

FARMING

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Agricultural News and Comments

Get in line for breeding your cattle as prices advance, and when you feed off a few steers you have the whole price and do not have to pay the breeder or the banker the lion's share. Get a few good cows and breed to a pure-bred bull of the right type, and follow up this line of breeding, which gets better with each succeeding cross.

When hens are kept in confinement the eggs often have very pale yolks. This condition is quite common in winter with most flocks. The cause is the same which makes butter pale in the winter—lack of green pasturage. Steamed cut clover will restore the color; steamed clover, or clover ensilage, meat and fresh bone are the three great winter egg specifics.

Some dairymen seem to use their feed to heat the drinking water for their cows; not directly, but through the medium of the animal. If the dairyman uses his fodder for this purpose it will pay him better to burn it directly under the water tank instead of in the cow. It will heat more water if used in that way, and the wear and tear on the cow is less.

The exports of breadstuffs to Europe from the United States for the ten months ending October 31st, 1898, amounted to \$250,237,455, which is \$65,000,000 greater than for the same time last year. The provision exports for the same time were \$162,880,643, against \$146,607,039 for the ten months of 1897. The demand for American corn is increasing.

In picking poultry the feathers will come out more readily if the carcass is dipped in cold water and allowed to drip. Then sprinkle finely pulverized rosin over and among the feathers, which causes them to stick to the hands, even the pin feathers coming out with little difficulty. The common crude rosin is best; about half a teaspoonful for each fowl.

A wealthy Englishman has devoted \$50,000 to the establishment of an Agricultural School in Worcestershire. It is the intention to have this a school and not a college. The ages of the scholars will be from fifteen to eighteen years, and the minimum term of study will be two years. There will be a thoroughly-equipped farm in connection with the school, and a charge of £15 a year will be made to each pupil.

Australian and New Zealand shippers are feeling their way with a view to shipping butter to British Columbia. Such action does seem to be a little bit "cheeky," but trade competition is not confined to national boundaries, and if our dairy friends in the Antipodes can ship butter to British Columbia and make a profit out of it they have a perfect right to do so. Our own dairymen, however, should be on the alert to supply the home market with all it requires.

It will pay the dairyman to raise his own cows. By this method he is apt to get better cows if he understands breeding and selection thoroughly. The best way is to start with your own herd. Weed out the cows that are not returning a profit and then use a bull of some recognized dairy herd who comes from a strain of milk producers. By a method of this kind, carefully and intelligently practised, a dairyman will in a very few years be in the possession of a good dairy herd.

There are twelve societies for co-operative farming in England, with 4,500 members and a share loan capital of \$285,000, their sales being nearly \$500,000 a year, and their profits about \$9,000 annually. Ireland has sixty-seven societies for co-operative farming, with some 2,000 members and \$18,000 capital, their annual sales amounting to about \$175,000, on which a profit of some \$2,000 is reported. Most of the Irish societies run little creameries on the co-operative plan such as we have in Canada.

An egg is a complete food because it contains all the elements essential to the support of the embryo chick. The shell is 91 per cent. carbonate of lime, 6 parts phosphate of lime and 3 parts nitrogenous organic matter. In 100 parts of the white there are 84.8 parts water, 12 of albumen, 2 of fat, sugar and membranes, and 1.2 of mineral matter. The yolk contains in 100 parts, of water 51.5 parts, casein and albumen 15, oil and fat 30.1, pigments, extractives, etc., 2.1, and mineral matter 1.4. Eight average eggs should weigh one pound.

Though the New York Horse Show was one of the best of its kind ever held on this continent, the attendance was comparatively light. The price of boxes fell from \$52,000 to \$16,000, and the clamor for general admission, which had marked previous shows, was totally absent. The falling off in attendance is due to the management of the show and to the reactionary feeling which seems to have set in to making the affair such a great social event. There is a lesson in this for the management of other horse shows, who carry on the social fad to excess.

Pumpkins are said to be effective instruments in eradicating certain forms of parasites from sheep. They should be fed seeds and all, as the chief medicinal properties are in the seeds. Pumpkins make a good milk flow, and are good to feed sows and little pigs. They can be grown very cheaply in the corn field, and it would pay every farmer to have some for his stock in the fall. It is said that when pumpkins are fed largely to hogs there is not so much danger of hog cholera. They tend to keep the bowels in a healthful condition.

It is reported that a large number of big cattle firms on the western ranges are going out of business because cattle of all kinds are scarce and hard to get, and cost too much to afford a profit even if they could be obtained. Two-year-olds used to be bought for \$10 or \$11, and cows with calves at about \$12; now yearlings to three-year-olds command from \$22 to \$42, and cows with calves about \$36. The corn-grower has allowed himself to run out of cattle, and his competition for range stock has been so keen that in the judgment of the cattle companies prices are too high to afford much prospect for profit during this winter.



Give the Foals a Chance

The following paragraph, taken from *The Western Horseman*, is full of good, sound philosophy on raising horses: "A good horse, like a good house, is built 'from the ground up,' the superstructure of the future horse being formed in the weanling colt, and while a 'lousy calf' sometimes comes out all right 'in the spring,' one that has escaped the 'vermin' is just so much the better off. As the character of the future man is generally formed in the boy, so also does complete development in the future