

FARMING

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FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

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STRICT CLEANLINESS IS NECESSARY.

From Report of Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying.

The udder, the flanks and the belly of the cow should be brushed clean and then rubbed with a dampened or wet cloth before milking. That prevents the falling of dust particles and other things from the skin and hair of the cow into the milking pail. There is need for as much cleanliness as can be practised and attained. There is no benefit from the aeration of milk in the stable during the winter. By the aeration of milk, either or both of two results are effected. A little of the odor, or cause of the odor, in the milk from volatile oils is taken out, and germs of all kinds from the air are taken in. There is nothing in the air of an ordinary cow-stable which by getting into the milk can improve it. Therefore the less contact the milk has with that the better. There is no natural volatile odor from milk which makes it unsuitable for butter-making, unless the cow has been fed on some food unsuitable in that respect, such as turnips; and aeration will remove only a very unimportant part of that. The so-called cow smell of pure, clean milk becomes a delicious fragrance, whereas the cowey smell which comes from stable filthiness, manure and other things is abominable.

THE USE OF SALT.

Professor Atwater says: Something has been said as to the use of ordinary salt as a fertilizer. One important office of the salt is to make soluble, and consequently useful in the plant, the materials already locked up, as it were, in the soil. Supposing you have been putting on barnyard manure and

other fertilizers. Some of the nutritive materials, as, for instance, potash and phosphoric acid, may perhaps have been taken up by the soil, and remain there in a difficult soluble condition. Furthermore, there are in the soil some of these ingredients that were in the original rock of which the soil is made up, and are still, so to say, locked up, or, in other words, still remain in an insoluble form therein. One effect of salt, as is the case oftentimes with gypsum and lime, is to set loose that potash as phosphoric acid. You must expect, therefore, in putting on salt, that its chief use will be, not as a direct nutriment to the plant, but rather as a means of setting other materials loose; and salt is very useful on this account, because it is not readily observed in the upper layers of the soil, but often leaches through into the layers; and it will have the effect of setting these materials free all the way down.

The German farmers say, however, that you must be careful in the use of salt. If you put on too much it injures the vegetation. Further, it will not do to put on loose soil. A very loose, sandy soil is not ordinarily benefited by the application of salt. Again, it is best applied to soils which contain considerable humus. And, finally, it should be used on soils which are in pretty fair condition as regards the context of fertilizing elements. On soils which are not too loose, which have a good amount of humus, and which are in pretty fair condition as regards the amount of fertilizing material, organic and inorganic, contained in them, it is oftentimes a good thing to apply salt.

ADVANTAGES OF FALL PLOWING.

Whenever conditions are favorable the land should be plowed in the fall. During the winter is not only the best time for making manure but in some sections is the best time for hauling it out and applying it to the land. Land plowed in the fall will warm up earlier and dry up quicker in the spring after the frost is out of the ground than when left unplowed. In order to get the full benefit of these, however, the drainage must be good. Land plowed in the fall can be got in good condition in the spring for planting, etc., easier than if left unplowed. Plowed land will freeze deeper than unplowed land, and the freezing and thawing helps to make it easier and better to work. When land is plowed in the fall, weeds, etc., that may be on the land can be turned under and will rot sufficiently not to interfere with the work of preparation or seeding. About the only kind of land that it may not be wise to plow in the fall is that on a hillside, where there is a danger of it being washed down. The fertile portions in such cases are usually the readiest washed away.

STABLE MANURE.

The Ohio Experiment Station has been testing now manure taken directly from the stable to the field in spring, and similar manure left in an open yard during winter. The plan of the experiment is to apply both kinds of manure to land intended for corn, plow under at a shallow depth, and follow the corn with wheat and clover, without any further manuring. At the

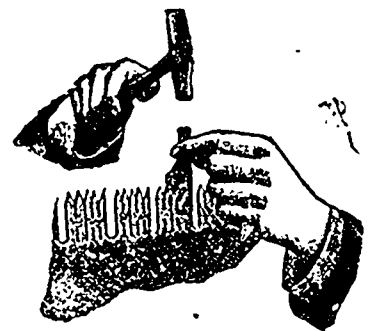
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