

Miscellaneous.

SORGHUM.

A. BROWN, Lambton Co.:—"Please tell me whether or not sorghum would answer as well as corn for a fodder crop, to be cut and cured by drying; if so, where could the seed be obtained?"

[Corn is much superior to sorghum for fodder, because it is much more leafy and grows more grain than does sorghum. The seed can be obtained from Wm. Rennie, or The Steel, Briggs Seed Co., Toronto, Ont.]

RULES FOR FARMERS' CLUBS.

NELSON MOSES, Indian Reserve, Brant Co., Ont.:—"Please publish rules and method of conducting a farmers' club?"

[We took opportunity on several occasions during the past winter to visit a simply-conducted but very effective farmers' club in Middlesex Co., Ont. So far as rigid rules were concerned, it had none. The originator of the club commenced its operation by inviting about twenty of his immediate neighbors to his house about November last. They then decided to meet at a house of one of their number once in two weeks, through the winter season, to discuss the subject decided upon at previous meeting. At one of the early meetings a list of subjects and leaders were chosen; the leader for an evening being what may be termed a specialist in his subject, or was peculiarly successful in that branch of farming. Upon some occasions outsiders were invited to give a paper or talk, to be discussed by the club. Each member was expected to give the subjects consideration before coming to the meeting, so that there would be no lagging in the discussion. In this way a long list of questions of vital interest to this club were taken up in such a way that mistakes made in the past will be avoided in the future. Let the chairman be the best qualified man for the position in the neighborhood. When the discussion closes let him sum up the good points learned, so that every one will have them impressed firmly on their minds. A good idea is for him to get down the points on a bit of paper as the discussion goes on. When the paper is read or address given every one should feel free to ask questions. Such subjects may be taken up as plowing, corn growing, root culture, getting a clover catch, summer crops for cow feed, the farmer's garden, the silo, care of the orchard, making a good road, etc.; in fact, any practical topic that the members want to know more about. The "farmers' club" is simply a farmers' institute in a small local way.]

STARTING BUTTERMILKING.

J. H. G., Leeds Co., Ont.:—"Would you please to give me, through the columns of the ADVOCATE, the best method of managing a small dairy of about fifteen cows? The milk to be made into butter, say, 1. How to manage the milk, and to set it? The easiest, quickest and best way of separating the cream from the milk? What separator to use; its size; where to purchase it, and probable price? 2. What kind of churn do you recommend to be used; churn to be driven by small horse-power? And temperature necessary to keep the cream at while churning? 3. When the churning is done, the best method of working the butter into rolls, and also into shape for packing in tubs? 4. At what part of the process should the butter be salted, and about what quantity of salt should be used per pound of butter? What is considered an average yield of butter per cow from May to December, where the cows are stabled and well cared for during winter and run on pasture through summer, with additional green oats and green corn fed when pasturage is bad?"

[1. The "easiest and quickest," and (so far as thoroughness of separation and good quality of cream are concerned) the "best" way of creaming milk is by the separator, hand power being sufficient for a herd as small as fifteen cows. A small size, sometimes called "Baby," would answer the purpose, but "J. H. G." will probably wish to increase his herd, so we would certainly recommend him to get one of greater capacity, such as a No. 2 De Laval or a No. 8 or No. 11 Alexandra, which will easily handle the milk of from twenty-five to thirty cows. These sizes are catalogued at from \$100 to \$125. Where a great deal of milk is run through, a tread power would be needed. A sweep horse-power will not answer the purpose. For prices and other particulars write (mentioning FARMER'S ADVOCATE) the Canadian Dairy Supply Co., 327 Commissioner St., Montreal, who handle the De Laval; or the Waterloo Manufacturing Co., Waterloo Ont., who are turning out the Alexandra. When a separator is used, the milk is run through it while warm from the cows. When setting (for which the outfit costs very much less) is to be practiced, deep, narrow cans should be used. As soon as the milk is drawn from the cows it should be placed in a pure atmosphere, and strained carefully into the creamer cans, which should be placed in a tank of water kept at a temperature of about 45° Fahr. by means of ice. The milk will be ready to draw off in twelve hours, but may be left twenty-four, which is more generally the case. Cabinet creamers are in use by many good dairymen. 2. Use one of the standard makes of barrel or box churn which revolve. The cream should be churned at as low a temperature as the butter will come in from thirty to forty-five minutes. A good rule is about 58° in summer, and 65° in winter—possibly a little higher if the dairy room be very cool. 3. A word about finishing the churning will not be out of place. When the particles of butter are the

size of flax seed or wheat grain, put half a pail of pure, cold water into the churn to separate the butter from the buttermilk. Turn the churn round about a dozen times, and draw off the buttermilk; allow it to run through a fine strainer (one made of hair is best) to catch any particles of butter that would otherwise escape. Then close the hole and put in a couple of pails of water at from 45° to 50°, put on the cover and turn rapidly for half a minute. Draw off the water and add a like quantity, turn as before and draw off. Allow it to drain thoroughly. It should then be removed to a butter-worker, of which there are good sorts on the market. Perhaps the lever worker will answer well in this case. Spread the butter out by means of a wooden butter-spade, and sift on from three-quarters to one ounce of fine butter salt per pound of butter. As to salting, consult your consumers' taste. Work this in by pressure, and by turning on the butter-board. When worked so that the salt is thoroughly incorporated, and the water or traces of buttermilk worked out, it is ready to be pressed into blocks or prints, pounds or half-pounds, or into tubs. A good cow should give at least 200 pounds of butter between the first of May and the end of December, and a cow that does not reach that standard, with good treatment and feeding, should be discarded. We would suggest that "J. H. G." visit one or two good private dairies or up-to-date creameries, where the different styles of separators and other apparatus referred to are in use, and he will pick up information of value.]

TREE GRAFTING.

W. W. BROWN, Elgin Co., Ont.:—"Would you kindly publish the simplest and newest method of grafting fruit trees?"

[It is now late in the season to say that the scions should be cut early and laid away in damp moss or soil in a cool cellar, so as to keep them in a dormant condition until they are wanted just before the leaves begin to start. The proper time to have cut them was in February, but good results are often obtained when the scions are taken a short time before grafting. In every case they should be taken from last year's growth. Grafting wax is prepared in several ways. A good recipe is the following: Two pounds of resin, one and one-quarter pounds of beeswax, and three-fourths of a pound of tallow. Some prefer linseed oil to tallow, and use a pint instead of the pound of tallow. Thin calico cloth is rolled and thoroughly saturated in this solution, unrolled while warm, and then cut in convenient strips. This is used for lapping the stocks and scion after being placed in position. If the stocks or branches to be grafted are an inch or more in diameter, cleft-grafting is the preferable mode. When about to set the graft, the limb should be sawed off and split one and a half inches with a knife having a concave edge, which cuts the bark ahead of the wood. Upon removal of the knife a wooden wedge should be inserted into the center of the end, leaving the edges open for the reception of scions. The scion is cut about three inches long, leaving a bud near the top, and the lower end made a long wedge shape. It is then inserted at one end of the split, having the outer edge of the wood of the stock and the scion just even, so that the "cambium" or growing layer just beneath the bark of each shall come together and unite in growth. When the stock is more than an inch in diameter, two scions may be inserted, one on each side; if they both grow one should be cut away later in the season. After inserting the scion or scions, wrap the entire cleft and exposed wood with the waxed calico, in order to exclude the air and water until the wound heals over.]

GRAFTING WAX.

A. D. COLLINS, Bromo Co., Que., will find an answer to his inquiry in the reply to W. W. Brown's question, upon grafting fruit trees, in this issue.

SWEET CORN FOR FODDER.—DEVELOPING THE FRONT GLANDS OF THE UDDER.

REV. H. W. L., Middlesex:—"Is sweet corn the best for milk cows? How sown, and how much might be expected per acre? 2. How may the front part of a cow's udder be developed?"

[1. If by sweet corn is meant the "sugar" sorts, grown for table use, we would say that they do not produce enough fodder to be profitable for cow feeding. See article on "Western Corn Growing," in this issue, regarding the method of growing it. In choosing seed make enquiries as to the varieties that have done best in your own locality. Rows three feet apart and hills two feet should grow good fodder. 2. While it has been claimed by some that always milking the front glands first will cause them to develop, we have very little faith that a noticeable difference can be made by any system of milking.]

FEEDING STANDARD FOR HOGS.

YORK CO. FARMER:—"What is the albuminoid ratio of a properly-balanced ration for pigs? I understand it is 1:5.5 for cattle."

[From 1:5.5 to 1:6.5 has been found to be the albuminoid ratio of a feeding standard for hogs.]

ROOT DRILL WANTED.

A. STEPHENS, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I would like to know where I can get a drill that will sow turnip and mangel seed in flat drills and will also sow artificial fertilizer at the same time?"

[As the raised drill method of sowing roots is so much more in favor than flat drill in this country, we are doubtful if such a machine is manufactured. We would invite information from any of our readers who can assist Mr. Stephens.]

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Top prices at present, with comparisons:—

	Present prices.	Two weeks ago.	1895.	1894.
CATTLE.				
1500 lbs. up.....	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.50	\$ 6.40	\$ 4.85
1350 @ 1500.....	4.75	4.60	6.30	4.60
1200 @ 1350.....	4.50	4.50	6.25	4.50
1050 @ 1200.....	4.40	4.15	6.20	4.45
900 @ 1050.....	4.00	4.20	5.70	4.00
Stks. and F.....	3.85	3.80	4.60	3.65
Fat cows.....	4.15	3.85	5.50	3.90
Canners.....	2.30	2.30	2.50	2.45
Bulls.....	3.50	3.70	5.50	3.60
Calves.....	5.25	6.00	5.25	5.15
Texas steers.....	4.15	4.40	5.40	3.90
Texas C. & B.....	3.00	3.00	4.85	3.60
HOGS.				
Mixed.....	4.00	4.10	5.30	5.35
Heavy.....	3.85	4.10	5.40	5.35
Light.....	4.15	4.15	5.20	5.30
Pigs.....	4.00	4.10	4.95	5.15
SHEEP.				
Natives.....	3.90	4.00	5.15	5.35
Western.....	3.85	3.90	5.00	5.40
Texas.....	3.75		4.25	4.50
Lambs.....	4.80	4.75	6.10	6.00

The cattle exporters have not fared well lately, but are now buying very freely here, and hope to strike better markets on the other side. English cablegram quotes best American steers at 10c, against 12c to 13c a year ago. Best States sheep 13c, against 15c a year ago.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is advising farmers to cross Southern "razor-back" hogs with the finely-bred hogs of the corn belt, on the theory that the cross would give increased vitality. They sell at about \$3 when good hogs are worth \$3.75 to \$4.

Distillery cattle will soon begin to make their appearance. Country feeders purchased fewer cattle in Kansas City the past week than for three months past. The discouragingly low prices for fat cattle was the cause. Many lots of export cattle sold recently for less than country buyers were paying for choice feeding steers.

The shipments of cattle from Texas to the grazing grounds in Indian Territory are very heavy at present, and are expected to exceed previous records. One railroad passed 76 train-loads of Texas cattle through one point on one day recently.

A. Silberstein, of Dallas, Texas, had in 152 head of extra good fed steers which averaged 1,336 lbs. and sold for \$4.15. Such cattle sold about a year ago at \$3.50.

W. R. Wills, of Pittsfield, Ill., marketed a lot of 19 two-year-olds, 1,493 lbs., sold at \$4.75, with seven head of 1,114-lb. yearlings at \$4.40. The notable thing about this was that on the same day 1,600-lb. export cattle were selling at \$4.10 to \$4.25. Mr. Wills said he castrated these animals at a time when there seemed to be no demand for breeding bulls, but said there was no trouble in selling breeders at present, though prices were not high.

Six hundred head of 128-lb. sheep sold to Doud & Keefer, for export, \$3.80.

Some 94-lb. clipped lambs sold at \$1.35. Prices for sheep are very low for this time of the year, but prices for feed are very low and feeders are not losing any money.

The Chicago horse market is just now unusually active. Under the stimulus of keen competition all offerings suitable for Eastern shipments or exportation are selling around the best quotations of the year; the advance as compared with the first of March prices showing an improvement of about \$10 per head. Boston chunks are firm at \$70 to \$100; a few extra choice animals selling a notch higher, with plain and inferior offerings rather sluggish at \$45 to \$65. Coaches and drivers are wanted at prices ranging at \$45 to \$100, according to style, quality and action. Eastern farm chunks are selling at \$40 to \$65, Southern chunks at \$25 to \$50, and drafters at \$70 to \$150.

Montreal Markets.

Local trade was very materially helped the past two weeks by the Easter trade, and a large amount of cattle changed hands (for Montreal). The number of cattle brought down for these markets topped the record, and so many were in that a number of drovers did not show their cattle on the open market at all. In all there were about 1,500 or 1,600 head. The quality of the stock, on the whole, has not been beaten for many a long day, no animal on the market making less than 23c. per lb., and these would easily have made 3c. and 3c. on an ordinary market, but as the demand was for choice beef, and as it was to be had in abundance at prices within reach of all, poorer grades neglected. Drovers claim to have lost from \$5 to \$10 per head. Cattle sold here for just about half a dollar per hundred less than was paid for them in Toronto and at Western points. One load of very nice distillery steers, averaging a little over 1,000 lbs. each, only netted back 23c. per lb.; another bunch of fancy steers and heifers (these were undoubtedly the best on the market) only realized 43c. per lb. (the seller paid \$4.65 the week previous), and so on right through the market, the choicest of export cattle only making from 4c. to 4c. per lb. There were a number of very fine bulls in, the best one on the market being sold by W. Lunness at 53c. per lb.; a number of others were picked up by Mr. Ironsides for export at 23c. per lb. There is no hope for the market improving on spot until a very decided change is made in the British markets.

Sheep and Lambs.—An occasional strong bunch of sheep find their way to the market, and are sold mostly by the dollars—from \$2 to \$5. Quite a few of the latter are now coming in, and they sell from \$2 to \$5 each as to size.

Calves.—The offerings of calves are increasing, a number of very good ones being found amongst them, but there is still room for improvement in the quality; range from \$2 to \$12 each, according to size and quality.

Live Hogs are coming in freely right along, and are kept pretty well cleaned up. The pick of the yards can be had for 4c. per lb.—that is, for choice hogs—but very few are brought in that realize this figure, the predominant figure being from \$3.70 to \$3.90 per cwt. Off cars, choice hogs are contracted for at \$4.10, \$4.15, and 4.20 per cwt. A good, free demand. There are still a few dressed hogs on the market, but in absence of sales cannot give reliable quotations.

Hides and Skins.—The anticipated decline mentioned in our last report has been realized, and beef hides have dropped 1c. all round, selling now for No. 1-2-3, 53c., 43c., and 33c. per lb. Calf and sheep skins unchanged.

The British Markets.—Beyond a slight rise of a fraction of a cent in the Liverpool market on sheep, the disastrous trade noted in our last has continued, and seems likely to continue, owing to the terribly congested state of the dead meat market, where dressed beef is actually selling at from 2c. to 3c. per lb. A number of Argentine cattle recently sold for just sufficient to cover the freight (45c.). Quotations are 9c. to 10c., but these are for very fancy, and it may be readily understood that the ordinary export stock does not make anything like this figure.

Provisions.—In the Liverpool provision market heavy bacon was weaker, and declined 6d. to 26s. 6d. Pork steady at 50s.; lard, 26s. 3d.; light bacon, 26s. 6d.; and tallow, 19s. 6d.

Hay.—For choice, one dollar per ton more has been paid during the past week; this, of course, making poorer grades a trifle firmer. No. 1, \$14; No. 2, \$12.50.



A M

A S T

When Parepa people's idol. The towns were thro' Her young, rich, tones are remembered her when she was ten years ago, and fastened on the coal higher on the and now sat of pleasant enjoy Parepa said quite alone for "Yes, four g'gements. N pany died there Parepa laun "Dinner sh even the serva She clasped enjoyment, an near the grate. "This is a "Do you reme our museum, "Yes, and perished." Parepa lo in a low voice "Mary, th ful old Luiga and." Oh! how a dream! Bridge of Sig Doge's palace I shall never priests, and kneeling!" Parepa lo her queer lit took me to yo book, and the sung so slow never forgotte Parepa folo terian folk of Canal, and sa Thy mercies! "How ev sung." I snid The snow the whole cit the shutters, A sharp p "My dea said ye wou you to the la I laid the it stormed! I said: "Dee be at home i "Tell me answered. She thro' scarf closely we set out to Annie's my friends, five years of out of the b of idleness I looked like For fift Annie, her grown fono flowers, out to them. T near, thoug I had thoug window-sh out of the s other flowe way to the In the stre We clie small uppe coffin, line on uncover We eac her, silent, tears, but she ne The dr working p chairs and A drea the mothe "Why have been near. With "I can her head, brought a The u myself al wretched With coffin. Sl cloak bac lines from laid her s over the v moment, thin fing sang the p Her r power an