POOR DOCUMENT

# AGRICULTURE

## Notes and Suggestions of Practical Utility;

FOR THE FARM, FIELD, GARDEN AND DAIRY.

Gleanings of Interest for Our Country Readers

Sharp plows save the farm teams.
All kinds of stock ers need trellises.
Keep everything clean around the well.
Foreign crop re ports are very unfavorable.
Chickens like sweet milk better than sour.
Skim-milk is as good for hens as it is for pigs.
Ohio sheep p growers favor the sugar beet for sheep.
How are the potato bugs? Keep an eye open to them.
Not and dry weather has greatly injured the wheat crop.

The granaries should be well cleaned out before thrashing.

There is nothing gained in the long run by working too hard.

The peach crop this year is generally good North and South.

Wool and mutton must be combined now to realize a profit.

Time is money to the farmer if it is to any man under the sun.

Queensland has now about 6,000,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep.

It is a good plan to move the coops occasionally during hot weather.

Study the demands of the poultry market and cater to the demand.

Poultry and sheep in the orchard will consume wormy fruit and insects.

Giving too much sloppy food to young chickens often causes scours.

Bagging grapes to prevent them from rotting is now considerably practised.

Fowls need plenty of pure, fresh air and clean, cool water this hot weather.

Farmers in Western Kansas are in need of provisions, feed and seed wheat.

Milk should be aired before setting, to allow animal and other odors to escape.

Some kill Canada thistles by plowing as deep as possible when they are in bloom.

Cultivating the garden frequently keeps the soil moist and cool, as well as clean.

Has it ever occurred to you that a fast-walking team would save you lots of time.

No matter what breed the cow is, she requires good care to produce profitable results.

Odd times can be used to advantage in cutting weeds which will seed a little later if let alone.

A memorandum book for noting odd jobs which need attention is helpful to farm managers.

If the pastures are short, keep up the milk flow with some kind of green food, or with bran, oats, etc.

Farmers should be just as regular in eating, sleeping and beginning and quitting work as any other class.

Always provide a dark shed for the sheep during the heat of the day if there is a scarcity of shade trees.

If you give any of the stock especial care through the winter it should certainly be the breeding animals.

The good gardener makes successive plantings so as to have a supply of vegetables all through the season.

It is money in the pocket of the fruit grower to know how to pack and send to market in the best condition.

A man or an animal will tire of any one food when compelled to live on it exclusively for any length of time.

A cattle plague has ravaged Africa, millions of cattle have died between the river Niger and Lake Tehad.

Hogs can now be made to reach the weights at one year old that were attained at eighteen months a half a century ago.

If it is eggs instead of fat you want feed the hens wheat and other egg producing feed instead of fat producing feed.

In investing in sheep to start a flock purchase nothing but first-class animals vigorous and healthy in every respect.

An old orchardists and gardener advises using hard-wood ashes liberally on all garden truck, small fruits and orchard trees.

The cream should be set as soon as possible after milking. It will not separate readily when subject to jarring and shaking.

It is cheaper to drill in the phosphates when seeding down the crop as the materials are then intimately mixed with the soil.

Any abrupt change in diet of sheep, unusual exposure to heat or cold will invariably produce a weak spot in the fiber of wool.

The lower grades of butter come into competition with oleo and other frauds. This is one reason why it pays to make the best.

If the pasture has no shade trees the cows should be provided with clean, shaded quarters where the air can pass through freely.

The shortage of hay and storage crops in Europe will create a great demand here. Hay is selling in England at $40 to $50 a ton.

Do not depend on the stock to keep down the weeds. It is true that they may do something toward it, especially if you have sheep.

Cows should be trained so that they will let any kind person milk them, but they do better when the same person milks them each time.

The importation of sheep from Denmark, owing to foot and mouth disease there, has been prohibited by the authorities at Hambug.

The cow first lives out of the rations and makes milk of the unexpended balance, though some cows are less miserly than others.

It will pay people who have ducks to grow turnips for them. The turnips should be cooked and mixed with a small proportion of ground grain.

Exports of Falkland Island wools amount to nearly 4,000.000 pounds annually. There are also yearly shipments of 20,000 frozen carcasses to England.

In order to get the fat all out of the butter the churn should not be filled too full. It is necessary to have room in the churn to give the cream concussion.

It is estimated that of the world's population 270,000,000 are farmer, representing a capital of $224,000.000,000 with an annual product of $20,000,000 000.

With basic slag, bone and the Carolina and Florida deposits to draw upon, phosphoric acid is now very abundant, and will probably gradually become cheaper.

If you have no shed or shelter of any kind for the farm wagon, run it under some shade tree. The hot sunshine following a rain injures it more than the rain.

Do not allow the farm buildings to lack paint. The cost is covered by the saving in lumber which results, and the improved appearance is worth something.

The hot water treatment is generally accepted as the best for smut in either oats or wheat,—except 'loose' smut of wheat, for which no remedy has yet been found.

No field should be left in stubble, but should be plowed and cultivated in order to destroy weeds. Such labor will not be lost, and there will be fewer weeds next season.

Massachusetts is threatened with a new insect pest which is pronounced to be the Vanessa antiopa, a leaf eating insect, which seems to have as good an appetite as the gypsy moth worm.

The falling off of milk during the hot weather in the summer so commonly credited to the trouble from flies, is very often really caused by the failing of pastures and the absence of a soiling crop to supplement it.

### Corn as Food for Poultry.

There is considerable discussion over the value of corn (and we may also include wheat) as food for poultry. The advocates of corn claim that as long as it can be had at a low cost it is the best of all foods, while others contend that it has a tendency to create too much fat, and really retards egg production. The matter is one that may be discussed from several standpoints. If a hen is laying, she necessarily uses a large proportion of carbonaceous material in producing the egg, the yolk requiring quite a large quantity; but if she is not laying she is liable to become too fat if corn or wheat is fed exclusively. The fact is that no grain is suitable as an exclusive food for laying hens. The production of eggs demands a variety, and corn is no exception to the rule. It is the best of all grains to feed in winter because it is heat producing and keeps the fowls warm; but it is unsuitable in winter.

### Preserving Eggs and Meat With Sulphur.

Eggs, meat, bones or any kind of food intended to be stored away for winter use may be preserved by subjecting it to the fumes of burning sulphur for fifteen minutes. The method is as follows: Have a box with a top that raises like a lid—an old trunk will answer admirably; place the eggs or other articles in the box or trunk, and burn a tablespoonful or more of sulphur in the box on a chip on top of the articles to be preserved; as sulphur fumes are heavy and fall to the bottom A little alcohol will make the sulphur burn more easily. As soon as it begins to burn, close the lid and keep it closed for at least fifteen minutes. The sulphur fumes destroy all fermentation, disease and life. The preserved goods may then be exposed to the air without danger of decay for from three to six months. Fresh meat, fish and other perishable articles will keep for months, and will become dry before they will decay. When the meat is cooked the sulphur in it is dissipated, and no injurious effects result. This is the receipt for preserving articles which is often offered for sale. Fruits are preserved by immersing in water, but they lose their fresh appearance.

## THE DAIRY.

### A Few Points on Cultivating Long Milking Records.

Mr L. B. Pierce of Ohio has the following in the Ohio Farmer: We all know that there are differences in cows just as the stars differ in brightness. I have a grade cow with considerable Jersey blood and one cross of Holstein that has missed but two milkings in eight years. She has had six healthy calves and is due to drop the seventh in a few weeks. There never has been a time when she gave little enough milk to warrant drying her off, so against repeated advice from those who thought they knew more than I did, she has been milked from one year's end to another. Long arguments have been made to me claiming that she would give just as much milk with less wear and tear if she went dry a few weeks but in the face of the fact that she wouldn't go dry, these arguments had but little weight. Her oldest daughter became a cow on the 20th of January 1893, and her second calf on the 20th of April 1893. and like her mother did not at any time give little enough milk to warrant attempting to dry her off. It was necessary to milk her for six days before she had her first calf, her bag being so full and hard that she would have had a caked bag and perhaps milk fever if we had not taken the precaution to milk her and rub and work at her bag a half an hour or more daily. When I was a boy it was the belief that some great injury would result if a cow or heifer was milked before calving, but I am satisfied that many cases of milk fever and caked bag might be avoided if more attention was given to a cow before coming in and some milking done if her condition demanded it. A neighbor lost a cow valued at $50, with milk fever, and I have no doubt that daily milking her for a week would have saved her. She was turned out into rank pasture two weeks before calving and her milk flow was increased too suddenly. Some farmers half starve their cows previous to calving to avoid too much milk, but this seems to me a very foolish policy, as the cow needs at that time all she will eat, and it is a question whether she will do as well afterward if her milk flow is reduced at a period when nature naturally increases it. There was another superstition in my boyhood days and half the dairymen believe in it yet, and that is, if you dry off a heifer with her first calf, early, she will follow that precedent and give milk for no longer period ever after. With a view to prolonging the milking season men will strip a heifer for weeks, getting a teacupful at a milking. It is probable that a short milking period could be formed by untimely drying off for two or three successive years, but the idea that a long habit can be produced by one year's effort is erroneous. The case cited of my own cows shows that heredity has much more to do with it, and if the producers of dairy cows would only breed from stock of long milking records, the milking period could be made, in a few years, to average eleven months or more instead of less than nine, as it now does.

### Literary Lights and Sidelights.

There is certainly no excuse for people not reading books, whatever encouragement there may be for authors writing them, when paper-covered novels, and fairly good issues of the works of well known English writers at that are on sale in Boston variety stores at a cent a piece.

A forthcoming illustrated book that is sure to meet with a cordial welcome is the new edition of Washington Irving's ever delightful "Knickerbocker History," for which E. W. Kemble has made no less than 225 drawings. Putnams are the publishers.

In a letter to a young man who was about to take up literature as a career, George Sand wrote: "I see you are bent upon becoming a literary man. In order to succeed you must learn everything. This art is not a gift by which you succeed without a mass of acquired knowledge." And yet there are people who imagine that pen, ink, paper and a certain fluidity of expression are sufficient in themselves to constitute the stock-in-trade of an author.

Woman and the Higher Education, by Anna C. Brackett, is announced by Harper & Bros. as the first in a Distaff Series the special feature of these books being that they will be written and edited by women, while women have engaged on all the processes of making the book, from setting the type to designing the cover. This is all very interesting and creditable, comments the Sunday School times, but thoughtful men and women will consider that the true emancipation of woman will not have come until people cease to refer to her achievements as exceptional.

A forthcoming volume from the pen of one of our well-known preachers is the Life of the Hon. John Macdonald, of Toronto, which the Rev. Hugh Johnston has prepared. Mr. Macdonald was essentially a self-made man whose career was closely identified with not only the commercial but the political, intellectual and religious developement of this Dominion, and in the experienced hands of Mr. Johnston the story of his life should make interesting and instructive reading. The volume will be published by the Methodist Book Room Toronto.

All readers of that gem of juvenile literature Harper's Young People will be shocked and saddened at the news of the death of its accomplished editor. Mr. Alfred B. Starey, who recently succumbed to typhoid fever, in New York. Mr. Starey, who was, by the way, an Englishman, and graduate of Oxford, shewed himself an ideal editor from the standpoint of both his contributors and his constituency. He made a brilliant success of his charge, and won for himself the affection and respect of those who submitted manuscripts for his consideration. The Harpers will find it no easy matter to fill his place.


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