

AGRICULTURE.



HINTS ON SOWING WHEAT.

The diminished ravages of insects, and the promise of remunerating prices as the country recovers from its financial depression, will doubtless lead to much greater attention to wheat growing. The prospect is, that more ground will be sown to wheat this month than in any former September since our country was settled. A few hints to those about to sow wheat may be useful.

Prepare the ground well. If man and team labor be not abundant, better concentrate your efforts upon twenty acres, than to "run over" twenty-five. The yield from the smaller area well prepared, will be quite as great as upon the larger one poorly tilled, and you will save the seeding and harvesting of the extra five acres. A thorough pulverizing of the surface with the plow and harrow, and with the roller, if needed, is of great advantage to wheat. One good plowing, turning the surface deeply under, is desirable, whether for Summer fallow or corn land. Let the after plowing and harrowing be shallow, to avoid disturbing rods, stubble, and weeds turned under.

All soils liable to standing water in Winter or Spring, should be thrown into ridge lands twelve to twenty feet wide—the wetter the land, the nearer should be the ridges and furrows. When all is complete, the dead furrows should be deeply and thoroughly cleaned out with plow or hoe, so that all surplus water will flow off. This is a most important point. It is the alternate thawing and freezing of water-soaked soils that produces winter killing. Water expands and contracts greatly at every change of temperature, and thus breaks and tears the roots of winter crops, sometimes killing the plants entirely, and always injuring them more or less. On well drained land, wheat is never winter-killed, and seldom fails to start off vigorously in Spring.

Sow the largest, plumpest seeds. If possible, run seed wheat over a coarse screen that will take out all small kernels, and foul stuff. It is better to always sow wheat with a drill machine. If sown broadcast, take the greatest care to distribute the kernels evenly. Half a bushel of seed, sown uniformly over the ground, and covered uniformly, will produce more than two bushels sown hap-hazard. One seed, with plenty of room to receive air and sun-light, will produce more and better grain than three or four seeds planted side by side.

Sow wheat early. Nature sows her seed as it falls from the previous crop. Reason, and universal experience are in favor of putting the seed into the ground as early as possible after the previous crop is secured. This enables the plants to become well established, and thus be better able to withstand winter. Early wheat also gets ahead of many of the insect tribes.

Manure seldom fails to pay its cost and a hundred per cent. interest—that is on all soils not already fully supplied with organic matters. It will not, of course, pay to buy manures for new land where there is already an accumulation of vegetable matter. Lime or ashes generally show good effects on this class of soils. On older fields, plaster, Peruvian guano, and bone saw dust, are valuable, where stable manure is scarce. We do not buy lime it pays to buy the mineral manures so industriously pushed upon wheat growers.—American Agriculturalist.

FARMERS are advised by eastern papers "to hold on to their grain," and wait for the rise which is expected to follow the demand for breadstuffs from Europe. This advice should not be followed. When the market price is such that a farmer believes he will be reasonably remunerated for his labor and expense in raising his products, he should put them into the market at once. Some four or five years ago the wheat crop was short, and Canadian wheat was brought in to supply the New York market by way of Oswego and Rochester. It came to be quite the rage to speculate in Canada wheat, and the farmers in the Genesee valley, whose crops were a positive failure, but who had capital at their disposal, invested it largely in Canada, and held it, as well as their own damaged stock, for a raise that never came. The consequence was they lost largely by the speculation. It is not safe to calculate too largely upon an advance in price, and the best rule any man can adopt in any business, is to dispose of his merchandise whenever a remunerative price is offered. He gains by this course in the long run, and does an act of justice to customers, the majority of whom are hard laboring mechanics, who find it difficult to supply their families with bread even at moderate prices.

TO KEEP RATS FROM GRAIN STACKS.—The "Ohio Farmer" says: "Put in a few garlics among the sheaves when stacking grain, and rats will not trouble it." We have frequently seen this recommended. Is there any truth in it?

MEMORANDUM OF PREMIUMS TO BE AWARDED AT THE AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL EXHIBITION

—OF— COLUMBIA COUNTY, On Thursday, Friday and Saturday,

The 18th, 19th, and 20th of OCTOBER next.
By Order of the Executive Committee.

CLASS 1—HORSES.

Best pair of Draft Horses, \$10.00

Best pair of Dray Horses, 8.00

Best Carriage Horse, 7.00

Best Mare, 6.00

Best Gelding, 5.00

Station between 3 & 4 years, 5.00

Gelding Calf, 2 years, 4.00

Mare do, 3.00

Bull do, 2.00

Horse Colt 1 year, 1.00

Mare do, 1.00

Best Single-Carriage Horse, 1.00

Best do, do Mare, 1.00

JUDGES—Abner Welsh, Orange; Enoch Bates, Briarcliff; John D. McHenry, Fishkill; Dr. John K. Robbins, Catskill.

CLASS 2—CARTS & CARRIAGES.

Best Cart 3 years and upwards, 8.00

Best 2 years old, 7.00

Best 1 year, 6.00

Best Cow, Do or Durham, 5.00

Best Native Stock, 4.00

Best Devon or Durham Heifer, 4.00

Best Native Stock 1 year, 3.00

Best Calf of any breed under 10 months, 2.00

Best Yoke of Working Oxen, 4.00

Best pair of Steers, 4.00

Best display of Cattle owned and held as farm stock by the exhibitor, combining the best points of regard to profitable breeding, Feeding, & Miking, 10.00

JUDGES—Abner Welsh, Orange; Enoch Bates, Briarcliff; John D. McHenry, Fishkill; Dr. John K. Robbins, Catskill.

CLASS 3—MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Best Bott 3 years and upwards, 1.00

Best 2 years old, 1.00

Best 1 year, 1.00

Best Cow, Do or Durham, 1.00

Best Native Stock, 1.00

Best Devon or Durham Heifer, 1.00

Best Native Stock 1 year, 1.00

Best Calf of any breed under 10 months, 1.00

Best Yoke of Working Oxen, 1.00

Best pair of Steers, 1.00

Best display of Cattle owned and held as farm stock by the exhibitor, combining the best points of regard to profitable breeding, Feeding, & Miking, 10.00

JUDGES—Abner Welsh, Orange; Enoch Bates, Briarcliff; John D. McHenry, Fishkill; Dr. John K. Robbins, Catskill.

CLASS 4—SHIP & SHEEP.

Best Blooded Buck, 5.00

Best Native do, 5.00

Best Ram, 4.00

Best Blooded Ewe, 4.00

Best Ram, 3.00

Best display of Sheep, 3.00

JUDGES—Thomas Creveling, Scott; Franklin M. Hinde, Hinde; Joshua Mendham, Franklin.

CLASS 5—SHIPS & SHIPWRECKS.

Best Parlor Stove, 2.00

Best Cooking Stove and Fixtures, 2.00

and various variety of Tinware, 2.00

Best Sample Leaf Tobacco 6 stalks, 1.00

—Brown Corn, 1.00

JUDGES—John Ludwig, Bloom; John Hartman, Hinde; Marshall Kinney, Scott.

CLASS 6—MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Best Artificial Sheep, 1.00

—Sewing Machine, 1.00

—best Model Farm Gate, 1.00

one good brick, 1.00

Best Box, 1.00

Best Earthen and Greenware, 1.00

Best lot of Pigs, 6 or more, under 10 weeks, 1.00

Best pair of Hogs, 1.00

JUDGES—Samuel Wilson, Montour; Vanish Reeder, Centre; G. A. Bowens, Millin.

CLASS 7—FOULTRY.

Best pair Shanghai, 1.00

Best Chittagong, 1.00

Best Apurian, 1.00

Best Game, 1.00

Best Peacock, 1.00

Best Pheasant, 1.00

Best Quail, 1.00

Best Partridge, 1.00

Best Hen, 1.00

Best Duck, 1.00

Best Grouse, 1.00

Best Pigeon, 1.00

Best Hen, 1.00

Best Quail, 1.00

Best Partridge, 1.00

Best Hen, 1.00

Best Duck, 1.00

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