The Farm.

Hints About Work for September.

Threshing.—The dry weather of July and August over a large portion of the East, has brought the wheat and rye into a condition of ripeness that will much facilitate early threshing. A large proportion of the grain was in the best condition for threshing as it came from the field. Many of the best farmers now haul their grain direct from the field to the machine. A second handling is thus avoided, and the straw may go into the stack in a better condition, or into the barn direct. With our usually dry harvest season there seems to be no reason for this double handling, and none to prevent the threshing of wheat, rye or oats directly from the field. Our own experience is decidedly in favor of this practice.

Wheat or Rye.—Rye is a little more than half the price of wheat. The chief reason why this crop is grown is that the soil is too poor to bring a crop of wheat. To grow a bushel of rye costs just as much as to produce a bushel of wheat Either the rye is grown at a loss, or the wheat at a large profit. The former is the fact. Why then should rye be grown, excepting in those rare cases in which the straw is in demand for various purposes, and in which the profit of the crop thus lies? Only because the method of farming is poor, and therefore unprofitable. As a help to change the system, we might suggest that the manure used to grow a few acres of rye be used on half the number of acres of wheat, and the rest of the land be fallowed or sown to clover in the spring, as a means of renovation. But in some way wheat ought to take the place of rye in many districts where that is generally grown.

Seed Wheat.—To procure the largest, ripest grains for seed, some sheaves may be thrown upon the barn floor in a deep bed, and partly threshed with the flail, or by driving a pair of horses over them, without untying them. They may then be returned to the mow. This may seem like going back on machinery, and returning to by-gone fashions, but there are some things which can, and perhaps always will, be done best by hand, and this is one of them. Machine threshed grain is so much cracked or broken, that a large proportion is unfit for seed, and especially when we have to buy seed at double prices, or even more, much is saved by procuring hand threshed seed. In the way pointed out we get the ripest and largest grain, which makes the best seed.

Sowing the Seed.—How much seed per acre should be sown, is a question about which there are various opinions. It depends upon the kind of seed and the richness of the soil. It is pretty certain that a great deal of seed is wasted by over thick sowing. We have found one bushel per acre to produce more than five or six pecks upon similar ground, when sown early this month. But the soil was rich enough to yield 30 bushels per acre. Upon poorer ground this sowing would be too thin. If later sown more seed is needed. There is no question about the advantage of drill sowing over broadcast. To cover the seed by a common cultivator is a good substitute for drill sowing. Where the ground is at all cloddy, rolling after sowing will be of advantage; otherwise we leave the surface rough.

Smut.—As a preventive against smut, it will pay to "pickle" the seed. Steeping in strong brine, lime water, or stale urine, for three hours, are found effective in many cases. Perhaps the best method of pickling seed is to dissolve four ounces of blue stone (sulphate of copper) in one gallon of water, for every two bushels of seed. Heap the seed upon the barn floor, and sprinkle the solution over it; then mix thoroughly with the shovel until the moisture is spread evenly through the heap. Let it remain twelve hours, when the pickle will be absorbed, and the seed may be sown at once.

Fertilizers.—Where the soil has not been well dressed with rich, rotted manure, some active fertilizer will be useful. Now that we can procure guano guaranteed as to quality, we would choose this for fall use before any other purchased fertilizer. Superphosphate is generally most effective when used in the spring; 150 lbs. of guano, costing about $4.50 per acre, would make a good dressing, to be harrowed in before sowing. or with the seed if it is sown broadcast.

Surface Draining.—When they are necessary, surface drains should be made as soon as the fields are sown, and not left until fall rains have come. Generally, to clear out the dead furrows on the higher parts of the field, and to make outlets from the lower parts, where surface water might accumulate, will be sufficient.

Grass Seed.—Timothy or orchard grass are better to be sown as soon as the wheat is drilled or covered than in the spring. A peck of the former, or six pecks of the latter, is not too much if the grass alone is to be sown. If clover is to be sown in the spring, four to six quarts of the former, or a bushel of the latter, would be a proper quantity per acre.

Grasslands.—Meadows and pastures may be top-dressed with advantage at any spare time during the month. Coarse manure had better be left in the yard to rot, but if any well rotted manure is on hand, it may be evenly spread, and the lumps broken by drawing a dull harrow or a log clod-crusher over it.

Clover Seed.—The high price of clover seed makes of advantage to save all that can be gathered. Five bushels of clover seed per acre may be saved, if it is made an object to do it. This is worth as much as an average crop of hay. The ground is not exhausted by it. By attaching a sheet-iron apron behind the cutter-bar, so that the rear part drags upon the ground, the heads may be gathered and raked into heaps by a boy following the machine. As the stalks are of little account for fodder, the clover may be exposed to the rain and wind without damage, and with advantage, as the seed will hull out better for it. It may be raked up when perfectly dry, and put under cover to be thrashed in the winter. It is difficult to keep it dry by any way of stacking it out of doors.

Cutting Corn.—The value of corn-stalks for fodder is too often lost sight of in harvesting. To save the fodder as much as possible, the crop should be harvested as soon as the corn is glazed. After that nothing is gained by letting the crop stand, but much loss is risked by reason of storms or frosts. When the whole stalks are not cut, but only the tops above the ears, the fodder may be gathered soon after the first of this month. Binding in small sheaves is a good plan.

Root Crops.—Forward crops of mangels or beets may be thinned now to help out the fall feed. The more room the leaves have to spread, the riper and more nutritious the roots will be.

Sheep.—The whole flock should now be well looked after. Sheep intended for market should be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. Ewes intended to produce early lambs should not be stinted upon stubbles and bare pastures, but should be supplied liberally with all the food they can digest. They may now be coupled with the ram. For market lambs the Merino ewe crossed with a Cotswold ram is perhaps the best choice, giving large and rapidly growing lambs, which are easily fed and fatted. Experienced breeders have found no difficulty on account of the ram, nevertheless a moderate sized, compact, heavy bodied ram is preferable to a lanky rangy animal.

Young Stock of all kinds should be prepared for winter. Get them in good condition before the cold weather arrives, or all is lost now that has been gained by the summer's feed. To keep them steadily growing at all seasons is the secret of raising profitable animals.

Swine.—More improvement is noticable in swine than in any other stock, but unless improvement is kept up by the use of thoroughbred males, the stock will go back. As a primary principle in breeding it may be said that a half-bred or grade male should never be used to produce stock. For a sow that produces ten young at once it is the very poorest economy to breed her to a poor male, no stock pays better to improve than swine, on account of the rapid increase.

Agricultural Fairs.—Every farmer should make a point of attending his County Fair and the State Fair that he can most conveniently reach. It matters little whether it is that of his own or an adjoining State. When there the most of his time should be given to examining the stock and implements as a study. Their valuable points should be found and contrasted, and notes made of these with the names of the breeders or the manufacturers. To study the various things exhibited, as though every visitor was a judge, and was expected to render a decision, would be time well employed.—American Agriculturist.

Crops in England and Scotland.

IN ENGLAND.

Liverpool, Sept. 2.—A leading grain circular says: "Since Tuesday the weather has been very broken, with heavy gales and almost incessant rain. The progress of the harvest has been materially interrupted. Taking the kingdom generally, a large proportion of the wheat remains exposed in the fields. The home supply at the same time being limited, the demands of consumers have again been freely directed to foreign stocks, and these, as well as home grown, have further advanced in most markets, the latter as much as 1s. to 2s. per quarter. There was a moderate attendance at this market today, and a continued good demand, especially for white wheats, which improved 1d. to 2d., and red American 1d. per cental, but the latter was not in active request. Flour was 6d. per sack higher. Corn was in fair demand at 3d. per quarter above Tuesday's prices."

IN SCOTLAND.

In Scotland this year intense heat and drought have had a decidedly injurious effect on cereals. Wheat, it is reckoned, will scarcely reach the average yield, though the quality is excellent. Straw will be very scant on most farms. Barley is an exceedingly light crop, that is, in quantity, not in weight per bushel, for the berry is large and plump. Oats are fair, in some instances good after lea, but thin and short after turnips. Harvest has been hastened on by at least a week, and a large quantity of the grain crops were prematurely ready for the reaper. The hay crop is, like our own, extraordinary both in quality and quantity, and has been well preserved. During the early part of July pastures were much improved by a few showers of rain, but drought followed, checking vegetation, and the grass season is, on the whole, poor, if we except mountain and hill grazings, which are reported in good trim. Turnips are suffering greatly for want of moisture. Potatoes look well, but are quite late. Beans are favorably reported from all quarters. Owing to the abundance of hill pasture, the fleecy flocks have largely improved in condition, but the heavy mortality in spring is manifest in the quantity of sheep that comes to market. Prices for mutton, though not for wool, are consequently higher than last year's by several shillings per head.

Profitable Farming.

American Agriculturist: Cheap production is now the chief necessity of our agriculture. American farmers have now to compete with the whole world, and many of our competitors live very poorly and cheaply, and have land as cheap as ours. To compete with these we are under the disadvantage that we cannot live as poorly or as cheaply as they do, our higher civilization not admitting of it. We must, then, raise larger crops with the same labor that they do, or use our labor more effectively. Many persons would have us believe that we must necessarily produce as high an average per acre as the English farmers do, or fail in our competition with them. There is no necessity for this. There is a point in production beyond which we cannot go with profit. The Kansas or Nebraska farmer, who grows 25 bushels of wheat every other year for 20 years upon his rich, cheap soil, without manure, and with a minimum of labor and cost, can easily compete with the English farmer, who pays an annual rent equal to the whole purchase money of his competitor's farm, and has to spend ten or twelve dollars per acre in manure. But if the western farmer should, by fertilizing his land, double its yield, the extra 25 bushels would not be grown at a profit. Here is a principle which affects our whole agriculture, and no rules can be safely laid down for us which violate this principle. We must discover the limit of the profitable production of our farms, each farmer for himself, and avoid any attempts to pass that limit. The whole secret of good and profitable farming is to extend the limit as far as possible; it is bad and unprofitable farming to either fall below that limit or to go beyond it. There are instances in which an extremely large yield is grown at a positive loss, as was the case of that farmer who raised 100 bushels of corn per acre with the expenditure of $102 worth of manure and labor, while he raised 60 bushels without the manure and with less than half the labor. This may be called "high farming," but it is not profitable.

Profits of Mutton Sheep.

A correspondent of the Practical Farmer, residing within twenty-five miles of Philadelphia, states that one of his certain and reliable sources of profits from year to year is keeping sheep. When I first began farming twenty years ago, he writes, I depended entirely upon Southdowns. They have always proved with me prolific breeders, capital nurses, hardy and good feeders, and my Southdown mutton ranks in the market with "gilt-edge" butter. Inform my regular customers when I am going to have a fine leg or loin of pure Southdown, and they go off fast at three to five cents above the market price. In fact, Southdown mutton is the best mutton in the world.

If quality of meat was the only desideratum I would make no change, but as coarser wools now bring the hightest price, and as perhaps I gain a little in the weight (of which I am not altogether certain, but do not lose any), I have made one cross on my flock of one hundred ewes with the Cotswold. The best result and the finest carcass have resulted when the Southdown buck was used on the Cotswold ewe. I do not want any finer sheep than this makes, and I try to keep them for my purpose one-half Southdown and one-half Cotswold.

What lambs I have to spare are all sold in advance to your butchers at about $8 per head. I raise roots, which I consider are indispensible in the sheep business, and with good management I have the lambs in the market in March and April. I consider the roots make a good substitute for grass, keep them in good heart and with fine health for early pasture. It promotes the flow of milk appetites. I have always followed the advice in your paper to keep all my animals healthy and thriving. If they once go down or become stunted. much of one's feed is thrown away. Two-thirds of my ewes usually have twins.

With lambs at $8 to $9 each, and wool fifty cents per pound, your readers can figure up my profits on 100 ewes.

A Weeding Machine.

The Rural Press has the following:—"Our English exchanges contain accounts of a trial of a weed eradicator, which took place under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society. The object of the machine is to remove the weeds which grow among corn crops. A drum, about 42 inches in diameter, is placed between two carrying wheels. Three sets of projecting teeth or iron combs run horizontally along the drum. This, when the machine is in operation, revolves by the action of the gearing, the combs at the same time working in and out of the slits, and over and along the top of the crop. Supposing the ground to be soft, the teeth catch the weeds and pull them fairly out of the soil; but should the soil be hard, as was the case at the trial, and thus have a firm grip of the roots of the weeds, the combs tear off the heads, so that they are prevented from "seeding," leaving the stem in the soil. As the drum revolves and the teeth are drawn in towards the centre, the weeds or their heads come in contact with the circumference of the drum, and not being pulled in at the slits, are allowed to drop to the ground. The teeth exert little or no action upon the crops, the blades passing between teeth.

Improved Swine.

My neighbor bought a trio of fine pigs, paying therefore the reasonable sum of $120. The male was valued at $60, and the females at $30 each. In the short space of two years my neighbor had sold at prices much less than he had paid, pure bred pigs to the amount of $600; still had the original stock, and had paid for all his feed and labor by the use os the make on his and other stock. To say nothing of his enjoyment in the possession of the best, and of the increased respect of his neighbors, of his own culture growing out of the thought he gave to his pursuit, he had a clear return of $1,000 on an investment of $120, and all in two short years. Allowing one half for contingencies, who has done as well as this with low-priced stock?

If a boar will get one hundred pigs in a year, and each of the pigs are worth $2 more than those from a common sire, what is he really worth? If we use him but three years, at this rate, he will earn us six hundred dollars. Is it not plain that such an animal has a real value far beyond the terrible $100 for which he sells?

Care of Farm Machinery.

By this time the mowers and reapers will have been laid away for the season. But how? In the old-fashioned manner of leaving them where the horses have been last unhitched, or have they been simply dragged to the fence side, or some field corner, to be out of the way until next needed? We should hope not. We have seen them so left; we know of instances in which they receive the same treatment still, and yet the owners, season after season, berate the manufacturers for cheating them with comparatively worthless articles of no enduring qualities whatever, while the fault is wholly and solely their own. It is not enough that a machine should be merely kept under cover.

An open shed has generally a roof over it, yet to "house a machine in such a place during winter would be little better then to leave it altogether out of doors. Not only should the reaper and mower be protected from the alterations of weather, that is, kept in an enclosed place, the barn, shed, or better still, an implement house erected for the purpose, but the manner and condition in which they are laid away must be carefully attended to as well, if their future usefulness is expected or desired, First of all, then, let them be well cleaned and dried, observing to pick away all tufts or blades of grass that may have become entangled amid the iron gearing; for wherever these are found, moisture is not far off; and moisture, iron, and air in contact, mean simply oxidation or rust.

Remove the cutter bar. This is by far the better plan, for it obviates the sagging and twisting which usually follow either a folding up of the bar, or the more common practise of letting it lie in cutting order on the ground. Wipe every portion of the iron-work perfectly clean. For this purpose common coal oil is very serviceable to loosen and dissolve any oil that may have caked about the joints or axles. Dry thoroughly, and give the whole a light coat of good sweet oil. The wood-work may be treated in the same manner with the best results. The whole job may be accomplished in an hour or so, and at an expense of about ten cents, yet by this hour's labor and insignificant expenditure at the proper time, you do more to preserve your machine in good order than could be secured for twenty times the amount had it been left, as so many are, uncared for and exposed.—*Canada Farmer.*

Brown Leghorns.

The Southern Poultry Journal has the following:—Of all the domestic fowls I think there are none at the present time attracting more attention than this variety. In style and general appearance they resemble the white variety, but are shorter in the leg, heavier in body, and of a more contented disposition, bearing confinement exceedingly well.

In color Brown Leghorns have a decided advantage over the White Leghorns, where they are to be kept in town or small yards, as white fowls soon become dingy and discolored. The rich plumage of the Brown Leghorn cock more nearly approaches that of the black red game than that of any other fowl, and the hen is a beautiful penciled partridge brown with salmon breast.

They are layers of beautiful eggs of about medium size, and are non-setters; the young feather very fast and mature early, and, like all quick-fledging birds, require considerable animal food, as the process of fledging is a great drain upon the system.

As a farmer's fowl I should consider Brown Leghorns as first-class, being hardy, easy to rear, prolific layers, and coming to maturity early. Of course, some variety of setters must also be kept, which would possibly be an objection where but one variety was desired; still, if only a limited number of chicks were desired, enough setters could be bought or borrowed from neighbors to rear all the fowls that would be required.

Balky Horses.

The Kentucky Home Journal gives the following directions for breaking up the balking of a vicious stubborn horse:—"Put on your harness and hitch him to anything you desire, either single or double, as you feel disposed, and give him the commanding word to go ahead. If he goes, you have nothing to do or say but let him go on and do your work; but if he refuses to go, take him out immediately, take all the harness off except the bridle, and take a small rope the size of a plow line, and tie one end to the bit on the right hand side, and pull it through the ring of the left under the chop, pull his head around to the left side, and slip the rope under his tail like a crupper and make it fast, keeping his head tolerably close to his side. Now all is ready, so let him go, and take a good long whip and make him go, talking kindly to him all the time. He will travel like a dog after his tail, for he can travel no other way, but after a while he will fall down, when you will immediately let loose the rope and let him get up; now talk kindly to him and caress him. Your work is now half done, for you have only to tie the rope to the other side of the bit, and pull his head around the other way, and make it fast like a crupper, the same as before, and start him off again and let him go till he falls down a second time; let him get up immediately and hitch him up, and you will probably never have any more trouble with him."

Socrates: Agriculture is an employment the most worthy the application of man; the most ancient and the most suitable to his nature. It is the common nurse of all persons in every age and condition of life; it is the source of health, strength, plenty and richness, and of a thousand sober delights and honest pleasures. It is the mistress and school of sobriety, temperance, justice, religion, and, in short, of all virtues, civil and military.