one of spirits of hartshorn. Wash the articles thoroughly in it; then rinse in cold water until all the soap is taken off; then in salt and water. Fold between two sheets, taking care not to allow two folds of the article washed to lie together. Mangle and iron with a very cool iron. Shawls done in this way look like new. Only use the salt where there are delicate colors that may strike.

"Everything goes wrong," says an Illinois farmer, wiping his eyes. "The grass-hoppers came, the bird man broke his leg, wife died, the barn burned, and I've died for three days and can't find a woman who wants to marry."

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