

THE fitness of hay for baling depends strictly on the degree of dryness rather than on the time after harvesting. In hot and dry weather, hay will dry more in a few days than in a much longer time when the weather is cool and damp. For baling, hay requires more thorough drying than when thrown loosely into the mow. When made solid by baling, the damp vapor cannot escape from the interior, and it is therefore necessary to give sufficient time for the dampness to pass off. This period would vary with seasons, and with the ripeness of the crop, but as a general rule, to be observed in all seasons, five or six weeks should usually be allowed.

THE most efficient remedy for all crops of weeds is the summer fallow, provided it is efficiently applied. Imperfectly used, it would be of little or no use. The soil must be kept clean and mellow through the season. Canada thistles and milk-weeds have been thoroughly cleaned from the land in a single season. There are some crops, as, for example, the live-for-ever, so tenacious of life as not always to yield to this treatment, and the remedy would be, turning the whole crop deeply under and allowing it to remain there long enough to entirely destroy its vitality. This may be effected in limited patches with the spade in trenching, or on a larger scale with subsoiling and trench plowing.

### Live Stock.

A cow that has to get her living by gnawing the parched pasture, under an August sun, without other feed, is not likely to make a great show at the fair.

It is highly important at all times, but especially in warm weather, to give swine an ample supply of pure water, for wallowing in and drinking. To drive them to filthy mud holes is to invite disease. It is not safe, however, to give them access to a running stream, for the water may be charged with the germs of hog cholera from infected herds farther up the stream.

CAREFUL experiments in feeding lambs shewed: 1.—That corn, as an exclusive grain ration, does not give the best results, either in amount, quality or economy of production, when fed to growing or fattening animals, 2.—That the amount of water drunk (especially in the case of lambs) is a pretty certain indication of the rate of gain. 3.—That the production of wool is very greatly dependent upon the nitrogen in the ration.

CATTLE and horses of all ages, while at pasture in summer, need some sort of shade to which they can retreat for refuge against the scorching rays of a mid-day sun. A few great spreading elms or maples afford a grateful shade, and, where such are standing in a lot, it is better to leave them standing, even at the cost of a little less luxuriant growth of grass, than to cut them down. Where there are no trees, a cheap shed, covered with boards, or even with brush, may be put up for the purpose.

WITH grain high or low, it is wise to sell off the cows that do not pay for their keep; and about one-fourth of the common cows in the dairy do this. With the herd reduced to those that pay a dividend, it is well to give them good feed, either in an abundant pasture or a small daily grain ration. There is no profit from cows that are allowed to dry off from want of food. Grass alone is the cheapest food, and it is therefore wise to reduce the number of stock to the capacity of the pasture, for there is no profit in overstocking a pasture. Fewer cows, and better cows, better fed, pay better.

A BREEDING sow, to live long, and to do well, should never be confined in a pen, nor a small yard. She should be allowed to run in a pasture, and be fed on light foods—that is, foods which contain but a limited portion of carbon. Grass is a healthful and well-balanced food for swine, and a breeding sow requires nothing else, except when suckling young, and then she should be fed largely on oats, middlings or corn, rye, and barley, with three times as much bran in it as of the other grains. These foods will fit her to breed twice a year, and to be always in a healthy and vigorous condition. Fat is inimical to conception, bearing young or suckling young.

SHEEP are at their best when from one to six years old. Some will be as hardy at eight years as at six, while others will fail. To have a flock in its best state, no old sheep should be allowed in it; all inferior animals should be fattened and sold—whether their inferiority be due to age or any other cause—as soon as their poorer qualities are discovered. A sheep that is lacking in vigor from any cause, shows age sooner than those in perfect health. If the best are selected for breeders, and the inferior ones are sold for lambs or mutton, as the case may be, there is no reason why a flock of sheep may not be kept and improved on a farm, so long as it is desired to keep them there.

ALL that is necessary for the comfort of a horse during hot weather is kind care, cleanliness, cool, well-ventilated stables (darkened during fly time), full and regular feeding and watering, and reasonable work. A horse is often ruined in a few minutes when a man lets his ambition get the better of his judgment. It is hardly necessary to mention the frequent raising of the collars from the neck when stopping, allowing them to become cool and dry, and removing the harness at noon. Doing this, not only adds to the comfort of the animal, but is the best remedy for collar-galls. A very good rule is, for the driver to now and then imagine himself in the harness, and his sense of humanity and justice will teach him how to treat his faithful servant.

ONE of the great drawbacks to sheep breeding is the ravages of worthless curs. Two or three dogs in a single night will destroy good sheep and lambs enough to offset the greatest prospective profit for an entire season. If there is any one evil that requires more stringent legislation than another it is the dog nuisance. There is hardly any family so poor as not to be rich enough to own a dog, and the pleasure and comfort of that useless cur they will protect by every means possible, always ready to deny the possibility of their dog doing any injury. One of the best means for protecting a flock against the attacks of dogs is, by using a liberal number of sheep bells. If the flock numbers forty or fifty, at least a quarter of them should have each a small bell, and as noisy a one as possible, attached to her neck. If the flock is small, a greater portion should possess bells. The reason why bells are a good protection is because sheep-killing dogs are naturally sneaks. They are afraid of detection, and the noise created by a flock of sheep wearing bells will cause them to desist. We need more stringent laws for the protection of sheep.

### The Poultry Yard.

WHERE grass is not plentiful, feed bran, oats, and corn to growing chickens.

A TABLESPOONFUL of castor oil will frequently relieve severe cases of "crop-bound" in adult fowls.

LAY in a good supply of clean clover hay for the poultry next winter. It will be relished almost as much by the fowls as green food is in the summer.

THERE is nothing better for your turkeys than curds squeezed dry and crumbled. Twice a week mix them with chopped dandelion leaves or young onion tops.

BROODERS, in which hen-hatched chickens are raised, should be sprayed with kerosene oil once a week. A good plan is also to soak the fringe cloth with the oil.

GRAPEVINES planted in the chicken runs, and trained to the fence, afford shade to poultry; and also fruit to the farmer, in abundance. The vines should be trained high up.

FOR ordinary diarrhoea put a teaspoonful of chalk mixture in a tablespoonful of boiled milk, with a pinch of cayenne pepper, and give this mixture in the morning and at night to the affected bird. Do not allow other drink while ailing.

BROKEN crockery, pounded fine enough, so that the fowl can swallow it readily, furnishes the best and cheapest grinding material extant. Fowls require not only hard grinding material, but that having sharp, ragged corners and edges.

BESIDES providing the fowls with shade through the hot days, it will be well to erect some kind of a temporary shade over each vessel of drinking water. If exposed to the sun it soon becomes unhealthy, and cool, sweet water is one of the most important factors in the health of the flock.

AUGUST is usually the moulting season of old fowls, and a hen that does not moult during this month is not likely to be worth much as a winter layer. The moulting season is a severe drain upon fowls, and they should be well fed, upon good, nourishing food. This not only hastens the moulting, but keeps the fowl in good condition, so that they will be ready to lay sooner, if it be desired to keep them, or may be more easily fattened if they are to be disposed of in that way.

No breed is more valuable for the housekeeper than the Black Hamburg. Indeed, it is a matter of choice between them and the Leghorns. They are an ornament to the lawn or yard, and much admired in shows. Their green and glossy black color, neat head, surmounted with a rich, red, rose comb, the points being handsomely and evenly carried out, poised somewhat jauntily on the head, though fitting squarely; round and pure white earlobes closely fitting the head, smooth, like a piece of white kid glove, and a trifle lower than on other Hamburgs; well rounded wattles, face brilliant crimson; tail long, full and sound feathered, carried well up but not squirrel-like. The handsome and becoming points make the black Hamburg a conspicuous and much admired fowl.

As each brood grows and develops, it is a little thing to look at each of the chicks day by day and note how two or three will outstrip the rest in growth, symmetry and beauty, but it is just such carefulness as this that will enable you to cull your flocks judiciously and keep them constantly improving, both in utility and beauty. Thus, when you find them both comely to look at and profitable to keep, the irksome labor of caring for them disappears, for after all it is not the labor you dread so much, as it is uninteresting toil and doubtful results. And though less is said on the subject, yet in reality the necessity for poultry on the farm is much more imperative than the city consumption; the farmer has no daily market to supply him with fresh meat, so when the poultry crop fails, his only resource is bacon and salt pork, two articles of diet which only the most robust who are actively engaged in outdoor exercise, should ever touch during warm weather.