

The Farm.

Seed Corn Selection.

Many farmers owning both bottom and upland cornfields make the mistake of using the same seed on both kinds of soil. Corn which is adapted to the soil and moisture conditions of the valleys will not do so well on the upland as will some variety that has by several years of cultivation and selection become adapted to the conditions there. It is for the same reason that the large Colorado potatoes that have been grown for years under irrigation will do so poorly when used for seed in Kansas without the accustomed supply of water.

It is generally the case on the farm that the corn from all the fields, both upland and bottom, is cribbed together. When the time for seed selection comes the largest ears are picked out, irrespective of the kind of soil that grew them. As the bottom land produces the larger ears, it is more than likely that the bulk of the seed will be from the lower and moister portions of the farm. This is the proper seed for the lowland, but it is not so well adapted to the drier and poorer upland as is seed that has been raised there.

It is advisable to select the seed either before or at husking time; when not only the quality of the ground but the character of the individual stock and ear can be taken into consideration. As has been suggested before, a small box attached to the side of the wagon bed into which the desirable ears can be thrown is the most practical device that can be recommended. By a little judicious selection for a series of years, a strain can be established on the upland portion of any farm which will be well adapted to that and other soils similar in location and composition. An eight inch ear from the upland will ordinarily prove better for planting on the upland than a twelve inch ear from a draw in the lower portions of the farm—G. M. Westgate in National Rural.

Handling Winter Apples.

In storing apples for winter they should be picked before they are too ripe and when the weather is not too hot; when picked they should be taken at once to shade and packed and stored away in the cool of the evening. They should be well sorted, packed in tight barrels and headed up to exclude the light and air. They will keep longer if each apple is wrapped with paper. The temperature of your cave or cellar should be reduced as much as possible by throwing the doors open at night and closing them through the day. A gradual reduction and a regular temperature is better than a sudden change. Apples should not be hauled about in the hot sun before storing them away; neither should they be placed in cold storage at once. The change is too sudden. It is the same in taking them out of cold storage. It should not be done at once. A storing room for this purpose should be provided in every cold storage plant. I do not have to repack stored apples if they are sold early, but if not until late I have to repack. The loss depends upon the variety. Prices have been from 50 cents to \$2 per barrel. I employ men that are capable of packing apples, paying from 5 cents to 10 cents per hour.—(J. Stayman, in Nebraska Farmer.

Kansas and Her Cattle.

With such immense crops of corn and forage in Kansas there is much interest among feeders, shippers and slaughterers as to the State's supply of cattle. The assessors returns are all made now, and the State Board of Agriculture has just completed its compilation, which reveals a showing of the Sunflower State most satisfactory indeed.

There is a net increase over 1898 in all cattle (milk cows included) of 282,003 head or 10-82 per cent, making the number for the State this year 2,886,068. All but seventeen of the 105 counties report an increase, Barber distancing all others with a gain of 22,207, and Butler next with 12,619, and ranging from that figure

down to 79 in Cherokee. The seventeen counties sustained a loss of 44,012. Greenwood County easily leads in the total number of all cattle, having 80,429 head, followed by Butler with 71,990; Cowley, 69,124; Barber, 69,069, and Reno 60,060. The county having the least number is Greeley, with 2,529.

The total number of milk cows in the State is 584,182, an increase of 78,257, or 12.9 per cent. Dickinson County leads with 14,948, with Pottawatomie, Osage, Sedgwick and Washington following in the order named. The aggregate gain of these five counties is 7,716. The increase in milk cows in 1897 was 37,463 and in 1898, 53,387, making a total increase for the three years of 169,167.

The number of cattle other than cows is the largest Kansas has ever had, and for the first time in the history of the State has passed the 2,000,000 mark. In the last four years the number has increased nearly 1,000,000, or 75 per cent. This year's gain over 1898 is 203,746, or 10.19 per cent, making a total of 2,201,886. Greenwood County retains her lead as in other cattle, having 69,177, followed by Barber, with 65,806; Butler, 59,610, and Cowley, 56,829.—Ex.

Kerosene and Poultry Mites.

When the hatching season is over the roosting perches should be given a weekly application of kerosene—not a slight sprinkling, but a good, thorough soaking. The best time for this is just before the fowls go to roost, as the fumes from the kerosene will do much toward driving the mites from the fowls.

Of course, care must be used with fowls intended for exhibition, as the oil will produce a dulness in the plumage.

If fowls are badly overrun with mites, a mixture of lard and kerosene rubbed well into the feathers will rid them of the insects, and as the old feathers soon give way to a new suit the beauty of the plumage will not be in the least affected.

All old nests and litter should now be removed and burned, and new, clean straw should take their places. The young fowls which are old enough to want to roost on perches should be allowed to go into the house with the old fowls.

If any leak appears in the roof repair it now, and do not wait till the rainy season sets in. Bank up the ground on the outside, so that the house will be comfortable, and arrange the scratching shed so that when needed it will be ready for use.—(Home and Farm.

Autumn Work in the Garden.

It seems hard and needs a good deal of resolution to start fall work in the garden, but it is necessary for the well being of the plants, and for the neatness of the borders. Stems and tops of herbaceous plants must be cut off and well rotted manure dug into the soil. Hardy roses may be kept pruned into manageable shape, and before very hard frost they will be the better for having earth heaped around them, as well as tender varieties, when autumn leaves can be gathered over them, they make a good, warm blanket, and can be kept in place with a few branches. Clematis should be cut back to within two feet of the ground, and protected in the same way. Cannas, dahlias, gladioli and other tuberous plants should be dug up and dried a little in the sun, then stored in a dry cellar, but away from furnace heat. Wherever bulbs are to be planted the ground should be prepared carefully, and all rubbish taken off. Plans must be made for next season, and herbaceous plants set out accordingly. Grape vines can be pruned, and a little later they may be put down from the trellis and covered with earth. All dead wood should be cut out from shrubs, shade the fruit trees. It is a good time to take off the rings of the tent caterpillar, so destructive last spring in orchards. Only the other day a thoughtful apple picker when bringing in the rosy fruit brought also a handful of the rings which she had taken from the trees. As each contained several hundred caterpillars, it was easy to estimate the value of this act of forethought. Vegetables, too, should be taken out of the ground and dried before storing. While the land is always better for being dug or ploughed in autumn, at the same time planning for a rotation of crops. Onions do well on the same ground year after year, but most of our vegetables improve by a change. Wood ashes should be applied and any manure well dug in will show results in spring. If changes are to be made in the herbaceous border, it can be done as soon as the leaves fall, and the same rule applies to shrubs and trees.—Sel.

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