

Earm News.

Every farmer should learn to know dodder as soon as practicable. It is an evil to be understood before it arrives. Fortunately, not every farmer has yet seen this weed. It is apt to appear wherever there are farm or garden crops. We have seen it flourishing on the banks of a Kentucky railroad. The seed appears to germinate in the ordinary way. The plant as it grows, becomes a parasite and joins and feeds on the vegetable life near by.

It likes the clover plant very much, and so is apt to be seen in clover fields. Wherever it appears the requirements should be for utter destruction understood to be best secured by fire. Annihilate every particle of dodder. Our dodder, a species of what the botanists term Cuscuta, is an enemy given this country from abroad along with some other seed. The Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., is striving to correct the evil of adulterated seed.

The good farmer enriches his place with brains all the year through and does so at this season of the year especially, when there is more than the usual time for physical repose. The farmer will strive to avoid crowding. It should be his purpose not to enclose more livestock than he can shelter and feed well. Arrange to have crop raised properly wintered or sold. Have all the outbuildings thoroughly cleaned. This will tend to the comfort of the livestock and the destruction of the vermin.

A good farmer is not likely to bestow too much attention in his livestock. There are many points needing to be considered on this account. How many know what livestock is paying and what is not? Here is a cow. When she last had a calf the yield of milk was large. In a few months the record was lost—no notice was taken. The cows on the place gave in the aggregate plenty of milk for use. Some of the Agricultural Experiment Stations are doing splendid work in such matters. We have this statement of a cow. This animal started out in the lead in a considerable herd. She remained in this position for about two months. Soon she passed to the very last, except a two-year-old heifer, in the whole herd. The farmer should look largely and at all sides of the matters in which she is concerned.

There is far too much of the merely mechanical practical in feeding the livestock on the farm. Enough use is not made of the rough stuff. The concentrated feed is used far too often alone. It ought to be mixed with

less nutritious material and so detained in the intestines until acted on and there used. Even ordinary straw has been shown to be good for this use. It is reliably stated that the British farmer acts on the idea and is enabled to pay big rents and make good profit. He buys from us the concentrated material, he himself furnishing the rest.

DON'T PULL THE BLADES FROM CORN.

The farmer who pulls fodder, as it is called, is doing himself an injury. Pulling the blades causes a loss of two to three bushels of corn to each acre. Cut the corn with all the blades upon it when the grain is about hard enough to be gritty, and stack. The sugar in then in the stalk, and the stalk is worth 45 per cent of the entire crop. The stalks for sheep and cattle are almost as good as a ton of timothy hay, and if shredded is equal pound for pound. It is a great waste of labor to allow the stalks to stand in the field until the winds carry them off. Every ton of stalks will add a ton of fertilizer to the land, and certainly the soils need them.

Land intended for corn next season should be plowed this fall and the implement should be put not less than two inches deeper than any previous breaking. Run under all the weeds or vegetables substance that you have upon the land. Among the best varieties of corn are Hickory King, Virginia Dent and Boone Cant Dent. Any of these will give you the best of varieties, and can be purchased at any first-class seed store. If you will keep a lookout for articles in the Agriculturist you may find corn that has been bred for seed advertised. If you buy bro. corn, purchase it with the grains on the ears, so the perfection of the ears will be known. Plant early, keep the land stirred every ten days, do not plow deeper than three inches, do not turn land into ridges, but keep the land level, and in June plant cowpeas between the corn rows. The pea vines will pay for all the work and the corn will be clear profit under our directions.

MINERALS IN HOG FEED.

It may seem strange to some people to think that it is at all necessary to supply any mineral matter for hogs. It is usually considered that corn is the only feed needed for the hog and in that food he can find any and all elements necessary to his make-up. It is not uncommon to find a farmer that even discredits forage and pasture crops, believing that the hog cannot make a compensating use of them. There is always a very mistaken class of people that can't be told anything, but there are others that work along a mistaken line simply because they don't happen to be

A Bad Sign

J-23

informed.

Well, to come back to the subject, it is necessary to see to it that the hog has plenty of mineral matter in his feed and if there seems to be a deficiency it is an easy matter to supply it. It is best, when possible, to feed such stuff as to supply the minerals. I am not going to give a quality and quantity analysis of the different feedstuffs. You wouldn't remember it if I did. I will simply give a brief mention of some feeds. Corn is rich in fat forming elements, but has but very little minerals. Shorts seem to have some mineral matter. Root crops will supply lime, iron, etc, but I don't like the idea of having them root for them. Sugar beets are great for hogs if kept until winter. Cowpeas, rape, rye, pumpkins and such feeds will answer the purpose well. It is often necessary to supply additional minerals in addition to that found in natural feeds.

It is an old piece of admonition to supply plenty of salt and ashes. Allow me to say that you must keep this mixture dry. The ashes will supply lime, iron, soda, and, to some extent other minerals. I hardly ever mix up a pail of ground feed without putting in a small handful of salt. It aids to keep the stomach sweet and tends to purify the blood. It is said that the salt in the blood will destroy disease germs, as also will iron. I must not forget to mention copperas as one of the condiments. It is given in the salt and ash box or may be given in slops. Sulphur may be supplied in same way. Sulphur has long been known as a blood purifier.

You have often seen pigs get what is called rickets or bone weakness. This is due from a lack of mineral matter in the bones. May be prevented by above suggested lams and may be cured by giving air-slacked lime in feed. The hogs do not like this flavor very well and must be a little hungry at first. Try about a heaping teaspoonful of lime to a pailful of mixed feed. As they become accustomed to it they will not mind the dose. Then you can feed a handful at a time. In a week or two the cure ought to be effected.

The above treatment should be given for a weak back. This is usually a bone trouble. It is also considered advisable to give lime for worms. I will thus leave you with these few hints to find out for yourselves the value of and best way to supply hogs with mineral matter.

On all farms there are weeds that have medicinal qualities. These ought to be known to all the members of the farmer's family. It is thus worth while to become familiar with the qualities of the common vegetables growth. The live stock on farms can well be said to be often better botanists than their owners. It is common to see poisonous weeds in pastures passed over by cows. Yet the weeds are allowed to stand and rob the soil through ignorance of their true character by those who should know. The teaching of nature studies now urged for all the schools may lead to better things. An increase of knowledge of the weeds cannot fail to be helpful.

Considerable time is given to the study of the tendrils and the movements of the tendril-like parts of plants. It is considered as on the order of the wonderful the intelligence as it seems, thus shown. That which is fitted to give a support to the plant to which the tendril belongs is placed close at hand. A tendril has been seen here to turn around and make for a help of this order. The late Charles Darwin was the first to strikingly direct attention to this business. On every farm, especially in the good garden, there is much of the kind to be seen. The person who is expected to teach is often at present in deep need of being taught.

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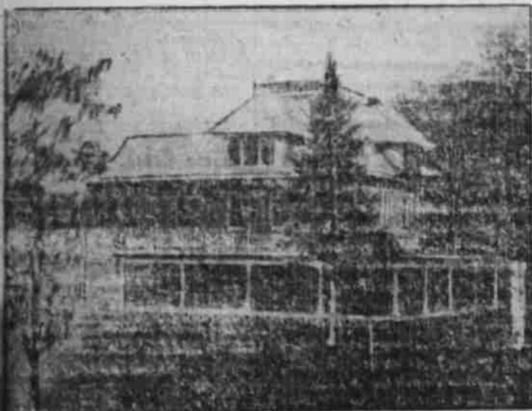
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