

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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THE HOLSTEIN CATTLE.

Secretary F. L. Houghton of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America has lately put in pamphlet form a very interesting historical and informational sketch of this most valuable type of dairy cattle, in which are set forth a number of the merits of the breed. The Holsteins are supposed to have originated in Holland, where they have been bred for years as dairy cattle. The moist lowlands of Holland produce luxuriant feed and, coupled with the exceptional care which the breed has had for generations, have produced a breed of exceptional size, hardiness and productive capacity. Holstein blood has been used in the building up of such breeds as the Ayrshire and Shorthorn, while offshoots of the breed appear in many other countries. The size of the breed is large, the cows weighing, when properly matured, close to 1,400 pounds and giving from 8,000 to 12,000 pounds of milk and from 300 to 550 pounds of butter. Tests which have been made of the comparative yield of different dairy breeds give the average daily yield of butter fat for Holsteins at 1.60 pounds, 1.42 for Guernseys and Ayrshires and 1.36 pounds for Jerseys.

In daily milk yield the Holstein breed stands at the head with 48.9 pounds, Guernsey 28.9 pounds, Ayrshire 27.7 pounds and the Jersey 24.5 pounds. In yearly milk yield the Holstein breed occupies the first place, Pletertje H. having yielded 30,318 pounds, Princess of Wayne 29,068 pounds and Clothilde 26,021 pounds. The largest authenticated butter yield of a single cow of any dairy breed was made by the Holstein cow Colantha IV's Joanna, her record being 268.26 pounds of butter fat during a period of twelve consecutive months, equivalent to 1,173 pounds of butter on an 85 per cent basis. While the quality of Holstein milk is not equal to that of the smaller breeds, the average is about 3 1/2 per cent butter fat. While the breed does not rank with the Hereford or Angus in a block test, the calves are large at birth, fatten rapidly and make excellent veal. Holsteins combine with large size, vigorous constitutions, healthy appetites and a hardiness and vigor which render them relatively free from disease. Holstein-Friesian admirers have much to boast of in the achievements of this useful breed, which occupies a leading place in the leading dairy sections of the country.

TOUGH IN PRACTICE.

Many orchardists and nurserymen of experience still recommend the planting of orchard trees about twice as thick as the final stand desired for the reason that in the first few years the trees will be so small that they will be none too thick, while later, when they begin to touch limbs, every other tree may be cut out. This plan may be all right, but it works out better on paper than it does in practice, the average orchard owner not having the heart to lay an ax at the root of thirty trees which are possibly better than those adjoining, but destined to be spared. The other alternative is to set the trees as close as one wishes them to stand permanently and then give them the care which will enable them to withstand the attacks of their many enemies. To ascertain the number of square feet which fruit trees of different kinds should have it is well to take a note of the area actually covered by mature trees of the variety to be planted. In addition to this, room should be allowed between every other row for the passage of teams in spraying and harvesting operations. The trees should be set closer together in the rows running north and south in order that they may have the protection from the midwinter sun.

A FUTURE ASSET.

There is probably no single asset which will be more valuable to farm owners twenty-five or thirty years hence than wood lots of useful varieties of trees which have been carefully set out and intelligently cared for. To realize in a measure what these will be at the end of the time mentioned one has but to multiply by five or ten acres the small wood lots of score-year-old trees which already surround so many farm homesteads. It can be counted on as quite sure that just so long as big money is to be made from a rapid though injudicious cutting of the forest areas of the country and no measures are taken to prevent such destruction the process is going to be continued until there is nothing left to cut. This means inevitably that when such time comes, and it is not far away, there will be a high premium on all timber standing and of most any kind, as in those days wood will be wood. True, the setting out of such a wood lot is purchase a labor and service for a future generation, but so is much service that is the most worth while.

The use of a silo is expedient on land that is worth \$50 an acre and an absolute necessity on that which is valued at \$100 an acre.

Turning cattle on to pastures too early in the spring is much like overworking a young horse, an injustice being inflicted that is not righted for a considerable length of time.

In distributing the homemade fertilizers this spring keep the orchard in mind unless it is a hopeless case and has already arrived at the calf pasture stage. The orchard that is growing crops needs refreshing, just as does the man who does a day's work.

Whenever possible it is an excellent idea to give both fruits and vegetables a change of ground, this not only from the standpoint of best keeping up the soil fertility, but also because of a less likelihood of damage from insect and fungus pests where such rotation is observed.

Where one is planning to seed out with clover there is quite an advantage for the clover if an early variety of oats are used, as the crop can be removed from ten days to two weeks earlier, thus giving the clover this much additional time in which to get a start and outdo the weeds.

Fortunately for the husbandman this season, clover seed is plentiful and of exceptionally good quality, which will mean less adulteration with foul seeds, because the incentive will be less. Prices are just about half what they were last year, ranging from \$6 to \$7.50, and even at these figures the extra quality is worth the extra price.

In view of the length of life of the average market hog, usually less than two years, the question of freeing swine from tuberculosis would seem to follow as a natural course with the eradication of it from the cattle which the pigs follow. Little pigs are considered free from tubercular taint at birth, and if they are not kept under conditions where infection is possible they will not contract the disease.

A reader of these notes inquires what kind of soil is the best for growing a crop of onions. Briefly, one may answer by saying that it should be rich, and the mellow the better. From the standpoint of ease in cultivation as well as cleanliness of the crop at harvest time, a sandy loam is preferable. Freedom from weed seed is also a consideration that will add much to the satisfaction as well as the economy of handling the crop.

Luther Burbank of Santa Rosa, Cal., who is known over the country as the plant wizard, has made arrangements whereby his creations in the floral, fruit and vegetable world are to be capitalized and the same introduced on a large scale. Mr. Burbank is the foremost living specialist in his line, and chief among his creations are the well known Burbank potato, several varieties of stoneless prunes and plums, various new fruits, flowers, grasses, grains and vegetables. Perhaps the most important of his recent creations is the spineless cactus, which is a succulent and nutritious food for stock and bids fair to transform and make habitable many desert sections of the far west.

Every well regulated farm where things are done decently and in order should have its garden. In a good many instances the garden that is already laid out may be given a little more attention than it usually receives. If the garden stuff is planted in long rows and far enough apart to permit of cultivation with a double shovel plow the care which it will require will not be much. If there are active boys and girls in the home their aid should be enlisted along the line of a little work with hand and hoe. Their desire to have nice fresh fruit and vegetables for the table should furnish all the incentive that would be needed. A garden properly kept will mean a better as well as a more economical living for the family.

Among a number of remedies which have proved successful for the curing of scours in calves the following is recommended by Professor G. C. Humphrey of the University of Wisconsin experiment station. As soon as symptoms appear two to four tablespoonfuls of castor oil are mixed with half a pint of milk and given to the calf. This is followed in four to six hours by a teaspoonful of a mixture of one part salol and two parts subnitrate of bismuth, which may be given in half a pint of milk or the powder placed on the tongue and washed down with a small quantity of milk. The salol and subnitrate of bismuth may be secured of any druggist and mixed in proper proportions at the time of purchase, so that it will be ready for use when needed.

The big blizzard which raged over the north central states the latter part of January probably wrought greater havoc with windmills of the territory in question than any storm which ever visited it. In some counties in the states more than a hundred windmills were bowled over. In one authentic case that was reported the tower of the mill, being well braced, stood firm, but the steel fans in the upper half of the wheel were bent by the force of the wind at right angles to those in the lower half. An interesting general result of the damage done by the storm is that the demand for gasoline engines has been given a great impetus, many farmers desiring to get some form of power for pumping and other light work which would not be put out of commission by winter or summer storms or be useless when there was no wind blowing.

The formalin treatment for scab in potatoes will not prove entirely effective if the seed is planted in soil which has produced scabby potatoes in immediately preceding years, since the treatment kills the germ life on the seed potatoes only and not that in the soil.

While the grasses which are grown under the semi-arid conditions to be found in several of the western states are highly nutritious, it seems difficult to credit a test made by the Illinois experiment station in which a specimen of grass sent from Wyoming was found to contain in nutrient properties eight times as much as the same amount of Illinois grass.

The American farmer sometimes grows about his taxes, but he is fortunate indeed compared with the Italian farmer, who, besides bearing a heavy burden of taxes imposed by the government, is compelled to bear still further exactions to the municipality in which he markets any of his produce. The marvel is that he is able to keep body and soul together under such conditions.

Before buying land in sections where phenomenal yields of vegetables are claimed it is usually a safe idea for the prospective purchaser to learn the freight rates to possible markets or, what comes to the same thing, the prices which can be got for produce at a local station. There is no consolation and mighty little profit in raising any kind of stuff if it will not pay its way to market and leave a fair margin besides.

That seeding with a drill is superior to the old method of broadcast seeding has been given definite proof in experiments which have been conducted by several state experiment stations. At the Illinois station eighteen tests showed an average gain in yield of seven bushels per acre as a result of using the drill, while at the Iowa station a gain of nine bushels per acre was shown. Another point in favor of the drill is that it results in a saving of seed varying from 15 to 25 per cent.

The reliability of any individual or firm which advertises a sure cure for all kinds of lumpy jaw may be seriously called in question. In a majority of cases this loathsome appearance is merely the outward index of a diseased physical system, in which case the application of caustics or dope externally would be no more effective than a piece of court plaster would for a fever sore or erysipelas. While now and then a lumpy jaw animal will pass inspection, the majority are condemned as food and go to the rendering tank.

When an acre of orchard produces 300 bushels of apples there is removed from the soil as much fertility as would be required to produce a twenty bushel crop of wheat. While the chief fertilizing elements, phosphorus, nitrogen and oxygen, may be returned to the land in the shape of commercial fertilizers, it is most economically done by the application of barnyard manure, which should be scattered generously, but not too close to the trunks of the trees, as the feeding rootlets lie near the surface and are usually more than four feet away.

If the large sum of money that is annually squandered in a farcical distribution of vegetable and flower seeds by congressmen were spent intelligently in a more adequate protection of our useful birds, the "dear constituency," the folks out in the vineyards, orchards, grain, corn and alfalfa fields of the country, would be benefited immeasurably more than they ever can be by a continuation of this insane practice. Some congressman has an opportunity to make a shining mark for himself if he can succeed in effecting the above reform.

An extensive Ohio feeder who has fed hundreds of cattle for the market during the past eight years speaks in highest terms of silage as an effective and economical ration in fitting his steers for market. His daily ration on full feed is fifty pounds of silage and five pounds of cottonseed meal, with what hay the cattle want besides. He estimates the yield of an acre of corn which would go fifty bushels to the acre at ten tons when shredded and eight tons of silage when taken from the silo as a cured product. He places the value of the silage, exclusive of the grain it contains, at two-fifths of the whole. Evidence has been abundant for several years that silage makes an ideal ration for the dairy cow. It is a growing conviction that it is equally good for the steer in the feed lot.

One farmer we have in mind decided he wanted to name his farmstead and had the name neatly painted on a sign over the driveway to the house, with his name just below. A short time afterward he was driving toward his place from a direction in which he did not usually approach it, and it struck him that there was something out of keeping with the signboard he had put up and some old castoff machinery that in a busy hour had been left in a corner of the wood lot near the garden. He scratched his head and concluded that an easy solution of the inconsistency was the removal of the rubbish to the back yard. This is a simple illustration of the value of having a high ideal. He feels better, and so do the folks who drive by that road and see his neat premises.

J. H. Young

EARTHQUAKES OF OLD

Strange Ideas of the Ancients as to Their Causes.

WARNING SIGNS OF SHOCKS.

Pliny Says They Were Shown in the Air, Clouds and Water and by Animals—The Two Mountains That Crashed Together and Then Receded.

If we search history to find to what causes the ancients attributed earthquakes we find that the Babylonians believed that all occurrences of the kind were due to the influence of the stars, especially of the three to which they ascribed thunder—namely, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars. The seers of the day believed that these disturbances were caused by the stars moving with the sun or being in conjunction with it, more particularly when the stars were in the quartile aspect.

Pliny chronicles the report concerning one Anaximander, a Milesian, who warned the Laedaemonians to beware of their city and houses. And legend has it that the city was soon afterward destroyed.

Pliny, who wrote his natural history in A. D. 77, conceived that earthquakes were caused by the winds, as "the earth never trembles except when the sea is quite calm and when the heavens are so tranquil that the birds cannot maintain their flight, all the air which should support them being withdrawn. Nor does it ever happen until after great winds, the gust being pent up, as it were, in the fissures and concealed hollows."

Many scientists have observed that all great convulsions of nature are likely to be preceded by calms; also that birds and animals generally exhibit certain presentiments of the event, facts which the wise men of ancient days noted and accounted for in their different ways.

Pliny says: "When an earthquake occurs there is often sound without any motion. When there is motion it is tremulous and vibratory. The clefts of the earth sometimes remain, displaying what has been swallowed up, sometimes concealing it, the mouth being closed and the soil brought over it, the city being, as it were, engulfed, devoured. Maritime districts are more especially subject to shocks. Nor are mountainous districts exempt. I have found the Alps and the Apennines frequently shaken by them. The shocks happen more frequently in the autumn and the spring. They also happen more frequently in the night than in the day. The greatest shocks are in the morning and the evening, but they often take place at daybreak. They also take place during eclipses of the moon, because at that time storms are lulled. They are most frequent when great heat succeeds to showers or showers succeed to great heat."

Pliny further says: "There is no doubt that earthquakes are felt by persons on shipboard. There are many signs for the mariner beforehand, however. The timbers of the vessel creak. The birds that settle on the vessel are not without their alarms. There is also a sign in the heavens, for when a shock is near at hand, either in the daytime or a little after sunset, a cloud is stretched out in the clear sky like a long, thin line. The water in wells is more turbid than usual, and it emits a disagreeable odor."

In describing the various kinds of shocks and expanding on his investigations on the subject Pliny remarks that "arched buildings are the safest; also the angles of walls and walls made of bricks suffer least. The earth movement that resembles the rolling of waves is the most dangerous, or when the motion is impelled in one direction. The tremors cease when the vapors have burst forth, but if there be no escape of vapor of any kind then the tremors may continue for forty days. They have been known to continue for two years."

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"prodigy of the earth" as having occurred in the district of Mutina during the consulship of Lucius Martius and Sextus Julius, when "two mountains rushed together, falling upon each other with a very loud crash and then receding, while in the daytime smoke and vapor issued from them." Pliny says the wonder was witnessed by "a great crowd of Roman knights and travelers along the Aemilian way."

The same writer says: "The greatest earthquake which occurred in our memory was in the reign of Tiberius, by which twelve cities of Asia were laid prostrate in one night. During the Punic war we had accounts of fifty-seven earthquakes in one year. Nor is it an evil merely consisting in the danger which is produced by the motion; it is an equal or greater evil when it is considered as a prodigy. The city of Rome never experienced a shock that was not the forerunner of some great calamity."

Pliny, of course, takes a good many of his accounts from Aristotle, but his references to events are confirmed by other writers. Herodotus describes a great disturbance in his day, when "the sea came beyond Memphis, as far as the mountains of Ethiopia, and also from the plains of Arabia. The sea also surrounded Ilum and the whole of Teuthrania and covered the plain through which the Meander flows." Pliny makes actual mention of one of the Aeolian islands having "emerged from the sea." It was a matter of common belief among the scientists of Pliny's day that Sicily was torn from Italy by such a disturbance.—New York World.

A Queen's Will.
Queen Adelaide, the wife of William IV., was a woman of great piety and exceptional humility, which was shown in the directions for her funeral.

"I die in all humility," she wrote, "knowing well we are all alike before the throne of God, and I request, therefore, that my mortal remains be conveyed to the grave without any pomp or ceremony. They are to be moved to St. George's chapel, Windsor, where I request to have a quiet funeral."

"I particularly desire not to be laid out in state, and the funeral to take place by daylight; no procession, the coffin to be carried by sailors to the chapel. I die in peace and wish to be carried to the tomb in peace and free from the vanities and pomp of this world."—London Home Notes.

Ancient Egyptian Stones.
Stones were formed into the shapes of beetles by the ancient Egyptians. They regarded the beetle as an emblem of immortality, and hence it was the most popular of all forms of ornament. Counterfeit beetles of common stones were commonly buried with dead persons, and it was customary to engrave upon them the expression of wishes for future repose and happiness, dedications of the soul to God and various hieroglyphs. One of the latter was a hawk with a human head, symbolizing resurrection. Another, the vulture, meant maternity. A goose was the son of a king.

The Proper Instinct.
"Birds seem to have the proper instincts for a married man."
"You mean that he can tell a graceful lie, has developed a keen sense of cunning and has learned to conceal his real income from his wife."
"Yes, and also to know that she really knows just how he is deceiving her."—New York Herald.

Not Sure of It.
She—They say that there is a fool in every family. Do you believe that?
He—Er—well, I hardly like to say. I'm the only member of my family—

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