

The Farm.

Millets for Fodder.

In years past I have often-asked myself, when seeing thrifty specimens of barnyard grass growing about the premises, whether it might not pay to raise for fodder purposes. The introduction of crus-galli with it has solved the great-growth and sweet joint problem most decidedly in the affirmative. As seed crops, these millets are worthy of serious consideration, especially crus-galli, which has yielded ninety bushels of seed to the acre. On strong and rather moist land, crus-galli has out-cropped, ton for ton, our Northern varieties of field corn, growing side by side, yielding over twenty tons of green fodder to the acre. All the varieties have proved to be excellent for ensilage, and are greedily eaten by cows. In nourishing elements, they rank a little inferior to corn; but as green fodder, they are often preferred by cows to cornstalks or green grass. When they have been cured, they have made excellent hay; but I consider the size of, and quantity of sap in the stalks as hardly favorable for this use.—[J. J. H. Gregory of Essex County, Mass., in Country Gentleman.

Sugar-Beets as Stock Food.

Professor Shaw of the Minnesota University advises all farmers to try a sugar beet, not so much in the hope of the wealth from the sugar for which the enthusiasts are looking as for knowledge they will gain of the value of the roots as food for his stock. "The farmer who grows them will find he may send them to a factory in his own yards with considerable profit."

The result of this agitation, he says, will be a knowledge of how to grow field roots, their value as food for stock and their service to the crops that follow in the improved cultivation given the land they occupy.

"Any farmer" he says, "who has grown and fed sugar beets to milk cows or other stock will never again willingly be without roots, and he will henceforth grow them, not sugar beets only, but other more cheaply produced roots, that are better relatively as to cost. A small patch devoted to field roots produces a large amount of food. Last summer the University farm grew, all told, three-fourths of an acre of mangels and carrots which gave an abundant supply for almost 100 sheep and lambs all winter. Now, April 24, we are still feeding them freely, and anyone who sees the lambs will not require further argument to convince him of the value of field roots."

Foundation of Dairying.

What has destroyed the dairyman's opportunities is that he directs his work in the wrong direction. He is constantly building a structure without giving a thought to the solidity of the foundation. The success of all enterprises is to begin right and take time for doing the work properly. The foundation of dairying is the cow. The dairyman has fully understood the value of improved appliances to be used in dairying, and is not slow in the acceptance of every tool or implement that saves labor, but he has refused to breed his cows, going on the market to buy them in order to replace those that have dried off with others that are fresh in milk, and in so doing he has wantonly sacrificed all that has been done in his interest by breeders, and made himself poorer by using animals that could not possibly afford him a profit under any circumstances. He estimates the cost of raising the calf, and buys his cows because he will not wait for the calf to mature, but gives no consideration to the value of the calf when it may become a cow and pay him fourfold for his investment. It is the raising of better cows, those of breeds which will insure greater capacity of production, that is at the found-

ation of successful dairying, for with the best animals to be used the farmer can convert his products into milk and butter at less cost and meet the market prices well fortified against the losses he now frequently endures by using inferior stock.—[Philadelphia Record.

Feeding Value of Whiteweed.

The ox-eye daisy infests many square miles of the best mowings in the eastern and middle states, and is rapidly marching west. If cut early, before the bulk of the daisies are in bloom, such grass and daisies make a hay that is closely eaten by stock, but if the daisies are matured or woody, cattle, and especially cows, will refuse much of the hay. Analysis shows that 100 pounds of air-dry whiteweed cut early contain of water about 10 pounds, ash 6 1/4 pounds, protein or nitrogenous matter 7 3/4 pounds, sugar, starch, and gum 42 pounds, woody matter or fibre, 30 pounds, fat 3 1/2 pounds. This is very similar to the composition of good hay from redtop grass, the latter containing a little more protein and starch but less fibre and fat. No data has been recorded to show whether the daisy hay is as digestible as good grass hay, but it is not probable.—[American Agriculturist.

Quiet Cows and Butter Fat.

A very interesting problem has presented itself for solution in the dairy department of the Minnesota Experiment Station. A large gasoline engine was recently located in the main barn, within which, though at some distance away, the dairy cows are kept. The loud, gun-like explosions of the engine are plainly heard in the low stable, and produce a noticeable vibration there.

Soon after the engine was placed it was noticed that there was a surprising falling off in the per cent of butter fat in the evening's milk. On an average the herd was developing about 5 per cent of butter fat, and that continued to be the average of the morning's milk, while the evening's milk shrunk to half that in some cases, and with one cow the shrinkage was down to less than 1 per cent. It was also noticed that the best cows, those of the highest nervous temperaments shrunk the least, or not at all.

If it should be demonstrated that the engine is the cause of this disturbance in butter fat secretions, it will prove conclusively that the quietness and gentleness recommended in the care of cows are not mere sentiment, as many believe, but absolutely necessary to the proper and successful working of that delicate mechanism of the cow that develops milk and its most valuable component, butter fat.—[Kansas Farmer.

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