

matters. A bag of bran properly prepared is one of the cheapest and best remedies. It is useless to give it uncooked for this purpose; it is not necessary that it be boiled, but that it be well saturated with boiling water and then kept covered for several hours before feeding. An addition of salt and a spoonful of sulphur to each pailful is helpful but not of positive necessity. Let this bran mash be fed liberally until the bowels are quite loose. You will then have relieved nature of a task which it has generally to perform before any good can be obtained from the spring grass. You will gain time in the direction of improved condition at a season when every day is wanted to tell; it means more beef before the flies come, and hastens general improvement of all live stock. And to horses it is doubly important, because it helps to relieve them from the slightly fevered condition which results from fitting them up for spring work.

It is wisely said, "It is well to let very well alone," but I always feel inclined to say, when it cannot be improved upon. A decided improvement in this case may be brought about by giving a pound or so of either linseed or oil cake to each animal until the grass comes. I was led to notice this by a remark made by a careful, observing man, that "it matters not how little you give, you can always see it in the dung." The oily food furnishes the requisite at the right time, it helps to form a healthy mucus on the covering of the bowels. And the dry, hard, scaly surfaces are softened. Farmers generally are accustomed to so little profit for what they do that there are few only that consider what return they are to get for a small investment. If there is any time when the outlay of one dollar is likely to bring five, I think the suggestions here offered, if carefully carried out, will claim a good place. A bag of bran will serve ten animals; and if it does not leave them fifty cents a head better my judgment is not in tally with my observation. There are times when the man that picks up little things that another passes over saves a dollar. There is more importance in the little hillocks of farm work than in the mountains that nearly every one seeks to climb.

POULTRY.

Care of Young Turkeys.

Before turkeys hatch the hen should be well dusted with insect powder by holding her by the feet, head downwards, and dusting under her wings and body thoroughly. When the eggs hatch gather the young and grease the top of their heads with fresh butter, using a lump about the size of a pea. Place the hen and her young in a clean, light pen, and keep them there most of the time except on sunshiny days until they are twelve weeks old, when all danger is past for allowing them to run.

Young turkeys must be supplied with grit. Wheat bread soaked in milk, a little pepper, and onion tops chopped fine, and later lettuce and dandelion tops compose a very good diet. Fresh water should be regularly supplied three times a day in small quantities, as young turkeys will sometimes drink themselves to death. Feed only three times a day. By keeping young turkeys thus housed and an eye open for lice, the two great enemies, dampness and vermin, will have little chance to operate against the brood.

Is There Money in Eggs at Present Prices?

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The question is often asked what it costs to produce a dozen eggs in summer, and if eggs can really be produced at a profit? Our flock of hens, which consists mostly of Plymouth Rocks, are liable to sit a great deal at this season of the year, especially after heavy winter forcing, and perhaps it is unjust to use them as a basis; nevertheless, I can show a profit from our 200 laying hens.

These hens have laid steadily since last November and were forced to their utmost capacity during the winter months. When early spring set in and eggs were cheap we ceased forcing to give the hens some recreation, and therefore our egg yield is not as large as might be expected at this season of the year. During the second week in April we gathered 695 eggs, or within a week 58 dozen.

The 200 hens consumed daily about 30 lbs. of a mixture of 1 bran, 1 oats, 1 pea meal, and two corn meal, and 1 bushel of oats. The ground grain cost nearly \$14 per ton, or 70 cents per cwt. The whole oats cost 20 cents per bushel. Figuring this out for the week we have:

7 bush. oats at 20 cents.....	\$ 1 40
210 lbs. grain (30 lbs. daily), at 70 cents per cwt.....	1 47
Total cost for the week.....	\$ 2 87
58 dozen eggs at 8 cents per dozen.....	\$ 4 64
	2 87
Total gain.....	\$ 1 77

It will be noticed no allowance is made for green foods or meat. As there is plenty of green stuff in the yards at this season we do not supply any, and meat is supplied through earthworms, etc.

Hastings Co., Ont. W. R. GRAHAM.

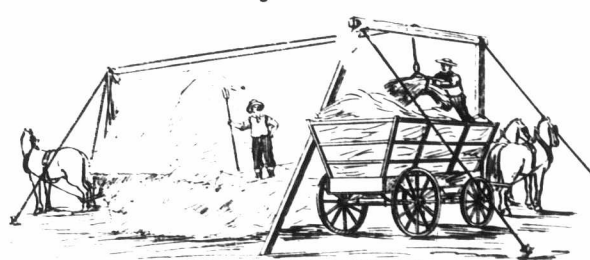
Possibly one of the best methods of destroying cabbage worm is that recommended by *Gardening* several years ago. It was to take fine salt, dry it on a hot stove, and when the dew was on the plants sprinkle the dry, powdered salt over them. This should be done about once a week.

THE HELPING HAND.

Hayfork Car Returner.

A simple but very handy contrivance for returning a hayfork and car from the mow to the load is to attach a rope to the car, conducting it in the direction opposite the mow being filled. Conduct this rope over a pulley at the end of the track and attach to it a weight such as a bag of sand or gravel. When the loaded fork is drawn into the mow the weight at the other end of the track is drawn up. When the fork is unloaded the bag of sand will immediately lower and thus return the car to the stop blocks, when the fork will at once lower to the load. It is well for the person driving the horse on the fork rope to unhook him, allowing the immediate return of the fork, and thus save much time to the unloader. Such a contrivance as the above will save much time and the disagreeable work of pulling back by hand with the small trip rope the fork and carrier.

Handy Stacker.



JOHN FIXTER, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa:—I am sending you a sketch and description of a handy and easily-constructed stacker. The track is the ordinary steel rod suspended between the posts and anchor ropes shown in cut. They may be any desired height. The posts next the load should lean four feet out of plumb away from the stack so that the load can be driven nearly underneath the stop block. Our artist is evidently not familiar with the form of a modern hay load nor form of a building stack, but his illustration indicates the principle of the stacker. This plan of stacker could be advantageously used at the end of a barn or shed, so that when the hay or grain was desired to be hauled into the building it could be easily done through a large door in the end. In such a case the track should be continuous from over the stack in through the building.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Notes on Strawberry Culture.

BY ELLIS F. AUGUSTINE, LAMBTON CO., ONT.

The newly-set strawberry bed should receive frequent cultivation during the entire summer, not merely for the destruction of weeds, but to render the soil loose and mellow, and for the conservation of moisture. Cultivation is particularly necessary after heavy showers of rain, and should always be done before the ground has dried out sufficiently to form a crust, as in this condition evaporation is very rapid. To secure a strong, healthy growth, no fruit should be allowed to form upon the newly-set plants, and all runners should be cut off at their first appearance, up to the first of July. This causes the plants to become strong and thrifty, so that the runners thrown out after that date will possess much greater vigor, and a better stand of plants will be obtained.

The matted-row system of culture is now almost universally adopted, but to secure the best results the plants should not be permitted to grow as thickly as this name would imply. No vegetation can produce to its fullest capacity if overcrowded; therefore, the growth of runners should be restricted so that every plant taking root will have a space of at least six inches square in which to grow and expand. It is quite customary to allow all runners thrown out to grow and take root, and then after growth is over in the fall to thin out the plants to the desired quantity. This, however, is a practice which should not be followed, as much of the substance which should be utilized for the best development of the plants retained is thrown away upon those hoed out. The finest crop of strawberries the writer ever saw grown was produced upon a bed where only two runners were allowed to grow and take root from each plant set out.

For those who desire the largest and finest fruit, the hill system of culture will best meet their wants. By this method the plants are set in rows only 2½ feet apart and 15 inches in the rows. All runners are cut off upon their first appearance during the entire season. This causes the plants to stool out and form a new crown for each runner removed, so that in a favorable season the whole surface of the ground is covered with rich, healthy foliage throughout each row. From such plants berries of unsurpassed quality and size are produced.

When grown by the matted-row system, after the runners are allowed to spread and take root the cultivator should always be run in the same direction at each working or the runners will be displaced and the plants torn loose.

If it is considered advisable to retain a bed which has fruited, with a view to a second season's crop, immediately after the fruit has been harvested the mowing machine should be run over the bed, having the cutter bar set as high as practicable

in order to avoid injury to the crowns of the plants. As soon as the foliage thus cut has become sufficiently dry the entire bed should be rapidly burned over. This is readily accomplished if a liberal supply of material for mulching was applied the previous fall. The burning over is best performed when a brisk wind is blowing, as the ground will then be quickly burned over without injury to the hearts of the plants.

This burning not only facilitates the work of getting the bed in proper condition for a future crop, but also destroys innumerable weed seeds which have ripened, and countless injurious insects which prey upon the plants and fruit. Immediately upon the completion of the work of burning, the cultivator and hoe should be started to work to loosen up the soil and clean out everything but the most vigorous plants; then, if the season does not prove an exceptionally dry one, a new, healthy growth will at once begin, fresh runners will be thrown out and take root in the loosened soil, and an excellent stand of plants will be secured for a promising future crop.

This practice can be recommended if the work is judiciously performed and the season not too dry, but we have occasionally seen strawberry beds considerably damaged when burned too closely during protracted dry weather. If it is deemed advisable to treat the bearing beds in this manner sufficient help should be on hand to proceed with the work immediately after the fruit is harvested; for if the work of mowing and burning is delayed until after the rush of the raspberry season is over the plants will already have begun new growth, which they do soon after fruiting, and if the work is then proceeded with the crowns of the plants will be injured to such an extent that they will never fully recover.

It is never advisable to retain a strawberry bed after the second crop is harvested, as the third season the fruit is invariably small in size and of inferior quality. Should the bed be very dirty after a first crop it will even pay better to plow it down than to attempt to clean it, as it requires much less labor to set out a new plantation than reclaim an old one when it has become overrun with weeds and grass.

To make certain of always having a promising bed of strawberries for the following year a new one should be planted out each spring.

•The San Jose Scale.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The proposed United States Federal Bill, drafted by a committee of nurserymen and entomologists at Washington last March, providing for the inspection of nursery stock and fruit imported into the United States, and the inspection of nursery stock only when shipped from one State to another, has caused a good deal of warm discussion on the part of nurserymen and fruit growers. This inspection is to be held at the expense of the nurseryman. The bill was to have gone into effect on July 1st; it now seems probable that it will be more fully discussed and perhaps amended at the meeting of the Association of American Nurserymen, at St. Louis, June 9th and 10th. The agitation brought about by the rapid spread of the San Jose scale will undoubtedly lead to important results. The opinion has been expressed that the Canadian climate would in itself prevent the development and spread of this dread Californian pest. We should not experiment in this matter. The manifest duty of every Canadian fruit grower and nurseryman is to use the utmost caution in importing scions or nursery stock. A package should not be received from the United States unless accompanied by a certificate from the State Entomologist or other State officer to the effect that the nursery from which the consignment came had been inspected and found free from San Jose scale. In guarding their own interests, the leading nurserymen of the United States have already had their stock inspected, and are prepared to furnish a certificate with each shipment. In a recent letter to the press by Prof. J. B. Smith, of New Jersey, the following occurs: "I have had at least as much experience with the San Jose scale as any individual station worker, and I believe the insect is to be dreaded more than any other pest that has ever invaded the Eastern United States. No one who has not seen it in badly infested orchards can have any idea of its ravages and of the difficulty in dealing with it." With regard to the distribution of the scale by means of the fruit, Victor H. Lowe, Entomologist of the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., is quoted as follows in an address at the last meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society:

"At present the San Jose scale is doing its worst work in this State on Long Island. It has been found from one end of the Island to the other. On two different occasions we found fruit exhibited at the Long Island fairs which was badly infested. Since that time we have observed it in the nurseries there.

"As early as July of 1894 we found pears infested with the San Jose scale for sale on fruit stands in New York, Brooklyn, and Jamaica, L. I. In the first two instances all the infested fruit observed were Bartlett pears from California, while at Jamaica not only infested pears from California but also infested pears grown on the Island were found for sale in the market places. This, together with the fact that infested fruit was sent to the Long Island fairs, not only that year