

AGRICULTURE.

RAISING CALVES.—More cows are injured every year by long fasting and over-feeding than in any other way. When calves run with their dams they take their food often, and, of course, little at a time, but in our artificial treatment we reverse Nature's methods. If calves are allowed to suck, the injury from long fasting will be less marked, for the milk is taken at the right temperature, and in its natural state. But when we milk the cow, and then keep her milk twelve or more hours for the cream to rise before feeding the calf, we are departing still further from Nature's methods. Since by artificial methods of feeding, and by breeding for that purpose, we have greatly increased the proportion of cream or fat in the milk of some of our breeds of cows, it has been found that calves will often do quite as well, and in some cases better, fed upon milk poorer in fat than the whole milk from their dams. It is claimed by many breeders of Jersey and Guernsey cattle, that partially skimmed milk from cows of these breeds is really better for calves than the whole milk, and we have little doubt that their claim is well founded. No better calves were ever raised than have been raised upon skimmed milk, when all the details were properly looked after by a careful feeder of good judgment. The "bad luck" in raising calves by hand comes from too long intervals between the feedings, too heavy feeding, and especially from giving milk at too low a temperature. Let a calf become very hungry from long fasting, then be given an over-feed of cold milk, and one may warrant the calf to be sick within a very short time. An overloaded stomach refuses to act, sometimes even when the food is of the proper kind, but is sure to suffer when the food is so cold as to chill the animal. When a calf shivers after drinking it is safe to predict trouble. Milk should be at nearly the same temperature when fed from the pail that it would be if taken in the natural way direct from the cow, and the colder the weather the more important does this matter of temperature become. The milk should not only be right when taken from the fire, but should be right when it reaches the stable. Blood heat, ninety-eight degrees, is the right temperature, and for young calves in cold weather it should not fall more than a degree or two below. Milk is best heated in a tin pail set in a vessel of hot water, stirring the milk occasionally to keep it from sticking to the sides of the tin in case the water is very hot.—*N. E. Farmer.*

A new system of drying lumber by surrounding it with common salt is just now attracting attention. The peculiar power of salt for absorbing moisture is well known.

It is not generally known that the russet apple is one of the very best for cider. It has a very rich juice, and the culls of russets unfit for barrelling may be more profitably used for cider than for any other purpose.

THE VALUE OF POULTRY TO FARMERS.—Fifty hogs will produce enough domestic guano to manure five or six acres of corn, consequently this item of the farm is worth saving. All of our farmers expend many pounds for patent manures, that, with a little care on their part, might be saved. Farmers keep one or two hogs, and keep them confined so they have little exercise; they do not cart any manure and dump it into the hogs' pen for them to work over—hence in the spring they have only one cartload of manure from the hog pen, when, with a little exertion, they might have had five or six. For our part, we say, give us manure from the hog pen in preference to all the superphosphates ever made. Its good influence lasts longer than a single crop. Many of our farmers take but little care of their poultry during the winter season, allowing them to roost anywhere in the barn or outbuildings. This is a poor way to make poultry-raising profitable; and then, when corn-planting time comes, you are under the necessity of purchasing a sovereign's worth of guano, or the chances are that your corn will be of the "yaller" kind all through the season, and in the early autumn be cut down by the frosts.

BEETS FOR STOCK—For the past few years considerable experiment has been carried on by farmers to ascertain if a variety of beet could be found that would be good feed for stock. In talking with several farmers lately whom we saw engaged in buying seed, we found out that the white sugar beet was the variety generally conceded to be superior for this purpose. This variety not only starts easily and yields enormously, but also has those nutritious qualities which are so desirable for this purpose. We know quite a number of parties who keep from six to a dozen head of stock the year round on feed, about half of which is from this beet. We make the suggestion at this time, as the rains are just beginning, and this is the most favorable time of year for sowing the seed.

Do you curse your luck, and say farming does not pay? How so! You know Wild? Everybody does hereabouts. He makes farming pay. You go from your weedy, starved, shiftless-looking place, to Wild's, and he smiles, hums a tune to himself, looks at you sarcastically, and he knows why you grumble. Order, neatness, clean farming, well-fed fields, a clear head; there you have them! all requisites in successful farming. But what good comes from lessons taught that go in one ear and out the other? If you can't make farming pay, you may feel assured that the fault lies with you, and you only. A well-ordered machine must have bolts and nuts in place, and all must work harmoniously. Is your machinery in good working order?—*Our Country Home.*

A good way to administer salt to cattle is in the form of lumps of rock salt. Secure large lumps to be placed in the yard and fields where cattle can lick them at their leisure.



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