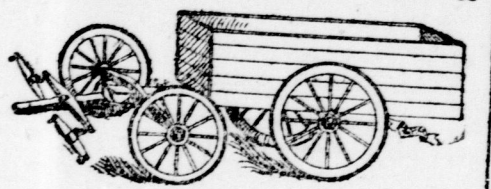


FARM & GARDEN

MANURE OR DIRT CART.

Made From an Old Truck or Other Farm Wagon.

The illustration herewith represents a cart made from an old truck or even from the running gears of an ordinary farm wagon. The engraving is imperfect but it will serve to give an idea of how to make it. The front wheels ought to be coupled nearer the box, the back end of



A MANURE OR DIRT CART.

which should be a hinged gate that can be easily opened for dumping. When the manure, dirt, or other material is hauled to the desired place, open the endgate, pull out the coupling pin and start up the team. The bed of the cart is slightly heavier in the rear and will tip backward, thus emptying itself. This is especially handy in hauling earth for grading. In moving manure it is useful although some prefer unloading with a fork, claiming that it is easier to get from the load than from the ground.

The Poultry Yard.

After the month of January, and during the month also, the ducks should begin to give a good account of themselves. In some places the raising of ducklings for market is a special business, two or three leading men sending to market as many as 10,000 ducklings every year. No attempt is made to hatch ducklings after the first three or four months of the year, and the flock of ducks kept for laying consists of a sufficient number to provide the eggs required for incubators. When the laying season is over their places are filled by the best of their offspring.

When they begin to lay it is important to provide the ducks with a larger share of food, as the duck often lays an egg every day for a while, and surpasses even the hen in that respect, producing eggs in a year than the hen, and for this reason she should be fed liberally, but if given grain exclusively the ducks may be thrown out of condition, becoming weak in the legs, and unable to lay. Bulky food, such as a lot of cut clover hay, scalded turnips, or potatoes cooked, to which is added, furnishes an excellent food for them, but the animal food should not be overlooked.

Wheat For Feed.

It is not without reason that farmers are cautious about feeding wheat to their stock, notwithstanding its low price. It is a grain which heats very rapidly when it has been fed. We should not wholeheartedly in any event, however the quantity given at a time, bran, as all know, is excellent for production. Why then feed some ground whole, using the bran as a supplement, and then mix a small portion of this wheat meal with a proportion of wheat bran. This gives a much higher nutritive value to the ration and at present prices wheat and bran it would not pay more per pound. If a richer feed is required, add a very small amount of linseed meal, but remember that the fat in milk and butter can be got from it by selling at prices. But wheat is not a grain in profitably be fed alone.

Bones for the Hen.

There are many things which cannot be named, but which present themselves as facts. Take a bone, fresh from the slaughter, go in your hen yard, pound it with a hammer on a stone, and you may have fed your hen with ground bone, and have filled her with grain, each will take of a blow on the head with a will swallow pieces so large as a surprise. The fresh bone has a special purpose, for it contains phosphorus for the white of the egg, and the shell, all in a concentrated form, and in a partially soluble form, while the dry bones remain hard—that is, as long as fresh bone is. Thus we have not only egg also grit for grinding the egg gizzard.

A Common Disease.

"Bones" is a disease that occurs in the horse. The animal as a rule is hungry and thin, the skin on the ribs, fitted to the bones, is tight as a drum. The disease generally by poor feed or by being a greedy feeder and eating his food. A farmer who smutty feed, and not very good his horse in the habit of his head into the manger and as if he was going to catch a little while the horse looks as not act as lively as usual, he does him with condition without avail, and it is not his horse is run down.

Care of Manure.

A winter should be piled in enough to ferment. It will be warm in the middle, and be from grain-fed horses, and to heat and fireproof in while frozen at the outside of turning of the heap, frozen part in the centre, loss, but after two or three days the manure will be coming at first. It must then be so as to prevent it from getting better still be drawn from a land intended for hooded.

Cow Comfortable.

Do her best unless she is able. How to add to the cow, therefore, should be dairymen, summer and not when she is exposed to sun on a hot summer's day she is cold in winter.

Ammonia in Manure.

Ammonia is escaping from manure and which can easily be smelt, is valuable. Pre-vent occasionally applying ammonia to the surface.

LOOKING AHEAD.

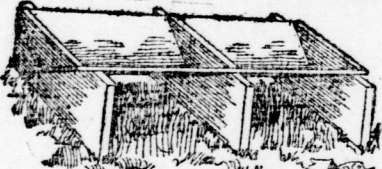
A Good Plan That Should Not Be Forgotten This Year.

Every winter good farmers make their plans for the coming season; deciding the crop to be grown on each field, if preparations have not already been made in some cases; and the proper method of cultivation to be given in order to secure the best results. On the size of the crop will depend entirely the profit or loss of the business. When wages are so high as at the present time, most farmers are careful to do as much of their work as possible themselves, and where a farmer does his own work he is likely to do it well. Therefore, the yield of a field is a measure of the farmer's profits. Thorough cultivation is known to be absolutely necessary, and this, when the country was new, the land was full of plant food and good, and even very large crops were sure to follow poor cultivation. That time has gone by and thorough culture, but also liberal applications of manure, must be made.

This matter of manure is the main study of most farmers. When manure can be had in large quantities there is trouble in getting good crops. But there are very few farms where there is sufficient manure made to fill all needs. Hence it is necessary to buy more or less from some source outside of the farm. There are plenty of commercial manure in the market, and most of it not all of the good ones are sold at reasonable prices. There are some, however, that are dishonestly made, of which it is best to beware. They are invariably sold at lower prices than an honest article can be afforded, and that fact is a pretty sure guide in buying. In any case it is well to make the maker or his agent give a guaranteed analysis of the fertilizer, and then if there is any doubt as to the honesty of the makers, a sample should be sent to the Government experiment station, where it will be analyzed and a prompt report made to the sender. It will pay almost any farmer to buy commercial fertilizers to use in addition to the farm manure, but only the best guaranteed manures should be bought.

A Strong Hog Trough.

A very strong trough may be made of saved lumber, as shown in the accompanying engraving. For every three feet length of trough use a plank support two or two and one-half feet long, twelve inches wide, and two inches



A SUBSTANTIAL FEED TROUGH.

thick. Saw out from the middle of each piece a right angled triangular piece of the same length. Use boards one inch thick for the sides, and nail the trough together as usual with the triangles sawed out of the two-inch stuff for ends. Now set the trough in the angles sawed out, but far enough away from the end piece to nail from the side of the trough into the supports, and put the triangle sawed from the bottom corner to let water run through. We are indebted to the American Agriculturist for this sketch and description.

Marketing Produce.

The man who takes great pride in producing a good article, and recommends it for what it is, without any misrepresentation, will soon gain a reputation for fair dealing that will be a great help to him in marketing his products. If you are going to sell to the grocer, remember that he likes to deal with producers whose word is as good as their every basket, box or barrel the uniform goodness of the contents reaches clear to the bottom. They like men who, when they take orders to-day for to-morrow, can be depended upon to live up to their engagements, whose vegetables are always washed clean, tied tightly and arranged neatly, and whose call can be depended upon with never-failing certainty every week day and under all conditions of weather.

Uniformity is another item in making produce salable. Particular pains should be taken to have all the vegetables in one bunch or package (the radishes, beets, onions, or whatever they may be) as near like each other as careful selection can make them. If the articles to be marketed are of uneven size, grade and put the larger ones in one package and the smaller in another. Careful sorting and packing are just as necessary as skillful growing. Regularity of supply is still another point of importance. No matter how fine and abundant your produce may be, it will not be appreciated by your customers unless you furnish them regularly just what they want, and when they want it. This inspires confidence and reliance, and insures permanent patronage. Even at higher prices than customers would be willing to give to the man who offers his produce at irregular intervals or on rare occasions.—Farm Life.

Small Fruits of Special Merit.

Often fruits of various descriptions are brought before the public, and sometimes they are very disappointing to the planter, and we would not advise any one to invest largely in new varieties of fruits of any kind as there is great risk, especially where large sums of money are expended in plants, etc. It is far better for the grower to plant those kinds which have been fairly tested and which are of good reputation. However it is well for all progressive fruit growers to test some new sorts each year and thus keep up with the times. And it is not unwise to plant quite extensively of some kinds which seem to possess special merit of a degree which insures a good profit.

Will Check Weeds and Insects.

Practicing rotation in the production of crops is not only a most excellent course for preventing soil exhaustion, but the best means for preventing the multiplication of weeds and insects.

The Surface Tells the Condition.

Corn kernels having a flinty, glazed surface contain an excessive amount of starch while the dull-colored, shriveled grains have an excess of sugar.

Time to Attend to Tools.

Although it is winter yet, the time will be short when farmers will need having tools. It is well to look after such matters now.

Corn For the Hens.

Grind the corn and cob together and try it, feeding at night. Some roast the corn on a hot fire and feed for eggs. It is a good plan.



THE USE OF POULTRY.

An Apt Illustration Which Should Work Wonders.

Did you ever notice that on the top of a load of coarse coal you can throw half a ton of fine coal, and after driving a mile on an ordinary road that you will see no sign of the fine coal? If there, all the same, it just fits in and fills up all the corners and spaces between the larger lumps, so it is, or should be, with poultry on most farms. The horses, cattle, sheep and swine mainly occupy the attention of the stock grower; the corn, wheat, oats, etc., are first considered by the general farmer. But either man, without losing a dollar in his general line of work, and with a very slight expenditure of time and money, can reap from the corners of his yards and his time with poultry.

Laying aside the aesthetic side of the question—the pleasure and culture to be derived from a carefully tended flock of pure breeds, and failing to reckon the convenience and helpfulness of having always at hand a good supply, for the home table, of nice fresh eggs and palatable poultry, the clear profits from fifty hens, well kept, are usually four times as great as the same investment of time and money in any other branch of farming.

The villager who buys at retail, for cash, all the food consumed by his hens, makes an outlay in this direction of about \$1 for each hen. It has been natural for different poultrymen that the prices, at regular market, for hen is worth from \$2 to \$3 a year, leaving the owner a net profit of from \$1 to \$2 on each hen. Supposing that the farmer does not get his hens to take hold of his scheme as enthusiastically, his outlay for feed is at least 50 cents less per hen, owing to the better foraging facilities and less grain, with that at whole sale prices, so that his profits per hen are more than his village competitor.

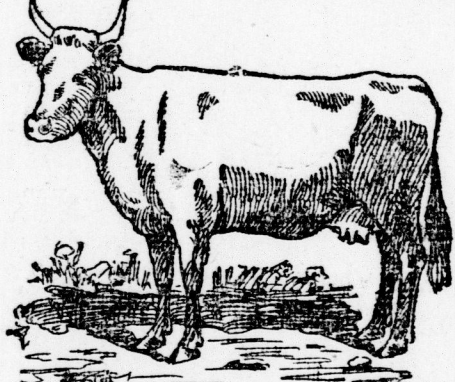
The man's difficulty in persuading farmers to believe there is something in this business, if managed right, is the difficulty of inspiring them with sufficient faith to make them manage it right for a whole year. Spasmodic strokes for a short time will not do the business. Continuous, persistent attention is needed. There is a steady call for first-class poultry products. To be rated as first-class, all marketable products must be neat and clean, and, as far as possible, uniform in size and color.

Once more we urge those who have not tried it, or those who have failed at it, to dispose of their dung-hill fowls that they are ashamed of, and that act as though they were ashamed of them; clear up, probably better burn down, the ramshackle affair that stands for a chicken house, and put up a neat, well arranged, but inexpensive house in a sunny, protected place; buy a dozen, nice, uniform, well developed pullets, either of the American Asiatic or Mediterranean breeds; give them the run of your place when practicable, but have a good yard too, in which you can confine them when necessary. See that there is no chance for them to become any other breed, keep them by themselves this winter. Buy a choice male bird now to mate with them, for in the spring prices will be higher. Keep them free from lice and disease, care for every year. Take an interest and pride in this corner of your work, and in two years you will find yourself well repaid for your care, trouble and outlay.—Farmer's Advocate.

The Little Jersey.

One great fault in the management of Jerseys resulted from a belief in the claims that have been made that they were tender and delicate and needed to be kept more closely stabled than other cows. It is true that the model dairy model beef cow but a wrong inference has been drawn from this fact. It is all the more important that she should have pure air and exercise and enough of it. But instead of supplying those the first object has been to keep the air warm enough for the external comfort of the animals, while the ventilating systems which are supposed to supply pure air to the lungs are run by guess or by theory and too often fail of doing what is expected of them. We have not yet found a way to secure the most bodily comfort in all kinds of weather and at the same time make sure that the animal is breathing pure air, and until some new discovery is made by which ventilation can be made to work as well in practice as in theory, it will be better to sacrifice even if the present profit be a little less, than to weaken the lungs with warm air, which is at the same time foul and liable to be laden with disease.

We copy from the Mark Lane Express the accompanying portrait of what that paper calls "a very nice specimen" of the Kerry breed, being a four-year cow called Shamrock, property of Mr. James Robertson, La Mancha, Malahide, Dublin. She was a prize-winner in her class at the Royal Show of 1893.



PRIZE-WINNING KERRY COW.

Corn and Bran.

"When corn is thirty cents a bushel and bran thirteen cents a bushel, which is cheaper and better for milk cows?" Corn is cheaper; bran is better; one part cornmeal to two of bran is best. In other words, corn is unfit for a total ration because it is too rich in carbon; bran is unfit for a total ration because it is too poor in carbon. Mixing the two tends to balance the ration. But bran is generally better as a single grain feed than corn, because the hay or cornfeed usually fed is highly carbonaceous. If clover or millet forms the bulk of the coarse feed, more cornmeal can wisely be fed than when other hay or straw is the coarse feed. Corn at thirty cents a bushel is as cheap as bran at eleven dollars a ton, provided it is properly "balanced" for a milk ration.—Orange Judd Farmer.

The Lazy Horse.

Breed for energy and intelligence in horses as well as form and action. The stupid, lazy horse will not sell, so we generally keep him to work at home and lose time and money by him. The stupidly lazy horse has a dull, usually a narrow forehead and a contracted poll. He is a blunderer; forgets himself and stumbles on smooth ground.

The Hog.

No other kind of live stock will turn the wastes of the farm into valuable merchandise quicker than hogs.

ABOUT SHEEP.

Their Habits and How They may be Taken Advantage Of.

Sheep are not early risers, so if I wish to go to the barn before daylight I attend to the horses and cows first. I let the sheep get up and fully ready for their breakfast before going to them. If their troughs are in their yard I put in their grain before letting them out. Then open the door wide and let them rush. There should be a great abundance of trough room. I prefer to have the troughs placed against the fence so that the sheep can not jump over them. While they are out I put hay in the racks, putting in only what they will eat up clean, provided the hay is good. Should there be any left at next feeding time it is cleaned out and given to the horses, not to the cows. I always want the sheep fastened out, when I feed hay, for my own convenience and to avoid getting seed in their fleeces.

If their water supply is outside I leave them out long enough after they have eaten their grain to drink before letting them in to their hay, unless the weather is such that they may be allowed the liberty of their yard. I feed nothing at noon and do not want them to have anything to be nibbling at through the day. The sheep, like the cow, should have time to ruminate. Their evening feed is given them in the same way, allowing them to drink again. I feed as late as will allow me to finish with all by dark.

Were grain high and hay cheap I should feed the former but once a day and that in the afternoon. Sheep, when left to themselves, do their heavy eating in the evening. I have never tried wintering sheep without grain, and from what I have seen of attempts at that kind of economy I am not favorable toward it. A sheep can not grow wool without something out of which to make it any more than a cow can give milk with barely food enough to keep her alive. I never try to see how little will sustain a flock. The attempt is, rather, to feed all they will eat and digest well. I will keep no sheep that does not promise growth both in wool and mutton. A ewe that fails to raise a lamb, unless she is an exceptionally good one, goes to the mutton market at once.

I have not tried feeding roots to any great extent. Without a pulping machine they are not a convenient thing to feed. If placed in the troughs whole the sheep waste them badly by throwing them out. I find ewes very fond of them, however, and shall continue to raise them until I get a silo.

Clover hay is the staple winter feed. I have this year worked in more by-products to advantage than ever before. I have fed a considerable quantity of oat straw, the bean straw from an acre of beans and the clover chaff from the holler. These given as one feed a day have been eaten with apparent relish. All were saved in fine condition.

I have been surprised at how much the sheep make out of the bean straw. I think its worth almost as much as an equal quantity of timothy hay.

The Hens Not Laying.

It is when the hens are cheerful, happy, look bright and are in the best condition that the farmers will find them unprofitable. While the hens of the neighbors may be laying eggs regularly, the well fed hens will be doing nothing. This is not the fault of the hens, but to the feeding. The owner wishes his hens to receive a liberal supply, and he gives them a variety, allowing all the corn, oats, wheat, barley, bone, clover, etc., in noon and night. He is simply overfeeding them and perhaps using twice as much food as is necessary. No flock should be fed at noon. The hens will never scratch and work if fed three times a day, as they will learn to look for their meals regularly and follow their owner around whenever they see him as though hungry, when in fact it is a habit he has taught them. They are as plump, fat and pretty as could be desired, but are not in laying condition. The remedy is to put them on one meal a day, giving a pound of lean meat (no fat) to twenty hens until they begin to lay.

A Kerry Cow.

We copy from the Mark Lane Express the accompanying portrait of what that paper calls "a very nice specimen" of the Kerry breed, being a four-year cow called Shamrock, property of Mr. James Robertson, La Mancha, Malahide, Dublin. She was a prize-winner in her class at the Royal Show of 1893.



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