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ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

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Agriculture.

To Keep Butter in Summer.

The following article on keeping butter in summer, and the causes of poor butter, as far as produced by storage, is from the Farmer's Advocate. The writer says that he has kept in mind the conveniences of the country, and not the improved refrigerators of the town and the city.

A majority of summer butter is poor because every condition of good butter making is violated from the time the prospective cow is dropped till the last act of packing and storing the butter; and such butter, with the best storage in the world, would be inferior.

To every pound of butter add two heaping teaspoonsfuls of the finest dairy salt, the same amount of granulated white sugar, and a quarter of a teaspoonful of saltpetre, pulverized very finely.

C. C. Bull, of Rock Falls, Wis., at the last meeting of the Illinois State Dairyman's Association, discussed the question: Can Summer butter be so handled and packed that it will retain its freshness and sweetness for winter use?

Whether butter can be thus preserved so as to be good, sweet, old butter, without rancidity or bad flavor, is a question which we believe can be answered in the affirmative, and we propose to discuss it under the heads, viz.—As to the place of storage, the package, and the contents.

As to the place of storage.—The first requirement is that it must be a cool place. A cellar or other apartment the temperature of which rises above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, we do not believe will keep butter well under any conditions.

It is an almost fatal mistake to keep fowls in too confined quarters. They must have ample and airy, clean and sweet quarters to stay in over night and shelter them from storm.

We express this opinion with our present knowledge of the trials made in this direction. As to the contents.—The first thing to be said under this head is that butter to keep must be good butter—butter well handled from the milking to the packing—and nothing but butter. It is well understood that rancidity comes from that in the butter which is not butter—from the butyric acid which develops chemically, and the development of which is greatly hastened by bad handling; by the presence of casine, buttermilk, water or other foreign substance not butter.

The shallow, poorly drained and ventilated cellar is the common place of storage on the prairie; and if this cellar is not enough there is added a taint of cabbage and onions. Driven to desperation, some resort to hanging the butter in a well, a few have good springs. The important item to the farmer for butter purposes is a deep cellar, not less than twelve feet, sides of stone and bottom well concreted.

Poultry is a source of profit or loss, just as it is well or ill cared for. In this respect the business of poultry raising does not differ from other kinds of business. More depends upon the manager than on the breeds of fowls selected.

There are two great mistakes made by amateur poultry raisers, and by some professionals. Now and then one may be guilty of both mistakes, but the great majority, whether they have many or few fowls, are guilty of one or the other. Poultry, especially hens, are either too closely confined to be healthy and prolific, or are given too free range, expending their energies in rambling and making nuisances of themselves.

Most farmers give too free a range to their poultry, especially in the summer. They may have a miserable place to roost in, summer and winter, and from this fact suffer during the night time unless they get disgusted and show better sense than their owners by taking to the apple trees or other outside places.

It is an almost fatal mistake to keep fowls in too confined quarters. They must have ample and airy, clean and sweet quarters to stay in over night and shelter them from storm. These conditions are demanded by all kinds of higher animal life.

A restless and wild expression of the eye of an animal indicates a predominance of nervous action and an unquiet disposition that is not compatible with good feeding qualities.

Weed Killing.

Very few excel in this art. It is more than any other the criterion of a good cultivator of fields or gardens. We were on the point of saying that the month of May is the time for beginning to practice this essential of success. True, so it is, as far as mere killing goes, but the wide awake grower had an eye open all last season to see that no enemy was sowing tares upon the land—no wind floating in thistles down; no plants in obscure corners maturing seeds and dropping them into the waiting soil; no rotting manure, full of seeds of weeds and grasses and all manner of weed uncleanness, put on as mulch or protection, to treat the crop by and by as the Saxons did the Britons—saving them from the Plots to inflict cruelty and treachery themselves.

Very much has been said lately in parliamentary agricultural papers, and elsewhere, concerning the distress of the farming interest in Great Britain. The noted Mr. Caird, a little time since, made a speech at a meeting regarding it, from which the following is an extract.

My experience of farming goes back to the period before free trade. I have had a constant direct interest in it since that time, both as a landowner and cultivator, and have experienced all its vicissitudes. We have had bad seasons before, and low prices, without the same loss of capital. It is not so much from the low prices that we are really suffering.

It is well known that the liquid manure of animals is more valuable than the solids. In all densely populated countries all these are carefully saved and carried direct to the fields, or stored in tanks for future use.

The following account of the famous old Short Horn bull, "Hubback," is given by the National Live Stock Journal.

The bull Hubback, regarded in his day by Mr. Bates and many other breeders of note as the greatest regenerator of Short-horns, was calved in 1777, and was sold with his dam in the Darlington market. The purchaser re-sold the calf afterwards became the famous bull to a blacksmith, for one guinea, as he was taking the cow home.

It has been found in England, from repeated trials, that it takes 100 lbs. of turnips are fed in sheds to make one pound of mutton, when the turnips are fed in sheds under favorable conditions; but fed in the open air it will take 150 lbs. to produce the same quantity.

Dairy Cattle.

Few things contribute more to a dairy farmer's success than skill in selecting and breeding his dairy stock. Some men possess this skill in a high degree intuitively; others acquire it by careful observation and long-continued experience; others, again, never can or do attain it; but however, it may come into a man's possession, it is no mean element in his success.

It is in fact, a dead loss to keep common, weedy animals in the place of good ones; and the sum of that loss is just the difference in the net profit which the two kinds respectively give to their owners.

Green Food and Grass. Fowls cannot get along well on grain food alone, and must in both winter and summer—the latter especially—be supplied with some green succulent food, or are long they will become diseased or sickly, when the matter of profit will be very problematic indeed.

It is a mere question of skill in breeding on the one part, and of construction on the other.—From Part I of "Dairy Farming," by Prof. Sheldon, for July.

The period at which clover is cut for hay materially influences its quality. Thus, according to Wolf, the amount of nutritive substances in red clover at beginning of flower is 11.26 per cent.; red clover in full flower, 13.04 per cent. Red clover hay, cut at beginning of flower, contained 55.43 per cent. of nutritive matter, while the same cut in full flower contained 46.07 per cent.

With an area about half as large as Texas and possessing the highest priced lands in the world, Great Britain has about 35,000,000 sheep, or about as many as the United States, and produces more wool. While the sheep do not pay for themselves in wool and mutton they are absolutely essential in maintaining the fertility of the soil.

A writer in the Country Gentleman remarks that in his experience, whatever mode is adopted for destroying the potato beetle, keeping the weeds down is one of the essential elements of success. He found some eggs fastened on the under side of a pigweed, also on blades of grass.

The Swedish Turnip.

The earth should be well removed from the roots, otherwise the plant is apt to throw out too many lateral roots, which detract from the value of the bulb. The best horse-hoe is a small grubber having five chisel-pointed tines; the depth to which the soil is stirred gradually increases from 4 to 12 inches or more, and is frequently repeated even during the driest weather. The constant and deep stirring increases the absorptive power of the soil, and when efficiently conducted is the best known means of preventing mildew in the weeds crop. This system of deep stirring between the rows is more difficult to carry out when the crop is grown on the flat. The root crop is of vast importance to the stock farmer; quantity and quality are both essential conditions.

Root pruning.—Root pruning of tomato plants is recommended to hasten early maturity of the fruit. While the plants are young, they are transplanted several times, which of course destroys some of the roots, and after they are put into their final resting place. In this, of course, size and perhaps quality are sacrificed to a few weeks earliness; but many are willing to pay this penalty for the sake of the early dish. Those wishing to secure an early ripening of fruit would do well to practice this system of root pruning upon a portion of their plants.

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