

no regard is paid to assorting hay, the best hay is very liable to be all fed out in the winter, and much of the poorest quality of it will be kept until spring, when stock will not eat it well.

*Sowing Indian Corn for Fodder.*—In very many localities meadows are very light, and in some places insects have injured the grass so that it will not afford half a crop. If the grass be light, it will not be too late to plow the ground and sow about three or four bushels of Indian corn per acre for fodder. But when such a job is performed in August, the soil should be neatly plowed and well harrowed or pulverized. And if there could be a sprinkling of fine manure harrowed in with it, it would have a very beneficial effect on the crop. In some places, where the barley is removed early in the month, the soil might be plowed immediately and Indian corn sowed, with the assurance of a tolerably good crop, unless there should be a very early frost in autumn.

*Buckwheat after Barley.*—Two crops in one season is running land rather too hard; but in certain instances it would not be objectionable to raise two crops on the same field in one season.

I have known a few instances in which buckwheat was sowed as soon as the barley was removed, and a good crop was obtained. I have my mind on a man in Tompkins county, who a few years ago sowed buckwheat after barley, on the 20th of July, and raised a bountiful crop.

The barley was raked into winrows as soon as it was fit to rake, and the plow was started immediately. When the ground was all plowed up to the rows, and the buckwheat sowed and harrowed in, the barley was removed and cocked on the plowed ground, when the soil beneath the winnow was plowed and sowed.

Another very important consideration during this month is

*The Improvement of Stock.*—When a farmer has cows and raises his own cattle, August usually is the most important month of all the year to attend to the improvement of his neat cattle.

But this branch of business is too often sadly neglected, on account of the pressure of field labors, even when a farmer aims to avail himself of every advantage in this respect within his reach.

There are a good number of the best bulls at the present time in almost every part of the country, and however urgent the labors of the field may be, farmers should not fail to secure the services of the best of these animals during the present month.

*The Proper Mode of Curing the Grasses.*—Haymaking, with too many farmers, is like manuremaking—it is turned out too much to the weather. This is especially the case with clover hay. How often is it that five acres or ten acres of clover are cut down before the forks on the horse-rakes are set to work to gather it into winrows and cocks. I have seen it lie two days in the swath, exposed to dews, the leaves blackened, and the stems hard and brittle, instead of soft and pliant.

The making must proceed with the cutting.

Clover should be allowed to wilt in the swath—nothing more. If the weather is hot, and the ground dry, it will do so in two hours; if the weather is cool and the ground wet, it may be unraked for half a day. When wilted and raked or forked into winrows, it should be put up in small cocks as speedily as possible; in the evening, when cut in the morning, and early the following day, if not cut until the afternoon. As clover hay is very easily injured by rain, it should not be left out longer than is absolutely necessary to let it heat in the cock, that it may there undergo its sweating, rather than when in bulk in the mow. This it will do in the course of from thirty-six to forty-eight hours after being put into the cocks. When it is heated, it may be hauled in, being scattered as much as convenient while being loaded, so that it may cool and dry. But if the weather threatens rain, it should be secured by a topping of timothy grass, or hauled in before it is well heated. The weather must be watched. But no matter what the indications of the weather are, as soon as the clover is well heated, in with it—into the barn or in the stack, for the weather is not to be so far trusted as to accumulate hay in the field. If the raking and cocking of the grass should proceed with the cutting, so should the hauling. Secure as you go, is the undeviating rule of clover hay making. Thus made, clover hay should have a yellowish green color, with a bright stem, soft and pliant. When the leaves are turned black, and the stems hard and brittle, the hay is spoiled.

*Timothy Hay.*—When timothy grass is cut down soon after the blossoms have fallen, it has much sap in it—more or less according to the condition of the ground and of the atmosphere. At this stage it is more difficult to cure than clover, because its stems have joints, and they are of more compact organization. If cut with a scythe and the grass is heavy, the swaths should be turned over after the upper side is between the wilted and dried state. When so turned and cured, all ought to be put in winrows as rapidly as possible, and put into cocks, where the curing is to be completed. If the hay is entirely cured before it is raked into winrows, it is too much bleached with dews, and is too hard. It should have a greenish yellow color, bright and soft and pliant stems and leaves. To make it such, it must not be exposed too long to the sun's rays. If the grass is not cut until the seed is ripe, and the ground and air are dry, the swath need not be turned, but may be raked into winrows. If cut with the mower, the raking should be commenced sooner. In all cases and conditions of the grass, the final curing should be done in cocks. The sweating it then undergoes softens it, and when thus cured, both cattle and horses will eat it up clean, but if the stems are hard, too much of the butts will be wasted.

Timothy hay may be made in very large cocks, but the most convenient size is one that a single horse can easily draw to the stacking place in the field. To make them larger requires too much pitching in the winrow. Care should be taken not to roll the hay in