

Fallowing to Kill Weeds.

If there is a field on the farm which is so thoroughly infested with quack, Canada thistles, or other foul weeds, that its culture is unremunerative, or if its soil is hard, and needs exposure to the air and frosts to ameliorate it, then it is a suitable subject for the genuine fallowing process. This should be done generally in the Fall with a thorough plowing, to be followed immediately by harrowing, to induce as rank and complete a growth of weeds as possible. The next step is a second plowing just previous to the setting in of Winter, but when the soil is dry and friable. The harrowing should be omitted after this second plowing, and the surface of the field should be left as rough as possible, so that the frost and air may penetrate the soil, and take effect on whatever roots there may be in it. This tillage will give the roots of the most vital weeds a set-back from which they will not easily recover. Next spring, when the ground becomes dry and in good condition to work, the field should be harrowed down smooth, and about the first of June another and final plowing given it. The cultivation subsequent to this must be done with the cultivator and harrow, and so frequently that no vegetation can struggle into growth. If the roots of quack abound near the surface, a strong-toothed rake should be employed to bring them into heaps where they may be burned. By raking and cultivating the surface to the depth of four or five inches, it can be completely cleared of roots, and a fine tilth given the entire top soil. Roots buried deeper than this will be smothered, and thus destroyed. An important point in this plan of tillage is, to do the work so thoroughly during the second season that no green blade can appear on the surface. In the Fall, the field will be in a fine condition for a crop of Winter grain, and weeds will be effectually subdued.—*American Rural Home.*

Drills vs. Broadcast Seeders.

The Department of Agriculture has issued to its correspondents a circular asking information as to the comparative quantities of spring wheat sown Broadcast and Drilled; the comparative yield, etc. At this writing we cannot give any statistics on the subject, but the enquiry has brought to mind some interesting facts.

Broadcast sowing of small grains as formerly practised universally and still in common use in some localities—that is, sowing by hand from bag or basket—is almost unknown in the Northwest—Wisconsin, for instance. Thus a farmer who has resided in this county for a number of years tells us he has never seen but two pieces of grain so sown. In somewhat extensive travels during three years past, we remember not more than one case in which we saw seeding done in this manner. So too there is comparatively little

sown by such machines as Cahoon's, which scatters the grain in much the same way as when sown by hand.

While this is true, it is also true that in the Northwest much the greater part of the spring wheat, as well as oats, barley, etc., is sown with the Broadcast Seeder (with which nine tenths of our readers are familiar, but of which it may be well to say, for the benefit of the one tenth, that it resembles the grain drill in general appearance, the grain being dropped on the surface of the ground and covered by the cultivator teeth, of various forms in different patents, which form a part of the implement).

The popularity of these Seeders is of comparatively recent date, and their general introduction has been surprisingly rapid. A leading dealer in Agricultural Implements in the Northwest—himself decidedly in favour of the Drill in comparison with the Seeder—states to us that he supposes there are ten Seeders in use in the Northwest generally to one Drill. It is a noteworthy fact that in some sections the Drills are decidedly the more popular. Thus in this, Dane, County more Drills than Seeders are used. Many of the friends of the Drills claim, with some appearance of having the facts on their side, that a reaction against the Seeders has commenced, and that farmers are beginning to again recognize the superior merits of the Drills, and they also claim that the popularity of the Seeders is largely to be accounted for by the love of new things and new kinds of machinery, and by the less cost of the Seeder. Drills generally selling for some 25 per cent. higher prices.

Some enthusiastic friends of the Drill claim very great advantages for it. Thus an intelligent farmer states to us that he estimates the average increase of the yield of wheat by the use of the Drill over the Seeder, at five bushels per acre. A general claim on the part of the friends of the Drill is that grain sown by it will do equally as well in any season, and in very dry seasons will do better than that sown by the Seeder.

Farm Work for November.

Some farmers are always behind hand in doing their work, and this month frequently finds them not at all prepared for its chilling blasts.

Buckings not in good order should be repaired without delay, all foul places cleansed thoroughly, and heavily whitewashed or sprinkled with lime.

Cellars under houses should be scrupulously cleansed, and, if possible to avoid it, should never be used for storing vegetables, as they do not add to the health of the family.

Animals should be studiously protected but only in thoroughly ventilated stables. Their food should be given four or five times during the twenty-four hours, so that none of it need be refused, because it is "mussed" or soiled. Many farmers whose experience has been varied prefer this plan, thinking it more economical, and more servicable to the animals than feeding only two or three times a day. For horses and neat stock, place lumps of rock salt in the mangers. Food must be varied to suit the kind and condition of animals. He who would prosper as a stock breeder or dairyman, cannot learn too much of the animal economy. Comfortable stables save foul, and very materially assist in maintaining animals in a good condition. Cleansing the hide and frequent rubbing will promote health. It has become quite a common

practice with some farmers to curry and rub down their neat stock, and we trust it may become universal.

Keep *fattening animals* fully fed, but be careful to vary the food sufficiently to cause a good appetite.

Hogs should be fed on cooked or soaked corn, or corn meal, almost entirely towards the last days of their fattening. Throw lime and ashes, in small quantities, on the floors of the pens from time to time, and occasionally feed a little sulphur.

Young animals ought not to be made tender by too close housing—should be treated gently and with familiarity. *Steers and Colts* may thus be brought to a condition that will make it a very easy task to break them into the yoke or harness.

Sheds, at least thirty feet wide, with low posts, and opening into a yard on the sunny side, surrounded by buildings, or a high fence, are highly approved of for sheep and young stock. They thus have an opportunity to exercise in the open air and sunlight, retiring to a well littered protection at their pleasure. Care must be used in feeding, that the weaker animals may have fair play.

Manure making should be prosecuted with the utmost vigour. As long as the weather permits, occupy every spare hour in collecting muck, pond mud, leaves, sods, ditch scrapings, and organic deposits, to be thrown under cattle, in the hog pen, or manure yard. Recollect that manure is the floating capital of the farmer, and if benefit is to be derived from its use, care must be taken that it does not float off literally. Devote study and thought to this part of your farming, but do not spare the muscle, for much can be made by a proper manipulation and commingling of materials.

Top dressing, ditches, drains and drainage should be heeded as far as possible during this month.

Heavy land may be plowed, provided it is not so wet as to be sticky, and we should prefer the lap furrows, that a greater amount of surface be exposed to the frosts of winter, and the ease of filtration increased. By all means sub-soil plow in this month, if practicable, and get the coarser manures under for next year's hoed crops.

Light land, that is not wet, will be benefited by being rolled after plowing, and will be all the better if heavily mulched with coarse manure, leaves, straw, refuse hay, rushes, or any material that will keep the surface from blowing away.

Fruit should be carefully culled over, and all that is sound wiped dry, and laid away on shelves, in dark, cool rooms, or dry cellars—as uniform a temperature as possible being kept up. *Cut scions* for grafting; and pack away in sawdust in a good cellar until needed. Cuttings of currants, &c., may be set as long as the ground is open and friable.

Cellars and pits for vegetables need close watching, that more protection may be given when the cold weather begins in earnest. *Plants in cold frames* should get all the sun and air they can endure. *Spinach* and other crops left out should be protected with litter thickly laid on. *All roots* should be immediately gathered and stored in pits, except that portion of the *parsnip* crop intended for spring use, which will be better off in the ground, if standing water is not allowed on the beds. *Grape vines* should be carefully pruned—the Concord, Isabella, and Catawba not as closely as the finer sorts.—*Farm and Fireside.*