

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

Securing Large Yields of Wheat.

If 20 bushels of wheat give satisfaction to the grower it is no reason why he should not aim for larger yields. It requires just as much seed for 20 bushels as for 40, and also as much plowing, drilling, harvesting and care.

Preventing Attacks from Insects.

A strong odor will sometimes prevent attacks from insects. A gill of turpentine intimately mixed with a bushel of dry plaster and the plaster dusted over vines and bushes will cost but little and will keep for months. If a tablespoonful of kerosene and the same of carbolic acid is added it will be all the better, as the odor only is required.

Best Foods for Producing Eggs.

The best foods for producing eggs depend upon the condition in which the fowls are kept. In summer the hens get a variety of food, but in winter they have no choice of selection. If the food is largely of grain the best mode of inducing the hens to lay is to withhold grain and give lean meat, about an ounce a day to each hen. Liver or other cheap forms of animal food will also answer. Dried ground blood, animal meat and bone meal are likewise excellent additions. When the hens lay double-yolk eggs or eggs with soft shells the cause is not due to lack of lime, as many suppose, but to too much fat on the body of the hen, the remedy being a nitrogenous diet (meat) instead of grain. The extra egg laid will pay for the more expensive foods and give a profit as well.

Value of Shredded Fodder.

There are many ways of saving the fodder crop, and probably all of them will be resorted to in different communities by farmers who find themselves short of feed. When fodder is cut at the right time and cured like hay, it has 5 to 10 times the value of a field that is left to stand as "winter pasture," hence the prudent farmer must devise some plan to save the crop this year. Hay will command a good price, while shredded fodder is a perfect substitute for it in feeding, even for horses. The farmer who is supplied with hay can make money by selling it and feeding his fodder, and those who have fodder to spare may find a market for it among their neighbors. The cash market for shredded fodder is growing every year, and it will not be many years until its cash value everywhere is recognized as nearly equal to hay.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Old Hens.

Old hens as a rule are not profitable—but by old hens we do not mean those that are one or two years old—for such may often be the very best layers during the winter.

The usefulness of a hen to a great extent, depends on the care she gets.

We cannot expect half-fed, neglected hens to moult early and be in condition to lay during November, and such must be the case if we expect profitable hens.

A great many people seem to think that the season's work is ended with the beginning of summer, when, as a matter of fact, the hardest task has just begun.

Special food and especial care are required in order that the hens may be kept healthy.

Of course less food will be required, but we must see that they get what they need regularly.

Pure, fresh water must be given, and if there is no shade a temporary shelter must be erected.

Watch the hens carefully now and they should moult early and begin to lay before winter sets in.—Home and Farm.

High-Posted Barns.

Every farmer knows that nearly the largest part of the cost of his farm buildings is in the roof. If the ground floor plan is of the same size it costs but little more to put the roof on a building 22 or 24 feet high in the post than on one 12 to 14 feet high, and the capacity is about doubled. We say about but not quite even if the height of the posts is quite doubled, for with the greater height comes a tendency to increase the distance between the ground floor and that above, and usually in modern buildings to widen them out, especially in stables and in the barn floor. Thus the barns of our grandfathers' day, some of which are standing yet, that were usually 24x30 feet on the ground, with 12-foot posts, have given away to those 28x42 with 18 to 24-foot posts even where the farm is no larger than before. It may be more productive, and if not the animals have more room, and so do those who have to care for them and work about them. The forage for them is all put under the roof, instead of being stacked up outside. There is more sunlight and more pure air where the modern abominable barn cellars have been put in, to fill the space above with the fumes of decomposing manure, and the health of animals and the owners is better assured. This alone repays the cost of building higher, and the modern hay fork and carrier make it easier to put fodder over a beam 24 feet from the floor than it used to be when we were young to throw it with a fork to 12 feet high. The cost of this labor saving machinery is small compared to the value of the space gained by the increased height of building, or of forage saved by having it all housed.—American Cultivator.

Cultivating vs. Plowing.

The weather conditions of the present season have been such as to telescope many of our pet plans and hobbies and cause us, on the whole, I believe, to profit somewhat by such unexpected experience. When in the earlier part of the season continuous showers were being poured upon us with a large acreage of spring grain and hood crops around us, together with orchards weeping to be cultivated and sprayed, it seemed to drive home the fact that the farmer, above all others, needs to be the most resourceful man in the world, and such he has always proved himself.

The one point I wish to bring out is that we seeded 26 acres of spring grain with neither fall nor spring plowing, and we are harvesting, all told, the best grain we have raised in years, entirely free from rust, and of exceptionally good weight. Our plan was to broadcast direct upon stubble, corn, cabbage and potato land, but all perfectly clean last season, and well ditched in fall; then we followed with a large V-shaped cultivator draw by three large horses, then brushed both ways with a light smoothing harrow, and the seeding was done.

The objection will undoubtedly be advanced by many that this might work well in a season like this, but not in a dry one. Let us see. A neighbor of mine, who is a large potato grower, adopted this plan some time ago, on black loam land, and he has produced the best spring grain in this section; but understand, these lands were kept as clean as an old fashioned summer fallow while in potatoes. He was enabled to put his land in splendid tilth by the use of spring tooth harrows alone; but ours is a heavier, stony soil, so we were compelled to resort to the use of the tool above mentioned.

As for manner of seeding, I would not suggest it as an iron clad rule to sow broadcast, but let reasonable conditions vary the method somewhat. I think where ample time is in sight, and a dry period quite likely to follow I should prefer to seed by the use of a drill to follow cultivator, as the seed will be deposited at a greater depth, and thus not be liable to suffer from extreme drouth. This method we are expecting to make use of in getting our land seeded after oats next spring, as the wheat question is about settled in these parts by the Hessian fly. In this way we are enabled to get our grain in fully one week earlier, as it is these few days of moisture that determine the weal or woe of seeding; for the evaporation of the soil's moisture is going on at a fearful rate in early spring, and about the time the land is in friable condition.

We also expect to sow somewhat less than is the usual custom, about seven pecks of oats; this spring, with existing conditions, we used only one and one-half bushels. If possible, I would finish the grain and follow immediately with grass seeder and then roll.

But in order not to make this experience appear somewhat misleading I would say drain your lands as well, or better, than as if you were seeding to wheat, that no depressions shall carry surface water for a single day after snows have passed off. It is a principle in agriculture that the better the lands are drained the more friable will be their condition, and to just that extent will their productivity be increased.—C. H. Whitcomb of Niagara county, N. Y., in The Country Gentleman.

Notes from Many Sources.

Turkeys shrink about one-third in dressing.

Cruelty to an animal is always an expensive business.

Ducks and geese should be kept separate from the other poultry.

Many diseases of the horses' feet are due to wearing shoes too long.

The profits from raising poultry depend on attention to the small things.

Apply lime whitewash to your stables. It will keep them clean and sweet.

Don't be afraid to plant apple trees. The foreign demand for this fruit is increasing year by year.

When training your colt teach him to have a quick walk. Fast walking horses always bring extra money in a sale.

Brood sows require food, rich in the elements of bone and muscle; corn is not suitable, as it contains an excess of fat.

So many of the diseases of the pigs are contagious that it is a safe plan to separate a sick pig out the first time it is noticed.

Hogs are nearer self sustaining, and will do more foraging than any animal and there is less labor in preparing food for them.

A permanent pasture, if fed close and late, ought to have some other fertilizer than the droppings of the animals that feed on it.

The land is exactly like a bank. You cannot draw without depositing. Don't expect to draw crops from the land without depositing fertilizer.

Winter dairying is claimed by some to be more profitable than summer dairying, as the farmer has more time at his disposal to care for his cows.

Your potato crop should be harvested as soon as ripe. Those that are not wanted immediately should be stored in a dry, cool and comparatively dark place.

If you desire to know what to feed your flock of hens when they are shut up just watch them when they are gathering food for themselves and henceforth you will not deprive them of green food, gravel, etc. They can pick up many bits of coal, broken earthen ware, and in fact, a variety of everything living around loose



Something New in Table Damask.
Silk and linen are woven together to make the handsomest table damask. Sometimes the goods is brought out in mauve, gold and white, and an especially pretty pattern was all in soft rosy pinks.

Ironing a Tablecloth.

All housekeepers like to have tablecloths ironed with only one fold through the centre. To keep them after this laundering they are best rolled on a stick. Each tablecloth has its own stick, as long as the cloth is wide when folded lengthwise through the centre, the sticks being neatly covered with, first, several folds of flannel muslin. When the cloth is ironed in one fold, one end is evenly pinned to the stick and the cloth loosely rolled on it, so that it will not crease. Afterwards the whole is slipped into a long, narrow bag and laid in the linen closet, or in the long drawer of the sideboard, if that is kept for the purpose.

A Fresh Air Closet.

A shaded, airy hall or porch is a good situation for a fresh-air closet in which to store cooked food from one meal to the next, says the Rural New Yorker. It is only a frame box with door and sides of wire gauze and shelves across the inside. It is best made fast to the wall at such a height as to be safe from prowling cats, and should have further a trusty lock. Put away food in it in clean earthen dishes, never in any sort of metal, not even silver. Slip each dish into a separate cheesecloth bag, and twist the bag end tight. If ants, black or red, discover the closet, paint the wood box all outside with camphor once a fortnight. Twice a year take down the whole contrivance and scald it outside and in with boiling soda water. All manner of food keeps beautifully in it from one meal to the next. Things may be put in it while still warm. If they have to go into a tight, unventilated place, as a refrigerator, they must needs be stone cold or they will get soggy and smelly.

Care of Gilt Picture Frames.

When dull, dark effects came to represent the artistic idea so far as picture frames go, there was one advantage that arrived at the same time in the fact that they were not gilded. A gilded frame seems to represent luxury to flies and to dust and sometimes it can be cleaned, often it needs to be retouched and again it needs regilding. If there is nothing really the matter with a gilded frame except that its bright hue has appealed too strongly to flies, then all that is needed is alcohol applied lightly by means of a soft brush. The alcohol rubs off the spots which can then be buffed off with a bit of cloth. It is said that if one takes the proper precautions early in the season, there will be none of these fly specks to wash off and it is also said that the proper precaution means washing the frames with water in which many strong onions have been boiled. This is a radical measure. Altogether nicer is the idea of gently brushing over the gilt with the well-beaten white of an egg, using a piece of soft cloth in the process. The dust which the summer has left, as well as the fly specks, will respond quickly and the frame will be much refreshed.—New York Sun.



Peach Mango—Put them in weak salt water one day and night, then carefully remove the stone and fill with mustard seed, brown and white, and celery seed; pour boiling vinegar over. To sweeten add one and a half pounds of sugar to a gallon of vinegar.

Baked Pears—Cut out the blossom end of the pear with a sharp pen-knife. Put in a large pudding dish and pour a cupful of hot water over them, covering closely. Place in a hot oven and steam until tender. After taking from oven pour the juice over them several times while cooling, then place on ice until ready for use. Place carefully in glass dish and serve with powdered sugar and whipped cream.

Chocolate Cream Cake—Make a batter as for cup cake, using any good recipe. Put two-thirds on two layer-cake tins, and to the remaining third add enough melted or grated chocolate to give it a rich golden-brown color. It takes about an ounce—one of the little blocks marked off on the cake of chocolate. Bake, put together with the cream filling given below, placing the chocolate layer between the other two; ice the top and sides with chocolate caramel frosting, the recipe for which is also given below. A delicious cake.

Cinnamon Buns—Cream one tablespoonful of butter, one of lard, and one-half a teaspoonful of salt, add this to two cups of flour sifted with two teaspoons of baking powder and one of sugar. When thoroughly mixed add one cup of sweet milk, roll out one-half inch thick, spread with melted butter, sprinkle over this two tablespoonfuls of sugar and one teaspoon of cinnamon, mixed. Spread over this one-half cup of dried currants, roll up, cut in slices one inch thick and bake in a buttered tin about 25 minutes. Wash over when done with white of egg and sugar.

Montana Now Said to Be Sliding.
Is Montana creeping into Idaho and Wyoming? There is some evidence on the affirmative side of the question, but not enough to cause alarm in any of the three States. Still, for several years it has been known that there is some trouble with Montana's foundations, which are slipping, and leaving evidence of the fact on the surface of the ground.

Railway companies have found quite plain and strange twists in the alignment of their roads, and civil engineers have found "bench marks" changing their elevations in a confusing manner. Quite recently these reasonably suspected movements have become apparent, and left large cracks in the earth at several points in the city of Butte, extending for a number of feet, and being in extreme cases twelve inches wide. The effect of this is not only to throw railways out of line, but to cause much more serious damage to gas pipes and water mains.

Geologists say that nothing serious is threatened, and that parts of Montana are only doing in a more marked manner what is going on all over our restless world.

How to Catch the Polar Bear.

I listened attentively the other night to a gentleman who gave me a great deal of valuable information concerning these interesting regions. He knew I was a tenderfoot and a newspaper reporter, and felt at liberty therefore to talk freely, so I got a lot of yarns about polar bears and walrus and other creatures, large and small, which are not related in natural histories. I believe it was one of the advisers of Alice in Wonderland who suggested that the best way to catch a rabbit is to get behind a stump and make a noise like a carrot, and I learned with great satisfaction that the easiest way to catch a polar bear is to hide behind an iceberg and make a noise like the aurora borealis. Polar bears are very tame, and, like newspaper reporters and some other people, are gifted with inquiring minds. When a stranger comes out on the ice they greet him cordially and show a justifiable curiosity as to his business and intentions, which causes them to fall an easy prey to the parlor rug trust.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Printing Done Here For England.

According to a correspondent, a representative of a provincial printing firm called on a London firm which distributed circulars by the million. He was asked to quote for a circular from which the printer's name had been removed. An estimate was prepared on the basis of a small turnover profit, which, considering that the works were situated in a rural district forty miles from London, on a rental which, in the city, would not pay the ground rent, was much below what would be possible for a London house. Indeed, the representative was confident of obtaining an order, but was thoroughly nonplussed when told the price quoted was considerably above that now paid. The firm's printing was done in the United States, the orders being given in such quantities as to insure the lowest freight charges, and after adding the latter, including delivery to the door, the cost turned out to be considerably below that of the lowest estimate yet received from any British firm.—London News.

Experimenting on Animal Minds.

One of the easiest "obstacle" problems is that of drawing some object which the animal wishes for through a set of bars or wires. This is a common difficulty in the daily life of captive animals, and one in which it would be quite easy to note their respective shifts and devices. The cleverest mode of coping with a difficulty somewhat of this nature now exhibited by any animal in London is the way in which the large African elephant at the Zoo restores to his would-be entertainers all the biscuits, whole or broken, which strike the bars and fall alike out of his reach and theirs in the space between the barrier and his cage. He points his trunk straight at the biscuits and blows them hard along the floor to the feet of the persons who have thrown them. He clearly knows what he is doing, because if the biscuit does not travel well he gives it a harder blow.—The Spectator.

New Yorkers consume one ton of frog legs a day.

Wrenched Foot and Ankle Cured by St. Jacobs Oil.

GENTLEMEN—A short time ago I severely wrenched my foot and ankle. The injury was very painful, and the consequent inconvenience (being obliged to keep to business) was very trying. A friend recommended St. Jacobs Oil, and I take great pleasure in informing you that one application was sufficient to effect a complete cure. To a busy man so simple and effective a remedy is invaluable, and I shall lose no opportunity of suggesting the use of St. Jacobs Oil. Yours truly, Henry J. Doirs, Manager, The Cycles Co., London, England.

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