

The Farm.

Clover as a Weedicide.

The dairyman, of all men on earth, should have pasture as clear as possible from weeds, and his meadows and clover lots should be as free, as from no other source is there greater danger of introducing bad tastes into the milk than from the cows eating noxious weeds. Why not use clover as a plant, to not only furnish plenty of feed and hay and roughage, but act at the same time as a destroyer of weeds. If on good ground, sown thickly, and a taste of potash to give the plants vigor, clover will run-out the foul weeds and take possession of the soil. The clover is up in the spring weeks in advance of the germination even of the weeds, and when the clover is cut over in early June, as it should be, whether in pasture or meadow, the few weeds that do come up are beheaded, and the plant dies, while the clover is greatly benefited, and the foliage cut off soon mats on the ground and makes a mulch and thus promotes the formation of nitrates. Let this go on the first year, and the second season the clover is in undisputed possession of the soil. To the dairyman this means more than feed and dollars. It means clean fields and an absence of weeds, that are not only robbing other plants of water, but fertility as well, and giving little back to the soil. In this fact is one of the great secrets of Mr. Terry's success. He farms for clover, uses it as his servant in many ways, and it has made him both famous and beyond want.—Practical Farmer.

Making Milk for One Cent.

During the stable feeding season of 1893 and 1894 I fed each of my milkers twelve pounds of hay, eight pounds of corn fodder, ten pounds of wheat bran, five pounds of hominy and three pounds of cottonseed meal daily at a cost of 26.15 cents. During the season of 1894-'95 I fed twenty pounds of hay, six pounds of wheat bran, four pounds of buckwheat feed and two pounds of cottonseed meal daily, at a cost of twenty-one and one-quarter cents. Taking the last eight years together I find the annual cost of feeding each of twenty cows has been about fifty-two dollars, including pasturage, and I find, too, that the cost has not increased since I began keeping Holsteins. I have fed and milked natives, Ayrshires and pure bred Holsteins side by side in stables, without making any difference in their rations, except such slight ones as are necessary in feeding any lot of milkers. The food cost of each quart of milk has varied from five and one-quarter cents for all the milk from my poorest cow to three-quarters of a cent for the milk of my best cow; the first was a native, the last is a Holstein. The average food cost of each quart of milk from my Holsteins last year was 1.04 cents, while the cost of each quart of milk from those not pure-bred Holsteins was 1.85 cents.—L. Conine in American Agriculturist.

Roup.

I want to tell the readers of "The Farmer" my remedy for roup, and wish it might be proclaimed to all suffering humanity. Early in the fall the disease made its appearance in our flock of chickens, and before it could be determined what ailed them the entire flock seemed to be affected. It was pitiful to hear them after they had gone to roost at night. It was like a room full of croupy children. I was told to fumigate the henhouse by burning a mixture of liquid tar and turpentine, equal parts, about a tablespoonful of each. This was done by putting the mixture in an iron vessel, igniting it and placing it under the perches after the fowls had gone to roost. It was repeated four or five times for a week. In ten days the disease had abated, and only two or three extreme cases remained. These were separated from the

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rest of the flock, and in addition to the fumigation sulphur was dusted in their mouths, and their heads (which were very much swollen anointed with camphorated lard, made by mixing camphor and hot lard together. In three weeks the hens were back to their normal condition, and soon began to lay industriously. The room must be tightly closed during the process of fumigation, but should be opened afterward to admit the fresh air.—(Aunt Emily in Ohio Farmer.

Conserving Fertilizers.

The farmer cannot make manure of value unless the substances used for that purpose are also valuable. When tons of straw are added to the barnyard or to the heap the farmer can only gain the amount of plant food in the straw. There is but ten pounds of nitrogen in one ton of wheat straw, less than three pounds of phosphoric acid, and about eleven pounds of potash. When the farmer hauls a ton of manure consisting of undecomposed straw mixed with manure he may not be repaid for his labor. But the straw can preserve the manure and prevent loss by absorbing the liquids, which are more valuable than the solid portions of the manure. To reduce his manure to the finest possible condition, and to gain greater capacity for absorption, the straw should never go into the heap until cut. By so doing the farmer hastens the decomposition of the straw, can handle the manure easier, and it gives greater value to the whole. Most farmers will object to the labor, preferring to permit the straw to rot in the heap, but the period has arrived in farming when every method that can be adopted for rendering the manure more effective must be resorted to, and, as improved feed cutters now perform such work rapidly, the item of labor will not be found as costly as anticipated.

The heaviest loss of manure is by the leaching of rains and melting snows. When the straw, cornstalks, and other absorbents are coarse this occurs more readily than when all the ingredients are fine and closely packed. The manure should be protected by a shed from rain and the heat of the sun, and all the liquids should be added to the solids, not overlooking the fact that there must always be a sufficiency of absorbents to take up the liquids. Muck is excellent as an absorbent, and so is sawdust, simply because such materials are fine, and used in sufficiency to absorb the liquids, the saving to the farmer in the plant food that is lost in the liquids will pay him more than the cost of the labor of management, and it will not then be so important for the manure to be entirely decomposed, as its fine condition will allow of spreading it on the land at any stage, and the soil will then take from it the liquid substances, while the solids will quickly decompose. The point for the farmer to observe in making his manure in the winter is how to utilize all the coarse substances on the farm to the best advantage, and how to get his manure, from the time it is produced at the barn to the spreading of it for his crops, on the field with the least possible loss of valuable plant food and in a condition to be most available for the purposes desired.—[Philadelphia Record.

The Joys of Winter.

Hurrah for the joys of winter! For the jolly sparkling weather, For the lake-like glass where the skaters pass, For the flying flake and feather. Hurrah for the fun of rushing! Down the long toboggan slide, For the dash ahead of the winning sled Round the curve of the deep hillside! Hurrah for the joys of winter! Jack Frost and the boys are friends; To the girl's bright face what a witching grace The touch of his pencil leads! Hurrah for the wild northwester, And the crisp, cold, wintry night, When the rough wind blows and we toast our toes In the glow of the hearth-fire's light! —Harper's Round Table.