

* The Farm. *

Drying Wheat for Seed.

After every damp harvest, as the present has been in most localities, the grain goes into the barn with its straw not so thoroughly dried out as it should be. There is also considerable dampness in the grain itself, and this will probably cause heating of the grain in the mow. With spring grain this does not matter much, for the grain will be pretty sure to dry out when freezing cold weather comes. But whenever winter grain is grown the seed for next harvest has to be selected from the present year's crop, and this often means the premature threshing of the winter grain and using it while still damp as seed.

To this fact is probably to be attributed the common belief among farmers that old wheat and rye are better for seed than new. In the old grain the freezing of the winter and the subsequent thawing have made the seed nearly wholly free from moisture. Yet all these experiences are not absolutely necessary. If the grain is thoroughly dried in the fall that it is grown it is not only as fit, but more fit, for seed than it is after being dried out by winter freezing, wherein its germinating powers are more apt to be injured than they are by being thoroughly dried out the previous fall.

We have heretofore advised the greatest care in drying seed grain for fall sowing. But it is far better, we believe, to thoroughly dry the seed even by artificial means. We have over and over again dried seed grain in fruit evaporators such as are used for drying apples, and always with the best results in a large proportion grown of the seed that was sown. We believe that it is best to dry all grain used as seed by the heat of fire. It may be by braiding the seed corn and hanging it beside the chimney, so as to secure the heat of the kitchen fire. But however it is dried, the seed that has fire heat to dry it is sure to produce the most vigorous growth and the largest crop of grain.—American Cultivator.

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Well-fed is Half-bred.

This is an old saying that has some basis for truth, and another that was the keynote of the success of John Ross, a famous Ohio feeder, was that "the corncrib is the best cross." Both these sayings are along the same line, but, like a good many old sayings, they stop short of the whole truth. No amount of care will make a scrub animal as good as a pure-bred one that is given equal attention. This is the foundation of success. Without good blood to begin with it is impossible to secure the best results. What is bred in the bone will show in after life, and the well-bred animal invariably makes the best showing, other things being equal.

It is true that the best blood will not make an animal thrive if half-fed and carelessly housed, and that a scrub may be made a pretty fair animal by giving it extra care, but this is not what the modern stockman wants. He is after the best there is, with the intention of giving it good care after he gets it.

The up-to-date stockman has learned that it is impossible to economize in care and make the greatest profit. He must be lavish of care and liberal in the matter of feed, and after this confidently hopes for success.

The day is passed when a lot of cattle or sheep can be turned into a wood lot or put on the range, and allowed to work out their own salvation, and make money for the owner. The people who eat meat have become better educated, and native beef or stringy mutton does not go with them. They want beef from well-bred steers and mutton from well-kept sheep, and if they cannot get these in one place they will go to another until they find it. Well-fed is half-bred to a certain extent, but well-bred and well-fed is what counts nowadays.—Farmer's Voice.

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Rest for Milking Cows.

It is, we think, a fault of some of the

best breeds of milkers that they cannot be easily dried off, even when they approach the time for dropping their calves. An interval of at least a month, and six weeks is still better, should be left to the cow, in which she should have an entire rest. Milk is not good for food for varying periods before parturition, depending much on the age and condition of the cow and the kind of food she receives and digests. A cow thin in flesh may require eight or even ten weeks' rest before beginning milking again. While we believe that young heifers after their first calves should be kept in milk until within a month or six weeks before the next calves are due, it is rather to get them into the habit of long milking than because the small amount they give will be worth the extra feed and labor required to secure it.

Unless to supply milk for household use in winter there is little advantage in milking the cows that calved in the spring longer than January of the following year. From eight to twelve weeks with comparatively little grain feed will leave the cow in better condition for next year than will crowding her stomach with grain so as to force milk production until near the time her next calf is due to be dropped. This last will possibly increase the milk flow when the cow springs her bag for the coming calf, and thus cause garget, which is an evil that the best milkers are always most likely to suffer from.

Until near the time of parturition the cow should be fed enough grain to make her gain in flesh. But for two weeks before she calves this grain feed should be withheld, lest it stimulate the milk flow too much. After the calf is a week old, and the danger of inflammation has passed, the grain feeding may be resumed, taking care not to give grain feed in such quantities as to fatten the cow rather than increase her milk flow.—American Cultivator.

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Judge Dugas, police magistrate of Montreal, has been named to succeed Judge Maguire in the Yukon.

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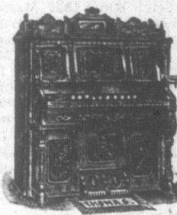
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