

FOOD FOR CATTLE.

	Organic Matter.	Ashes.	Water.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
100lbs. of Peas contain	80½	3½	16
— Beans . . .	82½	3½	14
— Lentils . . .	81	3	16
— Oats . . .	79	3	18
— Oatmeal . . .	89	2	9
— Barley-meal . . .	82½	2	15½
— Hay . . .	76½	7½	16
— Wheat-straw . . .	79	3	18
— Turnips . . .	10	1	89
— Swedish turnips . . .	14	1	85
— Mangel wortzel . . .	10	1	89
— White carrots . . .	12	1	87
— Potatoes . . .	27	1	72
— Red beet . . .	10	1	89
— Linseed-cake . . .	75½	7½	17
— Bran . . .	81	5	14

DRAINING LAND.

(From the American Agriculturist.)

I propose, to note a few facts, the result of my own observation and experience, on a subject which I conceive to be of vital importance to the farmer's interest. Everybody knows that *standing water is death to all useful vegetation in this climate*: this fact I hold to be sufficient proof of the utility of draining. The draining of marshes, swamps, and low meadow land, tends, also, to ameliorate the climate of a country, and render it more healthy, and the influences of the atmosphere more favourable.

To reap advantages from draining, like other branches of farming, it must be well done. Cut good, wide, deep ditches into the subsoil, if there is descent enough to carry all the water off, but by no means so deep that you form a tank to hold water. If your neighbour's land is higher than yours, cut a deep ditch along the line fence, if practicable, and parallel with it, and thus arrest water that would otherwise flow on you, and irrigate land that would be better without it. Abandon the idea that by cutting so many ditches here and there, you are wasting just so much land: this impression is decidedly erroneous. By drying the remainder, you render it more light and porous, easier of cultivation, and consequently more productive.

In the month of July last, I observed from my window two mowers cutting a small lot of coarse bog grass, on land so wet that they could not keep dry feet. They complained of the crop as hardly worth the cutting, except perhaps for yard litter, or very ordinary cow fodder. Now I happen to know that this very identical spot of ground, was thoroughly and effectually drained a few years ago, a good deep ditch being cut entirely around it; and that season and the one following, the most valuable crops of grass were taken from it I ever knew before or since. But you ask, "Why has no good crop come from it since?" I will tell you. The draining was done, and I am satisfied, well done; but this is not always sufficient. If farmers would be permanently benefited by draining land, they must keep the ditches well cleared out, that the water may not only pass off, but pass off quickly; and after a ditch is well opened, a little labor every season will suffice to keep it so. Now, in the above instance, the ditches were never opened but once, consequently they soon became filled up again; and the trouble is, the owner would rather drain his glass

of brandy than his meadow, which kind of draining he understands perfectly; but, allow me to add, that kind of draining wont answer for farmers, and if he had as effectually drained his meadow, a large increase of good hay would annually have been added to his store.

Draining has done wonders for me, and I only wish the anti "book farmers" and all doubting minds could visit my nursery, and see it, instead of hear tell of it. A few years ago, I came into possession of a few acres of a cold, neglected, stiff clay soil, with a retentive yellow clay subsoil, so wet that we often could not even plough the ground until many of our neighbour had planted theirs. A very uninviting spot for a nursery, you will say. It really was; but as it was the best I had, I had to make the best of it, and if every farmer would make the best of what he has, we should have far less complaining, less discontent, and less of the "western mania."

I soon conceived the necessity of thoroughly and completely draining this wet field, and accordingly employed two hands and one head, which were my own, and set to work, cutting good wide ditches all around and through it, and set it to "bleeding at every pore"—making "blind ditches" of those that ran across the lot, that I might plough over them:—The result is, that I have now healthy and thrifty fruit trees growing on land that was much of it wet bog holes, and we are enabled to cultivate it in good season, weeks earlier than ever before. A single fact will show the importance of draining such land. One ditch runs directly through a low marshy bog-hole (that was,) cut deep unto the subsoil, the pores of which were filled with water, and the deeper I went the more the water would ooze out. This very spot is now quite dry and mellow, beautiful to work in, and is the richest spot of ground in the whole nursery. My neighbour's land, which joins me, is higher than mine, and sloping towards it; consequently all the surface water is washed from his upon mine. This communication I cut off by making a ditch near and parallel with the line-fence; this answers the desired purpose, and is a benefit to both of us. His land is so peculiarly situated that he can drain to little purpose, unless he turns his drains into mine, which have a free outlet. This I cheerfully allow him to do, and he is now draining to some extent, and intends to do much more.

I do not conceive it necessary to lay down any very definite rules on paper, for draining land; as the length, breadth, or depth of a ditch; the direction in which it should run, &c. Every farm is differently situated. One is high ground, perhaps, best suited for blind drains; another is low ground, and suited for open ditches. A certain course pursued on one farm, will not answer for another. Every farmer in this, as well everything else, should exercise his own judgement, and adapt his efforts to circumstances.

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REFUSE OF THE GARDEN.

One of the most important things to be attended to in a garden, is that of saving every atom of vegetables that can be scraped together. The stems of peas and beans, the mowings of grass, the cuttings and prunings from trees and shrubs, the fallen leaves, should be as carefully preserved, to be returned to the ground, as if they were the richest manure. In some instances, this refuse may be dug into the ground at once in its green state; in others, it may be thrown into a proper place to decompose, and the decomposition be assisted by the means of other applications.