

much thought, labor, and expence. But it is obvious to every observer of rural affairs how much is commonly neglected to be done, that might have been accomplished without involving much, either of time or outlay. A man with a spade, if nature or art has provided an outfall, may often in a few hours relieve large portions of a field of most if not all of their stagnant surface water, by deepening at places the furrows made by the plough, or such portions of the ditches or natural drainage as are too shallow or partially obstructed. Wheat fields should be carefully examined with this object in view before the ground becomes permanently frozen. This would be a cheap way of benefiting both the soil and the crop.

Stables, byres and yards should be now examined and such repairs effected as are necessary for the production and thrift of live stock, which frequently suffer as much from wet and cold draughts as from irregular and inadequate feeding. The farmer should always bear this truth in mind, that all our domesticated animals thrive better on a smaller amount of food when kept dry and warm, than with a larger quantity however nutritious, under opposite conditions. Notwithstanding the shortness of the hay crop, what with the abundance and quality of straw and roots, cattle if properly protected, kept clean and dry, and regularly fed, may be carried through the approaching winter in a healthy and improved condition. The greatest care should now be taken that chaff, straw, &c., be properly husbanded, and that turnips, carrots, mangels, &c., be secured stored away so as to be available for use not only through the winter, but a portion reserved by what is often as pinching a time as any, early spring.

### The Wire Worm.

To the Editor of the *Agriculturist*.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me, through your paper, to inquire of you and your readers the best means to be adopted in order to destroy the wire-worm, or at least to prevent its ravages, or if there are any means of doing so.

My crops have for the last few years been almost totally destroyed by it; and the wheat which is now growing on my farm, in one field more especially, is being cut off very fast by it, so much so that I believe it will be all, or nearly all, gone before the frost sets in; and to plough it up to sow spring wheat, barley, &c., believe would be useless, as such would in all

probability share the same fate. I have tried many ways to banish it without effect. Different ways and plans have been suggested to me by various individuals, some towards its eradication, and some again as a means only of preventing it working at the wheat plant. Some of these I have tried which I found to be of no service. Now, for general information, I submit to you the following, all of which I have heard and seen recommended:—First, the propriety of rolling the wheat in the fall and spring with a heavy metal roller. Second, the propriety of ploughing in the fall and summer following the next season, keeping the land clear of weeds, &c. Third, propriety of sowing lime, salt, or soot. Fourth, the propriety of growing buckwheat on the fallow, and ploughing it down when in bloom. Fifth, the propriety of sowing soda-ash a short time before sowing the wheat.

With respect to the first question, rolling, have heard it mentioned as a means of preventing the worm injuring the wheat; in fact have heard some of my neighbours who have tried it say that such entirely stopt its progress. How this can be the case (if it is so) seems a mystery to me. It may be in consequence the soil being pressed tightly together and being made hard about the roots of the plant I have noticed that the looser spots in the field are always worse affected than the harder ones.

As to the second question—ploughing in the fall, &c.—suggested as a means of starving the worm out, I have ploughed in the fall and found it to be of no service to spring crop that is as far as the worm is concerned, for the barley and the spring wheat which I sowed in it were as much destroyed as on a piece in the same field which was not ploughed until the spring. But summer-fallowing the next season, after the fall ploughing, may starve them out and would it not be a good plan, after summer-fallowing, instead of sowing fall wheat, to let it stand over and sow spring wheat? By this means a person could give it a second fall ploughing without much loss.

As to the third question—sowing lime, &c. some recommend one and some another of them.

As to the fourth—growing buckwheat—have tried this without effect, but the buckwheat was a poor crop, which may account for the failure.

As to the fifth—sowing soda-ash—I have seen it highly recommended in a Belfast newspaper as being an effectual cure.

By answering the above questions, or making any suggestions that may be beneficial towards the eradication of this pest—wire-worm—you will confer a great favour on your humble servant, and let me know by what means, if there are any, I could save the crop which is now on the ground. Any information from you or any of your readers on this topic will be thankfully received.

By giving the above an insertion in your paper you will much oblige;

Yours, &c., AGRICOLA.

Chingacousy, 27th Oct., 1862.