

AGRICULTURE.

News of General Interest.

Fall Preparation for Soiling.

Soiling cattle is one of those inevitable improvements in the methods of agriculture which come with the march of progress and the necessities of society. As any industry progresses, and the population increases, the absolute necessity for cheaper products comes with the more abundant supply of labor and the invention and use of labor saving tools and machinery. We have now a large number of improved appliances in every industry by which the cost of the products is lessened very materially. One man with the new machinery can produce several times as much material in one day as he could previously by hand work. A boot can now be put together for a few cents in place of a dollar or two years ago and is consequently sold at a greatly reduced price; all sorts of clothing is also reduced in cost to an equal extent by means of stamp machines to cut and shape the cloth in scores of patterns at one blow, and by sewing machines, which makes several hundred stitches in a minute. So it is with everything we use from our birth to the narrow bed in which we are laid away to rest at the end of our lives. This universal cheapness pervades all industries. It affects agriculture equally with all others. The introduction of machines has cheapened all farm products and all the fodder crops. The farmer who uses the grass scythe; the grain cradle; who sows by hand; who beats out the grain by the flail, and who feeds his cattle on pastures and spreads manure with a fork, cannot live in competition with other farmers who have for a hundred acre farm \$3,000 worth of machinery; mowers; self-binding reapers, seed drills; horse hoes; manure spreaders, potato diggers, Acme harrows, steam engines, fodder cutters; feed mills, threshing machines, etc., etc., and who feed one cow upon an acre of fodder crops, and send their cream to a factory, and who till their soil and fertilize it so that the average crops are trebled. He finds the market prices are falling before the increased quantity and the cheapness of the products, and his expenses remaining the same, he becomes distressed. He is like the man who runs in a race loaded down with heavy clothing and a pack upon his back, with his feet tied, against a man free from all encumbrances and weights, and who easily leaves him far behind.

These facts are food for every day thoughts. Not a day in the season could be easily turned to the contemplation of these truths. At this season, however, the subject of soiling crops is of the greatest pertinence, because if this practice is to be begun at all, this is the time to begin. For fall sown rye is the foundation of the summer feeding. This crop should be sown upon rich soil, with double the average quantity of seed so as to have a thick fine growth of stalk. 3 bushels of seed is the quantity commonly used per acre, and if the soil is not in good condition some good fertilizer should be procured. 300 pounds of ammoniated superphosphate, or of fine bone flour, with 200 lbs. of gypsum plaster, should be used per acre. But this crop alone is not sufficient. Some ground should be prepared for seeding crops. In soiling, a succession of crops in the right stage for use is indispensable. No one who begins this practice can half do it or turn back. It is so easy and so convenient when brought down to rule that a farmer who once begins will never be induced to stop. It is necessary therefore to have some ground ready to be sown in the spring before it could be well prepared at that season. A thorough plowing should be given to a piece of land, proportionate in size to the number of cattle to be fed. Half an acre per head for each crop is sufficient; because there is a succession of crops grown and each acre may be cropped twice and some three times if the land is used with skill. It is advisable to make a later sowing of rye in November, so late that it will follow the first crop. Oats sown at the very first opportunity on the fall plowed ground follows the rye; but after an interval in which clover or grass is used. If there is not a piece of clover then some ground should be fitted for it to be sown by itself or with orchard grass in the early spring. It will furnish pasture the next fall and after that be ready to cut immediately after the rye is used up. In the spring some acres are planted with early and late sweet corn and the rye ground is thus used as soon as cleared; a strip being plowed and planted as soon as the rye is off. The land is not left idle one day longer than can be helped, and when a crop is out it should be cut in strips across the field so that a land can be plowed and sown or planted at once. The best plow for this use

is a side-hill, or swivel plow, which will plow back and forth from one side of the field to the other, turning the furrows all one way and leaving no dead furrows. The headland for turning on should be kept in grass which can be mowed or they may be plowed and sown later.

It will occur to the thoughtful reader that a silo will come in very usefully as an aid to soiling. This is true. A succession of succulent fodder is the fundamental principle of soiling. As the fodder crops are used up there must be some part left unused; for a surplus cannot be avoided with safety, and the remainders can be put into the silo with great advantage for use in the winter. Moreover a crop of roots would be a manifest advantage and, in the writer's practice and experience, is invaluable for the fresh cows who come in the fall to keep up the supply of milk. Of all the roots the Improved American (Lanes) sugar beet is the best, and the old fashioned long red mangel comes next. 1200 bushels per acre of the latter has been grown and as half a bushel per day is a full feed with other fodder, and acre will furnish a winter's feeding for 6 cows at the above rate or half as many with the small yield of 600 bushels per acre. Thus by the effective and skillful practice of soiling and the use of soiling crops, the problem of how to feed one cow upon an acre of ground, and therefore to reduce the cost of dairy products to one half or one third the cost of pasturing, is solved.

A severe drought prevails in West Virginia, and the farmers are selling off their cattle, owing to inability to feed them.

The hay crop of New England has turned out better than was expected. Pastures and aftermath will improve and present copious showers.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

RETAIL MEAT MARKET.

Beef, roast, per lb.	\$0 12 1/2 to \$0 16
Beef, steak, per lb.	12 1/2 to 16
Beef, corned, per lb.	6 to 10
Beef, boiling, per lb.	6 to 8
Beef, fore quarters, per lb.	6 to 8
Beef, hind quarters, per 100 lb.	9 1/2 to 10 1/2
Veal, roast.	12 to 16
Pork, roast.	10 to 12 1/2
Pork, steak.	10 to 12 1/2
Pork, farmers' per 100 lbs.	6 00 to 6 50
Mutton, roast, per lb.	12 1/2 to 16
Mutton, leg.	12 1/2 to 16
Mutton chop.	15 to 18
Ham.	15 to 18
Breakfast bacon.	15 to 16
Lard, per gal.	2 25 to 3
Sausage.	12 1/2 to 15
Bologna sausage.	12 1/2 to 15
Shanks.	3 to 4
Liver.	15 to 16
Kidney.	15 to 16
Head cheese.	12 1/2 to 15 1/2
Heart.	12 1/2 to 15
Tongue.	12 1/2 to 15
Chickens, per lb (dead).	13 to 25
Eggs, per dozen.	20 to 25
Butter, per lb.	15 to 20
Chickens (alive) per pair.	30 to 45
Turkeys, each.	80 to 1 00
Ducks, per brace.	20 to 30
Prairie Chickens, per brace.	40 to 50
Prime Manitoba cheese, per pound.	15 to 16

WHOLESALE MEAT AND CATTLE MARKET.

Milk cows.	25 00 to 40 00
Working oxen, per yoke.	90 00 to 140 00
Live cattle, per lb.	9 3/4 to 4
Calves.	5 00 to 20 00
Side bacon, per lb.	9 1/2 to 10
Hams.	13 1/2 to 15
Pork, per barrel.	16 50 to 17 00
Beef, per barrel.	12 50 to 15
Corn, per doz.	15 to 20
Cudumbers, per doz.	40
Ducks.	20
Eggs, per doz.	25

FISH.

Wholesale, per lb.	4 1/2 to 5 1/2
Retail, per lb.	8 to 10
Potatoes, per bush.	25 to 30
Beets, per doz.	30 to 40
Onions, per doz.	40 to 50
Dried onions, per bushel.	2 50
Turkeys, per bush.	40 to 50
Cabbages, per doz.	40 to 50
Parsley, per doz.	40
Sage, per doz.	40
Carrots, per doz.	to 30
Farsnips, per doz.	to 30
Squash, each.	10 to 20

FRUIT.

California Peers, per box.	6 00 to 6 50
Grapes, per lb.	4 to 5
Lemons, per box.	10 00 to 12 00
Oranges, per box.	8 00 to 8 50
Apples, per barrel.	5 00 to 6 00
Ripe tomatoes, per bushel.	2 25
Green tomatoes, per bushel for pickling.	1 80

HAY AND STRAW.

Hay.	3 50 to 4 00
Straw.	2 50
Timothy.	7 50 to 8 00

GRAIN.

Oats, per bushel.	25 to 30
Barley, per bushel.	35 to 40
No. 1 hard wheat.	90
No. 2 hard wheat.	75
No. 1 Northern.	72
No. 2 Northern.	67
No. 1 regular wheat.	65
No. 2 regular wheat.	60
No. 3 regular wheat.	55
Rejected.	42 to 50

The price of No. 1 hard wheat at different points of the province is as follows:

Morden.	73
High Bluff.	73
Gretna.	73
Portage.	73
Brandon.	71
Carberry.	71
Stonewall.	71
Virdeu.	71
Elkhorn.	67
Manitou.	65
Alexander.	63
Wolsley.	67
Emerson.	73
Morris.	73

FLOUR.

Flour, patent.	2 45
Flour, strong.	2 15
Flour, XXX.	1 70
Flour, superfine.	1 30

WOOD.

Poplar cordwood.	4 40 to 5 00
Tamarac.	5 50 to 6 00
Poplar poles, per cord.	4 00

COAL.

Grate, hard, delivered.	10 00
Egg, hard, delivered.	10 00
Grate, hard, delivered.	10 00
Grate, soft.	8 00

There is as much wisdom in bearing with other people's defects as in being sensible of their good qualities; and we should make the follies of others rather a warning and an instruction to ourselves than a subject of mirth and mockery of those who commit them.

Conceit is like the natural unguent of the sea-fowl's plumage, which enables him to shed the rain that falls on him and the wave in which he dips. When one has had all his conceit taken out of him, when he has lost all his illusions, his feathers will soon soak through, and he will fly no more.

To suppose we can indulge in the lower passions or appetites for a time, and then at our pleasure subdue them and lead a higher life, is an illusion which will dissolve as we approach it. Character is self-perpetuating. It uses all its materials, good or bad. Nothing can be swept away or blotted out.

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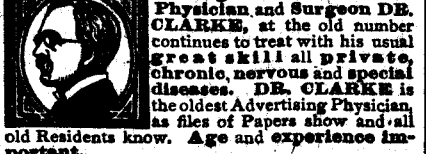
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