

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF HAY, VEGETABLES AND CORN.

I wish briefly to draw the attention of Farmers to the value of hay, compared with other crops, for the feeding of stock. An acre of hay yields one ton and a half of vegetable food. An acre of carrots or Swedish turnips will yield from ten to twenty tons; say fifteen tons, which is by no means an exaggerated estimate. It has been ascertained by experiment, that three working horses, fifteen and a half hands high, consumed at the rate of two hundred and twenty-four pounds of hay per week, or five tons one thousand and forty-eight pounds of hay per year, besides twelve gallons of oats each per week, or seventy eight bushels by the year. An unworked horse consumed at the rate of four and one quarter tons of hay in the year. The produce therefore, of nearly six acres of land is necessary to support a working horse by the year; but half an acre of carrots at six hundred bushels to the acre, with the addition of chopped straw, while the season for their use lasts, will do it as well, if not better. These things do not admit of doubt. They have been subjects of exact trial. It is believed that the value of a bushel of Indian corn in straw and meal, will keep a healthy horse in good condition for a week. An acre of Indian corn which yields sixty bushels, will be ample for the support of a horse through the year. Let the Farmer, then, consider whether it be better to maintain his horse upon the produce of half an acre of carrots, which can be cultivated at an expense not greatly exceeding the expense of half an acre of potatoes, or upon half an acre of ruta baga, which can be raised at a less expense than potatoes, or upon the grain produce of an acre of Indian corn, or on the other hand upon the produce of six acres of his best land in hay and grain; for six acres will hardly do more than to yield nearly six tons of hay and seventy-eight bushels of oats. The same economy might be as successfully introduced into the feeding of our neat cattle and sheep.

These facts deserve the particular attention of the Farmers who are desirous of improving their pecuniary condition. It is obvious how much would be gained by the cultivation which is here suggested; how much more stock would be raised: how much the dairy produce might be increased; and how much the means of enriching the land and improving the cultivation would be constantly extending and accumulating. But when we find on a farm of two hundred acres, that the Farmer cultivates only two acres of potatoes, one acre of ruta baga, and perhaps a quarter of an acre of carrots, we call this "getting along," in the common phrase; but we can hardly dignify it with the name of Farming. I am aware that labour of a proper kind is in many cases difficult to be procured, and with our habits, as difficult to be managed. Farming, likewise, can in few situations be successfully managed, unless the Farmer has capital to employ, equal at least to one year's insurance and one year's crops. A large portion of our Farmers, also, from the nature of their habits and style of living, are so prosperous and independent, that they have no occasion to extend their cultivation beyond what it now is, in order to meet their wants; and to incur all the trouble, vexation and risk of employing more labor, expending more capital, and increasing their cares.

—*Colman's Agri. Survey.*

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES.

[The following examples of the effects of proper tillage, are taken from a Report of the Kennebec (Me.) Agricultural Society. They are worthy the observation of our readers.]

I have about 35 acres of land which I have improved as mowing and tillage this season, besides a piece of meadow on which I cut from six to eight tons of hay annually—from the 35 acres I have taken this season, as near as I can estimate without weighing the whole, 35 tons of hay, 51 bushels oats and peas, 32 do corn, 26 do. wheat, 6½ do. white beans. I have received 27 dollars for squashes and melons, sold over and above what was wanted for home use, and 960 bushels of roots, for which I claim the Society's premium, as the greatest quantity of roots raised on any one farm, all things considered. I should think there had been no more than two thirds of the hay that has been cut on the place consumed on it the four years last past, and it produced as much hay this year as it ever did, and I think the most.

RUFUS MOODY.

The crop of ruta bagas, 300 bushels, for which I claim the Society's premium grew on one half acre of ground—a yellow,

rocky loam, north-westerly cant, and is so situated that the most part of it receives the wash of my buildings, it had been mowed four years previous to the spring of 1839, when it was ploughed and ten loads of hog manure spread on it, and planted to corn which grew stout, but "jack frost" who came early in autumn injured it much.

I ploughed the ground after the corn was off that fall and again the next spring, and planted it to potatoes without manure, putting in one table spoonful of plaster in each hill, got two hundred bushels of potatoes. Last spring I ploughed the ground and harrowed it thoroughly and spread on to the poorest part of it four loads of fine manure harrowed again and sowed some of the first days of June in drills three feet apart strewing plaster in the drills about one bushel on the half acre; the seed came up quick and they looked well, but the little powder bug so called destroyed them so that I was obliged to sow them again about the twelfth of June, the caused them to be much later.

They grew well until the drought in August and September which injured them much. I hoed them twice and thinned them, as I wanted the plants for my hogs five of which I kept on them five weeks. I harvested three hundred bushels. I think the drought injured them one third.

<i>Expense of Crop</i>	
Ploughing the ground	\$1 50
Harrowing do	1 50
Sowing, one day's work	1 00
Hauling and spreading manure	4 00
Hoing, four days work	4 00
Harvesting, three days work	3 00

Total, 11 50

N. B. The thinning I think took three days more but the plants and the tops cut off when harvesting I think will richly pay for that Fayette, November 12th, 1841.

NOAH WATSON.

I offer for your consideration one-fourth of an acre of ruta baga turnips. The land was broken up in the fall of 1839, cultivated the next spring with 6 loads of barn yard manure and sown with sugar beets, which produced 60 bushels of beets on the one-fourth of an acre. Last spring it had 6 loads of manure ploughed in, and was sown with ruta baga turnip seed the 10th day of June. They were hoed twice. Harvested the middle of October and produced 200 bushels of turnips, besides what were used by the family previous to gathering.

<i>Expense of cultivating and harvesting.</i>	
Ploughing ground	43
Sowing and harrowing	75
Cost of seed	25
Hoing twice	3 00
Harvesting	2 00
Total expense,	\$6 43
<i>Value of Crop.</i>	
200 bushels at 25 cents per bushel	50 00
Deducting expense,	6 43

Profit, \$43 57
SUMMERS FITTINGILL.

The land on which grew the crop of pumpkins is a clayey loam. Ploughed in the spring, and a little coarse manure put into the hole under the pumpkin seed before planting. Planted at about six feet one way, and ten feet the other way. It was not a large crop. There was seven cart loads. The land measured last night ninety six rods. The calves eat of them about three weeks before harvesting. There were 4 calves in number.

Dec. 20, 1841.

E. & L. WOOD.

The crop of potatoes for which we claim the Society's premium grew on a clayey loam, and was mowed for the three years before 1841. A large quantity of wheat straw was hauled from the barn yard and spread on and ploughed in, in the spring of 1841. It was planted to pink eyed potatoes in drills, and plaster put with the potatoes, about the first of June. There were a few long red, and rohans. The land was measured in the spring and contained one and a half acres, and there was dug about five hundred bushels of potatoes from the piece, and some eaten before by the family.

Dec. 24, 1841.

E. & L. WOOD.