

NEST BOXES.

Two Forms That Will Give the Farmer... Should Be Put Into Practice.

The accompanying figures of nest boxes represent two forms, either of which answers well to prevent egg-eating, and are convenient to keep clean, gather the eggs from, and keep in general good order.

Fig. 1.—FLAT-TOPPED NEST BOX. Inches between. Divide the nests with one-foot square boards, leaving a space one foot in the clear.

Fig. 2.—NEST BOX AGAINST WALL. short section of it which gives a fair idea of the construction. The hens can enter at either end.

Milk Fever successfully Treated. For milk fever give the cow at one dose when first taken one and a half pints of warm salt dissolved in water.

Concentrating the Manure. Very few farmers have enough manure to fertilize all the land they own.

Good Tree Males. Cob and coal ashes are excellent for applying as a mulch for trees and shrubs during a drouthy season.

Sowing Grass Seed. You may sow grass seed successfully with wheat, rye, barley and oats, best in the order named.

Automatic Watering of Cows. There are devices on the market which keep a supply of water constantly before cows in the stable, and tests made with these devices show that when using the milk yield is increased over that given by any other method of watering.

A NEW STRAWBERRY BED.

One Who Knows Gives Explicit Directions for Setting.

In strawberry culture three things are essential—good ground, good plants and good cultivation.

The plants used in setting a new bed are usually grown on my farm and are taken from a bed that has never been worked. Care is used to select strong, vigorous plants.

Before spring is right upon you overhaul the harness and get it in good shape. For this work many good farmers have a repair kit with which they can do a great deal of the work themselves.

A Simple Ventilating System. At the joint meeting of the Live Stock Breeders' Associations, recently held in Winnipeg, Dr. Rutherford, M. P., in speaking on the subject of ventilation, briefly described the system of ventilation that he had in his veterinary infirmary at Parkville, Ia.

Feed Trough for Hogs. The trough shown in the illustration I have found quite convenient. The board between the uprights can be removed when the trough is to be cleaned.

Preparing to Plant the Garden. I usually begin by gathering and burning all old stalks and vines and then giving a liberal coating of manure.

Keeping Tree Roots Out of Drains. W. G. Brown of Sarnia, Ont., gives the following valuable hint to the Practical Farmer: I have just finished laying a tile drain in front of my house.

SEEDING.

Some Wise Words and Timely Advice About the Necessity for Thorough Preparation and Soil Tillage.

The return of spring brings to the farmer a measure of anxiety about the spring work on the farm, and especially in regard to the operation of seeding.

It is generally conceded that, as a rule, by far the best results are received from the earliest sowing of crop seed, especially in the case of spring wheat and oats, while in regard to barley and peas early sowing is more generally approved.

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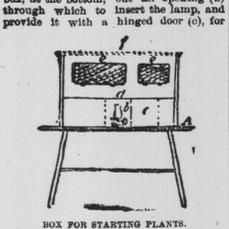
Main Essentials of a Method. A common method is a simple thing. The following are main essentials: An excavation from one to two feet deep, filled with heating (house or sheep) manure.

Four Feet of Horse-dung. A home plot of horse-dung is desirable for every farm or garden. Eaten in moderation it is recommended as a condiment to promote appetite and invigorate digestion.

FOR STARTING PLANTS.

A Device That Gives Them All a Vigorous Start.

Nearly everyone tries to start a few plants early in the spring in the house, and the trouble is to get them started in the aggregate, carrying them from the window to stove shelf at night to keep them from chilling.



then the lamp can be shut up and its heat utilized, by having a piece of sheet iron (D) the size of the bottom surface of the box stretched above the lamp, and some distance above this, iron rods, for the support of the smaller boxes (e), containing earth and the seeds which are to be germinated.

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SOIL MOISTURE.

Its Conservation One of the Most Important Problems of Modern Farming—Theory and Practice.

Of all the problems that the farmer has to consider, this one forces itself to the front. There is no subject so important in agriculture, says Charles Mortensen in the Journal of Agriculture, and none which has received so much attention of late years as the one which touches the conservation of soil-moisture.

Great as these requirements are, the annual fall of water in our country would be quite sufficient to meet them, but owing to its unequal distribution and the irregularity of the rainfall, our crops are liable to suffer severely from droughts, unless proper methods are employed to retain in the soil, at the disposition of the plant-roots, the water which has been received from previous rains.

From loose surface. 1st ft. 2nd ft. 3rd ft. From compact surface. 17.7 19.6 18.7 From compost surface. 17.1 17.6 17.9 From plot growing. 17.9 18.9 16.6

Other tests were made on the following grounds: 1. Field growing turnips, clay soil, well cultivated during the period of growth.

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Average Cost of Eggs. Experiments in feeding and in computing the value of eggs show that if no estimate is made for labor, one dozen eggs can be produced at a cost of about six cents for food, or about half a cent per egg.

Gestation Period in Cows. Prof. Wing in Bulletin 103 of the Cornell station gives the results of observations on all the cows of the university herd as to length of gestation period. The average of 182 cows showed the gestation period to be 280 days. The period was the same with bull or heifer calves. In five cases of twins the average was 275 days. The shortest period was 264 days and 296 the longest.

SPRAYING EXPERIMENTS.

Witnessed Last Year in Thirty Sections by 5,500 People.

The great importance of spraying as a means of combating the many insect pests which have proved so injurious to fruits of late years is clearly demonstrated by the interest and valuable report of William Orr, superintendent of experimental spraying for Ontario, just received from the Department of Agriculture.

The plan adopted in the experiments was to give several applications at the critical period of the swelling of the buds, the opening of the blossoms and the falling of the blossoms, at intervals of about 15 days until the danger of such insects as the apple-borer, etc., was past. The results fully justified all expectations.

Immense Berkshire Sow. One of the largest breeds of hogs is the Berkshire. Its rival as to size is the Poland-China, but it is seldom that a specimen of either breed on the general farm attains the great size of the Berkshire sow shown in the illustration. After being dressed the carcass weighed 615 pounds.

Starting a Sitter. To get best results, have a separate house for sitters. Let them get fully determined to incubate, then prepare a fresh, clean nest and remove them carefully after night.

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