

### The Farm.

#### Fattening Cattle.

The Kansas Board of Agriculture has gathered the opinions of several hundred persons who had engaged in fattening cattle in that state, with a view to disseminating practical information.

Their recommendation for the feeding of calves for the first winter is wheat-bran and shelled corn, or bran and oats, in sufficient quantities, with hay or other coarse feed, to keep them thrifty and growing.

A large majority favor dehorned or hornless cattle, and say that for the fattening lot such cattle have a ten-per-cent. greater value than those with horns. Thirty reports give them a greater value of 17 cents per 100 pounds; 26 place it at \$2.05 per head. The higher price, they say, fat cattle without horns are likely to sell for averages 13 1/2 cents per 100 pounds.

The time required for properly and safely changing cattle from grass to a full or maximum grain diet is twenty-three days, or from corn-stalk fields sixteen days.

With two exceptions, all say, extra labor considered, it is not profitable in Kansas to keep fattening cattle tied in stalls.

Forty-four per cent. advise keeping grain constantly accessible to fattening cattle, and 56 per cent. say it is profitable to grind some or all of the grain; and the average cost of grinding is given as 1 3/4 cents per bushel. Ten per cent. say grinding is not profitable.

Those who have soaked corn for fattening cattle say its value is enhanced 21 per cent. thereby.

Those who have fed wheat-bran with corn esteem it highly, saying it aids digestion, lessens the quantity of other and perhaps more costly food required, and hastens fattening. From 15 to 25 per cent. (by weight) of wheat-bran fed with shelled or ground corn is reported profitable, when bran costs no more than \$3.40 per ton.

Linseed-oil meal is praised by those who have fed it with corn, and forty feeders say they are justified in using more or less of it at a cost not exceeding \$19.70 per ton, as a very desirable adjunct of corn costing 25 cents per bushel. A smaller number report favorably on the use of limited quantities of cottonseed-meal.

Eighty per cent. favor the use of loose or barrel salt, and 20 per cent. prefer rock salt for the feed-lot or pasture. The principal objections offered to rock salt are, that cattle spend too much time licking it, in order to satisfy their wants, and that in doing so their tongues are likely to be made sore.

#### Onion Culture.

In the yield of onions per acre there is a very wide range, from two hundred to one thousand bushels; and these numbers are not quite the extremes either, for occasionally a crop of 1,200 bushels is heard of, and it is by no means uncommon to see crops of less than 200 bushels; but a man who can average 500 to 600 may consider himself a successful onion grower, while 400 to 500 is a very fair crop. The width of the rows, the quality and quantity (varying from four to six pounds per acre) of seed sown, the adaptability of the soil, and the extent to which it is fertilized, the attention given to cleanliness and cultivation—these are the factors governing the size of the crop.

The transplanting system has many advocates, principally among the younger growers; the older hands seem content with their success by the usual method. The chief advantage appears to be that the crop can be secured early, at a time when prices are likely to be good; on the other hand there is much extra labor attached to the transplanting plan, though if the land is prepared beforehand and kept stirred with the harrow or other implement so as to destroy all sprouting weed seeds, much less weeding will be required after the plants are once set. It is said also that the yield is larger and the bulbs are more uniform in size; but against this must be charged the expense of sowing in cold-frame or hot-bed (if very early onions are desired), the trimming of roots and tops

before setting, and the transplanting itself, the last a job of some magnitude when done on a large scale.—[Country Gentleman.

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#### The Subsoiling Question.

Subsoiling has always been more or less of a bugbear to American farmers. In fact, there are many localities in which it would not be a very easy matter to find a subsoil plough, if you wished to see or borrow one. The beet-sugar and sugar-beet agitation has now brought the subject to the front. The capitalists who are ready to put their money into expensive sugar factories insist on it that the beet-growers subsoil their land before engaging in beet culture. It is well known, and the experience of European beet-sugar makers and beet-growers testifies that sugar-beets are very sensitive to the influence of deficiency in moisture, and under adverse conditions in this respect will fail to develop the percentage of saccharine matter that is absolutely necessary for fullest success in sugar-making. The main root and root-fibres must have a chance to reach well down into a stratum of perpetual moisture—and this necessity has led to the practice of subsoiling beet-lands. Of course, where the sugar-beet is thus benefited, other crops will reap some benefit also, and indeed there are a large proportion of our soils which it would pay as well to subsoil, whether we grow sugar-beets or other crops.—[Farm and Fireside.

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#### Asparagus For Home Use.

Every farmer's family is deprived of one of nature's great blessings if the garden is lacking and has no asparagus bed. It can be had with very little trouble after it is once started. As soon as the ground can be worked in the spring the bed is spaded up and the manure turned under. I use for this work a six-tine spading fork, generally called potato-fork. If the bed has been properly started, this spading can be done eight or nine inches deep; but we have to be careful not to injure the asparagus roots, with which the bed is interwoven at that depth. Especial care must be taken when spading right over the crowns of the plants. They are somewhat near the surface of the soil, and easily reached with the fork and ruptured. But these places can be plainly noticed by the dead stubs of last season's growth. Every time a mess of asparagus is cut and signs of vegetation are noticed, the garden rake is drawn over the bed the whole length and touching every spot. This stirs the ground, and ends all vegetable life for the time being. After we stop cutting, this raking process is kept up more or less all summer, and I would say right here that the better care we take of our bed this summer, the easier work it will be to keep it in proper shape next season.

In the fall, or when the bed is to be covered again with the usual fertilizer, all growth of stocks is cleaned off; but the seed-stocks should be removed before the seeds drop, as they are as bad as any weeds if suffered to grow.—[G. C. Greiner, in Farm and Fireside.

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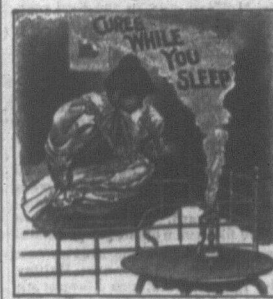
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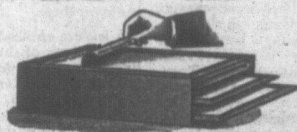
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