

Unless the horse is very large, and fed mostly on dry hay, without grain, one peck per day will be found a liberal feed of carrots.

(b.) The term "meadows," used here probably means upland, and not, as with us, low ground producing an inferior quality of hay.—*New England Farmer.*

#### AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

There is one point worthy of attention from American Farmers. It is, with reference, to fairs and gatherings for sale of cattle, &c. It seems that, in this respect, we might learn a good lesson from the English farmer. We have nothing analogous to the numerous country and village fairs which are held at stated periods in all parts of Great Britain. If a farmer here wishes to buy a lot of sheep or cattle for fattening or other purposes, either in the fall or spring, he is obliged, after purchasing what he can advantageously in his own vicinity, to wait for a passing drove from which to make a selection. This may not come at the right time, and may not suit him as to price or quality when it does come; he may, therefore, be either disappointed altogether, or forced to buy what does not exactly please. If he wishes a pair of working cattle, or horses, he must leave his work, and drive about the country often for days, before finding anything fit for his purpose or within his means. I might go on to mention many other inconveniences connected with the present system; but every practical farmer knows them better than I.

That there is a growing feeling on the subject, is proved by the numerous attempts now making in various parts of the country to connect sales of stock and of implements with the country and other fairs. This is an excellent way of making these fairs still more important, and more popular than have ever been. If they could be made places at which, at certain times, stock of all kinds will congregate for sales as well as for exhibition, the interests of the masses in them would augment wonderfully. Buyers and drovers with stock would be drawn together, from a distance, more or less great according to the importance of the fair. By one influence or another, the people of a whole country or district would thus be gradually gathered in to take a part in the fair, if not for the sake of improvements, at least as buyers or sellers.

The farmers would then have the great advantage of large markets, and of knowing prevalent prices. They would not require to spend an occasional day or half day haggling with this drover or that, during the whole season, finally selling under the market, perhaps, from ignorance of its state; but would finish all their business of this kind at a fixed time, and then could return to their usual occupations, and be free from interruption.

I am aware that this could not all be

brought about at once. It would require time to convince people as to the advantages of such a system. Many would at first feel disposed to condemn it entirely, and refuse to countenance any of the fairs; but if they were continued, all would gradually see the benefit of a fixed market, and be driven from their prejudices into cordial acquiescence.

It might even be found advantageous to carry this system still further, and have weekly, or monthly, or quarterly, grain and produce markets, such as are held in all parts of England. The circumstances of the locality must decide this, but in many places such markets would be of much service. The sales are mostly made by sample, and then the farmer can make delivery at his own convenience within a certain period. It is evident that in this way much time would be saved, and the farmers thereby enable to work more economically in the disposal of their crops. Accustoming them to this system would also be a work of time, but I think they would all by degrees fall into it. The manner of conducting the Scottish stock fairs is very fully explained in these paragraphs.

It is easy to see that such fairs, when once established, would gradually become markets for the sale of implements, household utensils, and all articles of value to the farmer.

#### A CHEAP MODE OF PROCURING A VALUABLE BONE MANURE.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman* says, in reference to the cultivation of the potatoe, and successful attempts to prevent attacks of the rot: "We know a gentleman who for eight years has manured potatoes with bones fermented in ashes; has had good crops uniformly, and not one of them has rotted; but unfortunately for the conclusion to which he would have been glad to come, he has planted other potatoes, every one of these eight years, with all sorts of manures, and some without any, and neither one of these rotted, except a very few where no manure was put. The bones in the cases just alluded to were treated thus: In a large family, consuming much butchers' meat, the bones were thrown into a hogshedd from day to day; ashes as taken from the fires daily were thrown upon them; enough water to keep the whole moist and to prevent the gasses escaping, were added from time to time, the falling rain generally being sufficient, as the hogshedd was placed in the open air, away from all buildings. When one hogshedd was full, another was taken. The bones treated in this way retained their form and size, but became so soft as to be easily cut through with the shovel and rubbed down with the back of the shovel into powder, with some extra ashes or dry earth. The oily matter of the bones, together with the potash of the ashes and the water thrown on, becomes a saponaceous

mass, and the phosphate of lime in the hardest part of the bones is diffused through the soapy mass in a state of exceedingly fine division. Bones thus fermented in ashes are exceedingly valuable for potatoes and for Indian corn, and probably for all crops. There is reason, from actual trial, to believe that the effect on the land is permanent, lasting for several years.—*The Plough.*

#### FEEDING MILCH COWS

Messrs. EDITORS:—In December last, I was asked by a friend to give my experience in feeding milch Cows, which I promised to do, but, wishing to make some further experiments, I have delayed until the present time.

Some kinds of feed have a tendency to increase the quantity of milk, and other kinds the quality. Either kind separately may not be the most judicious, for both quantity and quality are equally desirable. I have always found that wheat bran or the oil of wheat, when scalded, or made into thin slop will produce the greatest quantity of milk, but not the richest. Corn meal will produce a much richer milk; however, its fattening qualities are so great that a cow will not give a large quantity of milk very long. Corn and oats ground together are a very good feed, but more expensive on account of the higher price of oats than of some other grains. Ground buckwheat, is also very good for milk, when mixed with wheat bran. The kind of feed which I prefer to any other is Brewers' grains and oil cake, mixed together and made so thin, by adding warm water, as to be drank. That kind of feed cannot be had in Michigan to any extent. I am not much in favor of raising large quantities of roots for cattle, when the soil and climate are favourable to corn. The kind of root, which has produced the greatest quantity of milk with me, is the sugar beet.

I have, for some time past, been feeding eight cows on corn meal and wheat bran. First I fed it dry, twice a day, then I cut hay and mixed with it, and scalded it some time before feeding, then I made the meal and bran into slop, by mixing water, and fed the hay separate without cutting, and judged as well as I could of its effects without weighing the animals or milk, and have come to the conclusion, that, cutting the hay for mixing with the meal, and scalding it with hot water, a short time before feeding, is the cheapest and most economical way of feeding cows. When the weather is not freezing but moderate, the feed may be mixed with cold water, but in that case, it should stand to get well soaked before feeding. The quantity which I fed to the 8 cows at each time, and twice a day, was 12, lbs cut hay to 12 lbs corn meal and 8 quarts wheat bran for each cow per day. The cows thrived better when the hay was cut and scalded with the grain, than by either of the other modes, but the quantity of milk did not vary so much as I had expected. I am, however, well convinced, that to cut hay,