

manure, will prevent fermentation and produce a more thorough decomposition.

Where it is impossible to procure either of the above ingredients to compost with horse dung, it will be found profitable on a stiff clay farm, to use sand, and clay can be used on a light soil; either of these would pay under such circumstances, as they would improve the mechanical texture of the soil.

The value of horse manure as compared with that of other farm stock, has been a matter of much discussion among scientific men for a long time, the view generally adopted being that it was inferior to most other animal excrements. It would perhaps seem that this question could be easily settled by analysis, but great difficulty arises in finding out anything definite by this mode, as the feed of horses varies so much in different circumstances; but for this, analysis would prove conclusively, and bring this and many similar discussions to an end.

We are of the opinion that when horses are fed mostly on grain, their manure is superior to most others, especially when used in its fresh state, before the escape of nitrogen, which is the most important element of animal manures—not that it is any more necessary to vegetation than carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen, but it is less easily procured by the plant, as there is little of it, in most soils, and they can get none from the air; hence the great value of all manures containing it; and it is very liable to escape, too much care can not be taken to prevent such a loss. Questions of this kind require thorough practical experiments, performed for a series of years with great accuracy, on various kinds of crops, but are seldom attempted by our farmers as they require too much time and labour, which proves the great want of a good Agricultural School and Experimental Farm, sustained in a liberal manner, and managed by practical as well as scientific men. GEO. T. HAMMOND.
—*Farmingdale, N. Y.*

—:—

Green Corn for Soiling.

I have read with interest the number of the *N. E. Farmer* containing Mr. Blakely's article on green corn for soiling, and I well remember the article in the October number referred to by him. I was sorry, then, that the writer did not give his manner of feeding, for very much depends on that, more than many farmers seem to think. But Mr. Blakely has told us how he feeds green corn, and I have observed that those farmers who have not found, on trial, green corn and other green food to be beneficial, have generally used it as he has done. He says: "Three years ago, I fed seven cows quite liberally, for a month or more, on green stalks. My custom was to feed in the morning, as it was the only convenient time of doing it, and to scatter the stalks over a portion of an adjoining pasture on which they had not of late been fed, so as to give them as clean a place as possible, taking care to give them much more than they would immediately consume, which they would generally finish off in the course of the day." Now I beg leave to say to

Mr. B., and to all others who pursue his course, that that is *not* the way, and that that makes all the difference.

Then he says, "I could not perceive that the stalks made much if any difference in the quantity of milk produced; but the cows continued to give less and less, about as the grass failed them, although they continued to consume a proportionably larger amount of stalks." He does not say whether his cows, finally, to cap the climax, jumped the fence between his corn-field and the "adjoining pasture," and ate to excess of the corn which they had so long been impatiently waiting and reaching for; but if they did not, he may consider himself a fortunate man, that his experiment terminated no worse.

And now, by the way, is there any kind of food that cows ever eat that has not been by somebody condemned as useless, or injurious? Some of our so called best farmers have their doubts in regard to carrots as a food to make milk and butter from, (except they be grated and churned with the cream) and very few would dare to feed milch cows on apples, sweet or sour; and some even think Indian meal will dry up the milk; and still others withhold turnips, both tops and bottoms, because they have heard that somebody had a whole churning spoiled so, once; don't doubt but what they did, but the cause was not in the food, but in the way of giving it; and I say again, that makes all the difference. Now we are not afraid to feed any or all of these different kinds of food to milch cows, our trouble being to get enough of them. Having a cold, sour pasture, that won't keep any cow well, I am obliged to raise corn or some kind of feed not found in the pasture, for my cattle, both cows and oxen.

I might keep poorly, three or four cows through the summer, by letting them have the after feed in the fall on all my mowing lots, but by raising from a half to three-fourths of an acre of corn fodder, I am able to keep six or seven well, and that without feeding down my mowing fields, so as to spoil them for succeeding years. In the spring, and before the corn fodder can be grown, I feed with good English hay at night and morning, allowing the cows to get their dinner in the pasture. In the morning, all that give milk have an extra feed of shorts, or some kind of meal, wet up thin in water, and always given in the stall. When the corn is grown enough, I cut and haul it to the barn in a cart, enough at a time to last two or three days, then give at two or three feedings as much as they will eat up clean, butts and all; which is a good deal, especially during the driest part of the summer. And this I do every night and morning, from July till into October, or till the frosts spoil the corn; and always in the barn, so that they expect it nowhere else, and when they are turned out into the pasture, they have nothing to hinder them from feeding on such as they may find in the pasture. They are seldom seen lingering around the cornfield, or knocking stones off from the walls by endeavors to get where they ought not to be; nor do they ever learn to jump or throw fence, as cattle always are inclined to do, when fed with stalks, pumpkins, &c., from the cornfield.

And now, you have been shown *another* way; is it not the *way* that makes all the difference? It gives us the means to keep nearly twice as much stock through the year as we could without the green corn, for while we are feeding the corn in the barn, we are

making, or saving a great amount of manure, that we could not, if we fed it in the pasture. And then, by keeping our cows *out* of the after-feed, we get much more hay the next year with which to winter our extra number of cows above what might be kept in the pasture alone during the summer. Then, during the dry weather, and usual short feed of August and September, our cows are less affected than those that have no green corn. Speaking of manure, I should have said that by stabling the cows every night (which we should hardly have thought of, had it not been for feeding purposes) we can make fully as much manure as at any part of the year.

The corn should be planted at intervals, so that it will not ripen all at once, but continue along through the whole season. The large kinds of sweet corn are best. There are several ways of planting and tending it. I have, of late, spread all the manure, planted in rows, eighteen inches apart, and in the row, four or five inches with a seed-sower or corn-planter. Then draw a cultivator tooth between the rows by hand, a few times, before the corn gets high enough to shade the ground. After that, it takes care of itself.

If Mr. B. wishes to prove that Indian corn is not good food for hogs, let him feed them as he did his cows, throw enough good ears over to them in the morning to last them all day. Has he never seen farmers do that? And have they not, generally, had small, uneasy and squealing hogs? But let us feed corn, or any other good feed, to hogs at their trough, and in proper quantities, and at proper times, and they fatten kindly and contented. So I believe we may all feed cows with any kind of food which they love, having due regard for quantity, times and places, with equally favorably results. A. W. C.

—:—

Winter the best time to Build Green-Houses.

We would strongly urge on all those who contemplate erecting good substantial green-houses, or any other similar horticultural structure, the advantage of the winter for getting the carpenter's work done. The common practice is to put it off as long as possible, and then commence just soon enough to be *late* to get it in readiness at the desired time. Now the consequence is, everything is done in a hurry, and many little matters overlooked that might have added much to the durability of the house—a point of immense importance in such destructible buildings as those under consideration. More especially are the sashes benefitted by being made, glazed and painted some time before putting them on.

In nine times out of ten, when put on soon after glazing, the glass slips from its place, more or less, and the putty being soft, often is injured in the handling, all of which is remedied by being made some time before using. On the score of economy it is also to be recommended, simply from the fact that it is always easier to get good workmen at reduced prices during the slack time of winter, than at any other.

By following this advice any person contemplating building a vinery, can easily enough have it in readiness for use next spring, as the masonary, if any, takes