

Farm and Home.

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All Around the Farm.

BETTER CROPS, BETTER PRICES.

Sometimes one sees the statement made that "there is more need of telling one how to get better prices for what he raises at present than there is of telling him how to grow more." These two, however, are, we take it, inseparable to at least a very considerable extent. With the knowledge of how to grow more and better crops must necessarily come the knowledge of how to get better prices. If one offers only the best for sale naturally it will command the best price. And herein is the secret of better prices in a nutshell. Raise more first-class products. How can this be done? By better methods of tillage, by using nothing but up-to-date methods and by planting and sowing nothing but the very best of seed. By never offering anything for sale but what has been thoroughly inspected and assorted, if need be, so that it is absolutely positive that it is first-class. In this way a reputation is made that is worth many dollars to one as well as the blessings of a righteous disposition.

But what shall we do with the culls? It is possible to get first-class prices for even these by judicious feeding to live stock. The best method of marketing all kinds of grain, and especially corn, is in the form of cattle, hogs, sheep or horses. The day is past when one can haul all his corn to market excepting a scant sustenance for the work horses and a cow or two, and still make farming pay. But if one does sell corn or oats, let it be of the very best quality and if possible have private customers. Cultivate the home market. One of the lines of farming that is woefully behind in this vicinity is fruit growing of all descriptions. Every



Assorting the Potato Crop.

The illustration shows a potato assorting machine at work in a potato field, where the tubers are being hauled to be put in a pit for winter and higher prices. The potatoes are dumped from sacks as picked up in the field into the hopper and all small sizes assorted out, the merchantable dropping into the pit.

kind of fruit raised here will bring greatly remunerative prices if first-class. It takes work, and painstaking work, too, to raise good fruit, but where is the occupation that does not?—[A. N. Springer, Tipton Co., Ind.]

CRIMSON CLOVER.

This crop should be sown throughout the middle and Atlantic states from now until Sept 15. Best results are obtained from seed sown during July and August. This crop is grown successfully from N J west to the Allegheny mts, and south to eastern Tenn and Tex. Profitable yields cannot be depended on elsewhere. On very poor, worn-out soils a moderate application of phosphoric acid and potash should be made. Following a cultivated crop like corn, no preparation of the soil is necessary other than the cultivation of the corn or of the crop. Cloddy land should be well pulverized before seeding.

Sow from 10 to 20 lbs p a, depending on the character of the soil and the use to which the crop is to be put. Usually 12 to 15 lbs are sown, either broadcast or with a drill. This clover will not stand severe frosts although it is one of the so-called winter annuals, and under favorable conditions makes much of its growth during cold moist weather, or fall winter and early spring. It has strong-growing roots, enabling it to secure nourishment in many soils so poor and thin that red clover would fail entirely. It thrives best on rich, rather sandy loams, as the root system is well developed and penetrates deeply into the soil and the plant is a vigorous grower.

IMPORTANCE OF PURE WATER.

This is everywhere recognized and the N C exper sta in Bulletin 161 presents results of a number of analyses of water throughout the state. Drinking water comes from four sources, rainfall, wells, springs and rivers. Rain water contains many impurities and should not be used for drinking if it can be avoided. The same is true of river water. Shallow wells are always easily contaminated, consequently the best sources for drinking water are springs and deep wells, provided they are properly located. As wells are the most common source of supply the greater part of the bulletin is given to the discussion of the best methods of keeping the water in these pure.

In a properly constructed well, no water is allowed to come in except near the bottom. To accomplish this, the walls of the well should be of brick or rock, and should be laid in hydraulic cement. Terra cotta tubing is

often used and if the joints are properly cemented, it is satisfactory in most cases. In no case, however, should the cement be below the water line. The cemented wall should be extended 3 or 4 ft above the ground and so covered that no matter can enter the well.

Where shallow wells must be used, it is suggested that an iron pipe be put down in the center of the well. The well should then be partially filled with coarse gravel, then the remainder of it with sand. Any water that reaches the lower surface must then have passed through this bed of sand and gravel, which will remove most of the impurities. The location of the well should be high ground. Preventing seepage is very important. The most scrupulous care should be taken to keep the sources of drinking water pure on the farm, as well as in cities. Many outbreaks of disease, especially typhoid fever, are traceable to a defective water supply.

GET MUCH FROM LITTLE.

Economy in production of crops is one of the greatest needs of the times. There are farmers who get \$15 from their cows who should get 30. The average here is 20, and there are those who get 30 and over. Farmers who keep \$15 cows are those who grow 30 bu p a of oats, others grow 60 bu. They cultivate too much land; the manure for 1 a they spread over two. They keep more cows than they can pasture. They hire the most help. They plow 10 a to get 300 bu of oats. Others get 300 from 5 a, at one-half the expense. Why keep poor cows, cows that give 40 lbs of milk a day and eat little more than the cow that gives 20? Cows are deceiving. Those that give the most milk are not always the best. Don't wear yourself out in growing poor crops; make it a point that everything you do is done well.

In eastern Canada, farmers depend almost solely on cows for revenue. Grow plenty of roots. If you have no silo, build one. Grow plenty of corn and you have the two best milk producers. If your land is poor, sow plenty of clover. Nothing does land more good than clover plowed under. When you sow grain, sow clover every time. After the grain is cut you will find the fall growth turned under as good as a coat of manure. Hire as little help as possible. Keep a few sheep, plenty of hens, and a garden. Don't pay your money for anything you can raise yourself. Test your cows. Have a system of bookkeeping. Take some agricultural papers, of which you will find Farm and Home the best. [James Mitchelmore, Brome Co. Que.]

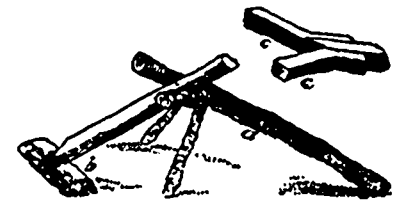
A Lousy Hen will never grow fat nor lay many eggs.

Liming a Worn-Out Soil—A well-to-do friend purchased 40 a of poor, dry, worn-out ridge land in Putnam Co, N Y. After planting his home fields the 40 a was ripped and torn all to pieces, cross plowed, one furrow on another, etc. Letting the land lie until harvest was out of the way, 10 tons plaster per acre was plowed under at a cost of \$90. It was then sowed with rye, which resulted in the largest rye crop ever raised in the county. Clover and timothy were next sowed and the clover crop, like the rye, was immense. He claimed the clover roots were as good as 12 loads manure per acre. The field was used as a pasture 4 yrs and the owner then claimed he could put 40 head of his largest cattle on it and fatten them properly through the season.—[G. C. Mead.]

Turnips should have good soil, plenty of moisture, the land in good tillth by frequent previous stirring and should grow quickly. Sow this month or early Aug, on a cloudy day or after a rain. Don't let the plants crowd each other.

The Gluten in Wheat raised on the Pacific coast and in other parts of the country is acknowledged to be deteriorating. The agricultural appropriation bill, passed by congress, contains an allowance for an investigation of this matter, with directions to study methods for increasing the content of valuable food constituents in wheat and other cereals. The work of investigation has been placed in charge of Dr Wiley, chemist of the dept of agri. Investigations have only just begun, as the crops of wheat growing in various parts of the country, to be used in the laboratory investigations, are just coming in. It is the object of the investigation to discover, if possible, the parts of the country in which this deterioration of the gluten content takes place, and the causes to which it may be due, whether it is due to the soil, climate, etc. It is probable several years will be required for a complete solution of the problem.

For Pointing Fence Posts, secure a forked sapling, a 5 ft long and 3 in in diameter. Just below the fork insert two tough oak legs 6 or 8 in from



A FENCE-MAKING HELPER.

the fork through 1 1/2 in holes, so the feet will be 5 ft apart on the ground. For hewing, use any block or stump, as at b. In cutting, use a double bit ax of 3 1/2 lbs weight, one edge very thin, the other thick enough to withstand any contact with knots. In the absence of a natural fork, use two pieces of good timber, c c, 2 in square and 10 in long. Bevel one end to give the proper spread. Nail or bolt these to the end of an 8 ft piece, making an artificial fork.—[A. Byers, Texas Co, Mo.]

Before Weaning the chicks, place them in a coop in which they are to be kept for the rest of the summer, giving them time to become accustomed to it.

Late summer or early autumn is the best time to seed to grass. On moist land, sow by Aug 15. A good plan is to seed to grass in the corn at last cultivation.—[Dr J. B. Lindsay, Mass.]

The best way to dispose of purslane in the garden is to throw it into the chicken coop. Young chicks are very fond of the weed.

I always kill off old hens in July before they begin to molt, excepting if, which I keep over for sitters the next year, as old hens make the better mothers, I think.—[Mrs H. S., Ct.]

The 373 corporations of N J on June 1 were assessed the annual state corporation tax. It amounts to \$1,554,000, or \$650,000 more than last year.

I do not know when I have read a paper similar to F & H that gives such satisfactory information and furnishes such good advice for amateur gardeners.—[S. D. Lippencott, Queens Co, N Y.]