

## HINTS FOR FARMERS.

The whitewashing of cattle and horse stalls, as well as the inside of hog cotes and heneries, not only renders them more healthy, but prevents the animals and fowls from being infested with troublesome and filthy vermin. Keep your stables and barns well littered. Leaves from the woods are excellent, and absorb the liquid manure well; besides, of themselves they make good manure. Nothing that will make good manure should be wasted, but carefully saved. Never undertake to fatten an animal until you have first made it comfortable in bed and board.

## ECONOMY OF FEEDING STOCK.

Experience teaches that all kinds of grain fed to stock should be ground. One bushel of oats or corn, ground to fine meal, will furnish as much nourishment to an animal as one bushel and a peck of whole grain. Experiments have been made by analyzing the dejecture of horses fed upon oatmeal and whole oats: in the one instance the whole nutriment had been extracted during the process of digestion, while in the other twenty-five per cent. remained in the excrement when it passed from the animal's stomach. This is reasonable. Most animals masticate their food imperfectly, either from defective teeth, a habit of "bolting" their food, or from the toughness of the grain put before them; whole grains, therefore, pass into the stomach inclosed in an almost impervious husk—at least sufficiently so to resist the action of the gastric juices—and pass out again without affording the least nourishment to the animal.

We say, therefore, grind your corn and oats—cut your hay, straw, and corn-stalks before you feed them to your stock, and you will save twenty per cent. of the cost of keeping them. If it had been designed that the horse, ox, or hog should do this work, they would probably have been furnished with gizzards.

## SLEEP OF PLANTS.

Plants sleep as well as animals; the attitude that some of these assume on the approach of night is extremely interesting to those who delight to study the beautiful phenomena of vegetable life. Some plants exhibit signs of sleep more marked than others. The leaves of clover, lucerne, and other plants close as the sun approaches the horizon; and in the honey locust this characteristic is particularly striking and beautiful. The delicately formed leaves close in pairs at nightfall, and remain so until the rising of the sun in the morning, when they gradually expand to their fullest extent. It is in common garden chickweed (*stellaria medica*) that the most perfect exemplification of the conjugal love and parental care of plants is observed. At the approach of night the leaves of this delicate plant, which are in pairs, begin to close toward each other, and when the sleeping attitude is completed these folded leaves embrace in their upper surfaces the rudiments of the young shoots, and the uppermost pair (but one) at the end of the stalk are furnished with longer leaved stalks than the others, so that they can close upon the terminating pair, and protect the end of the shoot.—*Scientific American*.

*The Country is both the philosopher's garden and library, in which he reads and contemplates the power, wisdom, and goodness of God.—Penn.*

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