

AGRICULTURAL.

—SWINE that are fattening will do better with soaked corn than dry. Corn steeped in water for twelve hours has been found more economical to feed than when ground into meal. The animals are sooner filled, the food digests better, and, consequently, the feeding is finished more expeditiously and feed—which is money—is saved.

—A late writer says: "Most farmers have noticed that in fattening swine rapidly, they appear weak in their hind legs, and sometimes lose the use of them entirely. In such cases we find that a small quantity of bone meal mixed with their daily feed will prevent weakness, and will strengthen the animal so as to admit of rapid forcing."

—CORN burnt on the cob, and the refuse—which consists almost entirely of the grains reduced to charcoal and still retaining their perfect shape—placed before fowls, is greedily eaten by them, with a marked improvement in their health, as is shown by the bright color of their combs and their sooner producing a greater average of eggs to the flock than before.

—An old turkey has rough scales on the feet, and long, strong claws; a young one the reverse of all these marks. When the feathers are on the old turkey cock has a long tuft or beard, a young one has a sprouting one; and when they are off the smooth scales on the legs decide the point, besides the difference in size of wattles of the neck and in the elastic shoot upon the neck.

—FRENCH poultry fanciers who make a specialty of raising fowls for the market are now feeding their poultry with barley and steamed carrots. Its rapid fattening qualities are somewhat wonderful, and it is said that the roots also impart a peculiar flavor to the flesh that suits the taste of the French epicure exactly. The large yellow carrots are considered the best for this purpose.

A CURE FOR BLACK LEG IN CATTLE.—The way to cure black leg is, just as soon as you find your calves or yearlings have got it, get out your horse and put on your saddle; get a whip and commence to run your creatures around for half an hour or an hour—that is, until you get them thoroughly warmed up and sweating, and this will effect a cure. But if they are so bad that you can't get them up, you will be pretty sure to lose them. But one of my neighbors that had cured a couple this way, found one day another so bad that he could not get it up, and he knew if it laid there a little longer, it would be gone, so he called his dog and set it on the calf. It was a small dog, and after barking around a little, the dog caught the calf by the nose and it bellowed and jumped up. The horse and whip were ready, and an hour's exercise saved the calf's life.

SUNFLOWER CULTURE.—Sunflower seed makes a very fine oil, and a very large quantity of this seed would sell at the oil mills if it could be obtained. The number of bushels of this seed that can be produced upon an acre is very large—we have heard as high as 250 bushels. But we think this estimate altogether too high. If one half this amount, it would be a paying crop. It would always command at the oil mills from 50c. to \$1 per bushel. What would pay better? And while upon this topic, we have good data for saying that if planted abundantly about the residence in malarious districts, it prevents fevers. Some remarkable instances have occurred in the East Indies of malarious districts which were uninhabitable to white people, on account of deadly fevers, that were made healthy abodes by a liberal planting of sunflower seed—the plant consuming certain qualities in the malarious atmosphere that produced the febrile diseases.

THE COW PEA.—This plant for the South is destined to take the place that red clover does in higher latitudes in the work of ameliorating worn lands. It will gather ammonia as well, fatten stock equally as well, and grow with less attention on this ground. The way we have cultivated peas is very simple. Lay off the land in three-foot drills, dropping ten or twelve peas together each short step, covering with two light furrows, and breaking out the middles, at first convenient time, in two or three weeks. When about a month old run one sweep furrow in the middle, and repeat this again in four or five weeks. By this time the ground will be so shaded as to keep down other vegetation and render unnecessary any more work, and our word for it, they present as pretty a sight as ever greeted the eye, filling the whole face of the earth, and rendering it impossible to distinguish where the original rows were. From ordinary upland you can gather ten

or fifteen bushels of peas from the acre; then cut the vines from several acres for hay for stock, and turn under the balance with two-horse plows in the early fall. The advantage of this reservoir is its cheapness, as compared with commercial fertilizers, and the saving of transporting and distributing stable and other manures; and then it is so evenly diffused over the whole surface of the field.—[Exchange.]

BERMUDA GRASS FOR THE SOUTH.—This once despised grass is doubtless the Doub grass, so highly prized in India. Our people, in attempting to eradicate it, little imagined they were entertaining "an angel unawares." It will grow on any soil from the richest prairie to the thinnest pine land, and will afford a permanent pasture. When necessary, it can be exterminated by turning under the soil with a two-horse plow in mid summer, and after two or three weeks exposure to the sun break through so as to expose all the roots to the sun. On rich soil it makes a splendid hay, sweet and nutritious, losing only one half its weight in drying. It can be cut two and three times in a season; yielding, by Mr. Affleck's report from Mississippi, five to eight tons per acre; and in Greosboro, Ga., at the rate of ten tons to the acre on a little experimental plot. A permanent meadow of Bermuda grass, an early and late patch of rye and a few acres of Lucerne, will give us green food every day of the year for all stock. Our native crab grass makes an excellent pasture; these, with other green and dry foods, together with hundreds of never-failing spring branches, take away the right to deny that we have a good stock country as can be found anywhere.—[Dixie Farmer.]

THE WAY TO HANDLE SHEEP.—A great many men will catch the sheep by the wool on the back with both hands, and lift the animal clear from the ground by the wool only. We have slaughtered a great many sheep in years past, and when removing the pelts of such sheep as had been handled by the wool we never failed to observe that beneath the skin wherever the animal had been caught by the wool blood had settled. In many instances the skin had been separated from the body so that inflammation was apparent. We have known proprietors of sheep to be so strict in regard to handling them that they would order a helper from the premises, if he were to catch a sheep by the wool on any part of the body. When about to catch a sheep move carefully toward the one to be taken until you are sufficiently near to spring quickly and seize the beast by both hands, then pass one hand around the body, grasp the brisket and lift the sheep clear from the ground. The wool must not be pulled. If the sheep is a heavy one let one hand and wrist be put around the neck and the arm pressed against the leg. We have always handled sheep in the way alluded to. We never grasp the wool. Others seize the sheep by a hind leg, then throw one arm around the body and take hold of the brisket with one. But ewes with lambs should never be caught by the hind legs, unless they are handled with the greatest care.—[Exchange.]

TURKEY RAISING.—For some years I have followed the time honored practice of putting the first lot of turkey eggs under common hens to hatch and raise, each successive year bringing its share of death, disease and consequent disappointment in the size of the flock in the fall, regulated by the season, as it was favorable or the reverse. My coops were built large and roomy, and kept clean as possible, but every rainy time was death to more or less of the little "moslems," in spite of all precautions. Last spring we had about 250 with hens when the rainy spell came on. After suffering the usual experience, a council of deliberation was held, when the conclusion was arrived at that there was nothing to be lost, and perhaps something to be gained by letting the turkeys raise their own young. Accordingly, after that, as each one hatched she was placed in a pasture lot with plenty of shade and range—bidden godspeed and good luck. Wet mornings they were fed early, and rainy days often, to keep them from wandering. After the insect season was fully inaugurated, no feed was given. The result was highly satisfactory, as the size of the young flock testified.—Some of the old ones raised every one they left the nest with. Henceforth my plan will be to set a hen at the same time as the turkey, and discard all coops. My experience last season has shown me that I can raise a much larger per centage of young at much less cost of money and trouble than by the old plan.—In short, turkeys are like Indians in one respect—to be contented and thrifty they must be allowed to follow their natural propensity of roaming—always being within reasonable bounds.

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