

SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL

The Corn Field—Fodder Pulling.

We are again confronted with the question as to the expediency of stripping the blades from the stalks of corn, or "fodder-pulling." This question has been discussed for more than a generation by scientific men and by practical farmers, and many direct experiments have been made to determine whether or not removing the blades at the usual time injures the yield of grain more than the resulting net value of the fodder. The results of these experiments have been as various and conflicting as the conditions under which they were conducted. We still hold that fodder-pulling does not materially injure the grain if not done before the latter has become glazed and too hard to be easily cut with the thumb-nail. There are many fields in which this condition of the grain will not have been reached until after many of the blades have fired or died. In such cases the farmer may well pause and consider whether he will strip the blades before the corn is quite safe from injury, and thus get more and better fodder and less grain, or let the blades remain untouched and secure the largest possible yield of grain. No general rule can be given for guidance in such cases, but every farmer must exercise his own judgment. If there has been no other provision made for long forage, most farmers will not hesitate long before deciding to pull fodder, even at the certain cost of damage to the grain to the full net value of the fodder. The truth is we should not rely on this resource for fodder, but special hay or forage crops should be provided. There is nothing better than bright, well-cured corn-blades, and hardly any thing that costs more labor per ton to save. Moreover the fodder from a crop that will yield enough grain for all farm purposes will rarely amount to half a supply of long forage for the same farm. It will usually suffice for the plow animals and give an occasional bundle to cattle; but the crops often insufficient for the former. Any farmer who will make it a point to save all the hay that can be made, even from the ordinary uncultivated grasses, will realize the difference in cost and results between stripping corn-blades singly and by hand, and cutting grass with a mower, or even an ordinary grass-blade.

Meadows and Pastures

While sweltering under the heat of an August sun in the effort to save less than a fifth of a ton of fodder to the hand per day, and while, may be the small grain pasture is parched, dry and exhausted, it is a good time to think about sowing grass seed and making arrangements for pasture and hay for next year. Next month will be the time to commence sowing grass seed of most kinds for pasture or meadow. There are several species of natural and artificial grasses that are known to succeed well in the South under reasonable favorable conditions. Red clover will do on any soil that is in good heart; but it is hardly worth while to sow it on poor land. Indeed, no valuable grass will do well on poor land, and most of them will not even survive a sickly existence of one season. Orchard grass will grow in sun or shade and on most soils; tall oat grass will succeed well on light soils; Herds grass is well adapted to rather low wet lands; Bermuda is the best summer pasture grass; Johnson grass will grow wherever corn will grow, and yields enormous crops of hay. Get seed ready for sowing within the next two months. Barley and rye, however, both of which are grasses, are equal to any thing for pastures, and every farmer is familiar with them. Seed should be sown in September or October, the earlier the better, one bushel and upward of rye, and two bushels and upward of barley, to each acre, the better the land the heavier the seeding. The only objection to these as pasture grasses is the fact that they are annuals and the sowing must therefore be repeated every year. For green-sowing—that is cutting and feeding green to stock—there is nothing better than barley and rye—except lucern. But the soil should be rich and the seeding very much heavier. We have sown two bushels of seed rye on an acre of very rich soil, and thought the seedling some too heavy. The yield was enormous. On such rich lots three to four bushels of barley are not too many. If urged that such heavy seedings cost too much, it may be replied that two bushels of rye, or four bushels of barley on an acre of rich soil, will yield better results than the same quantity of seed spread over two acres of soil of only half the fertility.—Dixie Farmer.

The County Fair.

The county fair is chiefly what the county farmer will make of it. Often we go to one where it is stupid and dull in every line which depends on home people to make it interesting. The average farmer perches on the top-rail of the amphitheater—growing about the poor show of stock and products—never once reflecting on his own delinquency. Why has he never thought it his duty to add something to the show? It is no excuse that, he says, he has only common stock and old-fashioned things. Why has he not grown something that will do to show? There's pay in it. Why not breed a better class of stock and make the fair lively by entering in many of the rings. If he will do this he will find that he takes more interest in the fair—and a hundred visitors will know him—through report—where one will notice him on the perch of criticism. Let him think of it now and determine to have a few entries next year. It is a duty he owes to the fair, to his county and to him-

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

—Bran fed in summer will increase the milk product in cows that are being pastured in the fields.—Prairie Farmer. —Short pastures injure the grass and impose a burden on ruminant animals, which demand a good portion of the time for chewing the cud. —A good sauce to be served with bread pudding is made of two teaspoonsful of arrowroot, four dessert-spoonfuls of sugar, the juice of one lemon, half a pint of water and a very little grated nutmeg. Cook this until it is about as the perfect boiled custard. —Date Pies.—Bake the prepared fruit quickly in two crusts, adding a little cold water, a sprinkle of flour and dotting with butter before putting on the upper crust; or stew them in a very little water, sift and proceed as with squash, adding milk, eggs, spices and salt and baking in one crust.—Good Housekeeping. —To polish pure glass and remove slight scratches, rub the surface gently, first with a clean pad of fine cotton wool, and afterward with a similar pad covered over with cotton velvet which has been charged with fine rouge. The surface will, under this treatment, acquire a polish of great brilliancy, quite free from any scratches. —Those wishing to know the best means of removing moss and earth accumulations from an old shingle roof are advised to sprinkle lime freely along the comb of the roof, and let the rains dissolve and carry it over the shingles. Every particle of dirt and moss will be removed by it. If kept clean, shingles will last much longer. This method is as good and cheaper than any direct application to the shingles. —An extensive pork-raiser avers that success in feeding swine for profit undoubtedly consists in supplying them with sufficient good grass to keep up the waste of the system, supply animal heat and maintain a healthy growth. Then the extra food will be used for putting on flesh. The extra food digested all goes to profit, whereas the food that supplies the animal waste produces no gain in flesh; and if no more is fed than to supply waste in the young animal, the food is all thrown away. —Half a pound of dynamite placed upon the top of a large "hard-head" or "lowder" weighing anywhere from ten to one hundred tons will have a great effect. The rock directly under the cartridge will be as fine as meal, and the remainder so broken that it can usually be removed with a bar, or drawn out by horses, and put into a wall or otherwise disposed of. A rock that would cost ten dollars to remove in the old way can with dynamite be broken up for fifty cents.—American Agriculturist.

UNHONORED FRIENDS.

Animals, Birds and Insects and Their Relations to Agriculture. There still exist among farmers many a hazy idea as to what are their friends and what their foes in the animal world. That insects in general fall in the latter category is a very commonly received idea, but few being aware that some of our best insect destroyers are themselves insects, and that certain of the predaceous and parasitic ones form the most efficient check to the increase of the noxious members of the class. The same uncertainty as to the true relations of birds and mammals to our agricultural interests prevails almost universally. There is probably no more beneficial wild animal living in America than the skunk, and yet from time immemorial he has been shot on sight and dogged and hunted whenever and wherever he appears. It is true that his method of defense is unpleasant, but he never molests those who let him alone. His legitimate business, in which he does an untold amount of good, is digging up and devouring the common grub worm, the larva of Leachosternus fusca, a pest to all grass land and a curse in strawberry beds. When eggs and very young chickens are left exposed he will naturally avail himself of this more abundant supply of food, and who blames him? In the same way the true status of the birds of prey has never been fairly comprehended, or has been persistently denied. Hawks and owls have been shot and trapped whenever opportunity has offered ever since mankind began to keep poultry, and the reason given is that they catch young chicks. The same course of reasoning would justify a farmer in killing his cattle because they break through a weak spot in the fence and devour his corn; or in shooting his hens because they scratch up his lettuce bed in the garden. The amount of damage sustained by the farmer from the depredations of the great family of field mice and their allies is not easily estimated, but the loss of a few chickens can be reckoned with accuracy, so that only one side of the account appears, while the credit column, which does not appear, is by far the heavier of the two. The birds of prey constitute the principal and almost only efficient check upon the increase of destructive vermin, yet bounties are offered by States for the extermination of these conservators of the farmer's crops. What man or boy ever lets a snake escape if it is possible to kill it? Yet who of us can tell whether we are killing a friend or foe? We pursue the race remorselessly and do our best to exterminate it, but when asked for our reason or upon what data we rely for our justification, we have nothing, or at most very little, to say, as no extensive or systematic observations upon the food habits of snakes have yet been made. The farmer has probably more cause to complain of damage from insects than any thing else in the animal kingdom, and it behooves him, therefore, to know just where he can procure help in the destruction of these pests. One of Nature's most efficient checks upon their increase is found in the birds that are, with but few exceptions, the friends of the farmer, and should be encouraged and protected by him upon all occasions. Careful observations will confirm the above statement.—American Agriculturist.

USEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL.

How Women Should Dress When Doing Kitchen and House-Work. Outer garments should certainly be made in one piece. For stout women a wrapper made in Gabrielle or princess fashion is the most becoming, while for slender forms the plain full skirt attached to a Spencer or yoke waist is more desirable. For material, cotton goods—gingham, seersucker or calico—are the only suitable fabrics for working dresses. These can be worn the year round by lining with heavy unbleached muslin for winter, and, if necessary, adding another undergarment. In these one can always feel and look tidy. Woolen materials have such an affinity for ashes, dust and grease that if worn one must either spend much valuable time and strength on brushing and cleansing, or pass for a sloven. Gingham and seersucker are preferable to calico. It takes no longer to make them up, and, although they may cost twice as much, they will wear twice as long. The crinkled seersucker, too, require no starching, and but little, if any, ironing. Medium colors are to be preferred, except, perhaps, in midwinter. The accessories of a working toilet are as important as those of a ball attire. A white collar is indispensable. Some ladies prefer paper to linen for morning wear. As any thing white at the wrists is out of the question a ruffle of the same material as the dress forms a neat finish for sleeves. This may vary in width to suit the taste of the wearer. Neatly arranged hair is as important an item as the collar. Frizzes, while more becoming to most faces than plain bands or pompadours, are not altogether neat for the kitchen. Moreover, steam and perspiration are sworn foes to curls that are not natural. Kitchen aprons, gloves and caps to be worn when sweeping, dusting and attending to fires, are essential to cleanliness and soft hands. "Oh, I can't bother with gloves!" exclaims some one. How much trouble and time are necessary to the slipping on of a pair of loose gloves, kept in a convenient place? And how amply repaid is one for the infinitesimal amount of both involved when she takes up her sewing. Consider, too, how much more soothing the touch of soft hands to the little ones and invalids than that of hard palms and rough, crooked fingers. Caps should be worn only when necessary, as covering the hair tends to cause baldness. Shoes must not be forgotten. The ankles tire when slippers are worn, and heavy shoes are apt to cause weariness, although useful when the ground is wet. Cloth shoes with moderately thick soles are the most comfortable when working about the house. Be sure to wear shoes sufficiently large or you will reap a bitter harvest of corns, bunions and tender feet. Overshoes should be kept in a convenient place to be put on when necessary. Change the dress after bathing face, hands and combing hair, when the main work of the day is over. Rest and refreshment invariably attend this custom, no matter how tired one may be. If too utterly exhausted to attempt this, rest assured that you are overtaxing yourself to an extent dangerous in the extreme. Change of dress, if only from one calico to another, is always to be made then, if possible. A sponge bath of cold or tepid water also often rests one when very tired. This can be taken in ten minutes, as it is better, if one has not time to do more, to simply wring the cloth or sponge nearly dry and go over the surface of the body once, rubbing thoroughly afterward with Turkish towels, than to omit daily bathing entirely. Those who do household work to bathe oftener than those who do not. Pumice stone, good soap, scrubbing brushes for the hands, lemon juice for stains, and vaseline or rose water and glycerine or cold cream should be kept on shelf over kitchen sink. To apply one of the last frequently to the hands, and also to occasionally rub the face and neck with a dry cloth tends to keep the skin and hands in good condition. When you see the cloth after rubbing you will be amazed to discover that you had so dirty a face. The face and neck should always be cleansed before going to bed by using a dry cloth or one moistened in tepid water, or cold cream, or something of the sort, applied. For the morning and afternoon washes cold water is more refreshing and stimulating than warm. It is well always to apply an unguent after washing, rubbing off and in, when used during the day. By using these means no woman need have the coarse, rough, unnaturally dark skin which is undeniably produced by constant housework, unless some precautions be taken to counteract its effect. Have the appliances convenient, and after the habit of using them is once formed you will find it harder to forget these luxuries than it was at first to remember them.—Marie Merrick, in Table Talk.

EXCITING BUSINESS.

The Capture of Manatees on the East Coast of Florida. The east coast of Florida at one time not so very distant was the hunter's paradise. And even now, for the smaller game, there are few parts of the State where more fun can be enjoyed by the hunter or fisherman. The manatee, or "sea-cow," is one of the few large animals left in this section, and its pursuit is exciting in the extreme. It is a very peculiar animal, both in its appearance and habits, and its mode of capture is interesting. The manatee looks like a huge porker "squeezed fat," or an elongated "pancake." It is generally 8 to 12 feet in length, and from 4 to 6 feet broad, and it has a flat body. Its head is shaped something like a cow's, with a round muzzle. The skin is dark and rough, and hangs in folds similar to that of a hippopotamus or rhinoceros. It is sparsely covered with hair. The animal's eyes are well-nigh covered up by the folds of flesh or skin that hang loose around its head. The animals weigh from nine hundred pounds upward, and, though most helpless and ungainly looking creatures when on land, yet in the water they are exceedingly spry, their flukes and flippers sending them through the water with incredible speed. They are very acute of ear, and detect sounds on the water for a long distance, hence their capture is a matter of no small skill and dexterity. They live on grass almost wholly, and there are only a few places on the coast where they have feeding grounds. St. Lucie river, which opens into Indian river from the Hialehatchee creek some miles above this place, is their favorite haunt here. The stream is short, wide, and with little current. The waters are dark and the bed of the river is covered with a thick growth of vegetation, a "sea-cow" grass being the principal plant. Many other rare plants are also found along its banks, none of which grow elsewhere. Three fine specimens were captured last fall and two others a few months ago. The last party used a very heavy and strong purse net, strengthened with extra ropes. They selected a cove near the mouth of the river, where the water was about twelve feet deep. The net, which was about 300 long and with very large meshes, was extended between stakes set at the bottom and shaped so as to have an open place left at the lower side, as the manatee eat against the stream. After the trap was set the party retired to their camp, nearly a mile away, and patiently awaited results. The net was visited every day, but beyond an alligator or shark nothing was secured. At length, after eight or nine days of waiting, their patience was rewarded by finding, one noon, two fine specimens entangled in the net's meshes. The task to get them out was not an easy one by any means. While the animals were timid enough when not molested, yet when at bay they were antagonists not to be despised. The net was gradually brought in toward the shore, the animals making furious rushes and plunges as they felt the inclosing wings of the net. A fatboat was then pushed up close to the net, strong ropes were thrown around one of the manatees, and it was so tightly wrapped up and enveloped that it could not move. This was attended with considerable danger, and one of the men received a severe wound in the thigh from the creature's tusk, while another was knocked senseless by a blow from its huge and powerful tail. Both animals were finally secured, and then by means of powerful tackle lifted on to fats and placed in tanks. They were then taken to Titusville, shipped thence to Jacksonville, and after being exhibited there for several days, were forwarded to New York, there to be sold to a menagerie.—Jupiter Inlet (Fla.) Letter.

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How Women Should Dress When Doing Kitchen and House-Work. Outer garments should certainly be made in one piece. For stout women a wrapper made in Gabrielle or princess fashion is the most becoming, while for slender forms the plain full skirt attached to a Spencer or yoke waist is more desirable. For material, cotton goods—gingham, seersucker or calico—are the only suitable fabrics for working dresses. These can be worn the year round by lining with heavy unbleached muslin for winter, and, if necessary, adding another undergarment. In these one can always feel and look tidy. Woolen materials have such an affinity for ashes, dust and grease that if worn one must either spend much valuable time and strength on brushing and cleansing, or pass for a sloven. Gingham and seersucker are preferable to calico. It takes no longer to make them up, and, although they may cost twice as much, they will wear twice as long. The crinkled seersucker, too, require no starching, and but little, if any, ironing. Medium colors are to be preferred, except, perhaps, in midwinter. The accessories of a working toilet are as important as those of a ball attire. A white collar is indispensable. Some ladies prefer paper to linen for morning wear. As any thing white at the wrists is out of the question a ruffle of the same material as the dress forms a neat finish for sleeves. This may vary in width to suit the taste of the wearer. Neatly arranged hair is as important an item as the collar. Frizzes, while more becoming to most faces than plain bands or pompadours, are not altogether neat for the kitchen. Moreover, steam and perspiration are sworn foes to curls that are not natural. Kitchen aprons, gloves and caps to be worn when sweeping, dusting and attending to fires, are essential to cleanliness and soft hands. "Oh, I can't bother with gloves!" exclaims some one. How much trouble and time are necessary to the slipping on of a pair of loose gloves, kept in a convenient place? And how amply repaid is one for the infinitesimal amount of both involved when she takes up her sewing. Consider, too, how much more soothing the touch of soft hands to the little ones and invalids than that of hard palms and rough, crooked fingers. Caps should be worn only when necessary, as covering the hair tends to cause baldness. Shoes must not be forgotten. The ankles tire when slippers are worn, and heavy shoes are apt to cause weariness, although useful when the ground is wet. Cloth shoes with moderately thick soles are the most comfortable when working about the house. Be sure to wear shoes sufficiently large or you will reap a bitter harvest of corns, bunions and tender feet. Overshoes should be kept in a convenient place to be put on when necessary. Change the dress after bathing face, hands and combing hair, when the main work of the day is over. Rest and refreshment invariably attend this custom, no matter how tired one may be. If too utterly exhausted to attempt this, rest assured that you are overtaxing yourself to an extent dangerous in the extreme. Change of dress, if only from one calico to another, is always to be made then, if possible. A sponge bath of cold or tepid water also often rests one when very tired. This can be taken in ten minutes, as it is better, if one has not time to do more, to simply wring the cloth or sponge nearly dry and go over the surface of the body once, rubbing thoroughly afterward with Turkish towels, than to omit daily bathing entirely. Those who do household work to bathe oftener than those who do not. Pumice stone, good soap, scrubbing brushes for the hands, lemon juice for stains, and vaseline or rose water and glycerine or cold cream should be kept on shelf over kitchen sink. To apply one of the last frequently to the hands, and also to occasionally rub the face and neck with a dry cloth tends to keep the skin and hands in good condition. When you see the cloth after rubbing you will be amazed to discover that you had so dirty a face. The face and neck should always be cleansed before going to bed by using a dry cloth or one moistened in tepid water, or cold cream, or something of the sort, applied. For the morning and afternoon washes cold water is more refreshing and stimulating than warm. It is well always to apply an unguent after washing, rubbing off and in, when used during the day. By using these means no woman need have the coarse, rough, unnaturally dark skin which is undeniably produced by constant housework, unless some precautions be taken to counteract its effect. Have the appliances convenient, and after the habit of using them is once formed you will find it harder to forget these luxuries than it was at first to remember them.—Marie Merrick, in Table Talk.

EXCITING BUSINESS.

The Capture of Manatees on the East Coast of Florida. The east coast of Florida at one time not so very distant was the hunter's paradise. And even now, for the smaller game, there are few parts of the State where more fun can be enjoyed by the hunter or fisherman. The manatee, or "sea-cow," is one of the few large animals left in this section, and its pursuit is exciting in the extreme. It is a very peculiar animal, both in its appearance and habits, and its mode of capture is interesting. The manatee looks like a huge porker "squeezed fat," or an elongated "pancake." It is generally 8 to 12 feet in length, and from 4 to 6 feet broad, and it has a flat body. Its head is shaped something like a cow's, with a round muzzle. The skin is dark and rough, and hangs in folds similar to that of a hippopotamus or rhinoceros. It is sparsely covered with hair. The animal's eyes are well-nigh covered up by the folds of flesh or skin that hang loose around its head. The animals weigh from nine hundred pounds upward, and, though most helpless and ungainly looking creatures when on land, yet in the water they are exceedingly spry, their flukes and flippers sending them through the water with incredible speed. They are very acute of ear, and detect sounds on the water for a long distance, hence their capture is a matter of no small skill and dexterity. They live on grass almost wholly, and there are only a few places on the coast where they have feeding grounds. St. Lucie river, which opens into Indian river from the Hialehatchee creek some miles above this place, is their favorite haunt here. The stream is short, wide, and with little current. The waters are dark and the bed of the river is covered with a thick growth of vegetation, a "sea-cow" grass being the principal plant. Many other rare plants are also found along its banks, none of which grow elsewhere. Three fine specimens were captured last fall and two others a few months ago. The last party used a very heavy and strong purse net, strengthened with extra ropes. They selected a cove near the mouth of the river, where the water was about twelve feet deep. The net, which was about 300 long and with very large meshes, was extended between stakes set at the bottom and shaped so as to have an open place left at the lower side, as the manatee eat against the stream. After the trap was set the party retired to their camp, nearly a mile away, and patiently awaited results. The net was visited every day, but beyond an alligator or shark nothing was secured. At length, after eight or nine days of waiting, their patience was rewarded by finding, one noon, two fine specimens entangled in the net's meshes. The task to get them out was not an easy one by any means. While the animals were timid enough when not molested, yet when at bay they were antagonists not to be despised. The net was gradually brought in toward the shore, the animals making furious rushes and plunges as they felt the inclosing wings of the net. A fatboat was then pushed up close to the net, strong ropes were thrown around one of the manatees, and it was so tightly wrapped up and enveloped that it could not move. This was attended with considerable danger, and one of the men received a severe wound in the thigh from the creature's tusk, while another was knocked senseless by a blow from its huge and powerful tail. Both animals were finally secured, and then by means of powerful tackle lifted on to fats and placed in tanks. They were then taken to Titusville, shipped thence to Jacksonville, and after being exhibited there for several days, were forwarded to New York, there to be sold to a menagerie.—Jupiter Inlet (Fla.) Letter.

A Reliable Remedy.

ALCOCK'S PAIN EXPELLER never fails to give speedy proof of its efficacy as the best external remedy for Weak Back, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sciatica, Colds, Coughs, Sore Throat, Palmsorey and Kidney Difficulties, Malaria, Dyspepsia, Heart, Splice, Liver and Stomach Affections, Strains, and all Local Pains. They have been in use for over thirty years, and their value has been attested by the highest medical authorities as well as by voluntary and unimpeachable testimonials from thousands who have used them. Ask for ALCOCK'S, and let no explanation or solicitation induce you to accept a substitute. "Cross cut in halves will absorb the smell of new paint." Yes, and a corner will draw out a Jews-harp. Life is full of queer things. —Young Lady—"I want to look at a pair of eye-glasses, sir, of extra magnifying something very strong." Young Lady—"Yes, sir. While visiting in the country last summer I made a very painful blunder which I never want to repeat." Dealer—"May I ask what that—er—blunder was?" Young Lady—"Oh, yes. I mistook a bumble-bee for a blackberry." —"Now, Cloely," he said, as they stoted themselves on the grand stand, "if there is any thing you don't understand, just ask me and I'll tell you all about it." "Thank you, George," replied Cloely. "Who is that young man going about with the glasses; is he the umpire?" "No, he's the soda-water man. Here, young man, give us two glasses of lemon."—Drake's Magazine.

NOT POSTED.

"H'm! h'm!" ejaculated Jones while glancing over the morning paper, "I know I'm not well posted in physiology, but when it comes to reading that a man was 'shot in his saloon,' a 'boy mortally hurt in the alley,' and a 'woman injured on the back stairs,' I may as well own up to complete ignorance of those parts of the anatomy." —"What's the use of breaking your neck in running to a fire, Bill? It'll keep till you get there." "Keep nothin'!" said Bill, all out of breath, "it's one of those big, warranted, strictly fireproof buildings. I want to get there in time to see the walls fall in."—Chicago Tribune.

IN THE EIGHTY YEARS.

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