

# FARM AND GARDEN

## TOBACCO BREEDING.

### Scientific Method of Obtaining Uniformity of Strain.

Visitors to the United States department of agriculture station in Connecticut last season were struck with the marvelous results obtained in breeding for uniformity of strains. The work is to be further carried on. The above illustrates a choice plant with the seed pod bagged. Seed saved under bag in this manner is larger, heavier and less



CHOICE TOBACCO PLANT.

susceptible to disease than when saved in the ordinary manner. The main value of the process is to prevent accidental cross fertilization between poor and good plants through the agency of bees and other insects. Results are so far notable. — New England Homestead.

### Peach Growing in New Jersey.

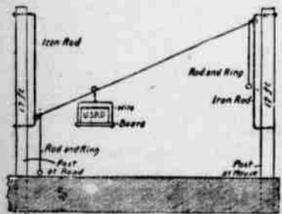
I do not believe there is a section in south Jersey that would not grow peaches, but ordinarily good, loamy soils are capable of producing a large tree, with the capacity for giving a large quantity of first class fruit. This character of soil makes handsome returns. While our deep sandy soils—the soil that is of little value for the staple crops—will produce fruit, in smaller quantities to be sure, of the highest eating and selling qualities—fruit that will compare favorably in size, flavor and color with any mountain fruit—I wish to emphasize the fact that these sandy, semibarren tracts of south Jersey sand can be turned into profitable investments through the agency of the peach. If the trees are sufficiently fed, the natural deficiency of plant food being furnished, the results are most gratifying. — Joseph Barton.

### Must Depend on Farmers.

We must depend on the farmer who will raise at least a few horses each year in connection with other lines of live stock production and grain growing for our supply of horses. The small farmer who does not have land enough to keep mares for breeding purposes exclusively should aim to use mares for work purposes and breed them. This will cause some inconvenience in getting the farm work done, but more healthy, normal colts are produced in this way than when the mares are allowed to run idle. If the mares are worked they will not suffer from lack of exercise, and the foal is more apt to be grown properly the first summer.

### Farm Mail Delivery.

The engraving shows a traveling mail box plan that, according to a writer in the Ohio Farmer, can be operated at any distance, from a few rods to 130 rods. The greater the distance the coarser the wire must be and the tighter it must be stretched. No. 9 wire will serve for 130 rods. The two posts must be well braced, so that the



TRAVELING MAIL BOX.

tops will not be drawn together and the wire allowed to sag. Whenever the wire loosens the brace must be tightened. If the distance traveled is short and no loads are to pass under the wire the posts need not be so high. After the mail man has put the mail into the box he pushes that end up by means of the iron rod. The side at the house having been lowered, there will be enough fall to make the box travel rapidly.

### Good Fairs.

With the good crops, good season and good demand for live stock and farm products generally, it is no wonder that the fairs throughout the country are having the most successful exhibitions in many years. The state fairs which have been held so far have been record breakers in every way, and the smaller fairs reported have all been successful. It is gratifying to know this, as fairs are the product of the agricultural classes, and they show that when the farmers have favorable conditions they can do things as well as any other class of business men. — National Stockman and Farmer.

## MILL FEEDS.

### Profitable Use in Changing From Grass to Dry Food.

Increasing attention is being given by intelligent farmers and stock keepers everywhere to the use of concentrated feeds, mill stuffs and similar substances. This is so because such attention almost invariably yields a handsome return. The old haphazard methods of feeding are giving way to more careful, more practical and therefore more scientific methods. It is becoming more common to raise clover, alfalfa, pea vine, horse bean or cowpea hay, so as to have dry fodder or roughage rich in protein to supplement the ordinary hay and grain fodder which are relatively poor in protein, but rich in starch and woody fiber.

Grains, mill stuffs and ground feeds are also being employed with more intelligence and greater profit than in former years. Where the protein containing hays above mentioned are not grown it is entirely practicable to balance up the rations of ordinary hay, corn fodder, corn grain, etc., by feeding suitable proportions of any of the high grade concentrates, such as old or new process linseed meal, cottonseed meal, gluten feed, gluten meal, etc. Of course in beginning to feed these concentrates it is important to start with a relatively small quantity per cow per day and increase the allowance as the creature's condition and product warrant. Special care is necessary in this matter at this season and when the cows change from grass or green feed to the dry feed of winter.

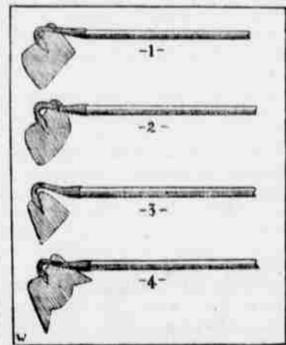
One of the safest mixtures to use at this critical period is corn, oats and barley, ground and mixed in proper proportions.

When these grains are finely ground, concludes American Agriculturist, and the resulting feed is kiln dried the feed seems to be more digestible and is certainly very appetizing.

## GARDEN HOES.

### Several Sorts of Hoes Convenient For Various Purposes.

For general use in the garden I like a business hoe, one that is wide, so as to cut over a large surface or move a good lot of soil at each stroke, and sharp, so as to cut deep and easy. A good file ought to be kept near at hand. But we also want hoes that can be used in weeding and especially in weeding onions grown by the transplanting method. They stand several inches apart and will admit of working



HOES IN VARIETY.

(1. Light and sharp; 2. worn out hoe cut down for weeds; 3. onion hoe; 4. new style.)

among them with a narrow bladed hoe. I used to take an old, well worn hoe, one practically past its usefulness, and cut the blade down at both sides, so as to leave it from corner to corner only two or two and one-half inches wide, and the corners themselves at an acute angle, says a writer in Farm and Fireside. As to the new style hoe, it is surely sharp and I believe of just the right form to be serviceable for use as a weeder in onions and other close planted stuff. In short, with hoes of the right kind it seems to be not much of a curse to be "the man with the hoe."

### Rhubarb May Be Divided.

If rhubarb is to be divided it should be done in the autumn and not left to the spring, when the plants should be doing their best work. Cut so each bud will have a good piece of root, and set with manure below the soil on which the root rests and manure above the soil covering it, the rain and snow of winter will do the rest. Later, if early outdoor stalks are wanted from established roots, a tall box or barrel should be put over each root with straw over the plant and a good wall of well rotted manure inside the inclosure. There will probably be a good growth of tender stalks in the early spring.

### Winter Turnips.

Good mellow ground is best to use for turnips, but almost any kind will do. Plow up a piece of oats stubble or pull your onions and cultivate that up. Be sure your ground is harrowed down well. Select a good winter variety of turnip seed. I think the winter purple top the best. Mix a ten cent package of seed in a half gallon of dry ashes and sow the whole broadcast over the ground, harrow in lightly, and if there are good fall rains you are assured of a good crop of turnips. — Missourian.

### The Mealy Wheat.

From experience and rather wise observation, a writer in an exchange thinks it may be affirmed that the much praised mealy wheat is likely to succeed on sandy clay or loam soil of some elevation, but that on bottom land and rich black loams some more universally acclimated variety is more likely to prove a success.

## DRAGGING THE ROAD

### A MISSOURI FARMER'S DEVICE FOR IMPROVING THE HIGHWAYS.

#### How D. Ward King Invented His Road Drag—Highways Put in Excellent Condition and Maintained at Small Cost by the Plan.

Probably no invention for road improvement has been talked about and written about as much as the King road drag, and it has aroused great interest among the farmers throughout the country. In the following article from Farming will be found some new and interesting facts about this method of improving country highways at small cost:

Ten years ago a Missouri farmer who had grown tired of wading through a "slough of despond" every spring when the roads were soft, and who had seen his neighbors lose time, money and patience when their wagons were hub deep in the mire or their horses tugging and straining in their harness to get a half load to market, decided that there must be some remedy for this condition. One day in thinking it over he made the astonishing discovery that what made the roads muddy was mud, and that if the road was worked into such a shape that the water would drain off instead of soaking into the ground after every rain the roads would cease to be muddy.

He rigged up a homemade contrivance out of an old wooden pump stock that the frost had spoiled and an oak post. By means of three pieces of fence board he nailed these together so that they were held parallel to each other. Then he made a rough plank platform on which to stand and by means of wire hitched his team to this clumsy affair at such a point that it would drag along over the road with a slant of about forty-five degrees.

He began with the road that ran in front of his own farm. When it was at its worst he drove up and down from his own front gate to that of his nearest neighbor. Like a huge mason's trowel smoothing off mortar, it scraped along, cutting down the inequalities and rough places and filling up the wagon ruts. He kept at it, and, after a number of draggings, in place of the flat basin that had served as a water course for every storm to settle in, he had built up a road with a crown and surface that was smooth enough to shed water "like a duck's back." In



TWO PHOTOGRAPHS, SHOWING A ROAD BEFORE AND AFTER BEING DRAGGED.

short, he simply demonstrated the soundness of his major premise. "If I can get rid of the mud the roads will cease to be muddy." The device he made he called a "split log road drag." The man who had by such simple means worked such wonders with his road is D. Ward King of Maitland, Mo.

Even after having perfected the road drag the reason that it worked this wonder was not entirely clear to its inventor until he received inspiration from observing a hog wallow. He says: "One day I noticed that water was standing in one of these wallows long after the ground all about it had become dry. Probably I had many times before observed this fact, but not until now had it occurred to me to inquire into its cause. Examining the edges of the wallow, I was impressed with the fact that it was almost as hard as a piece of earthenware. Clearly this was because the wallowing of the hogs had mixed or 'puddled' the earth and the water together, forming a kind of cement which dried into a hard and practically waterproof surface."

The cost of making and operating this drag is so small and the idea that is embodied in it is so simple that the wonder of it is that its application has not already become universal. Roads can be worked up into an excellent condition and maintained at a cost of from \$3 to \$10 a mile. The dragging accomplishes a number of useful things. The most important one is that by giving it a smooth surface and a rounded shape it makes it possible for the road to shed water instead of absorbing it. Then, too, it kills the weeds and takes out the bumps at the sides of the culverts. It also destroys the old trail and thus prevents deep ruts being formed. The time to use the drag and the manner of its use are important. Until a road has been worked into some sort of shape the first dragging should be done when it is very wet or when it is the red on top during the early spring. After that the time to drag is after a rainstorm or wet spell when it begins to dry out.

## THE GRANGE

Conducted by J. W. DARROW, Chatham, N. Y., Press Correspondent New York State Grange

### STATE GRANGE OFFICERS.

#### Proposed Election Change Advocated by a State Minister.

The master of one of the state granges in the west believes the present method of electing state grange officers should be modified. He recommends that each grange send to the state secretary on or before the 1st day of March, prior to the election of officers, the names of such Patrons as it would like to have placed in nomination for representative office of the state grange. He would then have the secretary mail within ten days to the secretary of the subordinate granges names of all Patrons so nominated and call for a vote to be taken thereon by ballot, the result of such ballot to be certified by the secretary and secretary of the subordinate grange and sent to the secretary or state master on or before May 15. The persons who receive a majority of all votes so cast for the different offices shall be the only person placed in nomination for state office at the biennial election, and should no one person receive a majority of all votes cast then the names of the three highest shall be the only candidates for such office before the state grange.

We do not see wherein this plan is any particular improvement over the present method. The delegates from each Pomona grange—that is, each county—can ascertain the sentiment within the granges of their county relative to candidates which they may care to nominate and can make known that sentiment in the state grange meeting some time prior to the election of officers at the time of the state meeting. The object sought under this new proposition is to give the membership at large a direct voice in the election, but the membership has its voice when it elects its delegates, and they are supposed to represent the membership in that county. We elect members of the state legislature, and they elect the officers of the legislature. The people do not. This is precisely the condition of things under the present method of electing state grange officers.

### DENATURED ALCOHOL.

#### The New Law Applicable Only to Alcohol After Placed in Bond.

A rather interesting question has arisen down in Maine with reference to the manufacture of alcohol for industrial purposes. Concerning the provisions of the bill which became a law at the last session of congress and takes effect Jan. 1 next, one of the able lawyers of the state of Maine, who is a prohibition state, argues that no person can manufacture alcohol under this law in that state. The argument is this—that the so called free alcohol act takes no cognizance of alcohol until it is in bond, and its manufacture and placing in bond must comply with the law already existing and be governed by the same conditions. Not until after the alcohol has been completely manufactured and placed in the United States warehouses can the free alcohol bill be invoked.

Some farmers have been led to believe that under this law they could erect distilleries on their farms and turn their various products into alcohol, but even if they could do this in other states not under prohibition law, they could not do this where such a law is in force. The purpose for which it is distilled makes no difference. It is distilled as alcohol and of such proof as to be a strongly intoxicating liquor. When placed in bond it is in the custody of state or court officers. The owner has the option of selling it in the bonded warehouses subject to the tax or to pay the tax on a barrel or more at a time and withdraw it from bond or to withdraw it from bond denatured free of tax. As the grange was foremost in the fight in securing its manufacture in prohibition states it is a matter of considerable interest. —Country Gentleman.

### CONTESTS FOR MEMBERS.

#### Some Practical Suggestions Which Will Obviate Difficulties.

C. S. Bartlett, a lecturer in one of Michigan's subordinate granges, offers some very sensible suggestions on the conduct of the grange contests to secure new members.

Let the grange appoint a committee to prepare a schedule of points and rules to govern the members in the work. Let the committee act and report. Change or amend the plan as you wish so as to accomplish the object sought. Then select from your number two captains and an umpire, who should, first of all, be honest and also have the interest of the grange at heart and understand its objects. Let the captains choose sides, taking pains to have all the members of any family chosen on the same side, or, if any members are so associated that they can do better work together, select accordingly, all the time aiming toward harmony and perfect work. Then take hold and go in and win.

### A Grange Contest.

Over 600 have entered the corn contest inaugurated by the Michigan state grange. Prizes consisting of a registered Jersey calf, a Berkshire pig and a pair of golden Wyandotte chickens are offered.

Twenty-five new granges have been organized in Pennsylvania since the state grange session four months ago, one of them having a charter membership of 110.

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### CHARTER NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the governor of Pennsylvania on Friday, November 8th, 1906, by John W. Dawson, H. Alex. Stutz and W. H. Moore, under the act of Assembly, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved April 27th, 1904, and the supplements thereto, for the charter of an intended corporation to be called the Reynoldsville Amusement Company, the character and object of which is creating and maintaining an Opera House and a place of entertainment and amusement, and for these purposes to have, use, and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges of said act of assembly and supplements thereto.



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