

Centre Farmer.

"PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE."

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CENTRE FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY THE CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

JOHN A. WOODWARD, Howard,
Prof. JNO. HAMILTON, State College,
B. F. SHAFFER, Walker,
Publishing Committee.

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THE CENTRE FARMER will be issued monthly, and is devoted exclusively to such subjects as have a direct bearing upon the interests of the farming community in general and the CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY in particular.

Terms Free, and Postage Prepaid.

To Advertisers.

The CENTRE FARMER will be published for six months, with a total of twenty six thousand copies, and distributed, through the mails, postage prepaid, to every farmer in the county, whose address can be obtained. The object of its publication is to advertise, and create a renewed interest in the County Agricultural Society, and its annual fair, and no pains will be spared to have it thoroughly circulated. This makes it a very desirable medium for that class of advertisers who desire specially to reach the farming community. We have still room for a limited number of advertisements which will be inserted at the following rates:

One eighth column.....	\$ 6 00
One fourth do	10 00
One half do	20 00
Whole do	40 00

Address,
CENTRE FARMER,
Howard, Centre Co., Pa.

—Our next Annual Fair will be held on the Society's grounds, at Bellefonte, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, being the 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th days of October, 1876.

DR. E. GREENE'S

Liver Pills.

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS.

Dr. E. Greene's Liver Pills are always and only put up in OVAL boxes, not round—and have on the bottom of each and every box—the name of the Sole Agents and Manufacturers.

J. ZELLER & SON,
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See other advertisement in this paper

W. S. WOLF & SON,

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MANUFACTURERS

and Dealers in all kinds of

STOVES, TINWARE,

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Roofing & Spouting a Specialty.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

INTERIOR FENCES.

Prof. Hamilton's reply to the question,
"What is the best plan for Centre
County Farmers to pursue in
regard to fences, taking
the laws as they now
exist?"

(Continued.)

Let us stop a moment and see what this 1024 rods of inside fence has now cost per year. We have

1-20 the original cost of the fence with the compound interest added for 20 years.....	\$270 93
Interest on land occupied by fences... lanes.....	10 22
Yearly repairs.....	6 14
Losses by additional turning.....	5 00
Losses by tramping at the ends in turning.....	63 44
.....	17 97
Making a total of.....	\$373 70

lost each year by fences, not including taxes, on the land so occupied, cost of removing weeds, briars, &c., in amount lost by snow banks that prevent early working in the Spring, and sometimes destroy the grain by smothering. What is all this expense for? \$373 70 per year. Farmers certainly are not foolish enough to throw away this amount of money simply because they can afford to do it. What is all this expense for? Why a farmer answers, "to protect our grain fields from our cattle." Is this all! Is it possible that it must cost \$373 70 each year to keep our cattle off our grain? How many cattle, let me ask, do you keep on this one hundred and eighty acres, 6, 10, 12, 15 head? Say 15 head are kept, that is six milk cows and nine young cattle. The question that now arises, is, are they worth it? Are these 15 head of cattle worth what they cost. Let us stop and see:

Six cows at \$40 00 each.....	\$240 00
Nine young cattle at \$20 00 each.....	180 00
Total	\$420 00

in all. You can get \$420 00 for them at a sale to day and this is all that that they will bring. What income do they bring in? 5, 10, 20, 50 per cent? Say that one can realize 50 per cent. This would amount in the six months during which you pasture to \$105 00. That is in order to make \$105 00 you spend annually \$373 70. Curious economy. It is something like Mark Twain's account of Henry Ward Beecher's farming, "bought a hog for \$8 00, fed him \$30 worth of corn. Sold hog for \$15. Made on the hog, lost on the corn."

Farmers have you ever counted what your cattle cost you? Take 6 head of cows and 9 young cattle, they will require at least two acres each of pasture during the Summer, or two of your 15 acre fields, besides the picking that they get from the corn fields in the early fall. This land should produce at least one ton of hay to the acre, worth (at \$10 per ton) \$300. In order to keep these cattle during the winter there will be required two tons more of hay apiece, worth at the same price, \$300 more. These cattle in order that they may be well kept and thrive will require grain equal to about six bushels of corn apiece, making 90 bushels which at 50 cents per bushel would amount to \$45 00. To these amounts add \$25 20 the interest on \$240 00, the money invested in the cattle and we have a total cost per year of \$670 20. In this estimate the manure is supposed to pay for the attendance. Let us now see what they will produce. Willard, the highest authority on Dairy Husbandry, states, that the average annual quantity of milk from each cow as shown by statistics, is 1800 quarts, and that it takes an average of 18 quarts of milk to make a pound of butter. According to this statement each cow will yearly produce 100 pounds of butter which at

25 cents will be \$25 and this multiplied by 6—\$150 00. The milk and butter milk, are usually worth but little except as food for calves and pigs, say half as much as butter, \$75 00; increase in one year in value of young cattle, \$15 00 each, \$135 00, making in all \$360 00. From these statements your cows have cost you \$670 20, and have produced \$360 00, leaving as net loss for food alone for 15 head of cattle \$310 20. That is, their food has cost you \$310 20, more than your cattle have produced, and this does not count possible losses by death or accident. Now let us sum up again and see where we are:

Fences cost annually.....	\$373 70
Cattle cost annually.....	670 20
Making a total of.....	\$1043 90
Cattle produces.....	360 00
Leaving a total loss per year of.....	\$683 90

or \$263 90 more than the cattle are worth. It is very evident that the more stock a man keeps in this way the worse he is off. When you question the owner of this 180 acre farm respecting his condition, he complains that his lot in life is severe, that he has to work as hard as he can drive early and late, year in and year out, that he cannot live as men in other professions live, that he must stint and scrape and economize and scratch. That he must labor and his wife must toil and slave, and notwithstanding this that he is growing poorer every year. Judgments are being entered up against his property, store bills are over due, children must stay at home from school, nothing can be contributed when the church calls for benevolence, clothes are old and worn, buildings need repair, land needs clovering and improving, implements and machinery are worn out and useless, and all about him is in a sadly dilapidated state. When asked why he does not fix up and better his condition, he tells the truth when he replies "too poor." Why is it that you are so poor? Look at just one of your investments:

In cattle.....	\$ 420 00
And as a consequence of this you have expended on inside fences.....	1689 60
In all.....	\$2109 60

Upon this investment of \$2109 60 you lose yearly on food of cattle.....	\$310 20
On fences.....	337 70
Total	\$683 90

or nearly one third of the whole amount invested. Is it any wonder that you are poor, when you actually throw away nearly seven hundred dollars every year in one department of your business? Is it not marvelous that you have been able to hold out so long? How long think you, could a merchant or a banker continue prosperous were he to invest his money in enterprises such as this? It is generally believed that in banking or in trade, none but careful, shrewd and calculating business men can count upon success. But on the other hand, "any body can run a farm." So he can if it is to be run with recklessness and utter disregard for the consequences that must inevitably ensue. The end will come and in less than sixteen years there has been thrown away the entire value of the farm.

But this is not all. These 15 head of cattle that are turned out upon the fields during the Spring, Summer and Fall are necessarily moving about during the day collecting their food. Each animal standing still covers with its feet half a square foot of land. If the animals step 24 inches at a stride the 15 in walking a little more than 2 1/2 miles will have trampled an acre.

The damage thus done to pasturing is greatly under-estimated, vegetation is so injured by crushing as to seriously retard its growth. The tender grass

plants are trodden again and again, until the pasture becomes so much injured that the cattle can no longer live on it, when they are removed and the plants that have survived are permitted to recuperate. Then the old plan over and over again. Why is it that farmers are in such haste to remove cattle from their potatoe plots or gardens, if it is not that they fear the destruction of the plants that they there cultivate; or what farmer would permit his cattle, even were they muzzled, to run wild over his corn and wheat fields day after day, tramping, into the earth the growing plants? He very well knows that he would lose his harvest by permitting such a course. Why then if his object be to raise the greatest quantity of vegetable growth upon the soil, does he knowingly and deliberately pursue a system that involves the mangling, mutilating and destroying of plants, thus effectually preventing the very object of his profession. Does not this system necessarily tend to, and in many instances does it not actually result in making the fields as unproductive as the public road?

But the injury done is not confined to the plants alone. The soil also, if it is a clay, as is the case in most parts of Centre county, is seriously injured by this practice.

Where this system is pursued cattle are turned out to pasture every day, wet and dry, in the early Spring and late in the Fall, many times when the ground is so saturated with water that the animals sink into it 2, 3, or 4 inches at every step, compacting the soil as completely as if done by a press. What is the result: 1st, no grass will grow in those foot poles, and 2nd, where the land is being ploughed it will require sharper and stronger irons, a more powerful team, the draught being increased at least one third, slower work, and the parts so tramped will break up into clods nearly as hard as stones, impervious to moisture and impenetrable by the roots of plants. Full crops cannot be grown upon such a soil and it frequently takes years of careful tillage to restore such a field to its original condition.

By this system, also, more than one half of all the manure made upon the farm during the year instead of being beneficial is positively injurious to the crop. The droppings have the effect of destroying the grass on the part where they fall, and also of rendering much around so distasteful as to be refused by the animals pasturing there, and the ultimate advantage is not as great as is imagined. Since much of it falling upon hill sides is washed away by floods, while that upon the level land is partly destroyed by insects or lost by evaporation.

Could these droppings be saved upon the manure heap, and placed upon the land at the proper time and in the proper places, not only would the injury be avoided, but the productions of the soil be greatly increased. The cattle too by lying upon the plants render them unpalatable and when at length they are free from the odor and might be eaten, they have become so old and woody as to be refused.

The question submitted by your committee, asks, "what is the best that can be done, under existing laws?"

Situated as we are here in Centre county, is what we are doing the best that can be done? Is it absolutely necessary that every farmer, living in the grain growing districts of this County, owning 180 acres of limestone land worth at least \$60 00 per acre, shall expend annually the sum of \$373 70 for fences in order that he may keep 15 head of cattle, that by

[Continued on 3d page.]