

**How much Sorghum pays.**

Take the above instance of the farmer who produced 300 gallons per acre. At 25 cents per gallon it yields him \$75 per acre. From this is to be deducted the labour and the interest on the capital employed in its production. It would leave a profit of \$50 per acre without any sort of doubt. But 25 cents per gallon is the minimum price for this product. The price the producer realizes is 25 to 50 cents per gallon depending upon the character of the sirup, the distance from market, &c. From 35 to 40 cents per gallon is paid for the crude article in this city (Chicago) for refining. From this must be deducted freights hither.

But it is the best crop grown this year, where it has been properly cared for. One farmer came to this State from New York State a few years since, and purchased a farm of the Illinois Central Railroad Co. He went into grain growing—small grain. Did not pay expenses. He tried corn, and scarcely made a living.

Was about abandoning the West, when the product from a half acre of Sorghum he had planted attracted his attention. He applied a little arithmetic to the result and figured out future profit. The result was the thorough preparation of 23 acres of land for the Sorghum crop of 1862. It was planted and thoroughly cultivated. He sold the product in this city a few days since, and found the *net profit* of the crop to be \$25 per acre; the first money he had made by farming in Illinois, he said.

**Paper from the bagasse.**

But the sirup it produces is not the only merchantable part of it. It is found to be a better material than straw for the manufacture of paper. It is softer and makes stronger paper. It, however, costs as much to manufacture it, and perhaps a little more, than it does straw. But it is valuable to mix with straw.

It softens the paper. The same process is adopted in its manufacture as in the manufacture of straw, either into wrapping or print paper.

Whether it will render print paper cheaper than it now is, must depend much on the price of bleaching powders. It requires double the amount of these to bleach it, that rags do, and more than straw. A manufacturer asserts, however, that if they succeed in its manufacture into print paper, as there is prospect they will do, it will be found profitable to farmers to dry the bagasse and bale it ready for shipment. Hence it will be seen that here is another important item.

It is worth as much per tun to the manufacturer as straw; which is worth two and a half or three dollars per tun. In order to insure a sale of this bagasse, it is important that the juice be all crushed out of it. The crushing process is a necessary preparation of the fiber for the paper manufacturer; and it is important that the bagasse be dried before fermentation can follow. The value of the fiber is quickly affected by fermentation, and its value for manufacturing purposes thereby depreciated.

There are heaps of it about the various mills in the West, which may be made available to the manufacturer by a little timely effort.

About seed for 1863.

Where and how the seed for the crop of 1863

is to be obtained, is now agitating Sorghum men.

The crop of good seed the present year is said to be small. A gentleman of large experience says he believes two-thirds of the seed grown the past year is mongrel. He had traveled three weeks in Iowa this fall to buy seed, and found but two lots that he would plant. Farmers are careless in planting—plant it too near broom corn, or other allied species with which it will hybridize. But the greatest difficulty seems to be, that care is not taken to select the seed of the best corn—the earliest, purest, and that which yields the greatest amount of saccharine matter—that positive improvement in the character of the crop is not secured, instead of positive deterioration.

A gentleman largely interested in these matters suggest that local Agricultural Societies could do the community great service by appointing committees or a committee to canvass each township and impress the importance of this case in the selection of seed upon the farmers of said township—selecting, and if necessary purchasing, the best seed that can be found. Such committees might do great good; and every man who regards this an important matter may profitably (to the country) employ his personal influence in his neighborhood in this direction. It can be procured from the Provincial Agricultural Depot.

**The best soil for Sorghum.**

Each year's experience establishes the fact that a light sandy loam, or gravel, or clayey soil is much better for this crop than the black, mucky, prairie soils. This difference is apparent more in the quality of the sirup manufactured than otherwise; but it is found also that the same amount of juice yields a greater amount of saccharine matter. It is found that the crude article of sirup grown on the mucky soils even if as light colored, does not refine as well as that manufactured from cane grown on the light sandy or gravelly soils. Refiners make a difference in the prices they pay for sirup, in favor of that grown on these light and clayey soils.

**How to get Sugar from Sorghum,**

I find that men who are best posted, and who have had the aid of chemical investigation, in forming their conclusions, have about abandoned the hope of precipitating sugar from Sorghum by rapid evaporation. There is too much grape sugar in it. But they concede that if boiled down to a thick sirup and allowed to remain in a uniform temperature a very large per cent. of it will crystallize.

**HOME-MADE MANURE.**

In support of my opinion, I beg leave to adduce the words of Boussingault, one of the highest chemical and agricultural authorities, a member of the Institute of France, and a companion of Boit and Dumas. He says: "Soils, to become productive, require the intervention of manure; for this there is no substitute, neither the labor which breaks them up nor the climate which so powerfully promotes their fecundity, nor the salts and alkalies, which are such useful auxiliaries of vegetation. Particular cultures may require particular manures. But farm dung, when it is derived from good feeding supplied to