

strip without the oats. The stand on the strips sown without the oats is to day more than twice as heavy as on those sown with oats. Two or three times since I have seeded small areas with oats, and once with barley, only to find the same result.

BLUE GRASS WITH ALFALFA.

Hereafter, when the alfalfa is old enough so its roots are relying for their support entirely upon the soil below that which the blue-grass roots will penetrate, I intend sowing blue grass upon all my alfalfa fields, as this will do away with the danger of bloat that has heretofore existed in pasturing alfalfa, having observed that the cattle eat liberally of the blue-grass before eating any of the alfalfa, which prevents them from consuming sufficient of the latter to injure themselves. Also, when there is a wet spring and a heavy crop of blue-grass, we invariably get a much finer quality of hay than when we have alfalfa alone.

CUTTING AND CURING.

My experience is that it should be cut as near as possible when in full bloom. Having so large an area, this necessitates cutting a portion of mine before it commences to bloom at all. No cutting is done in the morning until the dew is off, that the alfalfa may fall upon well-warmed ground. The men are employed before that time in cultivating other crops. As soon as the hay is thoroughly wilted it is raked into small windrows, from which it is gathered, later by buck-rakes into stacks. As a rule, there are three men on the stack, four men on the buck-rakes, one man to attend the stacker, and a boy to guide the team used with the stacker. There is a large loss of leaves attending this process, and had I a small area the hay would be gathered as I was taught to cure red clover in New England, by cocking it and letting it cure in the cock, after which it was immediately hauled to the barn that it might not get wet. As it is, what hay will be necessary for the dairy cows and breeding ewes, and perhaps for all of my ruminating animals, will hereafter be cured in the cock, as I am certain that the additional expense will be more than compensated by the increased value of the hay. While there is no more valuable forage for cattle, sheep, colts, or hogs than well cured alfalfa, so also there is no hay which can receive greater damage from wetting. Because of this I will hereafter put as much as possible in barns and sheds. I will put the remainder in stacks which I shall protect with stack covers, which are now manufactured for that purpose.

In regard to the feeding value, there is one thing it may be well for me to tell you, particularly as it is generally understood that alfalfa makes poor horse feed, and so it does for driving horses. In July, 1894, finding myself without old hay or grain, and no corn to be had for less than sixty cents per bushel, I was compelled to depend entirely upon new alfalfa hay to feed some eighty work horses for more than thirty days, during which time they were worked unusually hard, as I was trying to subdue a swamp which was, in many places, very difficult to plow. During this time the horses were maintained in their usual condition of health and flesh, although I believe it better practice to feed some grain, in connection with the alfalfa, to all horses when hard worked. Since that time I have fed all my work horses on well-cured alfalfa, choosing for this purpose cuttings when the plant was passing out of bloom, having learned that there was more protein in alfalfa cut late.

I urge the importance of great care in procuring seed, as otherwise considerable trouble may ensue.

Caring for the Foal

The breeding of a mare to a stallion does not complete the task of raising a horse. It is useless, says the *Western Horseman*, to breed a mare unless she is to have proper treatment immediately following; it is useless to go to the trouble of getting a mare in foal unless you are going to

look after the foal after it is foaled. Probably the most critical period of the whole operation is during the first few days of a foal's life, and hence this is the period at which most care should be exercised. More foals die before they are ten days old than die between that period and maturity, and the greater per cent. of such loss is due to lack of proper care and attention. But few persons are so uninformed on the subject as not to expect children to have trouble in "teething," but it is remarkable how few ever give a thought even to the subjects of colts "teething," and yet it is safe to say that more colts die very young from troubles attending "teething" than from most all other causes. Colts, as a rule, can make no satisfactory headway at sucking until their teeth are through, and following this imperfection come irregularities of the bowels, deranged digestion, weakness and death. A very little attention following the dropping of a foal—the sooner the better—will usually suffice to avoid all trouble arising from teething. The only thing necessary is to remove the more or less resisting gum covering from the teeth, and simple as this operation is it is often poorly and ineffectually done. "Cutting the gum," as ordinarily thought of and done, is a fraud and delusion—that is, cutting straight down to the teeth with a sharp knife. Unless the gums are found very tough and resisting, a finger nail is the finest and most practical gum-cutting instrument in existence; simply get the finger in the youngster's mouth and rasp the offending gum away by repeated scratches with the nail the broad way of the teeth, keeping up the operation till the points of the teeth are left bare. Should the gum prove too resisting for the finger nail, take a knife not necessarily sharp, or any other clean instrument possessing something of an edge, and scrape first one way then the other, broad way of the teeth, and in a few seconds the operation is all over and the colt is ready for real business. Do not neglect this matter for several days and until colt is probably past saving, but do it within a few hours after it is foaled. Another important thing: do not change the diet of the dam for some days after foaling, as a change of diet changes the milk, subjecting the foal to the dangers of indigestion and a consequent derangement of the stomach and bowels. Besides these, various other little attentions to a foal during its early existence aid wonderfully in its growth and usefulness. All foals should be handled and made to feel that man is their friend and protector; their feet should be looked after and kept even and level. Indeed, it is the little attentions during their early life that add most to the probable future usefulness and value of foals.

Dark or White-Shelled Eggs

It has long been a pet theory on the part of those who happen to be the breeders and owners of birds producing dark-shelled eggs that such eggs are richer and better in every sense than eggs having white shells. A set of experiments has recently been carried out by a thoroughly scientific analytical chemist to test the truth of this theory, and it turns out that if there is any natural difference the advantage rests with white-shelled eggs, so away goes one strong reason for keeping Langshan fowls. These fowls lay the deepest-tinted eggs of any fowls in existence. If they do lay a richer egg than any other fowl it must spring from another cause, and that is concentration, as they lay the smallest eggs of all the large breeds of fowls. It is quite conceivable that it is possible that the smaller class of eggs laid by the larger fowls may be richer, but we have long held the opinion that the principal factor in giving the richness and pleasantness of eggs is the food they eat, and from our own observation the very best flavored eggs are produced by fowls having a free run on heathery hillsides, and no doubt the richness of the flavor is derived from the large amount of insects procurable. The inference, then, is that if you want richly flavored eggs you must take care that your fowls have a fair supply of sound, sweet flesh, for be it remembered that the bulk of animal food