

is accomplished, since spring is such a hurried season. We find that strawberry growers differ on this question, which is the best time to plant. You can settle it by experiment and then you will know. 'Ve do know for a certainty that there is no confidence to be put in nurserymen, for in their spring catalogs they claim that spring is the proper time to plant and in their fall catalogs they will tell you that fall is the best time to plant of the whole year. For my part I claim that spring is the best time to plant if you can find time to give them justice. I have always had success with my spring planting, but I can't say that of my fall planting, but nevertheless the soil and climate have a good deal to do with fall planting.

Commercial Fertilizers

The discussion of this subject in these columns during the past few weeks has so far proven to be a very interesting one. We would like, however, if more of our farmers who have had experience with commercial fertilizers would let us know the result. Since we have opened our columns to this discussion we would like to have it made as comprehensive as possible.



Imported Ayrshire Cow, Nora of Fairfield Mains, 11094 Scottish Herd Book. Winner of Sweepstakes for best female of any age at leading Fairs of 1898. Owned by J. N. Greenshields, Isleigh Grange Farm, Quebec.

The entrance of Mr. Frank Wallis, of Lincoln, England, into the discussion has given it wider scope and increased the practical interest in it. We have had a few inquiries as to who Mr. Wallis is, and as it will be of interest to our readers he will, perhaps, pardon us if we make the following personal reference to himself, inasmuch as we have been favored with several valuable contributions from his pen since the beginning of the year. Mr. Frank Wallis is known in Great Britain as an agricultural and dairy specialist. He is lecturer for the Lindsey County Council and other public bodies in several counties of the United Kingdom. In this capacity we judge that he would do somewhat similar work to that done by a lecturer at one of our Ontario Farmers' Institutes. He is also one of the most widely known writers on agricultural matters in England, being a frequent contributor to many of the leading agricultural journals of the Old Land, such as the *Field*, *Agricultural Gazette*, *Mark Lane Express*, etc. In the *Field* he writes under the pseudonym of "Wamba." He was not educated as a journalist, but as a farmer, which latter calling he followed for many years and which accounts for the very practical character of his writings.

So far the discussion has turned chiefly upon the value of Thomas-phosphate as a fertilizer. But this should not shut out the publication of any experience connected with the use of other fertilizers. There is some misapprehension in regard to the use of the term Thomas-phosphate in our reading columns, many considering it an advertisement for a certain firm dealing in that commodity. But it is not used for that purpose, but because there is no other term to use to describe this particular type of fertilizer. This will be better understood by a perusal of Frank Wallis' letter in last week's issue, where he describes how this kind of fertilizer results. In Great Britain the name by which it is mostly known is 'basic slag,' or 'basic' phosphate," but as our readers would not know what was meant by such terms we have substituted the term "Thomas-phosphate," which is used interchangeably with the others, and is better known in this country. And so it is the use of the term "Thomas-phosphate" is no more an advertisement for a particular firm than the use of the term "super-phosphate" would be or the term "Kainit," the name given to muriate of potash. We think it is due to our readers as well as to ourselves to make this explanation, as this term has been used so frequently in this discussion.

Caterpillars on Currant Bushes

A correspondent of the (British) *Rural World* writes that journal in regard to sowing one or two broad beans under gooseberry and currant trees as a remedy against caterpillars as follows: "The first two years I had practically no caterpillars. Last year there were a few only, some trees being quite free. This may possibly be only a coincidence, but I should be glad to know the experience of any others of your readers. I may add that generally my garden was infested with the gooseberry caterpillar."

This is a simple remedy and we would like to see it tried here. If any of our readers have tried it we would be glad to hear from them.

Incubators

The following, taken from a French poultry journal, may be interesting to those managing and using incubators:

"An artificial incubator should be kept away from draughts, but in a spot where the air can easily be renewed, and the temperature as much as possible uniform. Therefore, never keep an incubator in a place which is heated during the day and without fire at night; nor in a conservatory, where the sun greatly increases the temperature. Final success in hatching does not depend solely on the perfect condition and regular working of the incubator. It is requisite, and we insist on this point, that the eggs should cool daily. As we know, the hen sometimes leaves her nest for an hour when the weather is fine. Do not, then, fear to imitate her, and let the embryos inside the shells live a little by themselves, awaken from their warm slumber, they will sleep better afterwards, and will be stronger at birth. On the 18th and 19th day, however, cooling must not last more than a few minutes.

It has often been recommended that shaking of incubators should be avoided, but we shall quote the following lines from the work of M. Remy Saint-Loup: 'It is at least useless to shake eggs, but I have observed that shakes have not much to do with failure. Two experiments demonstrated this fact. I tested artificial incubators in an apartment on the third floor of a house in a street where the passing carts and vehicles made the crockery dance in the cupboards, yet the eggs gave as many chicks as in the quiet country place.

"On another occasion, eggs which had been a fortnight hatching were sent to me by rail. The eggs, packed in wadding and pasteboard, travelled during eleven hours,