

Agriculture.

Beans as a Field Crop.

CULTIVATION OF THE CROP.

There is but little difference in the ways of cultivating beans and corn, only that it is necessary, in the former, to observe the greater care to avoid covering the plant. To that end, if an ordinary corn cultivation is used, the outer teeth should be made so as to throw the dirt from, instead of toward the plants. That is especially important in cultivating after the beans are formed, for if the ends of the pods are covered it will cause them to rot and effect the quality of the crop. Where bean raising is exclusively followed they use a bean cultivator with numerous teeth, the size of harrow teeth, curved forward and flattened at the point.

The beans should be cultivated two or three times during the season, or as often as may be necessary to clean out the weeds and mellow the surface enough to cause a good growth of plant and beans. If the cultivator fail in completely cleaning the beans the hoe should be resorted to, or even hand-pulling of the weeds, if necessary.

PULLING AND CURING.

This is the most difficult and hazardous part of bean-raising, so easy is it for beans in the pod to become colored by wet weather just as they are ripening. We once had a crop of marrows just about ready to pull, when there came on a week of drizzling rain that completely spoiled the crop, so that it would not pay for harvesting and assorting.

When the pods have turned yellow, we commence pulling. We prefer to pull the third row first, and then pull two on either side, and place on it, so that we have five rows in one. We seize the stalks close to the ground, with our right hand grasping an entire hill at once, if it is not too large, pull it up, passing it to the left hand, and carrying it along until we have a handful. We then stand it top downwards, the leaves coming in contact with the ground, and keeping the beans from the earth.

If the weather is dry, they will cure in a few days without turning, but should it rain after the pods have dried off, the branches should be laid down, so that the top ends may be towards the sun, or the prevailing winds, and if after a day or two they should not be sufficiently dry to go in, they should be turned over on the other side, so that the under side may be exposed to the wind or sun. It is sometimes necessary, in a showery time, to turn the beans several times before they will be dry enough to draw, and that diminishes the profits.

DRAWING AND STORING.

When completely dry, no time should be lost in drawing. The wagon should be driven between the two rows, and a pitchfork on either side throw them on, either with four-tined forks, with long handles, or barley forks.

If there is scaffold room sufficient to store them, we should prefer it, as it would give a circulation of air beneath but, if not, they may be mowed in the bay, with safety, provided they are trodden down. Even the beans compacted under the feet of the mower should be loosened up with a fork.

Successful use of Superphosphate.

In a region of several miles in extent in the southwest part of Cayuga county in this State, the use of superphosphate of lime has proved so generally beneficial that the quantity annually employed by farmers has gradually increased for the past eight years, and now about a thousand tons have been purchased and used during the present year. The soil in this region seem to be peculiarly adapted to its use and we have obtained from several intelligent farmers who have given it a fair trial, some interesting facts, which may induce cultivators in other places to try the experiment of determining its value in their particular neighborhood.

Wm. P. Sisson, of Scipioville, informs us that from eighty years experience he finds that all crops are benefited, but winter wheat and clover or grass most so. On the poorer land, where there is no danger of a rank growth, oats show a marked increase. All running garden plants, turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, and garden vegetables generally, (with the possible exception of beets and car-

rots,) derive much benefit. He finds the corn crop considerably increased in amount and to ripen a week or ten days earlier when superphosphate is used. Sown with winter wheat, the effect on the succeeding crop of clover is quite marked for two or three years. From his long experience with it he gives as a general result, on "and of average good quality," about 25 per cent. increase in the amount of the crops. The average cost is about \$50 per ton, and as only 200 lbs. or even less are applied per acre, the cost per acre is only four or five dollars.

Samuel D. Otis, of Sherwood, who has not only used it for seven or eight years on his farm, but has bought hundreds of tons for his neighbors, informs us that a good superphosphate will carry out three crops, or one of grain and two of grass. He uses it on all crops, and finds it to pay largely, often increasing the wheat crop ten bushels per acre, and when the land is poor, much more. The past summer he mowed sixty heavy loads of hay on 27 acres. There is but little diminution in the grass the second year. On poor land his phosphated barley gave thirty-four and a half bushels per acre.

B. F. Beatty, of Sherwood, has furnished interesting details of his experiments and observations for eight years on different soils, and with different crops and the varying degrees of success which have attended the use of this fertilizer. Much benefit has been derived from drilling it with winter wheat at the rate of 200 lbs per acre, but he finds less benefit to spring crops.

On corn, its effects are nearly lost unless manure has been ploughed under. It cannot be relied on alone to keep up the fertility of the soil, and hence the importance of making all the manure practicable, and of plowing under clover. He has known it to increase the wheat crop ten bushels per acre. His practice having been for many years to spread the manure on the corn ground the preceding autumn (now generally found to be an excellent mode of manuring corn). The succeeding crop of barley has not generally needed additional manuring, but the next crop, wheat, is especially benefited by the superphosphate.

Wm. P. Sisson and others inform us that superphosphate has proved of little benefit to the clay lands along the border of Cayuga Lake. After passing a mile or more inland, the benefit from its use became quite marked. This want of success on strong clay accords with the results of our own experiments, as we never discovered the slightest effect on different crops at Union Springs, on land contiguous to the lake shore. — *Country Gentleman*.

Need of Minnesota Farmers.

What are the needs of Minnesota farmers? One of them is a more diversified system of agriculture. Why?

1. Because under the present system the market is overstocked with some products and the price is correspondingly low, while right here at our doors other farm products bring as much as in New York city, a great centre of consumption and export. Diversity of cropping tends to equalize prices.

2. Because diversity of cropping means rotations, and under a system of rotation larger crops can be produced each year, and the fertility of the soil will last much longer than when the same crop is sown year after year.

3. Because it is safer. He who stakes all upon a single crop merely buys a ticket in a good lottery. If everything proves favorable, he gets a good thing and a large sum of money all at once. But if the crop proves a poor one, he is in a correspondingly bad condition.

4. It distributes the labor, and the cash receipts also, more equally through the year, under this judicious system the farmer will first sow his wheat and then follow with oats, barley, potatoes, roots, corn, beans, etc. He may get returns for wheat, barley and oats in August; for potatoes and beans in September and October. His hay, corn and root crops will make the wool to sell in June, the pork to sell in November, the poultry to sell at the holidays, beef and mutton to sell in March or April, and butter and eggs to sell almost the year round. Thus little bills can be paid as they become due, and the long credit system discontinued.

5. Another advantage will arise from fewer purchases at the grocery and greater variety in the home fare. — *Professor C. J. Lucy, in Farmer's Union*.

Experience of a Large Potato Grower

I have raised from five to thirty acres every year for the past twenty years, and my experience has been that the cost of cultivation, including the expenses of plowing, harrowing, marking, planting, cultivating and hoeing, on the basis of \$4 per day for team work and \$1.50 per day for human labor, is about \$12.50 per acre. If manure be applied it would be greater, but the additional expense would be more than repaid by the increased yield. I do not include the item of seed, because each year a sufficient quantity of small and unmarketable potatoes is usually raised to supply abundant seed potatoes. At least they will sell for feeding purposes for enough to buy seed. The expense of digging and transporting a distance of two miles is eight cents per bushel.

My crop on good land has varied from 200 to 250 bushels per acre. The average for a series of years has been about 175 bushels, and the average selling price for ten years has been 50 cents. My experience has been that it is more profitable to sell in the fall and draw directly from the field to market. Excluding, therefore, the cost of seed and calling the rental of an acre of land \$3, the total cost of raising and harvesting one acre of potatoes is \$35. The proceeds will average about \$85 per acre.

If the land is free from quack grass and thistles, I should mark in rows three feet four inches apart, and plant in drills with the hills about 18 inches apart. I would cut the seed potatoes so that from three to five stalks would grow in each hill. If the land is foul or rough I mark the rows three feet apart each way with the same quantity of seed to the hill, and use cultivator and horse shoe each way, thus keeping the ground clean.

Peachblows generally take the lead in price, but I prefer to plant Early Rose and Prince Alberts, because they ripen early in the season and the grower can finish his fall work earlier. They also yield as plentifully on good land as any other variety. I would recommend the Early Rose potato for quick sale and profit when land is good. If the soil be light I would plant the Peerless. I raised, this season, 4,000 bushels of Early Rose and Prince Alberts upon 25 acres of land, and have sold them at \$2.17½ per barrel.

I have found that there is more net profit to be realized in raising potatoes at 50 cents per bushel than from any other crop, except the fancy products of hops, strawberries, tobacco, &c. In general an acre of potatoes will buy twice as much wheat as could be raised upon the same ground. — *Onida Co., New York, Correspondent Utica Herald*.

Conversations on Farming.

IS IT GOOD LUCK.

"Some men are born lucky; there is no doubt of it. Whatever they do turns out well. There is B—, whose farm is on the same concession as mine; his crops were all good. He has been now telling me that his wheat crop was heavier in yield than for some years. His oats has produced well, though short in the straw. His potatoes, and he had a large crop planted, will yield, he believes, 200 bushels to the acre, though they are not as large as at other seasons; even his meadows are not light. He has cut two good crops of hay. That's what I call being in luck, and my crops are all light—would not pay for the labor."

As with farmer G—, who is envying his neighbor's success and complaining of his own failure, so with others in farming, as in every business there is a shifting of the burden of failure from themselves to their ill luck. What has been the cause of B—'s good returns from his farm—his good luck, as his neighbor would call it? He did his work in due season, instead of putting it off till the last hour. He plowed the fields for his spring crops—a strong, heavy soil—in the fall, so that it had the benefit of the winter, which, much as we are apt to grumble at it sometimes, is a good cultivator and not a bad fertilizer. He had not exhausted the soil by repeated crops of wheat, till it was quite wheat sick. He had made and applied manure as much as he could. Having sown his grain, he took care that no stagnant water lay on it. His hay was grown from land sown with clover and grass seeds when in good heart. He kept his root crops well cultivated in the summer drouth. We have divulged the secret source of his good luck. It was good tillage. Good tillage has made the soil rich and deep, and wheat and grasses and hood crops drew sufficient food from a store deep beneath the parching influence of the drouth.

Water for part of the scarcity of Clair river, west is this some stream of the farmers?—

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