

Where milk cannot be had, scrap cake is found to answer a very good purpose, moistened and thickened with meal of some description. Wheat bran moistened with water, made thin, but not thin enough for the milky substance to run, is also relished. Boiled potatoes, chopped and mingled with grease, are good for confined fowls. This diet may be given warm in cold weather. Chopped onions should be added twice in a week, and serve as a substitute for green food.

#### BRONZE TURKEYS.

The bronze is the king of turkeys. In short, they are noted for their great size and rich, changeable bronze colors. They are always beautiful, are good foragers, and it costs little to raise them where grass hoppers and insects are plenty. They are No. 1 layers, handy and easy to raise, they make a rapid growth, and if the winter is not too hard, or does not set in too early, young gobblers will weigh twenty-five pounds before Christmas, or that is, about six months old, and hens thirteen or fourteen pounds. Turkeys, unlike chickens, grow all winter and make weight for the food they consume. The Bronze do not fully get their growth till they are about three years old. At maturity hens weigh from fifteen to twenty, and gobblers thirty to forty pounds each. In most sections turkeys are very profitable, and double the weight can be made from about the same feed and trouble that is given to the rearing of small common turkeys. It pays to keep the best "blooded" stock, as we get much larger returns for our outlay. We give it as a fact which many persons do not understand, that turkeys shrink from three to nine pounds in shipping, as being nervous they eat little, and the journey worries them. They soon recover, however. Customers are apt to weigh them on receipt, and many a seller gets a cursing for sending lighter weights than represented, when it was owing to the shrinkage of birds. They should not be weighed under three or four weeks of good keeping after their arrival on a new place. Shrinking happens the same with other fowls too.

#### FATTENING FOWLS.

Fowls to be palatable and tender should be fattened quickly. From eight to ten days are sufficient. Place the birds in a roomy coop, in some outbuilding, where they will be free from draft, and in a modified light. The morning food should be given as early as possible, and should consist of good, sweet, yellow corn-meal, mixed with one-third its quantity of heavy wheat middlings; mix with boiling water, and in the water should be some chandler's scraps, sufficient to make the water quite greasy. To every two quarts of feed, every other day, mix a tablespoonful of powdered charcoal before the water is poured on the feed. At noon use the meal, leaving out the middlings, and in its place put all the table scrap you can get, and some finely chopped cabbage. Use the charcoal only in the morning feed. At night feed corn that has been boiled until it has swollen twice its natural size. Every other day add to the noon feed a little buckwheat, in grain. Give water after each feed. Warm sweet milk is best, if you have it to spare. Give during the day, but always give water for drink at night. Do not feed anything for at least twelve hours before killing, and if you would like a nice gamey flavor to the meat, let it contain a good proportion of chopped celery. Fowls fed in this way fatten very rapidly, and their flesh is tender, juicy and tempting.—*American Farmer.*

#### HORSFORD'S ACID PHOSPHATE

Is beneficial in mebricity and in many diseases where the nervous system is unstrung.

## STOCK.

### ENSILAGE.

(Continued from last week.)

The following questions, which we take from the *National Farmer*, Washington, were forwarded by the department to various men in the country who had been experimenting with silos as a means of preserving green fodder for stock. As the matter is of much interest to farmers in Canada also we give the questions and as many of the answers as space will permit.

J. B. BROWN, 55 Beckman street, New York City:

The following answers are the sum of practical experience, collected from examination of many silos:

1. Preferably on sloping ground, so that the discharge door may be on level with feeding room, and so that a car may be used from silo to manger.

2. Oblong or elliptic, but not important.

3. Immaterial, but economy in depth.

4. Concrete is better than stone, which is liable to be damp; wooden walls above ground sufficiently strong to bear a pressure, not necessarily airtight, and do not need to be double, or lined; earth pits, well surface-drained, are in some soils as good as is necessary.

5. Immaterial, so that there be a continuous pressure on the whole.

6. Whatever is cheapest; cord-wood, sacks of earth or grain, barrels of earth, casks of wood or stone.

7. From 20 cents to \$1 per ton of contents. Cheap silos preserved as well as expensive ones; it is only a question of durability.

8. Maize and grass for cattle; also rye, oats and peas for horses and sheep, even Canada thistles and salt meadow grass.

9. Corn, in double rows, space two or three feet; space between kernels in rows not yet settled.

10. Not, as the French advise, in the flowering, but to have the sweetest and greatest nutriment when the fruit is in the milk; this is a point of great importance; must be careful to anticipate any fading of the leaves.

11. Eighty-six tons of maize have been raised on an acre; 100 tons may be raised on an acre; average of good seasons, 40 tons; average of bad seasons, 20 tons.

12. Southern seed produces much the larger crops, and the more tropical the greater the growth.

13. Sweet corn, having been cultivated for the grain, is not best for ensilage, as the stalk is not large enough.

14. Three-eighths to three-fourths inch is best length to cut, and as keenly as possible, not shredded or mashed as is best for dry stalks. Cutting-machines should not be liable to injury from stones, and the revolving apparatus should not turn towards operator; elevators and carriers may be used to convey corn stalks to silo, and uncut stalks to feed rollers of machine, if it is important to economize labor.

15. Not important to be in a hurry when filling silo, except to save cost; if trampled every morning it will not heat sufficiently to injure it, even if the process of filling consume a month with intervals of days.

16. Thirty-six cents per ton is the lowest cost as yet by hired labor; in this case the silo was convenient to the crop, and the machinery was powerful and efficient—strong engine and large cutter, with high speed.

17. Two months at least; the longer the better.

18. Always good when the crop is good, and when it does not get wet in the silo by leakage; the silo improves the quality of the material by increasing its digestibility.

19. Does not deteriorate if the face is changed every day or two; 24 hours' exposure diminishes acidity.

20. Nothing so good as good ensilage.

21. Improves color of butter, increases quantity and richness in milk, where ensilage is good.

22. Oats, peas and rye, or maize, in moderate quantities, for horses; also fattens sheep, and is economical for hogs, steers and bulls.

23. Twenty-five to 75 pounds per day, or 5 per cent. of weight of animal; for horses 2½ per cent. is sufficient.

25. Good ensilage in proper quantities and varied with dry food at times makes healthy, thrifty animals; it must not be too sour; animals will fatten on it alone that cannot be fattened with hay or dry stalks alone.

26. For cows, steers, sheep and hogs it has been found, without exception, profitable; New England cannot do without it. It is a protection from drought in Nebraska and elsewhere; it is a safety from fire, grasshoppers and worms; and, more than all, is valuable in Texas.

COL. LE GRAND B. CANNON, Burlington, Vt.:

1. On the same level.

3. 14x45 feet, 15 feet deep, divided by a wooden partition.

4. Stone, 10 feet; wood, 4 feet.

7. About \$450.

8. Corn.

9. Planted in drills, and cultivated three times, the land being well manured.

10. After the grain has formed on the ear.

11. By actual weight I harvested on 3 acres 23 tons to the acre; and on 10 other acres about 12 tons to the acre. I think a fair average crop would be 15 tons to the acre.

15. The harvesting, chopping, and filling, should be done as rapidly as possible. If convenient the silo should be filled, covered, and weighed in two days.

16. Assuming \$15 per acre for manure, \$15 per acre for planting and cultivating, with a crop of 15 tons to the acre, 75 cents per ton for cutting, drawing and packing, ensilage would cost \$2.75 per ton.

17. Six weeks.

18. Temperature on opening, about 90°. Condition apparently perfect; fermentation vinous, and apparently stopped at that point.

19. Remained perfect until all had been consumed—about 100 tons.

22. More than the equal of hay, considering the cost of each.

23. An average of 85 pounds per head for 3-year-old steers, daily, for five and a half months.

24. With three pounds of grain daily.

25. Cattle fed as stated in 23 and 24 made a greater gain and were in better health and condition than others fed on 20 pounds of chopped hay and 3 pounds of grain.

26. I consider ensilage profitable, and believe it is entirely healthy, taking the place of roots. It is easily digested, as is shown by the uniform temperature of the animals and the condition of the skin and hair.

OBSERVATIONS—The claims made by many writers in regard to ensilage are extravagant; that it has certain advantages cannot be denied:

First. Not more than 15 to 25 tons can be depended upon per acre.

Second. It is more certain as a crop than hay.

Third. Twice as many animals can be kept on the same acreage.

Fourth. It is largely a substitute for roots.

Fifth. The labor of feeding ensilage is much less than hay.

Sixth. The space required to store ensilage is not one-quarter that required for hay.

EXPERIMENT.—I fed 90 three-year-old steers, divided in three lots; cattle and feed weighed monthly:

First lot. Fed 20 pounds hay with three pounds grain daily; run in yard with shelter.

Second lot. Kept in warm stable and stanchions; fed 17½ pounds hay, 1 peck mangel-worms, and three pounds grain.

Third lot. Fed 85 pounds ensilage with three pound grain; this lot gained one-quarter pound a day more than No. 2, and one-half pound more than No. 1. This cost was 5 per cent. in favor of ensilage.

## Agriculture.

### FARM TOPICS.

An exceptionally well-informed market gardener of Maine reports very favorably on the Beauty of Hebron Potato, which gives him better satisfaction than any other of the numerous kinds experienced with, a fact largely due, as he admits, to observance of a generally much-neglected precaution—careful choice of seeds.

"Many of the new sorts promise well when first introduced, but deteriorate after a few years' cultivation. I have grown the Beauty of Hebron four years, and it appears to possess more good qualities this season than ever before; but I have been very careful each year in selecting seed, using none but the finest specimens. Just before writing this article I dug three hills, and the product weighed 10½ pounds, all suitable for market except two very small potatoes, which would weigh less than one-fourth pounds. These hills were not selected, but were the first at hand, and the yield was, I think, less than the average of the place, as some of the hills dug previously produced at least a third more. This lot was planted the last of May, 3½ by 2 feet, two eyes to each hill, and manured with Stockbridge manure at about the rate of 1,200 pounds per acre, no other manure being used. In quantity this is not a remarkable yield, but considering the small amount which is unmarketable, is a profitable one. I have grown this season, besides this variety, the Mammoth Pearl, Burbank Seedling, Clark's No. 1, Early Rose and an improved strain of Peerless, but the Beauty of Hebron is the best of all. Next in order is Early Rose and Peerless, these two last being about equal, but this result was perhaps as largely due to quality of seed, as the three leading sorts were from seed carefully selected by myself, from my own crops for several years, while the other seeds were purchased."

An uncredited current article gives this good advice about washing a light wagon:

"If it comes home muddy it should be cleaned before putting in the house. It may be inconvenient, but at the end it will pay. There is no need of taking it to a creek, and there attack it with the old scrub-broom. Take a bucket or two of water and a sponge and gently wash the varnish. Wherever water dries on varnish it will lose its lustre. A bucket and a sponge and chamois and feather duster are as