

little salt. We have known some instances in which oats grown late, and saved with express reference to this subject, by haying and sprinkling with salt, were given in small quantities to the sheep without threshing, and with excellent effect. That farmer, however, who wished to engage in the rearing of sheep with the greatest possible assurance of success, will find himself under the necessity of paying strict attention to the culture of roots, as furnishing to the sheep, during the latter part of the winter and spring, an indispensable substitute for their accustomed and necessary green food. Of the various kinds that have been recommended and tried for this purpose, the Ruta Baga undoubtedly deserves the first place, both for the quantity produced on a given piece of land, and the abundance of nutritious matter it contains. Turneps cut into suitable pieces and fed to sheep, after being occasionally sprinkled with a little salt, will have the effect of keeping them in good heart, and preventing those diseases that so frequently ensue from long continued dry food, and a confined range. Later in the season, or about three weeks before yearning time, the ewes should be placed by themselves, and fed with an additional supply of turneps, or when these are not to be had, with a small quantity of meal made from oats and Indian corn, daily. They will thus be found in a situation to furnish milk for their young, and prevent much of the trouble which is frequently experienced by the farmer in raising his lambs. In conclusion we say to our wool-growing readers, if you have not yet properly separated your flocks, do it without delay, and we may safely promise you an ample reward for the slight additional trouble in feeding such a division may create. G.

#### FRUIT TREES,

Surrounded by snow, especially if deep or in drifts, are very liable to be destroyed or injured or girdled by mice, and the danger is increased if they stand in or near grass land. The most efficient measure to prevent injury, which can be taken at this season, is to tread or beat the snow firmly about them, which prevents the access of these animals to the trunk of the tree as they do not approach them when they cannot do it under cover of the snow, and near the surface of the ground.

#### MAKING PORK.

The business of fattening pork for sale is practised to some extent by most of our farmers, and when performed economically, or when the most is made of the materials given them, it is undoubtedly a source of handsome profit. Yet all will admit, that when carried on in the manner it sometimes is, the process of pork making drains, instead of replenishing the farmer's pocket.

To make fattening hogs profitable, it is necessary, first of all, that the breed selected for feeding should be a good one. There is a vast difference in hogs in the respect of easy fattening, proper proportion of bone, weight, &c. and the farmer who thinks to make money by feeding the long snouted, hump-backed, slab-sided animals, that are too frequently found among farmers, and disgrace the very name of swine, will find in the end that he has reckoned without his host, and has thrown away both time and money. There are several good breeds of pigs now in the country, mostly produced by crossings of other kinds with the Chinese, and of course having different degrees of aptitude to fatten; and these breeds have been so disseminated over the country, that any farmer who is willing to make the effort, may have some improved animals in his pens. The time has gone by when a hog should be kept four years to weigh four hundred; the business of fattening is little understood where hogs of a year and a half do not each reach that amount, and some pigs have even exceeded that weight.

Next to selecting good breeds, it is requisite that they should be kept constantly growing. There must be some foundation for fattening, when the process commences, or much time will be lost in repairing errors, and much food consumed in making carcasses that should be employed in covering it with fat. Hogs should be kept in clover pasture, a field being allotted to them for their exclusive use, so large in proportion to their numbers that the feed may always be fresh, yet not so much so as to run up to seed, or grow coarse or rank. They should have the slops of the kitchen, the whey or buttermilk of the dairy, unless this is required for

young pigs, and in general every thing they will eat to advantage or which will promote their growth.

The manner in which the materials intended for fattening pork is prepared and fed, has a decided influence on the rapidity of the process, and of consequence on the aggregate profit. If given out raw much of the value of the article is lost; grain is much improved by grinding, but the full effect of all kinds of feed is only brought out by cooking. Corn is without a peradventure the best article ever produced for making good pork; and though other substances may occasionally be used with advantage, and may produce pork of fair and good quality, yet experience has proved that the real corn fed meat is on the whole superior to all others. Hogs will fat on corn given to them in any state, yet it is far preferable when soaked, ground, steamed or boiled. A farmer of our acquaintance, and who is celebrated for the weight of his hogs, and the excellence of his pork, is in the habit of mixing oats with his corn before grinding in the proportion of about one-fourth, and thinks that if he had not the oats of his own, he should be a gainer in exchanging corn, bushel for bushel, for oats, rather than not have them to mix with his swine feed. He thinks they eat the mixture better than clear corn meal, are less liable to a surfeit, and of course will fat much faster with the oats than without them.—Peas have generally been ranked next to corn as an article for making good pork, and they are probably the best substitute that has yet been found, hogs feeding well on them, fattening rapidly, and the pork being of good quality. It is almost indispensable that peas should be ground or soaked previous to feeding. Potatoes are more extensively used for fattening hogs than any other of the cultivated roots, and are probably the best of the whole for this purpose. Unless they are boiled, however, they are of little value comparatively, but when cooked they will give the hogs a fine start in feeding, and they may then be easily finished off with corn or peas. The fattening of hogs on apples may be considered as one of the successful innovations of the age, it being certain that this fruit possesses a value for that purpose which but a few years since was wholly unknown. The success of this experiment has given a new value to orchards, and will probably check their destruction, which in some sections of the country had already commenced to a considerable extent. The various reports from gentlemen of intelligence of the practical results of apple feeding are most gratifying, and we have no doubt the system will be fully approved wherever fairly tested. Where convenient let the hogs lie in the orchard from the time the fruit begins to fall, till it is time to gather apples for winter or cider, and they will in most cases be found respectable pork. When it is necessary to put them in the pen, boiled apples mixed with a small quantity of corn, oats, peas, or buckwheat meal, will fill them up rapidly, make them lard well, and fill the farmers barrels with sound sweet pork of the first quality. If any however are doubtful, they can easily finish off their apple fed pork, as is generally done with potatoe fed, with corn or peas, and with similar results.

#### SOWING CLOVER.

Where it is intended to sow clover seed on winter grain, it should be done in the latter part of winter and before the thawing of the ground. It is a common practice to sow it in the spring after the frost has left the soil; but as the ground has in this case become in a measure settled and dry, there is less chance of the seed vegetating, and as it falls merely upon the surface, it is prevented from taking sufficient root to withstand effectually the coming drouth. But when sown earlier, the breaking and crumbling of the soil by the parting frost, mixes the earth with the seed, and it takes sufficient root before the dry season comes upon it. There need not be any apprehension that the seeds, by germinating too early, will be killed by frost, as they never start below a temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit; which temperature, it is obvious, cannot exist until the ground is thawed.

A great loss always follows the practice of sowing too little seed. Twelve pounds to the acre is not too much in any instance, and where the soil is poor a much larger quantity should be used. Farmers who wish to save expense by sowing only five or six pounds to the acre, lose more than five times as much by the deficiency of the crop; so that it is expensive economy at best. Besides, when clover is sown thinly, the growth is thin and coarse; on the contrary, when there is sufficient seed, the growth