

## CARE OF ANIMALS.

Every kind of animals require much care in cold weather, or at any season when shut up, in order to preserve them in good health and condition. For want of attention they frequently become diseased and die, or grow poor, to the great loss of the owner. And it is frequently the case that animals thus treated or rather neglected, consume about as much food as would be necessary to keep them in good health and flesh with proper care. Salt should be given to animals occasionally, both as a means of thrift and preventive of disease.

By the free use of salt we have known severe disorders that have appeared among a herd of cattle, first mitigated to a mild form, and finally arrested before going half through the stock, when without some preventive means, such diseases prevailed through the herd.

In cold weather salt should be given in small doses, lest it opens the pores and produce colds. Wood ashes mixed with salt in the proportion of four to seven quarts to a quart of salt, is considered excellent for stock, as it promotes an appetite and prevents diseases. It will prevent bots in horses and rot in sheep.

We have given this mixture with evident success. Cattle and sheep will generally eat it freely. Horses are more particular than most other animals as to what they eat or drink. Some of them will not eat this mixture. In such cases mix a small quantity of ashes with salt at first, and put them on roots of which the horse is very fond, and in this way he will get accustomed to eating this wholesome condiment.

Animals should have a good supply of pure water. Some persons think that sheep do not need water in winter when they have access to snow, but if such persons will supply them with water, they will see their great mistake, not only from the decided preference which the animals give to water, but from their superior condition; and the advantages will be evident by the greater number, size, and superior condition of the lambs. Sheep will go a considerable distance after water, and go oftener than cattle, after they have first been coaxed or gently driven to it, that they may know where to find it.

Cattle should be fed regularly and have but a small quantity of fodder at a time, as they will breath upon it and render it unpleasant or offensive. To prevent this, in some measure, the cattle house should not be boarded up in front, excepting above the heads of the cattle, and one board at bottom to keep the hay in its place. Then the breath of the animals will pass off with less injury to the fodder and afford good wholesome air for respiration.

Boys should be early learned to feed stock, as it is a business that requires much experience, and a sound judgment, according to the kind and condition of the stock, the fodder, weather, &c. But they should have the advantage of constant instruction and superintendence of some one of riper years. This supervision is necessary where boys are faithful and attentive. In some cases boys are negligent, and then it becomes more important, as they may manage somewhat like the old negro, who threw all the hay to the master ox and requested him to divide it among them.—*Boston Farmer's Journal.*

We understand that the Quebec Merchants now in England have been pretty successful in making contracts for the delivery of Timber next summer, at rates which, it is said, will leave them fair profit. It must be remembered, however, that much of the Timber thus sold entailed a heavy

loss on those who manufactured and brought it to the Quebec market. From the prices ruling in Quebec last fall, several lots of Timber must have been sold at a loss of 40 to 50 per cent to the original holders.—*Montreal Courier.*

*From the Boston Farmer's Journals.*  
**FARMING—ITS PLEASURES AND PROFIT.**

MR. EDITOR,—It seems to be the fashion—and a very good fashion it is—for enterprising and observing farmers to give, in some of the agricultural papers, details of experiment they have been making in the raising of particular crops, in the application of manures, or in some other of the various departments of farm management. Now the whole business of farming has been a new experiment with me, and as the present hard times, and existing state of depression of all other branches of business, have directed the attention of many to agriculture as being less subject to the vexatious vicissitudes, the ups and downs that attend other callings, and not a few will probably try the same experiment with myself, of commencing a new and untried business, it might, perhaps, be a benefit to some such to have hints of the experience of a beginner. I have not leisure to be laughed at for undue egotism.

In the spring of 1841 I took a lease of a farm for several years, consisting of convenient proportions of mowing and tillage land, pasture and salt marsh. The soil was naturally good, but in a low state of cultivation. From my experience, my former habits of life, and my want of adequate capital my friends predicted an utter failure. I did not, however, allow myself to be depressed by their predictions, and have done my best to prove them false prophets. I engaged in the business with a view both to pleasure and profit. Pleasure I have certainly found in it, for besides the quiet, tranquil nature of its employments, favourable to health and enjoyment, I have made my new business a study, and in it something like the pleasure which the philosopher feels in learning the truths of science, or a literary man in the acquisition of a new language, I have endeavoured to supply the want of previous knowledge by reading agricultural publications, by inquiries about the experience of others, and by careful observation. These occupations have interested me, and I have found in them even more pleasure than I anticipated.

As to profit, not much was to be expected in the two years of a novice on a worn out farm. But even in this respect I have done quite as well as I expected, and I entertain sanguine hopes that in the remaining years of my lease, my profit will be much increased. Being near a large city, I have found milk and hay the principal articles to be raised for market. I make it a point to raise as much corn, rye, potatoes, &c., in short, as much of all kinds of farm and garden produce as is wanted for consumption on the farm, and if there happens to be a surplus, it is sold. But milk and hay are the only articles I raise expressly for sale. I take pains to make a good quantity of manure, which is as essential to my crops, as provender is to my cows and oxen. I till only as much land as I can manure well and take proper care of. Every field in tillage I lay down as soon as I think it will produce a good crop of grass. Doubtful and expensive experiments I leave to amateur farmers who have plenty of money.

I seek to avoid all unnecessary expenses, for the profits of farming will never justify extravagance. I keep an exact account of

all my receipts and expenditures and a daily journal of what is done on the farm. I can thus easily tell at any time how I stand with the world and what I have been doing. Not commencing with any expectation of great or rapid gains I have not been disappointed. He who makes haste to be rich should engage in some other calling. It has been said that nine out of every ten of the merchants and trades in our cities sooner or later fail. I am confident that nine out of every ten who engage in farming may succeed. The prizes in this calling are not so great, but there are more of them. Industry, frugality and good management are all we want with the blessing of heaven to attain them.

These desultory observations will seem very trite and common place to experienced farmers. It is not for such I have written. But if the hints they contain serve to instruct or encourage any inexperienced beginner like myself, I shall have attained the end at which I aimed. AGRICOLA.

**CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.**—*Messrs. Editors.*—I early turned my attention to Horticulture, and in one department of that, the cultivation of strawberries, I think I can show by facts, that I have been truly successful. I have not failed to have a good crop every year, for ten years; and last year, from 1,371 plants only a year old, I sold eighty gallons, besides what was consumed in my family, and some choice parcels perhaps from vanity, sent as presents to my friends. My garden is a light loam, nearly level, but high and dry, not remarkably rich, it having been taken from a wheat field and enclosed the year before.

My mode of cultivation is to set out the plants or runners at equal distances of 18 inches, and if planted in the spring, keep them constantly worked and the runners off. This may be done with a garden scraper, quickly and neatly. In the month of November, if the season does not set in cold sooner, I manure with well rotted manure and work it in, putting my beds in nice order. I then cover them about one or two inches deep with pine shatters, (having an abundance of them) straw, chaff—perhaps Tanner's bark would do as well, though I object to the chaff because it has more or less wheat, which will vegetable, and give your beds an unsightly appearance. Having made my servants work the shatters under the vines, they stay on until the strawberries are done bearing. In this way the vines are kept warm in winter, the grass and weeds do not spring up, and the fruit is so clean when gathered, that there is no necessity of washing, &c. I make 10 alleys in my beds my ground being porous and dry. If I plant in the spring, I deem it advisable to renew my beds after the second year's bearing. This is done by simply directing the runners to the centre of the square formed by the old vines, throwing over the tendrils of the runner has taken root, sever it from the parent vine. Then with a hoe, for the space will admit it, but cut out the old vines. The manure which the ground has received in two years, will put it in fine order, and the bed may be kept up for years. I intend to try plaster on my vines this spring. I sold my strawberries for 50 cents a gallon throughout the season, in our village market, and could not gratify the demand. I omitted to state that the 1371 plants grown on a comparative small area, as any one may see by calculating it. I then had four beds. I now have twelve, and in every bed the plants look beautiful, scarcely one missing. I had but very few male plants, though I was by accident.

BRUCE J. GOLDSBOROUGH.  
Cambridge, Md. Jan. 28, 1843.