

MANURED.

Bad Season—48 bushels at \$1.50.....	\$72.00
Good Season—65 “ 50.....	32.50

Bad seasons, like bad things generally, are more plentiful than the good. What we call good seasons are the exception; bad seasons are the rule. After deducting the seed, the interest on the land, and the expense of plowing, harrowing, rolling, drilling and reaping, it will make a vast difference in the *profits*, whether we get in a bad season 15 bushels or 48 bushels per acre.

In this country there is even a greater difference between good and poor farming in a bad season than the figures taken from Mr. Lawes would indicate, for this reason: His unmanured land is as clean as he can make it, while in a poor season our poorly farmed land would be pretty certain to be infested with weeds, and these would reduce our yield to such an extent that the crop might be hardly worth harvesting.

Looking at the matter in this light, I hope to be excused for again and again urging the importance of better farming. I have not much patience with those who say it will not pay. If you farm at all, it will certainly pay to farm well. It is slow work improving a farm, but stick to it, and every year the work becomes easier, and the progress more rapid.

We must make more manure. Manure is the farmers' capital. Capital is accumulated earnings. If I work for \$1,000 a year and spend \$1,000, I am no better off at the end of the year than at the beginning. But if I can, by working a little harder, earn \$1,200 a year, and, by practising a little economy, live on \$800, I can lay up \$400. This \$400 is *capital*, and begins at once to earn money for itself. Capital is accumulated earnings. It is what is left of our profits or wages after deducting the expenses of living. Manure is accumulated plant-food. It is what is left after rais-

ing and disposing of a crop. If your land, as now worked, is capable of paying you 20 bushels of corn and a ton of stalks per acre every year, and you sell the whole, your land is no richer in available plant-food. You are making no manure. You spend all your wages. But if by extra cultivation, by setting free more plant-food from the soil, you can make your land pay you 40 bushels of corn and two tons of stalks, and instead of selling it you feed it out to your cows or sheep and pigs, and are careful to save all the manure, then your forty bushels of corn and two tons of stalks, less about 10 per cent. removed by the animals, becomes *capital*, and begins at once to earn money for itself.

1. **What is the purpose of the study?**

MEASURING HAY IN BULK.—A. B. Allen, in the *Tribune*, says:—So many things have to be taken into consideration in calculating the weight of hay in bulk, it makes it difficult to get at it precisely. For example: fine, new mown hay, like red top or herd's grass, would require 500 cubic feet for the ton; timothy, 550; clover, 650; coarse meadow hay, 700 or more. After being stacked 30 days the bulk would be decreased from five to ten per cent., possibly more, according to the size of the stack and the pressure upon it. Again, hay will vary somewhat in measurement, according to the time it is cut. If this be done when it is just coming into blossom, as it always should, it will pack closer and weigh more per cubic foot than if left till the seed begins to ripen, and the stalks and leaves have grown coarser and become drier. Good judgment, and some experience in measuring and weighing are required to get at this correctly. A neighbor of mine informs me that he once had the curiosity to weigh his timothy hay as he put it into the barn in July. He sold it about nine months after, and on reweighing it as it came on of the barn he found, greatly to his surprise, that it had shrunk to within a fraction of 25 per cent.

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

Seasonable Hints.

Asparagus beds may have the soil raked off them a little, if it was thrown up from the alleyway in the fall. It allows the sun to get to the roots earlier, and the crop is forwarded thereby.

This is generally supposed to be the pruning season. Orchard trees generally get too much pruning. In young trees only thin out so as not to have the main leaders crossing or interfering with one another. Or when a few shoots grow much

In young orchards some species of scale insects are likely to be troublesome. They should be killed by washing at this season. If the trees be very badly infested, cut back the young shoots, and the stouter branches can then be more thoroughly done. Some people use weak lye for

washing, with good results; we do not object to some lime and sulphur going with it. Old trees are very much assisted by having the rough bark scraped off of the trunk and main branches, and then coated with a similar wash. Never mind what people say about stopping up the "breathing pores." Try it once, and you will always want to repeat the practice.

And above all look after the nutrition of the trees. Some people say that land which will raise good corn will grow good fruit trees, which is all right; but they should add that, like corn, they require regular and continuous manuring. There are some parts of the country where corn can be successfully taken for a half a life time without manure; on these soils we need not manure fruit

trees, but in all others we must, to have good results. This is particularly essential where trees are grown in grass, as both the trees and the grasses require food. Where trees are grown in grass, we prefer top dressing in June or July, but if it has not been done then do it now. Where trees are kept under a clean surface culture, the manure is of course, plowed or harrowed in with the crop in the spring of the year. To know whether trees require manure or not ask the leaves. If in July they are of a dark rich green, nothing need be done to them, but if they have a yellow cast, humus or guano is what is the matter. This, of course, is supposing they are not infested by borers, in which case they will be yellowish in the richest soil.

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