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The Agriculturist

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH. ANDREW ARCHER, Editor. VOL. 1. FREDERICTON, N. B., NOVEMBER 9, 1878. NO. 31.

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THE CURE OF SCAB. A correspondent of the North British Agriculturist lately asked what was the easiest and most effective cure for scab which had got among his small flock of Leicester ewes.

Agriculture

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING PLOWING

A correspondent of the New York Country Gentleman writes on the subject of Autumn Plowing, and says 'the best time to do it.' We extract that portion of it which seems most applicable to our locality. Sandy soils, may be a good deal of experience with the celery crop, and we have usually as successful a yield as is to be found in any well managed garden.

We profess to have had a good deal of experience with the celery crop, and we have usually as successful a yield as is to be found in any well managed garden. In storing the crop for the winter we have usually pursued two modes which have answered well. The first is to renovate the celery to high and dry ground, dig a straight trench spade deep, stand up a row of plants singly, then another row, with some earth between, and so on until about half a dozen rows, are finished, when commence another bed, and so on. The soil should be packed in firmly and then banked up so that the tops of the celery are just covered, then spank off roof fashion to turn the rain. Over this two wide boards, nailed together, should be placed, as a security against moisture, or straw can be beat over and secured at the bottom with bean poles, and a little gutter to carry off the water at each side.

A fall colt gets, in the nature of things and from the necessities of the case, a much better chance, than a spring colt, as a general rule, among small breeders. The mare has to be stabled and the colt gets a handful of grain constantly, from even the most careless of men, when it is housed in the fall or winter with its dam. It is the almost universal custom to turn out the spring colt to grass with the dam, and it has to take the chances of poor pasture, a dry August, and to run its gambol of flies. The fall colt escapes this risk, and when I allude to the importance of gaining a colt the first year, it is because, ordinarily, of the fall colt on the same farm and with the same owner, than the spring when the latter so rarely gets grain the first year.

With proper care and suitable handling, a team of farm mares can, as well do the work of a farm, and raise a pair of fall colts as well. They are very little trouble and expense to the farmer. I declare it to be my firm conviction that so far as what the colt eats, goes, it costs the farmer no more to raise a young yearling colt than a yearling steer or heifer, and with proper barn care required is about the same in either case.

The number of horses in the United States at the last census was 7,145,370, and this number has undoubtedly increased since that date. We have looked for a few years past to the exportation of a considerable number of our horses to Europe, and especially to England, and the present summer, and I may say the present moment, is witnessing the buyers for the English market in this section of the State paying prices for the common horse that are remunerative to the breeder not only, but more so than either beef or grain. While the extreme stringency of the times has seriously crippled the breeding and production of the American trotting horse as such, all observers must recognize that there is a fair, I may say a good, demand, and likely to be, for stylish, servicable, large sized carriage horses at high prices as could be expected, and fair in proportion to any other farm product.

No one better understands the importance of the proper crossing to meet this demand than our Western New York farmers, and I am of the opinion that the English demand is destined to increase largely, during this season, and that we shall not be too early for it if we commence now to raise colts for that market.

Profits of Poultry. If possible, the buildings intended for poultry should be placed in the orchards, and should all be enclosed by a fence, or not, as the circumstances demand. Fowls and pigs are the very best cultivators and enrichers possible to find for fruit trees. While the trees are young, a little protection of the bodies from the swine is necessary, but fowls are not injurious to young trees or growing fruit. On the contrary, they are a benefit and protection. They keep the earth loose about the trunks, and clear the premises of insects. When in health fowls are continually scratching and picking, and tearing up the old soil. It is their nature. They stay away from their gizzards many noxious worms and insects that damage either the growing fruit or the tree itself. If all means locate your hen houses in your orchards and fruit-yards, or plant orchards and fruit trees in the yards.

Raising Horses on the Farm. The following observations on the 'raising horses on the farm,' though not written for our latitude, contains hints and suggestions which are worth consideration of farmers in New Brunswick. The farmer need not breed horses on a large scale, but every farmer, who has a few acres, should breed them on a small scale. The farm team should be good, servicable, well bred mares from the Clay, Hambletonian, Champion or Mambrino families. Every farmer in Schuyler knows that a farm team, when the farmer can keep but one or at most two, is better and more servicable for all the different kinds of work that is required upon a farm, from this class of mares, than from any other. Even in these times of financial depression, well selected horses of this class are as good an investment as the farmer can make, and they will do all his work, and do it well, whether at the plow, the drag, the machine, the reaper, or upon the road, where in this age of steam the farmer as well as other men are obliged to be much more of the time than in past years. The principal heavy work for a team is, as we work land, mainly required in the early spring. It is this work that tries the team most, and the want of the use of the team for this work that deters many from raising colts, who otherwise would. To such, and indeed to farmers and small breeders generally, who wish to use their mares in business or upon the farm, I would strongly recommend the raising of fall colts. There is much to be said in favor of it. It does not interfere with a fair and reasonable use of mares in the spring work. The colt should be dropped so as to give a month at grass, and if a little late, it will be found the best for the dam and foal.

Foreign Live Stock of Meat Importation into England. Exceedingly large quantities of cattle and sheep, and quantities of pork, beef, and carcasses of mutton are weekly imported from America into England. The business is on the increase, and offers great opportunities to the breeders of first class stock. From the continent of Europe and America, both supplies are sent, and the demand never seems to fall below them. The North British Agriculturist says of the last weekly arrivals of both live stock and fresh meat at Liverpool from America were exceedingly large, and as regards the former the number has never been surpassed. The recent heavy weather seems to have had little effect upon the importation of live animals, as their condition on arrival, in most instances, has been satisfactory. The number of sheep was double that of the largest week's arrival that has yet taken place. The conveying steamers were the City of Brooklyn, with 501 head of cattle and 2040 sheep; the Quebec, 148 cattle and 1382 sheep; the City of Bristol, 327 cattle and 1400 sheep; Bohemian, 321 cattle, 275 sheep, and 259 pigs; Victoria, 220 cattle, 261 sheep, 550 pigs, and 10 calves; the Lake Compagnie, 1157 sheep; and the Lord Clive, 405 head of cattle. Of fresh meat the Germania brought 1500 qrs. of beef and 2000 carcasses of mutton; the Wyoming, 700 qrs. beef and 150 carcasses of mutton; City of Brussels, 600 qrs. beef and 1500 carcasses of mutton; Egypt, 557 qrs. beef and 75 carcasses of mutton; and the Lord Clive, 863 qrs. of beef and 110 packages of butter. The totals for the week were 2230 live cattle, 6509 sheep, 809 pigs, 10 calves, and 520 qrs. of beef; 536 carcasses of mutton, and 710 packages of fresh butter.

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HOW TO UTILIZE THE STRAW. In mized husbandry, a farmer grows a variety of produce, and keeps all or nearly all the domestic animals. Nothing could be easier than feeding to suit the taste of his different animals. I know many old farmers who insist that their calves and colts must consume the straw. It is nothing but the most effectual starvation to restrict a colt or calf to a diet of straw. But some one asks what to do with the straw. It will not pay to sell it, it is too good, and there is too much of it for bedding. Why not feed it to young stock in preference to working horses, or fat cattle, or miled cows? I know that many of our well-to-do farmers reason in this way. Their horses are working, and must have the best hay and the plumpest oats. Beef cattle must be well fed, and must have nothing that will not produce fat, and of course straw is not good for miled cows. Indeed, straw seems to be good for very little. An analysis of straw may show a considerable amount of nutritive matter, and when you come to force stock to subsist on a straw diet, the result is highly unsatisfactory. Still, straw is valuable, and many of our most successful farmers would be lost were it not for the quantity of straw they have to feed out during the winter months. And these farmers do not always use steamers and straw-cutters. It may be true that the best way to feed straw is to cut and steam it, yet few farmers who are able take the trouble to cut and steam straw.

DETERIORATION OF POTATOES. A writer to an Agricultural Journal makes a curious observation relating to what he deems one of the causes of the deterioration of varieties of potatoes. He says: 'Many years ago I saw changes going on in the hills for which I could not account, and the very existence of which was stoutly denied by prominent cultivators, the changes being always ascribed by them to accidental mixing in handling. But I determined to find out for myself the cause, whatever it might be. I began by planting strong-growing varieties in alternate rows with others less strong, contriving to have both blossom at the same time. After two seasons the result began to appear in new and distinct varieties. In some instances entire hills would be changed in others only a single eye in a tuber. And these changes extended to the time of ripening, the color of the vines, and their habits of growth would be permanent. The first thing I learned was that the impregnation took place one year and affected only the buds or eyes, to be followed the next year by the changes in the tubers; and, with very few exceptions the quality of the variety thus produced is always inferior to that of the original. Without doubt, the laws that apply to particular varieties of vegetables, and the foreign substance enters into the circulation of the plant and deterioration is the natural result of the introduction of bad blood. This deterioration is taking place continually without the aid of man, and will take place in spite of him. Getting seed from a distance does not remedy the evil, for the cause exists universally.'

THE BREEDING OF CATTLE, HORSES, SHEEP, &c., IN THE UNITED STATES. Under the above heading, the New Orleans Picayune lately wrote: 'There is a quiet kind of an improvement going on in the Southern States that but few people seem to fully realize. In numerous localities can be found, here and there, a man who is beginning to improve his breed of cattle, sheep, and hogs; others are attempting to raise their own horses and mules, and are bringing in better breeds of horses than we have generally had in these States. The merino sheep is beginning to attract attention in the Gulf States far more extensively than in former years. And fine sheep of the merino, Southdown, and Cotswold breeds are sold at great dearer than formerly. A good merino ram, formerly sold for \$75 or \$100; now they can be purchased for from \$25 to \$35. The Jersey, Alderney, Southdown and other breeds of cows are being introduced into the South more than ever. The improved breeds of hogs particularly the Poland China, and Berkshire, are getting new holds in many parts of these States, such as they never had before. Improved chickens, geese, ducks, turkeys, &c., are on the increase.'

PREPARED BY THOROUGHBREDS. A writer in the A. J. C. Bulletin says: 'We have never known the Jersey bull to fail in stamping the characteristics of his race on his offspring from a native cow, at least in the second cross, and are now in view a number of grades in which good breeders would find it difficult to detect evidence of any common blood. But let a Jersey bull be bred to a Devon cow, and continue to cross her progeny with Jersey bulls, and in the fourth generation one need to be told what the animal is. Some modification in form may be observed, but the color of the Devon has not yielded to a shade in a single hair. It has been Greek meeting Greek! The writer had such one pointed out to him recently, whose owner proposes to continue the "mill" according to rules observed in previous rounds, and to let us know when either side throws up the sponge.'

THE 'HOISING' OF CATTLE. An American paper recently described the case of a brute who deliberately sawed off the horns of some Irish cattle received, the animals being of full age. The perpetrator was justly and heavily fined by the judge before whom the complaint was made. We regret to have to inform our contemporary that the cutting off one or two years old English and Irish cattle in the leading districts of Parshshire, Forfarshire, and Kincardineshire, is the order of the day about this time of the year.

Potatoes require a good deal of potash, and farmers cannot make a mistake in applying to the land on which they are grown either ashes or commercial fertilizers that contain a large percentage of potash. The clouds drop mist, but when a drought comes the clouds seem to have mist drops.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AS A LANDOWNER. An old tenant of His Royal Highness writes to the Agricultural World: 'It may be said broadly that long leases are the prevailing custom of the estates. Every consideration is shown to the position and circumstances of the tenants in the renewal of their lease. An old tenant is never turned out to make room for another man who may be willing to out-offer him in the matter of rent, &c. I believe that I am not likely to be contradicted when I say that in this matter, as in many other benefits bestowed upon the tenants of the duchy, the present influence and authority of His Royal Highness are distinctly perceptible, and that he keeps a watchful eye upon the well-being and prosperity of every farmer upon his estates. The conveniences afforded in the way of farm houses, barns, stabling, out-buildings, &c., are unusually complete in their character. The erections themselves throughout the estates are models of comfort and convenience—in many cases even of elegance. It is within my knowledge that thousands of pounds have been spent, and are still annually laid out in order to keep up the high standard of excellence which has been attained in such matters and in effecting improvements—sometimes of a wholesale description—in order to keep pace with the times. The Prince's tenants are all permitted to exercise the privilege of shooting over their holdings.'

SORE TEATS IN COWS. When the teats of a cow are sore in any way, (having blisters or cracks in them,) it is well to wash the teats clean before milking, and have a vessel of water in reach, and often wet the teats while milking. This softens the skin. After milking apply butter and salt mixed in about equal proportions in bulk. The salt cleanses the sores, and the butter keeps the skin soft. In a few days all will be well. Never wet the teats with milk while milking.