

## AGRICULTURE.

**WHEN AND HOW TO FEED HORSES.**—A horse ought to be fed when he is hungry, and he ought to be hungry every day. What makes him hungry? The constant waste of the system. The muscles when brought into use waste somewhat; especially exercise or labor is a draft upon the muscular system—in fact upon the whole system. After the system has been taxed, and if the tax is sufficient to partially exhaust or fatigue the animal, rest is more important than feed; hence the horse should stand and rest awhile before he is fed. Digestion demands a flow of blood to the organs then at work, and as the blood has been drawn away from them to sustain the muscular exertion during labor, it should not be suddenly withdrawn and turned in upon the organs of digestion. Hence let him rest, and after an hour or so he will be found keen and "sharp set." There is probably no better food for recuperating exhausted muscles than good, sound, heavy oats. They are easily digested, nutritious, muscle-building, and blood-making in a high degree. They are little heating, do not tend to make horses sweat, and on the whole are the best food a horse can have. Barley is very good, but not equal to oats. Indian corn is a poor substitute, not so easily digested, heating and causing the animal to sweat. As to system, a horse should have hay first, then grain, and water when these are digested; or water should be given half an hour at least before feeding. Horses often have dyspepsia, induced by being fed when warm, or being worked after a full meal. The practice of feeding hard-worked horses at noon, and working them immediately after, is of doubtful utility. Horses will go eight, and probably ten hours without food, if properly fed at evening and morning. They should have water more frequently, but never when hot.—*American Agriculturist.*

To destroy vermin on fowls, take a sponge or soft rag, moistened with kerosene, with a few drops of carbolic acid added, and rub it gently over the back of the neck and the throat, and a little under the wings, and that fowl will be rid of them. Then rub the same mixture over the porches, pretty well rubbing in once a week, and they will never take possession of the chicken-house.

It should never be forgotten that water is of more importance to animals than solid food. Every drop of water taken into the stomach is absorbed into the blood and passes through the system, leaving behind it in the blood whatever injurious impurities it may have obtained. Moreover, the water swallowed by an animal goes at once into the stomach and is absorbed into the blood in a few minutes. If the water is icy-cold it takes from the stomach and blood a large amount of heat and chills the system dangerously. Most of the ailments and diseases of cattle, sheep, and horses, at this season are due to impropriety in the water supply; either it is impure, or scant, or is too cold; and all these defects should be carefully guarded against. In the dairy the water supply is the most important part of the whole business.

**WIND AND SEEDS.**—Wind is a more powerful agency for distributing forest tree seeds than is generally supposed, says an exchange. Even heavy seeds are sometimes blown to considerable distances. In the fall of 1883, a strong gale of wind carried quantities of basswood seeds from a grove of that species of tree across a lake a mile and a half wide, and in such profusion that the ground on the opposite shore where they fell, was quite thickly strewn with them. How much further some may have been carried was not investigated.

**EGGS IN WINTER.**—Give fowls warm drink every morning, and see that they have an abundance of gravel, says a successful egg-producer. Concoct a pudding for them two or three times a week, not oftener, with the following ingredients: Place an old pail out at one side, and into this throw the meat-scrap that are good for nothing else, egg shells, beans, hominy, bread crusts, corn parched very brown, coarse meal siftings, and then, when the day arrives to serve up this dish, take the water in which you have par-boiled your pork and beans, or other greasy water, stir into it bran sufficient to thicken well, allow it to cook a few minutes and pour the whole over these saved up scraps. Aside from this, gave warm drink every morning as above directed, and you will have plenty of eggs.

**ABOUT HORSE-COLLARS.**—The breast-collar differs from the ordinary neck collar worn by working horses in bearing less on the shoulder, says a writer in the *National Stockman*. It is more suitable for light work, driving on the road in single harness, than for heavy loads. But it is often handy to have a breast-collar with extra wide breast piece, to work horses in should their shoulders begin to be galled with their usual harness. If this is done, great care must be exercised, as the new collar will bear on a place that probably has not been toughened by use.

**ARTICHOKES FOR SWINE.**—Artichokes have been grown for swine for several years at the Michigan Agricultural College. The method of management has been to have a small patch of artichokes convenient to the swine pens, upon which the breeding sows were turned early in the Spring and allowed to harvest the roots for themselves. The crop is thus grown with very little labor, since it requires no harvesting, and it furnishes succulent food for sows just when it is most needed and is most difficult to obtain from other sources. Farm Superintendent Johnson is so well pleased with the result of this management that he is enlarging the artichoke plantation.

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