

usually a joyous month. But to the farmer whose land is undrained, who has not a field on a farm where there are not wet spots, who has part of his land dry enough to work, but where, in low spots, the water follows the plow in the furrow, May, to such a farmer, is the most trying and disheartening month in the year. And the more intelligent he is the more gloomy is the prospect, for he knows that he is working to great disadvantage, and cannot in any event get remunerative crops. His only consolation can be found in a firm resolution to drain his land before another rotation comes round. Such land should be kept in grass until it can be drained. In the meantime, if it must be cropped, make an earnest effort to let off all the water of surface drains. This is far better than nothing. A few furrows with a plow will frequently let off more water in an hour than the sun can evaporate in a week. Not an hour should be lost in doing this work.

*Giving Directions to Help.*—Tell the men the night before what you want them to do the next day.—And tell them, “if it is fine, do so and so; if it rains, do this or that;” and enter into details. A good man likes to know beforehand what he has to do, and he will think the matter over and decide how best to do it, and what tools he will want, and where they are; and in the morning he can get to work half an hour earlier than if he did not know what he was going to do.

*Hiring Farm-men.*—That farmer is fortunate who has two or three active and intelligent sons able and willing to take hold of farm work. Make much of them. Those who have to hire should be willing to pay good wages for good men. We do not sufficiently discriminate. Wages are too high, but good men are not likely to take much less than they got last year. Farmers are very remiss in one thing: they do not insist on having a “character” from the last employer. It should be a hard matter for a bad man, or one who left his employer during the busy season, to get another place. Farmers should combine to drive an unfaithful servant from the neighbourhood. Pay them good wages, and treat them with kindly consideration, but insist on having respectful behaviour, and good work. Know what a good day’s work is, and get it; but do not ask for more. An unreasonable employer makes discontented servants. If they do well, tell them so; if not, reprove mildly but firmly.

#### HINTS ABOUT WORK.

*Rainy Days*—These will be frequent this month. There is nothing more important than to clean out the cellar. It is madness to suffer any decaying vegetables to remain. It is the cause of much sickness, especially among children.

*Whitewash* the walls, ceilings, etc. See that the windows will open and shut easily, so that the cellar can be readily and frequently ventilated. Clean empty pork and cider barrels inside and outside, and make the cellar neat and tidy. *Water in the cellar* must be got rid of, no matter what the cost of draining may be. If it cannot be drained, better fill it up, and make an outside cellar. Inconvenience can be endured better than ill health. At any rate, those who are afflicted with a wet cellar should not delay a moment after the water has subsided to clean out the sediment and cover the bottom with lime, which should be removed in a day or two, and some chloride of lime be sprinkled about the cellar as a disinfectant. *In the barn*, there is abundant work for rainy days. Make everything clean, and have a place for everything, and see that everything is in its proper place. Brush out the cobwebs. Clean the windows, and see that they will open and shut. Grind all the tools, rakes, hoes and spades. Mark them, and rub the handles with petroleum or linseed oil. Scour off the rust, and rub on a little petroleum to keep them bright. Oil the harness, and be sure to wash it clean with warm soft water, soap and brush, before applying the oil. *An extra evening* for two, and especially for three, horses will come handy on a stony farm before you are through plowing, and now is the time to make it. See that the plows are in order; and if a new point or wheel is needed, get it now. Have the harrow teeth sharpened. Examine the drill, the roller, and the cultivators. If any of the wood work is beginning to split, put in a carriage bolt. *Paint every thing* with petroleum, or with linseed oil paint. For old implements, machines, waggons, etc., the former is best, as it penetrates much deeper into the wood, and is much cheaper.

*Sheep.*—Tag any that need it. For mild cases of scours, nothing is better than milk-porridge, made with wheat-flour—say a pint of milk and a table-spoonful of flour for each sheep. For severer cases, give prepared chalk, or ten drops of laudanum, repeating the dose every four or five hours until the discharges are arrested. Give gruel and tonics to keep up the strength of the animal. Salt regularly, and mix a little sulphur with the salt—say three pints of salt and a half pint of sulphur, twice a week for a hundred sheep. Ewes expected to lamb should be watched night and day. But be careful not to render assistance when it is not needed. Rub the lambs dry, and see that they get milk immediately; and after that, with ordinary care, there is little danger. A chilled lamb may be restored, when apparently nearly dead, by putting it in a bath of warm water—say at blood-heat; or, in

the absence of this, place the lamb in a heap of hot fermenting manure. After the bath rub and dry, and be careful that it does not take cold.

*Milk Cows* that have but recently calved should have a liberal diet of good hay, with a pailful of warm bran slops twice a day; and in our opinion a quart of corn-meal, added to the bran, would be an improvement. Let the cows be kept in the stable nights and stormy days. Let their mangers be cleaned out every day. Whitewash the stable, and let it be well ventilated. Cows expected to calve should have exercise every fair day, and see that their bowels are not constipated. Bran or oil-cake will regulate this matter. If the cow is very fat, it may be well to give a quarter of a pound of glauber salts ten days before calving, and repeat the dose every three or four days, if needed, to keep the bowels moderately loose.

*Calves Fattening for the Butcher* should suck the cow, and could be tied up in a warm, dry, well-ventilated apartment, that is not too light. Keep them as quiet as possible, and feed the cow liberally. After the third day there is little danger of milk-fever.

*Calves to be Reared* may be at once removed from the cow, and taught to drink milk from a pail, unless they are choice, thorough-bred animals, when it is better to let them suck the cow and have all the new milk they will take. Valuable short-horn calves are sometimes allowed to take all the milk they want from two cows. Common calves that are not allowed to suck the cow, should have their own mother’s milk for a week, and afterwards a little skimmed milk may be substituted for a part of the new milk; and in place of the cream removed from the milk, a little flax-seed tea should be substituted; It is a great loss to starve a calf. When the calf gets to be a month or six weeks old, the cheapest and best food for it is oil-cake boiled in fresh skimmed milk; or if the milk is too sour to boil without curdling, boil the oil-cake in water till it will form a jelly on cooling, and then mix it with the milk.

*Pigs.*—Last fall’s pigs must be well fed, and got into a thriving condition before being turned out to clover. Do not begrudge them all the corn-meal they will eat. It will pay better at this season than next fall. Breeding sows should be put into a pen by themselves a week or so before they come in. Have a rail round the pen to keep the sow from crushing the little ones. It should be from eight to twelve inches from the ground, according to the size of the sow, and six or eight inches from the sides of the pen. Give a liberal allowance of chaffed straw for bedding. Give the sow, for a week before and a week after pigging, warm bran-