

Sowing Mixed Grains.

Jonathan Talcott, Rome, N. Y., writes to the *Journal of the Farm* as follows:—

Having had some experience in sowing mixed grains, I will say in regard to experiments tried by me, that the sowing of spring grains for feed to be used on the farm for stock feeding purposes, has proved fully equal, if not superior, to those crops that were kept separate, but for market, such mixed grains would not, as a rule, be as valuable as if each variety were sown by itself. I have known some good farmers who made it their usual practice to sow oats and peas quite extensively for a field crop for home feeding to stock, also rye and oats and barley with oats, all which crops are deteriorated for the market when grown together, as on our dairy farms in Central New York there is not usually as much grain raised as is fed to the stock. All such, I think, would be benefited by the sowing of their spring grains mixed, but they still should sow an area large enough for such grain clean, else in case of a wish to sow clean seed of one variety, they would be under the necessity of purchasing their seed of some one who kept his grains pure and unmixed. In raising corn, many of our best farmers say they prefer to mix eight, 10 and 12 rowed varieties of the same color together, thereby increasing the average per acre by from five to ten bushels. I confess that has been, and still is my practice, and I think with good results, and in the case of corn when all of one color, no objection is made by the purchaser. Sometimes when the colors are mixed the price will be a little less for the mixed grain.

In regard to potatoes, too much care cannot be taken to have each variety kept separate, especially for all that are to be marketed, as mixed lots never sell so well as those that are kept pure.

While on this subject of mixed grain I must not close till I give my emphatic dissent to all this sowing of mixed grains for the food of the human family. Go where you will, you see but few fields of wheat of the winter varieties that are not badly mixed with rye and chess, and the spring varieties with rye, oats and barley. I am satisfied more is lost by this way of mixing seed than enough to pay for pure, clean seed every year in the United States, and all of which might be saved to the tillers of the soil, if each one determined to sow pure, clean seed, and if, in consequence of such determination not more than one-half the usual area were sown by each farmer. In this case, I speak from personal knowledge, having sown mixed seed of wheat, cockle, chess and rye, and as a matter of course, I harvested mixed grain for the crop, when wheat only was wanted. I am satisfied, that in a field of ten acres, grown some years since, I lost more than enough to pay for clean seed twice over. Since then I have resolved to sow only wheat where I wished to harvest that crop, and it has worked to a charm with me, and I don't doubt the same course would do so with all those who sow clean seed on clean, well-prepared soil; and very frequently such a crop can be sold for an extra price for seed, but if not, it will always bring a few more cents per bushel for milling than the mixed article. Also a farmer feels much better when he can carry a first-rate, clean sample of wheat to market, than he would do if it was pretty well mixed with chess, cockle and rye, as too many of our farmers are wont to do.

English Farming in America.

T. Whitaker, in the *New England Farmer*, says: I am trying to farm after the English pattern. I am feeding my cows highly, in order to have good manure, and am manuring highly, in order to have productive soil. I have found that it is much better to seed down with grass in the fall than in the spring. Last fall I had about an acre and a half seeded down, and flat turnips sown at the same time, after taking from one part a crop of oat fodder, and from one part early potatoes. I obtained over two hundred bushels of turnips, and the grass is now looking splendidly. I seeded last spring with barley, and cut it for fodder. The clover looks well, but the past dry season affected my spring seeding very much; when the clover was spent the herdsgrass and red top did not show so well as they ought to have done.

I find, too, that it is much better to restrict the range of milch cows, and cut their feed, than let them ramble miles in quest of food, although I am not entirely committed to the strict system of mowing. I have a hill-side which is too steep to cultivate. My cows have the range of this hill-side, probably four acres. On the balance I raise rye for early spring feeding; next my oats come in, and

after them fodder corn, then my second crop of grass, and it is August before my cows get much grass, except what they get on the hill-side.

I find that oats or barley, cut green and cured the same as hay, make excellent fodder in winter. My cows eat it as well as the best hay, and give as much milk from it.

The question has been asked how to farm without manure. As well ask a weaver how to make cloth without warp and weft. I look upon my cows as machinery for the manufacture of milk and manure. I expect my pigs to manufacture pork and manure; and my land, also, is a machine for manufacturing manure into potatoes, corn, peas, beans, oats, barley and grass; all of which articles are again resolved into manure, by the stock on the place. To increase the amount of manure I keep more animals on the place than I produce feed for, so I rely upon the West for shorts, linseed meal and corn meal; I also rely on my neighbors for some English hay for feed, though I hope another year to produce nearly all I want. I also purchase meadow hay for bedding. Thus I obtain from my neighbors the elements of fertility for making my land more productive. Who is the wisest,—they for selling the best parts of their farm, or I for buying,—time alone can determine. The returns of neither one year nor two can settle the question; nothing less than a series of years can completely set at rest such a question. But we can determine so much, however, that I am getting at the rate of a ton of hay to the acre where three years ago I obtained nothing but moss and hardhack; and in those three years I have obtained large crops of fodder corn, rye and oats.

What the Farmer Must Know.

The farmer, like the business man, must know what he is doing; he must have some pretty decided ideas of what he is going to accomplish—in fact, he must calculate it beforehand.

He must know his soil—that of each lot, not only the top, but the sub-soil.

He must also know what grain and grass are adapted to each.

He must know when is the best time to work them, when they need summer plowing.

He must know the condition in which the ground must be when ploughed, so that it be not too wet nor too dry.

He must know that some grains require earlier sowing than others, and what these grains are.

He must know how to put them in.

He must know that it will pay to have machinery to help him as well as muscle.

He must know about stock and manures and the cultivation of trees and small fruits and many other things; in a word, he must know what experienced, observing farmers know, to be sure of success. Then he will not guess—will not run such risks.—*Illust. Agric.*

Satisfactory Figures.

The *Journal of the Farm* for July gives the following figures concerning a farm of 321 acres, near Doylestown, Bucks Co., Pa.:

RECEIPTS.	
From Hay	\$1,250 57
Straw	494 78
Wheat	615 50
She	124 10
Potatoes	1,023 75
Dairy of 29 cows	2,427 50
Chickens	345 57
Turkey	43 60
Ducks	60 40
Eggs	107 10
	\$9,554 17
EXPENSES.	
Manures	\$1,113 00
Ten tons meal	292 00
Four tons wheat bran	140 00
Four hundred bushels better's grains	88 60
Wages	1,257 96
Blacksmith work	237 40
Wharfright work	121 75
Blacksmith tools	77 00
	\$3,207 11
Receipts over expenses	\$6,347 06
Receipts per acre	19 77

The farm kept 15 horses in addition to the dairy of 30 cows. But what is a little singular, there are no hog products in these figures.

Reckoning the farm and implements as worth \$200 per acre, the profit over and above the interest on \$64,200, and \$3,207 11 for expenses (as above) was \$1,833 06, certainly a very encouraging result.

Why Farming Pays no Better.

R. B. Shepard, Mount Vernon, Ind., gives his brother farmers the following advice. He writes; "One of the reasons why farming pays no better with the majority is simply this. We raise too few kinds of grain and grass, and not enough kinds of stock.

The farmer that raises nothing but corn and hogs can never expect to make as much money as the farmer that devotes his time to the care of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, and to the raising of wheat, corn, clover, potatoes, and fruit. The last-mentioned farmer has work for himself and his team every day in the month and every month in the year. He has always something that will bring a fair and remunerative price, for if some of his crops are low others will be high. Last year corn was selling in south-western Indiana for 30 cents, while wheat was worth from 1 00 to \$1 80 per bushel. The farmer that held both was a lucky man. If one did not more than pay the cost of production, the others did. Not so with the hog and hominy farmers, who had nothing to sell but corn at thirty cents a bushel, which would not more than pay the cost of production. Let us glance at the figures and see where the most money is made, in mixed or corn farming. Let us suppose that a man is going to plant eighty acres of corn. The breaking up of the land, planting, cultivating, gathering, and hauling to market will cost, in round numbers, \$360, and counting the interest on the money invested in the land, and the taxes, the corn farmer will be behind in dollars and cents. Not so with the farmer who raises all kinds of farm produce. He is cultivating twenty acres of wheat, twenty acres of corn, twenty of timothy grass, and a few of root crops, such as beets, potatoes, and turnips, in an acre of orchard, and five acres of other kinds of farm crops, with all kinds of live stock in proportion. His wheat will yield fifteen bushels per acre, in all 300 bushels, which, at 1 50 per bushel, makes \$450 for wheat; corn, fifty bushels per acre, 1,000 bushels, at thirty cents, makes \$300; timothy two tons per acre, forty tons in all, at 20 per ton, \$800; the root crops will yield an average of 200 bushels per acre, making 1,000 bushels at 20 cents, equal to \$200; the orchard ought to bring in about \$200 a year at least; the other farm crops (speak of wild fruit) will probably add \$100 at the end of the year. He has the snug little sum of \$2,050 against \$1,200 of the 'hog and hominy farmer's' losses his grain, &c., he will have butter and eggs, and a fat hog to sell during the summer months. We should follow mixed farming for reasons besides the money-making. We all know that planting corn year after year on the same land is injurious; it wears the land out, and in few years it is unfit for cultivation. But if we look to our interests and follow mixed husbandry, and study a rotation of crops that is best suited for our land, and keep it up, we will have land in better condition, to leave to our children than it was left to us. Another way to make farming pay better is to drain more, dig ditches, to let off all stagnant water, and in some cases your crops will be about doubled. The last reason I will give is this: We as farmers read too little, and consequently we are behind the times. I do not mean all farmers but the majority of them are. The majority farm the same way that their fathers and grandfathers did in old times when agriculture was not making as much progress as now, and was comparatively in its infancy. Farmers should study in the winter months, and lay plans for the Spring and Summer. Read papers of sterling merit, and select such books as Allen's *New American Farm Book*, Todd's *Young Farmer's Manual*, Harris on the Pig, Stonehenge on the Horse, Allen's *American Cattle*, Randall's *Sheep Husbandry*, and Sander's *Domestic Poultry*, and then they will have a library in itself that they can read rainy days and winter nights. This not only profits them, but will afford many hours of pleasure in learning more about their profession, raising and elevating it. This, with the majority of farmers, is now ranking as the lowest down calling that man has ever known. But it should not be so; it should rank with that of any other profession.—*N. Y. Times.*

Weeds to be killed with little labor, should be destroyed before they come up. Go over the bare surface with a steel rake, and the operation will not only promote the growth of the crop by breaking the crust, but will kill any weed just ready to thrust its head above the surface of the ground, with one-twentieth of the labor required to cut them afterward with the hoe.