

Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

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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.

ALTHOUGH our farmers have labored under a great many difficulties they have succeeded pretty generally in getting in a pretty fair acreage, and some are still sowing, which is commendable even at this late day, yet the better policy would have been to put on a larger force of men and stock and close the seeding during the month of May. With judicious culture, however, a fair crop may be had from the latest sowing. We have in the past recommended bountiful watering as the production may be greatly enhanced as a general rule by so doing, but this year it will not do to take such risks. It is better to sacrifice quantity to quality, therefore a scanty supply of water, just enough to keep the grain growing and ripen it early should be used. Copious watering has a tendency to make grain late. We will probably have a fair growing season, although it has had a backward start, and in the event of a favorable fall the harvest will be large.

ANOTHER STRING BINDER.

A Texas Statesman's reporter had the pleasure of witnessing one of the greatest inventions of this century, yesterday on F. W. Hennig's farm about twelve miles north of Austin. It was one of the D. M. Osborne & Co. harvesters and self-binders, which cut and bound perfectly green oats with cord or wire, and performed its work with accuracy and dispatch in every respect. We noticed that in this cord binder the serious objections which exist in all other cord binders, namely, the binding of a bundle loose is entirely overcome in the Osborne machine, as it binds as tight as can be bound with wire. Another very important feature in this machine which gives it the preference to all other cord binders is, that it can be changed from a cord to a wire binder in a very short time by simply taking out certain pieces and replacing them by others. This enables all those who have the Osborne wire binders, to attach a twine binder, which the company will be able to furnish next year at the trifling cost of \$20. The trial was witnessed by many of the best farmers in the vicinity, and the machine pronounced the best in the market.

GROWING POTATOES.

I have given special attention to the culture of potatoes for years, with results far better than from any other crop that I have grown. I plant only the leading varieties, principally Early Rose, and only one variety in a field. I prefer to let others do the experimenting with the many different varieties that have not found their way into market yet. Secondly, I plant only perfect

seed, selected to a nicety. They are not the largest or the smallest, but such as any one would call a sizable baking potato. I believe in cutting, but not to single eyes. I cut from three to four eyes to a piece which, however, I defer till the very time of planting. This insures me a growth in every hill. Cutting too long before planting causes the potatoes to dry and become spongy, which prevents them from making a vigorous start, and often causes many hills to miss. I always consider a vigorous start the secret of a good crop. I think that the cut should be fresh, so that the moisture from the potato causes the earth to adhere to it, and draws the nutriment from the soil more readily, and instead of a sickly plant, it makes its appearance vigorous and very dark—almost the color of the soil.

My method of planting probably differs from many others. Many farmers row their fields both ways so as to enable them to cultivate both ways, and have the hills distinct. I row my field only one way, 2 feet 8 inches apart. I then plant in drills, dropping the potatoes about 15 inches apart. They are well covered with a cover drawn by two horses. After they make their appearance, I cover them again to the depth of 2 or more inches. This has a two-fold tendency; it causes the vines to stock more, and also checks the growth of weeds. After they are well up the second time (in fact as soon as they puncture the earth of the second covering), I commence working with the cultivator, and always feel well paid for extra cultivation. In fact I never feel better paid for any farm labor than for the man and horse kept in the field till the tops become too large to work among. The final hilling is deferred till the tops nearly cover the ground. Every weed which has escaped the cultivator is pulled up root and branch, which leaves the more nourishment for the crop; besides it is really gratifying to see a field, let it be large or small, without a weed or anything except what pertains to the crop.

I will also give my method of preparing the soil. We cannot expect to receive from the soil unless we give freely; therefore I claim that five acres, well manured and well tilled, will bring a greater return than twice that number of acres "worked at." "Anything worth doing at all is worth doing well." I put as much barnyard manure on my field as will plow under. I plow early, for the action of the air is very beneficial to the soil; it becomes light and mellow. The plowing should be done as soon as the soil is suitably dry, and the more cultivation it receives the better the crop. I turn a furrow about 8 inches wide and 6 inches deep, using a jointer attachment. I allow it to lie in furrow about three weeks, when I give it a thorough harrowing; they follow with cultivator. The latter is repeated two or three times before planting. The first of June is soon enough for Early Rose, though the number of acres often forces us to commence planting a little sooner.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

HAVE YOU A STRAWBERRY BED?

This question is put to every reader who has the land, and especially to every farmer, who having the land, is very apt to not have strawberries. Without taking space to inquire why the farmer, who of all others should have an abundance, so generally has no strawberries, we put in our plea for his family, and insist that he shall provide them with this excellent fruit—not only a few as a luxury, but an abundance. There is just one time to make a strawberry bed, and that time is now! Under any circumstances a strawberry plant must grow a season before it will give a crop; there is no way in which plants may be set this spring and give fruit the same season. If any nursery agent offers such—don't buy them. Much that has been said about strawberry culture has conveyed the impression that it is a great deal of trouble; that runners have to be cut off and much care given otherwise, while in fact it is no more trouble to raise strawberries, than it is to grow carrots. But the cost? Is very little—nothing compared with the result in fruit. One can begin as small as he pleases; if he can not afford the outlay for a large bed, let him buy enough for a start and raise his own plants. It makes no difference where the farmer may

be, if he gets the *American Agriculturist*, he can have strawberry plants—the mail brings both. A dozen, or a hundred plants come by mail, and when one has even but a dozen plants, his strawberry future is provided for. "It is the first step which tells." While we have in view especially the family comfort, it may be well to consider that in most localities enough berries can be sold from the first crop to pay for the whole outlay—only don't sell and let the family go without, but have enough for both demands.

How many shall I plant? will be one of the first questions to decide. An ordinary family should have at least 200 plants, and generally 400 will not be found too many if the fruit is used freely. It is better to provide for an abundance.

What kind?—If restricted to one kind, we have no hesitation in saying, Charles Downing. If there are successful strawberry growers in the vicinity, find what does best with them and plant the same kind. If 100 plants are set there may safely be four kinds. Charles Downing, Monarch of the West, Clampton, and Sharpless, would be a good selection, but it may be varied and not go amiss.

How to Plant.—Select a good bit of soil, all the better if it was in potatoes last year, and if practicable within sight of the house, and prepare it just as you would for a good crop of cabbages; this means an abundance of the best manure well worked in. Mark out the rows two feet apart, three if a cultivator is to be used, and set the plants one foot apart in the row, using a trowel to open then the ground, and when the plant is put in, crowd the soil down firmly over the roots with both hands. Thereafter run the cultivator, hoe, or rake, often enough to make the soil mellow and keep down the weeds. The plants will by and by throw out runners; turn them into the row and let them take root. For the after treatment of the bed, consult "Notes about Work" at the proper season.

Raising Plants.—If it is preferred to buy a few plants to start with and raise a stock to put out next year, set these two feet apart each way, and let runners form. Ashes are very useful to promote growth of runners. Finally, plant strawberries—and do it this spring.—*American Agriculturist.*

WHEN TO CUT WHEAT.

Although the crop may promise well, the real value of it in money to the farmer, will depend in a great measure upon how it is harvested. In regard to the best time for cutting wheat, it is the experience of many that it is better to begin the moment it is "out of the milk," and under no circumstances to let it stand any longer after that time than is necessary to get over the ground with the harvesting machine. The grain then, may seem too green, but it will mature into just as fine quality, and greater quantity certainly, than if allowed to stand until dead ripe and shell out, even if whole heads are not lost by "crinkling" and going back to the ground. Commence early and you will get through the earlier and better for it, and have more money for your labor in the end. After all the expense, labor and uncertainty passed through to mature a crop, it is of the utmost importance, of course, to save it all in the best manner at the last end, and if farmers would generally begin harvesting earlier, we believe the results would show not only a better grade of wheat, but a larger yield secured, besides the many other advantages all good farmers will appreciate, of getting their work well along seasonably, and ahead of any possible delays from the weather or other causes.—*Osborne Monthly.*

The Poultry Yard.

POULTRY AND EGG PRODUCTION.

In the production of poultry and eggs, France takes the lead of all European nations. In Normandy and Brittany, the French peasantry can't do much else on their small farms, and so they turn their energies in this direction. The fowls are kept in their tiny freeholds, of from a few rods to a few acres in extent, and so extensive is the business carried on that last year France exported to England alone nearly seven

million dollars' worth of eggs. Of late the peasantry have adopted a new mode of feeding, especially when fattening for market; and so far the experiment has proved satisfactory, and withal is so novel that we give it, in order that those interested in poultry may test the value of the food and the rich flavor imparted to the fowls.

It is well known that fowls of nearly all kinds are very fond of vegetables, especially cabbage, and even tomatoes when ripe. The French peasantry, acting upon this knowledge, boil or steam carrots and feed liberally, which kind of food not only produces fat very rapidly, but gives a peculiar and sweet flavor to the flesh. The experiment has been so successful that the largest poultry raisers for the city markets have adopted the method in connection with wheat, and find it very profitable. For egg production, the French were the first to discover the merits of wheat, and they at once adopted it as the best feed for fowls when laying.

DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN IN POULTRY.

The following interesting remarks on the above subject are from the pen of M. Lecouteux, the talented editor of a French contemporary:

One of the chief causes of the frequent failure of those who attempt to rear young chickens is, that so few people attach sufficient importance to the desirability of keeping them free from vermin. Scarcely any fowls are entirely free from these parasites.

Artificial mothers, even, cannot be kept entirely free from these dangerous enemies, although the lice found upon the chickens hatched in an incubator are not to be compared to those that infest birds hatched and reared under the wing of their mother.

The louse that I have found in chickens that have been kept free from contagion is a comparatively large one. It is said their appearance is spontaneous. They are usually found in the head, and in groups of six or eight, for a solitary one is rarely met with. They are easily seen, and may be known by their size and black color, and they stick fast to the down of young chicks, so that it is necessary to use tweezers or a piece of thorn to detach them. If, during the first twenty days after hatching, care be taken to search young birds well to keep them free from these pests, there will be no more difficulty, for these lice are not bred upon chickens which are more than three or four weeks old. Of course, it is important that the eggs should be destroyed, and this could not possibly be done with the hand on account of the small size and the number of these eggs, and the way in which they stick to the down of the bird, therefore a little oil should be put in different parts of the body of the chick, and this will do all that is desired.

But supposing that young chickens are freed from this particular parasite, there is another to be guarded against, and one that is still more dangerous because it is smaller and comes in larger numbers. I speak of the small louse that is found in adult poultry under the wings, in the down of the tail, and indeed in every part where the heat is concentrated.

A hen that is infested with these vermin will waste away even when well fed, and if she sits will leave her eggs, on account of the torment she endures from them. This louse lays an enormous number of eggs, and generally deposits them in groups, which stick to the small feathers of the neck; and it is best to take some scissors and to sacrifice these feathers, being careful always to throw them in the fire, so that the eggs may be quite destroyed.

Many remedies have been tried in order to get rid of these vermin in fowls, but none have been entirely successful. The pests may have been reduced in number, but not destroyed.

Cinder dust, insect powder and snuff, all sprinkled on the skin and in the feathers, have been used, and of late years it has been recommended that the fashionable remedy, petroleum, should be employed for that purpose. Experience, however, proves as follows:

Cinder dust, snuff and insecticide are palliatives. They destroy a large number of lice, but the treatment needs to be repeated at least every fortnight. Petroleum certainly

kills them utterly, but it also kills the fowl, and it is my experience that this remedy is never successful with a bird that is less than five months old. An animal is sure to languish and die three or four days after petroleum has been applied.

Perhaps the reason is that petroleum is absorbed by the pores, and the bird is poisoned; or, may be, it is killed by a cauterization, for there is cauterization, since the entire first becomes red, then curls up and peels off.

It is best to keep to the old methods, for, though less vigorous, they are at least free from danger; or else, better still, leave the fowls to take care of themselves.

Let them have a large heap of sand mixed with ashes, and let them roll about and dress their feathers in that. Only be careful that this heap is sheltered from the rain, and if possible, exposed to the sun. Keep the fowls in dry places; damp, even warm damp, causes vermin to breed. Let perches and partitions be whitewashed two or three times a year. Avoid putting a litter of hay or straw in the runs, and what is most important, sprinkle sand on the floors. Very frequently, and especially in the summer months, hay and straw harbor a kind of long, thin and blackish flea. These creatures will attack poultry in swarms; they are even worse than ordinary vermin, for they literally suck the blood of their victims and reduce them to skeletons.

And after all, vermin being a consequence of carelessness, the best way of preventing their appearance is to be scrupulously clean. When a large number of fowls is kept, it is almost impossible to keep perfectly free from the nuisance, but at least matters can be so arranged that everything unpleasant may be avoided.—*London Live Stock Journal.*

The Household.

Marlborough Pudding.—Stew a few apples and strain them, add a teacup of butter, a teacup of sugar, a teacup of cream, the juice of twelve lemons, with the best part of the grated rind, a little mace, and four eggs, beaten lightly, and to be baked in a rich paste.

English Buns.—Quarter pound of flour, half pound of butter, four eggs, one wine-glass of yeast, one pint of milk, one wine-glass of brandy and rosewater mixed, with a little cinnamon and nutmeg. After it is well raised add a half pound of sugar and six ounces of flour. Bake in a moderately hot oven.

Lemon Ginger Cake.—Quarter pound of butter, half pound of sugar, three eggs, one small cup of milk, the same quantity of molasses, three and a quarter pounds of flour, a teaspoonful of ginger, one of cinnamon, a tablespoonful of saleratus dissolved in the milk, the rind of two lemons and the juice of one. Bake in a quick oven.

Surprise Loaves.—Mix four ounces of grated ham with one pound of mealy potatoes well beaten till quite light, with two spoonfuls of butter, a little cream and two eggs. Be careful not to make it too soft. Form into small loaves or balls, and fry in butter, a light brown. Serve with a thick, brown, high-seasoned gravy; garnish with parsley.

Notions.—Take one pint of flour and make into dough, as soft as can be rolled, with sweet milk, a salt-spoonful of salt, and two ounces of butter and two ounces of lard. Roll out into round cakes nine inches in diameter, and of wafer-like thickness. In baking, do not allow them to brown, but remove from the oven while they retain their whiteness.

Good Toast.—Speaking of toast, comparatively few know what really good toast is. A hasty slice of one or both sides does not make toast, nor do thin slices of bread dried through. Cut slices of uniform thickness, a plump one-half or five-eighths inch; move around over a brisk fire, to have all parts toasted alike; keep only so near the coals that the pieces will be heated through when both sides are well browned. If the slightest point is blackened or charred, scrape it off, as it will spoil the flavor of the whole. If covered with an earthen bowl, it will keep both warm and moist. A clean towel or napkin will answer if it is at once to go to the table. But nobody can make good toast out of poor bread. Stale bread may be used for milk toast; sour bread may be improved by toasting it through; heavy bread makes poor toast. Sweet, light bread, only a day old, or less, makes the best toast.