

**Agricultural Column.**  
[Communications for this department, if not of too great length, are respectfully requested.—Ed.]  
**THE WHEAT CROP OF 1870.**—Mr. J. R. Dodge furnishes a very interesting official report of the wheat crop of 1870, from which we select a few points, as follows:  
The natural tendency of low prices to reduce the average wheat has been apparent this year, though not to the extent threatened. Last year estimated the increase over 1868 at more than a million acres, making an aggregate of 19,000,000 acres. I figure a reduction this spring of more than 900,000 acres, or nearly five per cent. of last year's sowed acreage. The reduction is greatest in Illinois.  
Very few good farmers have occasion this spring to complain of the effects of frost; yet there has been some loss, considerable in the aggregate, as there in each year, but scarcely as much as the year will average. In Pennsylvania, wheat in many counties was injured slightly, none very severely. (In Clearfield the surface was covered with snow 144 successive days.)  
In New York much of the winter grain is not in an average condition; in Washington county it seldom looked worse at this season of the year; it is small and unimproving in Genesee; the late snow is unprofitable in Livingston. Spring grain looks better. In New Jersey, wheat has "made an extraordinary growth" in Cumberland, "is much improved" in Hunterdon, and the season has been unusually favorable in Burlington, and is looking well throughout the State. The crop presents an improved appearance in Pennsylvania, promises well in Maryland, and a good average crop is cutting in Virginia and North Carolina, with little loss from rust or falling in consequence of heavy rains. The crop in the south is generally good, though light in some places, as the result of drought. The Tappahannock (from the department of agriculture) is a great success in this region, and is very generally preferred.  
Many gloomy reports and some forebodings of failure have come from the Golden State. Accustomed to broad acres, large yields, and good prices California has not encountered recent discouragement, added to a reduction in the price of the crop of 1869, with entire cheerfulness. The wheat accounts have come from the San Joaquin river region.  
**SALTING MILK COWS.**—William Egger, a Swiss dairyman of experience, states the method practiced in Switzerland by the best stock keepers in salting stock. He says cows should be salted early every morning, and if they are fed in the stable the salt should be given before foddering. Salting in this way improves their appetite; they drink with more regularity, are kept in better health, and give more milk than when salting is not used. He says that in America. He thinks it very injurious to salt milk cows only once or twice a week, as they will lick too much for the day. To have stock to do well, they must be fed with regularity, every day alike, and never given too much of any thing at one time.  
He says, "throwing a little salt before the cows in the morning, is much better than allowing them to have free access to it during the day or at all times, as they choose to take it; because, as it was not taken with regularity, which has a very important influence in lessening the average yield of milk. Cows that eat salt should never be salted after taking water, and then have no chance to drink for hours, the irritation, on account of thirst will itself depreciate the quality of milk and lessen the quantity. These facts he says he learned from one of the best and most successful dairymen in Switzerland, and has found, by repeated experiments in his own practice, to be the best course to be adopted by dairymen in salting cows, in order to get the most milk and, at the same time, keep them in good health."  
**GOOD FEED FOR GOOD BUTTER.**—It once thought a dairy of twenty tubs of butter, all made from the same cows in the same season and by the same person. Some eight tubs were good, sound, yellow butter; some eight more were of a very light colored and soft, with a disagreeable flavor; some four tubs shaded down from yellow to white, and the color of the index of quality. Careful investigation developed the fact that the good butter was made from good grass feed and the poor later in the season, when the grass had failed from drought, and the cows fed upon some of the poorest manure in the county.  
A man changed the feed of his cows from corn meal and hay to potatoes and hay; it lessened the quantity of butter, and the color was lighter. Hence the importance of good feed. It is profitable to feed corn meal at all times, excepting when grass is new and plenty, and if it is not then, a piece of land, five rods by two, to each cow, sowed with southern corn, will supply the deficiency of the pastures in the last of the season for two or three months, and save the mowings there from the cost.—*Cor. of St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Times.*

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