AGRICULTURAL.

From the Tennessee Farmer.

SAVING CLOVER SEED.

The two great objects to be attended to, in raising clover seed with profit, are—First, to secure the production of as large a crop to the acre as practicable—and secondly, to harvest the crop in such a manner, as to bring as large a portion of the seed into the barn and to leave as small a portion as possible of it in the field.

To attain the first object, that of securing a large product, we have in our preceding numbers, in observations on the culture of clover, given the necessary directions, we will now only repeat, that the main things to be attended to are the following:—1. That the land be fertile. 2. That it be well prepared before sowing the seed, as heretofore directed. 3d. That a sufficient quantity of seed be sown to to the acre. 4th. That it be evenly distributed over the ground. 5th. That whenever the land requires its aid, gypsum or plaster be sown on the clover—and 6th. That it be not injured by the injudicious or excessive grazing. If these particulars be attended to, an acre of ordinary land will produce three bushels of seed in a common season, often more.

We now come to speak of the more difficult and laborious operation of safely and economically harvesting and securing it. This requires care and attention. The objects to be aimed at are, to cut the seed at the period when there is the largest portion of ripe seed on the ground, in that stage of maturity, which will admit of its being collected into the barn, and so to handle it, as to prevent the seed from being shattered off and left on the field, while straw or haulm only is collected in the barn. It is, we believe, to the improvident and ruinous neglect of strict attention to these two latter objects, that most farmers may attribute their failure in making clover seed. We will lay before our readers the results of our own observation and experience, on these important points, hoping that those of our patrons, who have discovered a better mode of affecting these objects, than the one recommended, will yet communicate to us their practice in time to enable us to lay it before the public in our next number.

TIME OF CUTTING.

As the clover seed, from the time the first heads ripen, until the close of the season, are daily arriving at maturity, the great desideratum is, to ascertain the precise period when there is on the ground the greatest portion of ripe seed, in a state which will admit of its being collected and brought into the barn. If the clover be cut before this period, there must evidently be a loss sustained, from the immaturity of too large a portion of the seed. If the cutting be deferred beyond this period, an equal, and perhaps a greater loss will be sustained, from the impossibility of saving the seed first ripened, generally the best, on account of its being so easily shattered off. We would recommend, as the most eligible time for cutting, the period when about two thirds of the heads have become ripe and assumed a black color, many of the others, at this time of a brown color, will ripen after cutting.

MODE OF CUTTING.

Where the clover has not lodged, and is high enough to admit of it, by far the most expeditious, and in every point of view the most eligible mode of cutting, is to cradle it as we do grain, only throwing it into double swarths, that is laying the clover cut from two lands in one swarth. If the grass be so short as to require it, a strip of linen may be fastened on the fingers of the cradle so as to prevent the heads from falling through them.

MODE OF CURING.

If this crop be not heavy and the weather be good, the swarths may lie undisturbed for several days, until the hay be perfectly cured, it should then, in the morning or evening while sufficiently moist from the dew, to prevent its shattering off too easily, be gently raked into small bunches, such as can be conveniently raised with a fork and laid on the wagon. When not too damp, these bunches should be hauled to the barn, and either stowed away in mows, or which is better threshed off, and either immediately cleaned, or else the heads stowed away in a room prepared for the purpose until winter, to be then threshed or trodden out. But should there be rain on them, or should they be suffered to remain in the field any considerable length of time after being raked up, these bunches must with a fork be gently turned bottom upwards, and laid in a new place, after every rain to which they may be exposed, and after every two or three days they may have lain in the field in fair weather. This is necessary to prevent the seed from being injured by the heat and moisture to which they will have been exposed, from the sun, the rain, and the moisture of the earth. After being sufficiently cured, while dry, let the seed be gently laid on the waggon or sled, and hauled to the barn, using every necessary precaution to ensure, that as little of it as possible be left in the field or scattered along the road.

MODE OF CLEANING.

Various methods are practised, for cleaning the seed from the chaff. The only two as far as we know, used in this country, are treading it out with horses, or cleaning it in a threshing machine: The first is tedious, laborious, filthy, and unwholsome both to man and beast, the latter is far preferable in every respect, but as all are not provided with threshing machines and as therefore many must still continue to tread out their seed, we will submit a few observations on the mode of performing this operation. Having covered the barn floor with seed in the chaff, to the depth of from 12 to 18 inches, put on the horses and tread one day, the next morning run the chaff through a fan, much of it will have been beaten to dust and will be blown away, as will also the light chaff having no seed, and that from which the seed has been separated, but much the larger portion of the seed, still enveloped in the chaff would be found in the rear of the fan, this, having been seperated from the empty chaff adjoining it, must be again spread on the floor and having added another portion of untrodden chaff, the horses must be again put on and made to tread it another day, when it should be again run through the fan as before; the produce of this will far exceed that of the first day's treading, but still, much good seed will be found immediately in the rear of the fan not yet separated from the chaff—this must be again spread on the floor, and a new addition made of untrodden chaff, and this process must be repeated until the whole crop is trodden out. The seed, after passing through the fan, should be first run through a sieve, sufficiently coarse to permit the clover seed to pass through, but retaining all larger seeds and trash —It should then be again run through a finer sieve, retaining the clover seed, but permitting the passage through of all smaller substances; by these two processes, the clover seed will be thoroughly cleansed from all kinds of filth and prepared for market. The only advantages derived from cleaning the seed rather than sowing it in the chaff are the ascertaining with greater certainty the quantity sown and the ensuring a more equal distribution of the seed—where therefore, a sufficient quantity can be afforded to ensure the desired thickness in every part of the ground, sowing in the chaff, will not only do as well, but is preferred, as it is believed more likely to come up and to stand.

In reply to our correspondent's 3d quere, as to the time of ploughing under clover for wheat, we would recommend that it be done so soon as a considerable portion of the seed has become ripe—the wheat should then be sown and well harrowed in, but the land should by no means be again ploughed, until the wheat has to be taken off.

As to briars and sedge grass, we refer our subscriber to what we have said in former numbers, and in the present—the sedge grass, he will find easily subdued, if the ground be ploughed and harrowed in the winter; pasturing and deep ploughing are the only effectual modes we have tried for extirpating briars and sprouts, we have much confidence however in the efficacy of the mode described in the receipt published in this number.

Harmon's threshing machine will thresh out, if properly attended to, from five to ten bushels of clover seed, and from 150 to 200 bushels of wheat per day. This machine will cost about $50, exclusive of the house and mill wright's work; this is the only machine for cleaning clover seed in this part of the country—of which we are apprised; we have used it for two years past with great advantage especially in cleaning clover seed.

Fall Ploughing.—Last autumn I had three lots of banked meadow land, about five acres in each, lying side by side, separated only by a six feet ditch, and to all appearance no difference in any respect, that I intended to have ploughed in the fall and planted with Indian corn in the spring. It so happened that only one of the lots was ploughed last fall, the remaining two this spring. Where the ground was ploughed last fall there is now growing a very vigorous and healthy crop of corn. The other two lots have been twice planted, and here and there are growing a hill of corn, yellow and sickly in its appearance, but almost destroyed by the cut worm. A. D.

N. E. Farmer.

Hints to Farmers.—Never feed potatoes to stock without boiling or steaming, as this increases their nutritive qualities.

One bushel flax seed, ground with eight bushels of oats, is better for horses than sixteen bushels of oats alone, and will effectually destroy the bots.

Never burn all dry wood in your fire-place, nor use a fire-place when you can get a stove.

Cut your trees for rails in February, as they are most durable.

Never dew rot your flax, unless you wish to render it worthless.

Never select your seed corn from the crib but from the stalk.

Never feed out your best potatoes and plant the refuse, nor sell you best sheep and keep the poorest.

A fat ox is worth more than a poor horse, and does not eat as much—a yoke and chain can be bought for less money than a wagon harness.

Protection of Lambs and Geese.—It is but little known, but is nevertheless a fact, says the Portland Mirror, that a little tar rubbed on the necks of your lambs or geese, will prevent the depredations of foxes among them, these animals having an unconquerable aversion to the smell of tar.

The Cultivation of Trees.—"Jock, when ye hae nothing else to do, ye should be aye sticking in a tree; it will be growing, Jock, when ye'er sleeping. My father told me sae, forty years since, but I ne'er found time to mind him."—*Laird of Dumbedike's dying address to his son.*