

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN

\$4.00 PER ANNUM.

A Journal Devoted to Agriculture, Live-stock, Home Reading, and General News.

10 Cts. PER SINGLE COPY.

VOL. 3.

DIAMOND CITY, M. T., OCTOBER 24, '78.

NO. 49.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

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## AGRICULTURAL.

The season for caring for the garden, shrubbery, orchards, etc., and preparing them for the winter is near at hand, and should by no means be neglected. The tender perennials that give fragrance to the flower yard should be taken up and carefully stored in the root house. The orchard trees should be mulched, so, also, should the garden shrubs, small fruits and strawberry beds. Potato vines make an excellent mulching for strawberries. They lie up open and are not so liable to smother out the plant as straw or other fine material, and may be put on much thicker. Gravel and sand is said to be an excellent mulching for fruit trees. We had at least rather risk than manure. Where the orchard and garden is so situated that the snow lodges in it, but little mulching is necessary. It is a good plan to plant strawberry beds where the snow lies in drifts during winter, for it will not melt until spring begins to advance, and the plant will commence to grow as soon as the covering vanishes. It is well to allow the late growth of weeds to remain in the orchard, as this will serve to hold the snow, which is the best protection that can be had. It is well also to look out for the rabbits. If the orchard fence is not a proof each tree should be furnished with a separate protection. If properly managed our small fruit gardens may be a source of continual profit, for they are unusually prolific in our climate, and are ever full to produce a crop. They are also less liable to be destroyed by worms and other enemies to fruit trees than in the

### MISTAKES IN FARMING.

Too many men attempt to farm without money. It is like a man going into business without capital; there is no getting out of it, and failure sooner or later is the inevitable consequence. Nature creates nothing, and there is no reason to believe that there is a particle of matter on the earth's surface now than there was in the dawn of physical history. Crops require from the soil necessary to their growth and development, and unless this or similar matter is returned to the identical spot, exhaustion is the consequence. Hence the farmer is obliged to be continually applying manure. But the stinginess with which some of our farmers put it down is remarkable. As if there was no limit to the capacity of their lands, they make continual drafts out of their deposits to cancel the loss. The wrong. Farming must be a failure without manure.

Another serious mistake is, attempting to cultivate too much land. Any one attempting to perform more than he can do, will break down. Besides, the greatest foe of good work, crops are ruined by haste and slovenly, nothing prospers that should, because it does not receive the attention that it should, and energy is expended in attempting to grasp what cannot be held. Do not overcrop. Calculate your yield, and deduct a fourth at least for waste, and other contin-

It is a mistake to expect to succeed at farming without plenty of good honest work. Some men may have made money without work, but no farmer ever made a crop without a good deal of this indispensable article. Some men contrive to shirk as much of it as possible, but the result invariably is, crops and money shirk them, and in harvest they have little to reap but disappointment. Don't delude yourself into the mistake that corn, potatoes, etc., will grow, unless somebody stirs the soil and keeps down the weeds. You must know that work pays in proportion as it is honest and thorough.

Using poor tools is another grave error with many. A few more dollars laid out in the best implements would prove wise economy in time and labor. Poor tools severely tax the energies of man and beast, slow progress is made, and work cannot be well done. Even our best implements are imperfect—how much more so the clumsy things many still persist in using. Get the best tools, and take all due care of them, but make them cut while they last;

Going into debt has wrecked more fortunes and hopes, made more mortgages and brought more wrinkles to the brow than any mistake farmers are chargeable with. Very few have the strength to resist the temptation to buy when they see what they want, and can get it on their credit. Now, the mere contracting a debt to be paid at some future time is not an evil in itself if one knows of a certainty that he will have the means to pay when the debt becomes due. But hundreds do not stop to consider this. They buy on some uncertain and often delusive hope of the future, and when the time comes they are probably no better prepared to pay than at first. Thus they inconvenience others; lose credit and at last bring themselves to grief. Take care how you make debts. It is a dangerous resort, avoid it as long as possible.

Renting lands is another serious mistake with many. It may do to start with, but leave it off as soon as possible. It is not profitable—sooner or later you will regret it—it is best to have a stable abode, though it may be narrow and humble. There are other mistakes that might be mentioned, but the removal of the above will smooth the way to the removal of the rest. Try and see.—*Rural Messenger.*

### AFTER-CULTURE OF WHEAT.

The practice of using the drill and the cultivator in growing the wheat crop, is evidently and rapidly winning the approval of practical men, as it may with good reason, for it has all the previous presumptions clearly in its favor, as well as the analogy of other crops, and it is also sustained by the conclusions of science, and the testimony of advanced farmers. There is so much to be said in favor of this plan, that every wheat grower in the country ought at least to give it a fair trial.

It is recommended not merely by the saving of seed, and the uniform depth of planting secured by the drill, (which is a great security against freezing out,) but equally by the trifling cost of cultivation, as compared with the result, and by the surprising increase of yield, when the process is rightly managed.

In all the trials of this plan that have come to our knowledge, we have heard of but one that did not succeed, and in that case a better result is confidently expected at the next trial. In truth, the only surprise is, that a mode of culture so evidently sound, and so decidedly profitable as this has thus far proved to be, should have been so long neglected. If the extermination of weeds, and the development of latent fertility by pulverizing and aerating the soil are found, as a general rule, both useful and necessary in promoting the yield of crops, then so much the more are they needed in the case of this cereal, not only on account

of its vast importance, but from the fact of its serious decline in recent years over large areas of country.

Here then we have, within easy reach, one of the most reliable means of reviving and restoring to its ancient affluence, a crop which though of great value and national importance, is, in some sections of the country, gradually disappearing from our husbandry, in consequence of inexcusable neglect. A process that is found to increase the yield of a great national food staple from fifty to one hundred per cent, at a cost of five or six dollars per acre, is not a matter to be overlooked by intelligent farmers, and there is no reason why this method of treatment of wheat, should not be universally adopted before the close of another decade, if not even at the beginning. This method is largely practiced in England, and in their average yearly product is more than double our own. In this country some enterprising farmers have already reached results quite equal to those of our English cousins, and which, when compared with our general average, are simply amazing, and quite sufficient to prove the necessity of abandoning the old method.

Mr. J. M. Heiges, of York county, Pa., who was a successful wheat grower, even by the ordinary method, found by repeated trials that the yield could be increased by hoeing from twenty-three bushels per acre, to fifty-five bushels, and in one case, by judicious manuring, he reached a product of seventy-one bushels.

L. W. Groff, of Lancaster Co., Pa., has lately given much study and attention to this subject. He finds that a drill of six feet between the wheels, and with four tubes, instead of eight, gives space sufficient for the horse-hoe in cultivating, and has produced by this method sixty-one bushels per acre, which is more than double the normal yield of his land.

Mr. A. E. Blunt, of the Tennessee Agricultural Station, finds sixteen inches between the drills the distance for after-culture, and obtained in 1877 (with a top dressing of salt and ashes) a yield of sixty-seven bushels per acre. Though it is true that these figures are exceptional, yet they can nearly always be approximated by intelligent farmers, and the contrast they present to the current average yield is something more than remarkable, it is positively startling.

May we not then confidently expect to see this mode of culture very promptly and generally adopted by our farmers? If it is not, the fault and the loss will be their own. If, on the other hand, this reformed culture should be at once accepted as the general rule of our practice, the effect would be to nearly double the capacity of production for every acre of this cereal in the country, and the wheat crop of the new decade, now near at hand, would probably show a yield of over seven-hundred million bushels.—*Rural New Yorker.*

### AUTUMN WORK IN THE GARDEN.

Autumn work in the garden embraces almost everything in the way of securing and preserving. By this time all the tender flowering and other plants should be put under shelter. Dahlias and other late flowering bulbs keep best either in dry sand in the cellar or simply on a scaffolding where they will not freeze, or sprout by too high a temperature from heaters. A number of flowering plants that cannot stand open exposure can be preserved by laying down and covering with an inch or two of earth. Nearly all our best roses suffer more or less from exposure through the winter. To protect them some people stick round them cedar branches, and this in many instances is some protection. It is, however, more trouble and less certain than laying down where there is room to do it.

It is useless to attempt to raise fine raspberries if allowed to endure the blasts of

winter. Satisfactory crops it is impossible to obtain. Prune the canes ready for spring, and lay down in the rows, and kept there with a forked stick, covered with about two inches of soil, or with leaves or straw, and they will come out in the spring in perfect order. This work, however, should not be done until the end of November; unless there is an early winter. A dozen loads of good manure can be made by gathering up all the rubbish of the garden; vines, weeds, sods, leaves, grass, stalks, etc., and putting them in a bed as follows: First a layer of this debris, then of soil or sods, then a little good manure to give the pile tone, and so on layer after layer until the whole is used up. The mass soles out the very best manure in the spring for the garden, and besides affords a most convenient means to get rid of the trash.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

## THE HOUSEHOLD.

### RECIPES.

**Custard Cake.**—Take one cupful of sugar, one egg, one teaspoonful of butter, three-fourths of a cupful of milk, two cupfuls of sifted flour, and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. For the cream, use one cupful of milk, the yolk of one egg; one-half cupful of sugar, and two tablespoonfuls of corn starch.

**Cream Cake.**—Mix three cupfuls of sugar, four eggs, one cupful of milk, one teaspoonful of soda, three-fourths cupful of butter, and four cupfuls of flour. For the cream, use one pint of milk, three eggs, four large spoonfuls of flour or corn starch; sweeten to taste, and flavor. Let the milk come to a boil, then add the other ingredients, well beaten.

**Repelling Bed Bugs.**—If bedsteads are thoroughly washed on the unpainted or unpolished parts, with the strongest of hot alum water, it will entirely destroy the bugs and their eggs, and it is a perfectly safe application; but Paris green, which has been often used for this purpose, is, in reality, dangerous, for if it is inhaled its effects are very poisonous. After bugs are once removed, they can be kept away by scattering powdered luteo into all the crevices of the bedstead, and rubbing into the bindings of the mattresses and feather beds.

**Cooking fowls.**—Kill the fowl, no matter what kind it may be, by cutting off the head; hang up by the feet till free of blood; then carefully remove all the entrails and crop; use no water in the operation; save upon your hands before commencing; be careful not to remove or disturb the feathers; stuff the fowl with ordinary stuffing; then wrap the body up in wet brown paper and roast in the ashes of the kitchen fire, as you would potatoes, till done. The time consumed in roasting will depend on the age and kind of fowl. There is no danger of burning, if properly attended to, and better be overdone than rare. When you think the fowl sufficiently done, take out the embers and unroll carefully; remove the feathers and skin together; place upon a large dish and carry to the table. A sweeter fowl you never ate.

**Very Nice Fritters.**—may be made by simply rolling the plain dough, after it has risen, of course, and cutting and frying as doughnuts, to be eaten with syrup or sauce. By putting a lump of risen dough into a pudding-bag, tying, leaving room to swell, putting into a pot of boiling water, and boiling an hour or more, according to size, you have an excellent plain pudding, but it should be eaten with rich sauce.

**Cooking Meat.**—The operation of cooking should be so conducted as to prevent as far as possible any loss of the juice, as it contains not only a most palatable element, but is also one of the most nutritious portions of the article. When the meat is salted a large portion of the juice is extracted and forms brine, which becomes partly solid if heated.