

## Correspondence.

## Farm Accounts

To the Editor.

SIR,—Having seen in your valuable paper several articles on keeping farm accounts written, I suppose, by farmers, I send you in compliance with your invitation to write on that subject, an account of my system of Farm Book-keeping.

The first great essential in Farm Book-keeping is to take stock. The farmer, to be successful, requires just as much as the merchant, to know his true position once a year. I have always done so in the beginning of every year, and included in the category these items:—Number and value of acres of land, horses, colts, cows, fat cattle, young cattle, fat sheep, store sheep, pigs, chickens, barley, wheat, oats, corn, peas, potatoes, apples, turnips, pork, hay, implements, cash. Then by adding these several amounts up, and subtracting from them your debts, you have the nett amount of property or stock. I keep a correct cash book. On the left side page I put down all the cash I receive, and for what I receive it, and mark that Dr. And on the right side page I put down all the cash I pay out, and what I pay it out for, and mark that Cr.; and at the end of the year I sum all the cash I receive under these heads, viz.: *Items of Income*.—Wheat, sundries sold in market, corn, peas, barley, oats, wool, stock, pork, and to that add the balance of cash on hand the first of the year.

*Items of Expenditure*.—Taxes, house furnishing, stock, labour, insurance, books, postage, &c., improvement on farm, doctor and medicine, church, poor, &c., blacksmith, seed, market fees, stabling, &c., implements, clothing, house expenses, and to that add the balance of cash on hand at the end of the year; and if your figures are correct both columns will add up exactly the same sum. My cash book has saved me more than once from paying an account twice; for when I was requested to pay the second time, my giving the date of payment in my cash book was always received as satisfactory. Then from these items of income and expenditure, by subtracting the one from the other, I calculate the nett profit for the year. To find out the yearly per cent. made on capital invested, I take the nett amount ascertained from taking stock, and find the per cent. on that, which will correspond with the nett profit for the year. Of course, that does not show exactly the per cent. made from the proceeds of capital invested on farm each year, for each year's crops are not always sold within the year, yet the result is accurate enough for all practical purposes. According to this method of calculation I find that in 1870 there was a little over 8 per cent. on capital invested; in 1869 about 9½ per cent.; and in 1868 about

10 per cent. My farm includes 200 acres. I have it laid out in ten acre fields, with lane and gates to each field. I have thus in all twenty fields; they are numbered from 1 to 20. Then I keep a Dr. and Cr. account with each field, and with each bushel of grain raised, and I do it in this way. I have what I call a day book, and for the encouragement of those who would like to pursue the same method, I may state that it only takes me five minutes every evening of a working day, and six days at the end of the year to figure out, and make all the calculations and tables, which I intend to show you here. Do you ask of me what would be the advantages from following such a course? I would answer, that this guessing in farming operations is a very sandy foundation for a young man to build success upon. Figures, my young friends, are very stubborn things; they will set up a fortification for you, which the designing cannot break down, and which they cannot even put stepping stones to climb over. They will increase in value every year; they will aid you in making your plans for your year's campaign of labour; they will make you a good General in conducting the very many manoeuvres and operations on the farm. They will give you a thorough knowledge of what is an average day's work on each of the operations of the farm, and if you have hired help, you can tell whether they severally come up to accomplishing what is an average, or go above or below that average. And last, not least, if you persevere, it will throw such a fascination about farm operations, that you cannot help but love the farm and be wedded to it for life, for better and for worse.

I can best explain the day book by giving you a copy from it of one week's entries.

June 20th 1870.—Cut hay, field 10, 1 day; ploughed field 18, 1 day; hoed potatoes, field 9, 2 days; cultivated corn, field 1, 2 days.

June 21st.—Worked at hay, field 10, 4 days; cultivated corn, field 1, 1½ days; hoed potatoes, field 9, 1 d.y.

June 22nd.—Worked at hay, field 10, 5 days; drew in 11 loads hay; cut hay, field 3, 1 day.

June 23rd.—Cut hay, field 3, ½ day; worked at hay, field 3, 4½ days; cultivated potatoes, field 9, 1½ days; ploughed corn, field 1, ½ day.

June 24th.—Drew in 13 loads hay, from field 3, and worked at hay, field 3, 6 days; cut hay, field 5, 1 day.

June 25th.—Worked at hay, field 5, 6 days; cultivated potatoes, field 9, ½ day.

Then at the end of the year I put the Dr and Cr. of each field into another book, which I call a journal, and I can best explain that by giving you a copy from my journal of one field for one year.

1871	Dr	1870	Cr
Potatoes, 545 bus.		41 days ploughing and harrow- ing wing	\$17 00
1 d.y. marking		1 day cutting	1 00
3 d.y. harrow- ing, cultivating and digging	\$124 97	30 bus. seed potatoes	62 25
1 d.y. turning round before pulling		60 d.y. sowing	6 00
935 bus. at 10c	99 50	1 year's rent of 10 acres	30 00
Total	\$214 47	Total	\$176 83
Total cost	170 33		
Profit	\$44 14		

I find that the potatoes cost 24c. per bushel—worth 33c. Turnips cost 8c. per bushel—worth 10c.

To ascertain the cost per bushel I adopt this method:—

F R POTATOES	F R TURNIPS
4½ d. ys ploughing and harrow- ing	4½ days ploughing and harrow- ing
1 d.y. marking	1 d.y. marking
3 d.y. work	11 d.y. cultivating
\$22 25, 39 bus	6 loads of manure
1 pot t ea	60 d. ys. work
\$11 70	1 year's rent of 5 acres
1 year's rent of 5 acres	15 00
15 00	
Total cost of rais- ing 5 acs of potatoes	Total cost of rais- ing 5 acs of turnips
\$98 45	\$77 83
Then divide that amount by the number of bushels raised and you have the cost per bus. 24 cts.	

Then I take from my journal into another book which I call a ledger, and I can best explain that by giving you my ledger account of one field.

YEAR.	FIELD.	PROFIT	LOSS
1859	Hay	\$12 25	
1860	Potatoes, corn, turnips	111 2	
1861	Spring wheat	88 4	
1862	Hay	10 15	
1863	Hay	88 57	
1864	Pasture		
1865	Barley	10 9	
1866	Fallow		
1867	Wheat	43 74	
1868	Hay	91 12	
1869	Hay	11 5	
1870	Corn	117 12	