

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. APRIL 29, 1899.

A FEEDING EXPERIMENT.

Cost of Grain in Fattening—Increases With Length of Period. Fat is fuel material in the animal economy, and nature shows an eagerness for it by utilizing every opportunity for storing it up between the muscles, in the bones and under the hide of the animal.

An allowance of grain which in the early part of the fattening period will produce a given gain will not accomplish the same result later on with the same animal. This is happily shown by Geogerson in an experiment at the Kansas station, where steers were fed the same ration for a period of six months. I have summarized this in "Foods and Feeding," where the increase of food required for 100 pound gain is thus calculated: Up to 55 days the steers required 730 pounds of grain; up to 84 days they required 807 pounds of grain—ten per cent increase of food; up to 113 days they required 840 pounds of grain—15 per cent; up to 140 days they required 901 pounds of grain—23 per cent; up to 168 days they required 927 pounds of grain—27 per cent; up to 182 days they required 1,000 pounds of grain—37 per cent.

It will be seen that for the first eight weeks of fattening, the steers required 730 pounds of grain for 100 pounds of increase, five weeks later for the same increase of weight, they required 840 pounds of grain—15 per cent more. With the longer period of fattening, when only 100 pounds of gain had been added to that period. For a fattening period of 16 weeks 840 pounds were required, or an increase of 15 per cent in the feed requirements over a period of half that length. For the whole period of six months the steers required 87 per cent more feed for 100 pounds of gain than was required for 100 pounds of gain during the first eight weeks.

The stockman studying these figures will see the necessity of turning off his fattening steers at as early a date as possible, provided the animals are acceptable to the buyer. With the longer period of fattening, it seems unnecessary to interpose fat between the fibers of the muscular tissue; yet such is the case. The demand of the buyer for highly finished animals is in opposition to the necessities of the feeder who would early stop the fattening process if he considered only the cost of producing gain. The feeder should understand the situation and have it in mind at all times, so that he will be no opportunity slip of disposing of his animals at the earliest date possible with satisfactory returns for feed already given.

The Quince Profitable. Whenever a peach tree bears a full crop it is almost certain to be more profitable than any other fruit, often paying much more than the cost of the land and previous cultivation in a single crop. But the peach is very uncertain in its bearing, and it is a success. One crop in three years is about the usual average before a severe winter or the yellow disease kills the tree. For a steady bearing no fruit exceeds the quince. It has no disease except fungus red rust, which attacks leaf and fruit, and which may be prevented by spraying with Bordeaux mixture. It is true the quince is liable to borer attacks, but not more so than the peach tree, and with sufficient vigilance both kinds of trees may be saved from the borer. The quince never suffers from late frosts, as it is late in blossoming, and there is no danger from that source. If the quince trees have been sprayed often enough, there is sure to be a paying crop every year, which commands it to the average farmer more than a fruit which only brings a crop one year in three.

Lifting Shoulders Out of Ground. Take two stout poles, fasten together at top, also fasten a long chain or rope to draw by. Chains are then put around the stones and fastened to the poles about a third the distance up from the ground. Set the poles down on the ground. On starting up the team the stone will be lifted out and to one side of the hole.—H. N. Powell, in Practical Farmer.

Parasites for Dairy Cows. There is no better root for cows than the parsnip. It has the advantage that part of the crop may, if need be, be wintered in the ground where it has grown. The parsnip, unlike the beet, makes a rich milk. It is equal to the carrot in this respect, and undoubtedly, like that root, helps to color winter-made butter. Parsnips are a favorite winter feed of Jersey and Guernsey farmers, who by its use have been able to breed cows whose high butter color has become hereditary in these breeds. No doubt the parsnip feeding is in part responsible for the color of Jersey butter.

Onion Peeling for Nests. One of the best materials for making hens' nests is the outside peel of onions. It will drive away if it does not destroy hen lice. These peelings, or a piece of the onion itself, ought to be always in nests where hens are sitting on eggs. With a good warmth of the hen's body will be glad to leave out, and the hen will be equally glad to have them do so. With a good place for rolling in the dust, under cover, so that the dust will not be turned into mud, it is not difficult to keep hens free from vermin.

MAKING A HOTBED.

It Should Be Located Where It Will Be Easy of Access and Sheltered From Winds.

The ordinary hotbed consists of a pile of fermenting stable manure, covered with a frame and glass sashes, in which is a layer of fertile soil. The bed should be located where it will be easy of access, but it should be on dry ground, not where water could flow over the ground and about its base, even in wet weather. It should also be sheltered from heavy winds and with full exposure to the sun. In preparation for a bed the fresh manure and long litter are collected from the stalls and drawn together to the location of the bed, where they are placed in a conical pile. As the manure is thus thrown together it is packed down by treading on it, so treading being necessary as the bed is raised a few inches at a time until the pile is finished off to a point at the top. After a few days it may be noticed that the pile is heating by seeing the steam rise from it. It is then customary to handle over the manure, shaking it and making it more compact. It is noticed that the pile is heating by seeing the steam rise from it. It is then customary to handle over the manure, shaking it and making it more compact.



A PERFECT HOTBED.

In two or three days the signs of heating will again be evident, and it is then ready to be made into a bed. The bed should be made large enough to extend at least a foot outside of the frame at sides and ends. In throwing the manure into shape, as the pile rises to height every few inches it should be beaten down with the back of the fork so that the material will be of uniform density. The bed should be two feet or two and a half feet in depth; the deeper it is the steeper and longer continued will be the heat. Apple pear or peach wood makes when dried a very hot fire, and should be saved for the stove when the branches are too large to be readily. Even the twigs have their value. They make the very best of kindlings when dried, and if they are somewhat crooked they are all the better, because they will not pack closely together, as the straight sticks do. An old story is told of a farmer who boasted among his companions what a good, patient wife he had. She never complained of anything he did. One of those suggested that he should draw up wood for the house he should make a load of the crookedest sticks he could find. He did so, and as the wood was laid to the house his wife came out smiling to meet him. "Mary, how do you like this load of wood?" was the inquiry, while the farmer's companion stood by expecting a storm of abuse. Instead the reply was given in the sweetest tones, "Oh, John! that is capital. I have never used it at home when I was a girl, and mother used to say that the rounded pieces made the hottest fire, because they fitted so nicely around the kettles."

A Well-Willed Wife. In pruning orchards the branches cut out are often piled in heaps, and when dried are burned, often injuring the trees in their vicinity. There is a much better way than this. Apple pear or peach wood makes when dried a very hot fire, and should be saved for the stove when the branches are too large to be readily. Even the twigs have their value. They make the very best of kindlings when dried, and if they are somewhat crooked they are all the better, because they will not pack closely together, as the straight sticks do. An old story is told of a farmer who boasted among his companions what a good, patient wife he had. She never complained of anything he did. One of those suggested that he should draw up wood for the house he should make a load of the crookedest sticks he could find. He did so, and as the wood was laid to the house his wife came out smiling to meet him. "Mary, how do you like this load of wood?" was the inquiry, while the farmer's companion stood by expecting a storm of abuse. Instead the reply was given in the sweetest tones, "Oh, John! that is capital. I have never used it at home when I was a girl, and mother used to say that the rounded pieces made the hottest fire, because they fitted so nicely around the kettles."

A Trick With the Plail. The fact that oats sown in a climate fall off in weight per bushel or "run out," as farmers say, is probably owing to the hot, dry weather, which usually comes just in time for the oat crop in filling and ripening. That cannot be helped, as climatic changes are beyond human control. But the evil may be lessened, and by sowing only the heavy oats, and sowing these early in spring on fall-plowed ground. Then they will probably ripen before the hottest and driest weather comes. We knew one old farmer who always attributed the decline in weight of oats to threshing by machines instead of by hand. The thrashing machine makes out every oat, light or heavy. When they are filled out many of the light ones do not fall out of their hull. They are probably worth more to the miller than the straw better feed than to go with the larger, heavier oats. This farmer used to beat out oats so as to get not more than one-half of these. There would be no light oats in them. He found that with these heavy oats two bushels of seed was sufficient. So it may be if the oats are sown early, for then the oats will start and send up many shoots from a single seed. But if the seedling is delayed so that the oat cannot stool much, we should advise sowing the usual amount, which is about three bushels per acre.

Value of Applewood. We never advise cutting down a healthy apple tree, even though it be long unproductive. So long as it is sound in the trunk it may be made to produce profitable crops. But there are many old trees too far gone to be worth saving, and thousands such are cut up and burned for firewood every winter. Apple tree wood is worth too much to be put to such uses, though applewood makes a hot fire and an ash rich in potash. It is a very tough wood, and even when full of knots its value for manufacturing purposes is rather enhanced than lessened. The factories will drive as hard a bargain with the farmer as they can, but sound applewood cut in suitable shapes is worth many times its value as firewood, and the farmer who has such wood should know the fact.

Soldiers and the Climate. The sudden changes of climate encountered by soldiers when troops are moved from one quarter of the world to another are estimated as increasing the annual mortality of Europe by 50,000 men.

WINDOW BOXES.

Some of the Secrets of Making Plants Decadent Successfully.

"There's a 'knack' to growing plants well in the window box," said one lady to me last year, writes E. B. Rexford. And another one said: "If you possess the secret of the successful cultivation of plants in window boxes, please, oh, please, take me into your confidence, for I have always failed with them, though I have tried so hard to make them grow!" Now there is neither "knack" nor "secret" about it. The cause of failure, nine times out of ten, is in neglecting to give the proper amount of water. This is the reason why the plants turn yellow, and shed their leaves and die. I have examined scores of boxes whose plants were dying, or dead, and in nearly every instance I have found that the soil was dry as dust an inch below the surface. No plant could live in it.

The fact is, the amateur florist does not understand the conditions which prevail in this kind of gardening. The boxes are exposed on all sides, save the one next the house, to the action of the warm rays of the sun, and the result is that evaporation is encouraged. If you were to expose a heap of earth to the wind and air, it would be dried up in a few days, and the effect of sunshine on the experiment, you would find that by night nearly all the moisture had been extracted from it. The effect of the elements on the window box is precisely the same.

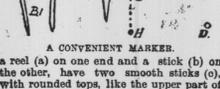
Most women apply water daily, but the fact is that only once a week is needed. The surface of the soil looks damp, and they take it for granted that it must be moist all through. Here is where the fatal mistake is made. An examination of it would convince them that the amount of water given was only a fraction of what is needed to impart a proper degree of moisture to all the soil in the box. Boxes of eight or ten inches wide and six inches deep, and three or four feet long, hold several pailfuls of soil, and at least a pailful of water should be given every day to make it as moist as the soil can be in order to enable plants to grow well in it. If I were to formulate a general rule for the application of water to window boxes it would be thus:

Give enough to thoroughly saturate all the soil in the box. To be sure that this is done, the water should be poured up at the cracks at the bottom and ends of the box. When this course you may be reasonably sure that the soil is saturated all through. Here is where the fatal mistake is made. An examination of it would convince them that the amount of water given was only a fraction of what is needed to impart a proper degree of moisture to all the soil in the box. Boxes of eight or ten inches wide and six inches deep, and three or four feet long, hold several pailfuls of soil, and at least a pailful of water should be given every day to make it as moist as the soil can be in order to enable plants to grow well in it. If I were to formulate a general rule for the application of water to window boxes it would be thus:

Verandah boxes should be considerably larger than window boxes, because it is desirable to grow much larger plants in them. Charming effects are secured by having a row of them all around the verandah. This enables one to turn the place into a veritable hothouse, for vines can be trained up the posts and along the roof, and the flowers and foliage will be in order to enable plants to grow well in it. If I were to formulate a general rule for the application of water to window boxes it would be thus:

One can grow just as good flowers in a plain window box as in a verandah box. Boxes for five and ten cents as they can in a box of tile or terra-cotta costing several dollars. Save this money on boxes and use it to buy the best seeds. If you are used, give them two coats of paint of a dull green, or some other unobtrusive color, before filling them with soil.

MARKING OFF FIELDS. Hand Contrivance That Has Never Before Been Described. A seed drill with a marker is very desirable, but where only small quantities are to be sown, and the line must be depended upon. The great trouble with a line is that after having marked a row by it and shifted the line and for the next row, you must walk back, doing nothing the whole length of the row, whether long or short, to shift the first end. This is a very awkward and unnecessary labor, which I have never seen described, and it is a great help. Besides the line, with



A CONVENIENT MARKER. A reel (a) on one end and a stick (b) on the other, have two smooth sticks (c), with rounded tops, like the upper part of a broom handle. In the end of the cord is a ring (d) which is fastened to the reel in very firmly at a, the second end of the first row. Walk across, unrolling the cord, to e. Put in one of the extra sticks (f) in the middle of the line. Put the reel in very firmly at f. The cord is now shown by the continuous line. Mark or plant from e to a. Put in the other new stick at a and pull so hard on the line that the stick at a leans over and the cord slips off. Stretch the cord right around the stick b and drive the other end of stick firmly at c. The cord now appears as the dotted line, and it will have been shifted for the second row without loss of time or unnecessary walking. You are always working toward the one stick and away from the two sticks. In this way you can plant an indefinite number of rows and only cross the ground without planting or marking when you set the line and when you reel it up.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Aim for Good Cows. What we dairymen should aim at is to secure the best cows we can, and try testing each cow's milk by churning separately, and ascertain for sure whether they pay for their keeping and give us a little profit, but cannot afford to keep cows at a loss for the benevolent purpose of supplying dairy products to consumers at a low cost. Excelsior should be the watchword, and the poorer cows kept only until they can be sold for beef or better.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

Cracked Heels. To cure a stubborn case of cracked heels in a horse, he should be rested and given a loose box; then poultice the heel with bran and linseed. After removing all dirt, apply the following liniment: Lard 4 ounces; oxide of zinc, 1 ounce; carbolic acid, ½ ounce. This should be applied every day until quite well. Do not wash the animal's legs, but brush all the mud off and bandage nightly. A physio followed by a course of liniment should also be given.—London Farmer Advocate.

OUT OF DOOR STYLES.

Dainty Capes and Mantles For Summer Weather.

Very short little capes, which come scarcely below the shoulders and are not much more than large collars, are a novelty of the season. They are of silk, satin, mousseline de soie, tulle or gauze and are much ornamented. All available trimmings being expended upon them. There are platings of silk or gauze, ruffles of the same materials or of ribbons, ostrich tips or chiffon frills with an edge of ostrich plume fibers. Spangled trimmings and lace are also lavishly used. As a rule these capes have a fanciful collar or neck ruche and a smooth yoke, upon which are mounted points, scallops, circular ruffles or platings to form a little pelerine.

There are likewise very attractive evening capes, often with a hood to match, which is attached to the cape or made so that it can be worn separately. The materials employed are of the richest, and the usual form is circular, with rounded fronts.



Capas of black or white lace over silk, black, white or colored, are a pretty novelty. Mantles and cloaks which are usually made of black or white cloth, with a brace every grade of difference between the cape and a jacket. One of the simplest is a round at the back and has two long ends in front, which may be round, square or pointed. Guipure embroidered with silk and metal is used over silk for elaboration wraps, but there are all degrees of richness and simplicity.

The cut shows a costume of nickel gray cloth, the skirt being ornamented with lines of stitching which ascend in the form of points in front. The tight coat has a round basque of medium length, with a tailor collar and revers of mandarin fall. There are mandarin fall cuffs and gold buttons at the wrists of the tight sleeves. The masculine vest of white cloth is fastened with small gold buttons, and shows a chemise of plaited white batiste and a basque collar. The torsolet consists of mandarin fall. Gold and cut steel buttons adorn the fronts of the coat. The hat of nickel gray felt is trimmed with a drapery of white fallie, a gold buckle and an argus feather. JUDIC CHOLLER.

MILLINERY NOTES. Hats, Bonnets and Accessories For the Coming Season. Collars and cuffs of linen and lawn are much worn with tailor made costumes and plain woolen gowns. These accessories are plain or are decorated with hemstitching, little platings or ornamental stitching. The masculine vest of white cloth is fastened with small gold buttons, and shows a chemise of plaited white batiste and a basque collar. The torsolet consists of mandarin fall. Gold and cut steel buttons adorn the fronts of the coat. The hat of nickel gray felt is trimmed with a drapery of white fallie, a gold buckle and an argus feather. JUDIC CHOLLER.

Hats of tulle are a conspicuous feature among the new millinery. These hats are often large and are made in all sorts of ways. Sometimes the tulle is arranged with all sorts of frillery. There are pretty mannish vests also to be worn under the bolero, with a little plastron showing at the top, like a man's shirt bosom. Besides the bolero the usual jacket costumes appear, in which the upper garment has a more or less long basque. A hybrid between the jacket and the bolero is also seen, in which the bolero ceases to be one, in virtue of an apology for a basque about an inch long.



A cut is given which shows a gown of mauve cloth. The skirt is trimmed with three bands of pany velvet with mauve spots, the bands being bordered by stitched straps of cloth. The open bolero has long fronts, with small gold buttons at each edge, and the collars and revers are of the dotted pany velvet. The close sleeves have cuffs to match the revers. The plastron is of mauve taffeta horizontally plaited, across which is a sort of short vest of white cloth embroidered with gold. The hat of mauve straw is trimmed with pany velvet and pany ostrich plumes. JUDIC CHOLLER.

TOQUE. Unlike bands of the chip, which are twisted into loops and bows. Leghorn hats are trimmed in the same way, strips of the leghorn braid being employed. Of course these bows are not the only trimming which may be used in connection with flowers, ribbons, velvet or mousseline de soie. Straw hats of vivid colors are to be worn again this season. They are chiefly of wide fancy braid and appear in blues, purples, greens, reds and yellows. There are also very attractive gray and fawn shades, which are trimmed with the same tones and afford a pleasing relief from the brilliant colors. Toques are rather large, and like all millinery, are profusely trimmed. The toque of which a picture is given has a crown of pink roses, around which is arranged a thick tressure of black tulle. The brim has a border of steel trimming and is lifted at the left side by a twisted knot of pink velvet, which terminates in points at the back. Above the velvet is a large group of those powdery, white leaves which were worn years ago and have now been revived. JUDIC CHOLLER.

TAILOR MADE COSTUMES.

They Are Less Severe Than In Previous Years.

The tailor made gown is becoming less masculine not because it is less carefully constructed, but because fashion has decreed that it shall be more ornamental. Brightly colored material is employed, and there is a more or less elaborate decoration of stitched bands of silk or cloth. Jackets and little coats accompanying tailor made gowns are short, and turned down collars have the preference. The new bolero, which terminates at the waist line, is very tight at the back, but falls straight in front, where it is opened or closed according to fancy. The skirt opening at the side will be the favorite during the coming season, and the opening is either skillfully concealed



so that it does not appear at all or is also rendered ornamental by some arrangement of buttons, galloon, passementerie or embroidered motifs.

The illustration given today depicts a tailor made gown of heliotrope cloth. The skirt is trimmed with applications of black passementerie simulating a red-gingee. The bolero is tight and has short basques sewed on at the waist line. The trimming, like that on the skirt, consists of applications of black passementerie outlining a sort of corslet and designing motifs upon the upper part of the sleeves. There is a scalloped valois collar, and the sleeves have flaring cuffs, sewed on. The hat of black chip is trimmed with velvet roses. JUDIC CHOLLER.

BOLEROS. They Are in the Van of Spring Fashion. Bolero costumes take the lead this spring in tailor made and other styles. The skirt is of the already accepted flowing fashion, rippling around the lower edge, tight around the top, with the addition of trimming or a tunic, according to taste. The bolero, however, shows more variety, being open or closed, single or double breasted, straight in front or with darts, made with large or small double or single revers. Every degree of elaboration is seen, from the plain bolero of cloth, finished with stitching and a coat collar and revers, to one covered with applications, embroideries and ruffles. A chemise is, of course,

the essential accompaniment of such gowns, and the wearer may choose a simple pany velvet waist, a waist of fine nansook with tucks, valenciennes lace and embroidery or a silk bodice adorned with all sorts of frillery. There are pretty mannish vests also to be worn under the bolero, with a little plastron showing at the top, like a man's shirt bosom. Besides the bolero the usual jacket costumes appear, in which the upper garment has a more or less long basque. A hybrid between the jacket and the bolero is also seen, in which the bolero ceases to be one, in virtue of an apology for a basque about an inch long.



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SILK VEST. becoming to the face—in pompadour style or with loose curls falling upon the brow or parted in the middle. The tortoise shell comb continues to be the preferred ornament. It is plain, carved or accented with gold and jewels. The short locks at the back of the neck are caught up and fastened to the rest of the hair by a little brooch unless they curl, in which case they are allowed to hang loose. Plain shell or imitation shell hairpins are used almost to the exclusion of wire pins, as they are much less injurious to the hair. A cut is given which illustrates a pretty vest to be worn under a bolero or open jacket. It is of liberty silk and has a full front, with rows of shirring at the waist, across the bust and chest and around the neck. Between the upper bands of shirring are narrow black velvet ribbons arranged to form vandykes. The collar is trimmed with velvet bands and wired velvet loops. This same idea may be attractively carried out in pale green silk; with darker green velvet. JUDIC CHOLLER.

WARM WEATHER S.

Attractive Novelties For the Sun-Wardrobe.

Lace plays a very conspicuous part among the new gowns, as it has among those of the past season. For evening wear there are entire sleeves made of wall lace and shaped to the arm, boleros of wall lace and entire skirt and bodice draperies of net covered with lace applique. Turning to cloth costumes, there are tank yokes and boleros of cloth entirely covered with heavy net, upon which are intricate designs of the cloth again, forming elaborate designs outlined with cord, which are fastened through the net upon the cloth beneath, so that all form one fabric. These are made up in combination with plain cloth to match. Large lace collars are also worn, and lace is much used upon hats.

Shirt waists of white pique are embroidered with pink, blue, lavender or black. The embroidery appears upon the body of the goods, ornamenting the plait in the middle of the front and the material at each side of it for a width of several inches; also the collar and cuffs. These are very

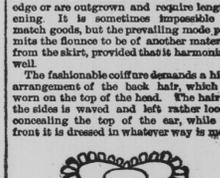


prettily, but no prettier than some of the new waists of stamped pique, which are less expensive and quite as effective. There is a fancy this season for adding a touch of black to printed designs in light colors, and the result is often highly pleasing. Thus, a blue and white or pink and white striped madras will be printed with black dots and a colored pique with a white design will have a smaller black figure scattered here and there upon it.

The picture shows a gown of green satin cloth, the skirt buttoning over at the left side with buttons of cut silver and folds of old rose velvet appearing under the edge of the green laps. The tight bolero buttons across to the left and is adorned in the same way as the skirt, and the wrists of the tight sleeves are trimmed to match. The collar and little plastron are of white surah, the bolero being of old rose velvet. The toque of old rose felt is trimmed with tea roses. JUDIC CHOLLER.

PREVAILING STYLES. The Fancies of the Moment in Milliner Fashion. The fashion of circular boucles is in some respects an economical one, as it facilitates the making over of skirts which have become defaced around the lower edge or are outgrown and require lengthening. It is sometimes impossible to match goods, but the prevailing mode permits the fashion to be of another material from the skirt, provided that it harmonizes well.

The fashionable coiffure demands a high arrangement of the back hair, which is worn on the top of the head. The hair at the sides is waved and left rather loose, concealing the top of the ear, while in front it is dressed in whatever way is appropriate.



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