

The Farm.

A Late Potato Crop.

The expediency of planting late potatoes extensively is a matter regarding which farmers are in doubt. The fact that potatoes have been and still are bringing unusually high prices is an inducement to try to raise the crop on a large scale this season. On the other hand, the potato crop of last year was small in yield and inferior in quality. Farmers who found the crop an almost complete failure last fall are not anxious for a repetition of the disagreeable experience. In estimating the probabilities it is also to be remembered that the local acreage planted to the earlier varieties of potatoes is uncommonly large. However, a good many late potatoes will be planted, and the unavoidable risks will be taken. With potatoes commanding a high price, many small and inferior tubers will surely be planted, but this course will surely be a mistake. Small potatoes are not "just as good" for planting as large ones, whether the large ones are worth \$1 a bushel or only 10 cents. No farmer would contend that the grain from little nubbins was as good for planting as the corn from large, well-ripened ears. Such potatoes as the farmer wishes to raise are the kind he should select to plant. The question as to how closely the tubers may judiciously be subdivided for planting is one upon which farmers do not agree, and I don't know as they ever will.

The scab is one great drawback to successful potato culture. The simplest of all rules for a farmer who doesn't want to raise scabby potatoes is not to plant scabby potatoes. A theory on this subject that I will not indorse, although it may be correct, is put forth by an agricultural paper. It is that spreading potatoes where they can remain for some weeks exposed to the strong light of day, but not to the direct rays of the sun, kills scab fungus as well as toughens the sprouts. As an experiment, last season a bushel of scabby potatoes that were not exposed to light were planted and the product was badly affected. The rest of the lot were spread on a barn floor one deep and turned occasionally so as to let the light strike all sides of them. They were spread out as soon as danger from freezing was past, and kept on the barn floor till the last of June. When they were then planted the sprouts were stubby-tough and dark green. The potatoes were also green all over. They were cut to one or two eyes without breaking off the sprouts, grew quickly and make a good crop, with not a scabby potato in the lot. If clean seed potatoes are planted in ground where scabby potatoes grew the previous year the crop will be affected. If scabby seed must be used, perhaps the best thing to be recommended is its treatment with formalin. The treatment consists in immersing the seed potatoes for two hours in a solution composed of eight ounces of formalin to fifteen gallons of water.—(Hartford Times.)

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Stable Care.

Whenever a cow is kept for milk there are a few things that should never be lost sight of. To the man with a few cows and little money they are more important than to the rich man with many cows and more money. It should always be the aim of the owner to secure the largest possible amount of butter fat (because this is the only true measure of the value of milk) with the minimum amount of expense, including time, food and capital invested. The cow should be comfortable, healthy and vigorous, able to consume, properly digest and assimilate food for her support and a large surplus for milk. The profit in dairying is always measured by this surplus. Moderate exercise, under favorable conditions, will contribute to the desired result; but every effort of the cow beyond that will detract from the profit. All the energy used in warming up iced cold water, every moment she shivers in the cold wind, lessens the surplus of the milkpail. Cold, damp, dark or dirty stables are not comfortable; therefore, in such quarters a cow will not do her best.

In the exercise of my duties as a dairy inspector I have visited every class of stable, from the best to the worst, those that were dry, clean, light and well ventilated, down to those that were dark, damp and filthy beyond description. Hundreds of times I have been met with the statement, "I would like to keep my cows clean, dry and comfortable, but I cannot afford it." In these inspections we note the kind and amount of feed used, the cost, etc., and also the amount of milk produced. This gives us a reliable basis from which to determine the kind of care and feed and the character of stables that bring to the owner the largest returns for the time, labor, capital and brains invested. Right here it might not be amiss to mention that it has often seemed to me that a great deal of time, much hard and disagreeable labor and the interest on considerable capital were wasted.—(Hoard's Dairyman.)

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Early Thinning of Grapes.

So soon as the grape buds burst into shoots the buds for blossoms and fruit will plainly show themselves. There will usually be three buds on each shoot, and on the Delaware, which is especially liable to overbear, there are often four clusters, which if left would all be late-ripening and poorly perfected fruit. It is easy to see, even before the buds have blossomed, which will make the largest and best clusters, and, of course, only such should be left to fruit. Two well-ripened, large clusters of grapes are enough for any shoot to bear. With the late-ripening varieties this early thinning is often the only way to secure a crop of well-ripened grapes. By practising this method grapes may be grown where without it no crop worth anything can be produced.—(American Cultivator.)

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Ants in the Soil.

Ants in the soil can be destroyed by means of bisulphide of carbon: Make a hole about six inches deep in the ant hill with a round dibble or bar, and into it pour a tablespoonful of the liquid, and immediately close up the hole with the soil. The liquid is very volatile and will permeate the soil in every direction and destroy all animal life, and not injure vegetation. It is very inflammable and must be carefully kept away from fire. Ants can often be driven away by sprinkling about their haunts ashes saturated with coal oil. They can be trapped and killed by placing sweet oil where they can have access to it, as they are very fond of it, but it has the effect to close their spiracles and thus kills by asphyxia.—(Vick's Magazine.)

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Years of Suffering.

Brought About by a Fall in Which the Back Was Severely Injured—The Pain at Times Almost Unbearable.

Mr. Geo. F. Everett, a highly respected and well known farmer of Four Falls, Victoria Co., N. B., makes the following statement:—"Some years ago while working in a barn I lost my balance and fell from a beam, badly injuring my back. For years I suffered with the injury and at the same time doing all I could to remove it, but in vain. I at last gave up hopes and stopped doctoring. My back had got so bad that when I would stoop over it was almost impossible to get straightened up again. When I would mow with a scythe for some little time without stopping it would pain me so that it seemed as if I could scarcely endure it, and I would lean on the handle of my scythe in order to get ease and straighten up. At other times I would be laid up entirely. After some years of suffering I was advised to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and decided to try one box. Before I had finished it I saw the pills were helping me. I bought six boxes more and the seven boxes completely cured me. It is three years since I took them and my back has not troubled me since. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are an invaluable medicine and I highly recommend them to any person suffering likewise. I consider that if I had paid \$10 a box for them, they would be a cheap medicine."

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