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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

TREATMENT OF ROOT GROUND—GREEN CROP FOR STALL-FED CATTLE—MILDEWED PEAFODDER—RUSTED OAT STRAW—BUCKWHEAT CHOP.

1. I manured all my root ground last fall, and plowed the manure in shallow. How would be the best way to handle it this spring? Would plowing, or a thorough disking be best? Land is of a sandy loam.
2. As seed time is near at hand, I would like to know a good fodder crop to sow for stall-feeding cattle. Would peas and oats be advisable if cut green, or would well-saved corn straw be better?
3. Is clover a better fodder crop than green pea straw well saved?
4. I have been told that peas, sown late in the season and left to mildew, makes better fodder than early peas that would not mildew. Is this so?
5. I have also been told that green oat straw that is rusted makes better fodder, as the strength stays in the straw.
6. Is buckwheat chop good to mix with other chop for fattening cattle?

J. E. M.

Ans.—1. The method of treating the root ground this spring will depend upon the character of the lower soil. If it is somewhat hard, I think it would be better to plow the ground enough to loosen at least the upper six inches of soil. It would have been better in a case of this kind, however, to have had the deep plowing done before the manure was applied, because the manure should be left as near the surface as possible. If it is an open soil below, possibly through disking or gang plowing would answer the purpose. I may say that we usually employ a Sylvester cultivator for loosening the soil. If the manure is somewhat long, we take out some of the teeth, so that it cannot drag the manure ahead of it, and we sometimes use three horses, setting the implement to take a severe hold on the ground, and going both ways over the field. This will loosen the ground anywhere from six to eight inches deep, and mixes the manure in thoroughly with the surface soil.

2. Peas and oats would make a capital crop for cutting green for cattle. I am not sure, however, whether this correspondent wants peas and oats for summer feeding or for winter feeding. There is nothing for winter feeding that will equal clover hay or alfalfa, and I would certainly advise this correspondent to work in some alfalfa on his farm, which would be useful for green feed through a good part of the summer, and also for hay. A mixture of crops will generally be found advisable, and corn certainly affords a large quantity of cheap fodder, which, however, has not a very high feeding value, but which can be made to fit in very nicely with a food like clover hay.

3. Clover is certainly a great deal better fodder crop than pea straw, no matter how well cured the pea straw may be.

4. This looks like nonsense. How could mildew improve any crop of fodder? As a matter of fact, it injures the quality of the food, and your correspondent may rest assured that good bright pea straw is much better than mildewed straw.

5. Green oat straw certainly makes better food than straw from oats which have been thoroughly ripened; but your correspondent may rest assured that the rust detracts very materially from the feeding value of the straw. If it comes to making a choice between badly-rusted oat straw, which had been cut green, and good, bright oat straw, which had been cut from ripe grain, I would certainly take the ripe straw in preference. There is certainly no benefit to be derived from rust, though, as I said before, the straw from green grain is worth more than the straw from ripe grain, other things being equal.

6. Buckwheat may be used to a certain extent for fattening cattle, though it contains a great deal of tough, fibrous hull, and has not a particularly high feeding value. It can be worked in very nicely, however, with other kinds of chop in the case of fattening cattle.

O. A. C. G. E. DAY.

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