



FARM OPERATIONS.

FACTS IN FARMING.

 HERE are some things in farming that are established, namely :


That manure must be applied, not only to get up land, but to keep it up. That wet soil must be drained, either by ditching or otherwise. That sub-soiling is good. That grain should be sowed earlier than it generally is ; that it should be harvested earlier than it is done ; that grass should be cut when in blossom ; and never when ripe, unless for seed. That our soil is not sufficiently worked, especially in hoed crops ; that stirring the soil and keeping it well pulverized, is a partial guard against drouth. That the most advantageous grain for horses is the oat ; that it improves fodder to cook or steam it. That warm shelter in winter saves fodder, and benefits stock. That the best blood is the most profitable. That there is much advantage in selecting the best seed, the earliest matured and the plumpest. That in-and-in breeding is not good in close and consecutive relationship, but must be carried on by foreign infusion of the same blood. That warm quarters and good treatment are necessary in winter to produce eggs from most hens. That topdressing grass lands should be done with fine, well-rotted manure, applied close to the ground. That it is, in general, best to sell produce as soon as ready for market. That blackberries require rich soil ; strawberries and raspberries vegetable mould—such as rotten leaves, chip manure, &c. That more lime should be used. That salt, in some cases, is good for land—also plaster, the phosphates, guano, &c. That full ploughing is best for clay lands ; that land should not be ploughed wet. That young orchards should be cultivated. That compost heaps are a good institution. That clay and lime, rather than animal manure, be employed in raising fruit. That manure should be rotted before it is used. That agricultural papers are an advantage to the farmer. That a cultivated mind is requisite to high farming, and that a good reputation exerts a good influence on the farming community.—*Rural World*.

MUCK.

 HE term muck is applied by us Americans to a variety of vegetable matter in various stages of decomposition ; found chiefly deposited in swales, woods, or low lands. The

different names of peat leaf mould, etc., are applied to one, and the same thing often, depending more on the state of decomposition, and locality, than in any other difference. Vegetable matter lying in water decomposes slow and proceeds only to a certain extent, as air is in a great measure excluded. This matter when dug out and exposed to the air proceeds in its decomposition until completed ; this vegetable matter it is which gives muck its chief value ; its being vegetable, and in a partly decomposed state, gives it porosity, a property enabling it when in a dry state to absorb liquids, grass, &c., and retain the valuable extracts held in solution by the same ; this being its nature, makes it one of the most valuable articles to absorb all liquid excrements from cattle, horses &c. and to mix with the solids to secure and fix the volatile parts. The importance of its free use for these purposes can hardly be over-estimated. The loss throughout a community, from the neglect and consequent waste of these rich manures, which, with a little care, might be saved is almost incredible. Were the importance of this waste generally realized by farmers and others it seems as if more attention would be paid to saving by means of muck, &c., either properly composted in the barn cellar, or supplied daily to the stalls of cattle, horses and hogs. No judicious farmer should neglect to save all such substances as tend to increase the value and productiveness of his lands. It is poor economy to buy concentrated fertilizers, or buy any manures abroad, till everything of the kind is saved at home. W. H. W. South Windsor, Conn.

MULCHING FOR WINTER WHEAT.

 DS. PRAIRIE FARMER:—Allow me to say a word to you and your readers about mulching wheat to prevent its winter-killing.

Wheat winter-kills in three different ways or at three different times during the winter. 1st. At the beginning of winter—rain falls and freezes as it falls, covering the ground with ice that kills the wheat. It was all killed in that way in this region last winter ; also a great deal of clover. In this case “mulching” does more hurt than good. 2nd. In dry cold weather and no snow, the wind blows the loose prairie soil away from