

FARMING

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Agricultural News and Comments.

|| New York State farmers received last year \$5 per ton for sugar beets supplied the factory at Binghamton, N. Y. The average yield for 1898 was about 20 tons per acre, while the percentage of sugar varies from 15 to 13.

The New York Poultry and Pigeon Association will hold its tenth annual exhibition at Madison Square Gardens, New York City, January 31st to February 4th (inclusive), 1899. The attendance at this show is always very large. The secretary is G. P. Reynaud, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

To have fowls with lots of stamina avoid continuous inbreeding; use only mature stock for breeding, hatch chickens under the best of conditions, give them plenty of fresh air; provide for abundant exercise, feed sensibly sound healthful food stuffs, and nature will do the rest.

Farmers in many localities in the United States are anxious to begin breeding horses again, but there are no suitable stallions available. It is estimated that there is not more than one pure bred draft or coach stallion to a county to be bought. Importation has begun, but breeders will have to give up the old cheap service and insurance and adopt business principles.

The native sheep of South Africa have tails weighing as much as 20 lbs., and some with tails weighing as much as 30 lbs. have been recorded. The usual weight varies from 6 to 15 lbs. This curious appendage, which is broad and flat, consists chiefly of fat, which is sometimes used as a substitute for butter. They are a hardy breed of sheep and easy to please in the matter of grazing.

Chapped teats in cows are caused more by wet milking than anything else. The wetting and subsequent drying causes cracks in the skin, and once these harden it is difficult to heal the wounds while the cows are milking. The best remedy is to apply pure vaseline to the teats and soften the skin and the wounds, and milk with great care. After milking the vaseline should be again applied.

It is now clear that the total shipments of apples from America this year will not fall very far short of last year. Up to and including the week ending Dec. 3rd, the shipments from the ports of New York, Portland, Boston, Halifax and St. John, N.B., were 837,620 barrels, as against 571,307 up to the same date last year. The demand for good apples in England is active, and there is no trouble in disposing of large quantities of the right sort.

The cost of producing a pound of butter will depend on the value of the land on which the cows are kept; the value of the cows; the value of the calf; the value of the feed consumed, the cost of labor and the value of manure. Where so many factors have to be considered it is impossible to give a cost that will cover all cases, so much will depend upon the dairyman himself, who has it in his power to lower or increase the power almost at will.

Oleomargarine can be distinguished from butter by the following test. A few drops of sulphuric acid combined with butter will turn it first to a whitish yellow and in ten minutes to a brick red. If oleomargarine is treated in the same way, it first becomes of a clear amber and in twenty minutes turns a deep crimson. Use a small glass rod when making the experiment and also compare the results when making use of both articles at the same time.

A high authority advances the theory that meat eaters are less subject to tuberculosis than vegetarians and reasons, thus: Carnivorous animals are, as a rule, immune to tuberculosis, while, with perhaps, the exception of the horses, sheep, and goat, grammivorous and fungivorous animals are highly susceptible. A going from this, it is believed that more deaths from consumption in the human family occur among people whose diet consists of vegetables than among habitual meat-eaters.

Mr. W. J. Kennedy has been appointed Dairy Instructor for the State of Minnesota Farmers' Institute System. Mr. Kennedy is a Canadian, and an associate graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College. Last September he entered the Iowa Agricultural College, and was one of the representatives of that institution in the students' competition in the judging of live stock at the Omaha Exposition, where he won the third prize. The position which Mr. Kennedy now holds was formerly filled by Prof. W. L. Carlyle, of the Wisconsin University, also a Canadian.

Many men have overlooked the important fact that the manure yielded by milk cows is not so rich as the manure from fattening stock when both are fed on the same foods. There are, however, varying conditions which must not be overlooked, such as the widely different quantities of milk given by cows of different breeds, the different composition of the milk of some breeds and the peculiarities of individual animals. At different periods of lactation the milk yield of each cow varies in amount, and so, too, in a like degree does the value of richness of the manure yielded. These variations may, however, be corrected by the law of averages in the herd.

Killing Beef on the Farm

The farmer every year is becoming more of a beef eater. Fifteen or twenty years ago beef was considered on the farm only in the light of a luxury. Every farmer would put down enough salt pork in the winter to do till hog killing again came round, and for months at a time there would not be a pound of beef eaten on the farm. But the farmer to day is eating nearly as much beef as pork and he can provide himself with the one almost as cheaply as with the other. To kill a beeve is much more difficult than to kill a pig. Every farmer, however, can kill his own beef just as well as he can kill his own pork. The following detailed plan of procedure taken from one of our exchanges will enable every farmer to kill and prepare his own beef without any great difficulty:

Make a tripod as follows: Take three poles twelve feet long, 2x6 scantling will do, bore a hole through each on the six inch face six inches from one end and bolt them together with an eight bolt, having a clevis clamping the middle scantling and included in the bolting. In this clevis fasten the hook of one block of an ordinary block and tackle or if you have not a block and tackle fasten a pulley into the clevis in the tripod and have a roller fastened between two of the standards of the tripod near the ground and run the rope used for hoisting the carcass over these.

To kill the creature shoot with a 32-calibre rifle, placing the ball between the eyes two inches below a line even with the base of the horns. If a rifle is not at hand use a good shotgun at close range, not more than ten feet, closer would be better. If you have neither rifle nor shotgun use