

AGRICULTURAL.

From the Complete Farmer.

AMERICAN STRAW CUTTERS.

The Straw Cutter is a machine well worth the attention of every farmer, and should be in common use with every person feeding stock; and from the great improvement and simplicity of the machines now in use, the work is done with great expedition and facility. It is a subject of great regret to every friend of the agricultural interest, that these machines are not in more general use. Every farmer who is disposed to use fodder to the best possible advantage, and preserve his animals in the best health, in all cases cuts his fodder. For further explanation of the profits and advantages arising from cutting fodder, the following statement is given:

Mr Benjamin's account of the savings made by the use of Straw Cutters, employed to cut Hay and Straw as fodder for Horses:

Mr Hale is proprietor of a line of stages running between Newburyport and Boston. He says,

The whole amount of hay purchased from April 1 to Oct. 1, 1816, (six months) and used at the stage stable, was

tons cwt qr lb.
32 4 0 10

At \$25 pr. ton, the lowest price of hay in 1816,

\$800 00

From Oct. 1, 1816, to April 1, 1817, amount of hay and straw consumed by the same number of horses, viz:

	ton	cwt	qr	lb.	cost.
Straw	16	13	3	10	\$160 23
Hay	13	14	1	0	350 00

\$510 23

Deduct on hand April 1, 1817, by estimation, 4 tons more than there was October 1, 1816, at \$25 per ton,

100

410 23

Saving by the use of the Straw Cutter, four months of the last six months, or the difference in expense in feeding with cut and uncut fodder,

\$389 77

Whole amount of hay used for the horses of the Salem stage, 25 in number, from April 1, to Oct. 1, 1816, viz:

tons cwt qr lb.
22 0 0 0

At \$30 pr ton, the lowest price in Salem,

\$660 00

Whole am't consumed by the same number of horses, from Oct. 1, 1816, to April 1, 1817,

	ton	cwt	qr	lb.	cost.
Straw	15	13	0	0	\$167 80
Hay	2	15	0	0	81 00

\$263 80

Saving in using chopped fodder five months,

\$391 20

Total saving in using the straw cutter 9 months, viz: at Newburyport, four months,

\$389 77

At Salem, five months,

391 20

Total, \$780 90

The members of the board of trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, to whom the above account was communicated by Mr Hale, were informed by that gentleman, that he used no more grain from Oct. 1816, to April 1817, than was used from April 1816 to Oct. 1816.

Remarks.—There is not only much saving and gain in cutting fodder, but the animal is kept in better health, more particularly old

horses, and such as may have been injured in their wind.

It is a fact that horses will live and continue serviceable much longer, when fed on cut fodder. The machine invented and manufactured by Mr Willis, known as "Willis' improved Straw and Hay Cutter," is the most durable, and best operating machine that has come to our knowledge; and what is worthy of notice, they require but one person to operate them. In this there is a great saving in cutting feed, and likewise the fodder may be cut of any length required. The knives, being placed in front of the machine, can be at all times examined, and kept in good order. The feeding rollers are so constructed that while the machine is in the act of cutting, the rollers cease to feed, which renders the cutting operation very easy.

It is well constructed, works free and easy, and not liable to get out of order. It cuts from thirty-five to forty bushels per hour. Price thirty-five dollars. For the cost, this is the best machine in use.

[From the New England Farmer.]

COWS.

Cows which are expected to calve, ought to be lodged by themselves in some convenient place, under cover for a week or two before calving, as such care may be the means of saving the life of the calf, and perhaps of the dam also. In order that it may be ascertained what is the time when cows may be expected to calve, an account should be kept of the time when each cow is put to the bull. The day and night after a cow has calved, she should be put under cover, her drink should be like warm, and she should not be exposed to the dampness of the night.

Inflamed teats should be washed with two drachms of sugar of lead in a quart of water. Should tumors appear, apply a common warm mash of bran, with a little lard.

To prevent cows from sucking their own milk, it is said that rubbing the teats frequently with old and strong smelling cheese, is effectual.

The following prescription for drying cows, which continue to give milk till too near the time of their calving; or to expedite their becoming fat enough to be good beef, is taken from *Monk's Agricultural Dictionary*, an English work of established reputation.

"Take an ounce of powdered alum; boil it in two quarts of milk till it turns to whey; then take a large handful of sage, and boil it in the whey, till you reduce it to one quart; rub her udder with a little of it, and give her the rest by way of drink; milk her clean before you give it to her, and as you see need, repeat it. Draw a little milk from her every second or third day, lest her udder be over-charged."

CALVES.—The following mode of rearing Calves, adopted by the Society, denominated Shakers, in Canterbury, N. H. was communicated in a letter from Francis Winkley, to Levi Bartlett, of Warren, N. H., and was published in the N. E. Farmer, in 1824; but such have been the changes since that period, in our subscription list that it would probably be new to many of our readers.

"We let calves that come in the fore part of March, suck a week or ten days, then take them from the cow, giving them a moderate allowance of new milk to drink till they have learned to drink it freely; then put in some skimmed milk; and we feed them wholly with skimmed milk, taking care to give it at about the temperature of milk taken directly from the cow, by heating a part of it and mixing it with the rest. Care should be taken not to scald the milk, when heated; also, not to give them any sour milk, for this will make them scour.

The trough or vessel in which they drink their milk, should likewise be kept clean, and not suffered to become sour. We let the milk stand about twelve hours before it is skimmed, giving a calf at first about four quarts, night and morning; increasing the mess as need requires, till he is six weeks old, from which time till ten weeks old, he will require, perhaps about 12 quarts per day.

"When about ten weeks old, we begin to diminish the quantity of milk for about the space of two or three weeks, at which time we wean them. During the whole process, from two to fourteen weeks of age, calves should be well supplied with good hay, salt and provender, such as oats, wheat, bran and oil cake, ground fine.

"The particular advantage to be derived from the above method of treatment, are the following:

"1. It is much cheaper than to let them suck in the ordinary way; whereas it makes a great saving of cream for butter, and that without injuring the calves, if they are properly attended to.

"2. It prevents calves from moaning or pinning, so much while weaning as they would otherwise do, when taken from the cows.

"3. It not only prevents the cows being injured in consequence of the calves biting the teats, but also prevents their holding back the milk from the milker, which often serves to diminish the quantity of milk afterwards.

"The only disadvantage to be found in the above method of treatment is, that it requires some more labor to feed them, where they thrive equally well in every respect as those do which are permitted to suck in the ordinary way."

TURNIPS, CORN, POTATOES, &c.—Assuming that 600 bushels of ruta baga (Swedish turnip) will grow upon an acre of ground which will produce thirty-five bushels of corn, and that six bushels of the Swedes will fatten as much as one bushel of corn, it will be seen that one acre in ruta baga will go as far in making beef as three acres in corn with the further advantage that the latter will cost four times as much labor in its culture as the former. We have given an instance of the Swedes yielding more than 1500 bushels to an acre, and the opinion of an intelligent feeder that two bushels are as much for feeding farm stock, as one bushel of corn. The mangel wurtzel, the carrot and the parsnip, may all be raised in field culture, at about the same expense as corn; they will give as great a yield and afford as much nutriment as the ruta baga. The potato, whose culture we are all acquainted with, should be made to yield 300 bushels per acre; and these afford a far more profitable food than grain.

A bullock will consume from 120 to 140 pounds of ruta baga per day;—but if thus fed with this or other roots, they can consume but little hay, and have little or no occasion for water.—*American paper.*

VERY SINGULAR.—The Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal says, that frozen potatoes are damaged if thawed in open day, but that if thawed in darkness they do not rot, and lose very little of their odour and properties.

FARMERS.—Consider your calling the most elevated, and the most important, but never be above it, nor be afraid of the frock and apron.

Plant no more ground than you can well manure and cultivate to advantage.

Nothing will fatten mutton quicker than apples. It is necessary, or best, to cut up the apples when fed to sheep.