



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...

Table with 12 columns and 6 rows showing advertising rates for different durations and quantities.

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Remittances by registered letter, post-office order or draft at our risk; but not at our expense. Any one failing to receive his paper regularly should notify us promptly by postal card.

Agricultural.

If your roots are not securely stored, lose no time until it is done.

The grain yield this season exceeds anything the country has known since 1873.

FRUIT trees, shrubs, strawberry beds, etc., should be mulched, but it is too early yet to apply it.

Do not close your root house doors until it is absolutely necessary to prevent the vegetables from freezing.

The lowest estimate of the wheat yield per acre from any section of the Territory this year is 20 bushels and the greatest 36 bushels.

Up to this writing there are localities where the frost has not yet killed all the tender vegetables, but the time is not far distant when it will.

The Journal of Agriculture has recently undergone a considerable improvement and now appears in the popular pamphlet form for agricultural prints.

The Western Rural, one of our leading agricultural exchanges has been changed in form, and greatly enlarged and improved. It is now one of the handsomest of our agricultural exchanges.

Corn fodder is an excellent crop to grow for dairy cows. It will increase the milk both in quantity and quality, and our milk can be made to produce enough per acre to make it a profitable crop. Try it another year.

The increase of acreage of grain this season over last is placed at 21 per cent. The increase of yield of wheat four bushels per acre, oats ten bushels per acre. This gives the Territory a much larger crop than ever before.

We are getting the statistical department of this branch of the agricultural bureau very complete. We have a large corps of very able correspondents, who are prompt, and upon whose judgment the country can safely rely.

ACCORDING to the statistical returns received at this office for October, the average wheat yield of the Territory is 28 bushels per acre, and the oat yield is 46 1/2 bushels. The report is complete from every county in the Territory, and is as near correct as it is possible to obtain. We are confident that if the whole crop was measured the yield would not vary as much as a bushel from this estimate.

The low price of grain will tell severely on the farmer's bank account this year, and diminish a system of economy heretofore unknown to Montana husbandry.

ALTHOUGH the indications are such as to warrant the assumption that the coming winter will be light, farmers and stockmen should prepare for a severe one, just the same. There is nothing lost in being fortified against the cold blasts of winter, whether they prove severe or not.

It must be remembered that the threshing is not yet through, and the estimates of our correspondents are liable to increase or diminish slightly. The work, however, has advanced far enough to warrant the report being accurate enough for all practical purposes.

GOOSEBERRY and raspberry canes should be laid down after the first light freeze, and covered lightly with earth. Hay and straw would be a good mulching, did it not afford too good a chance for mice to depredate. A light covering of earth will not impair the canes and will give these pests no show.

The Country Gentleman recommends the planting of English ivy on the bare ground under trees where grass will not grow; adding that where the winters are too severe for it when trained on walls it will often remain uninjured on the ground. Plants should be set within four or five feet of each other and plenty of old manure given.

An exchange says: Every farmer should understand something of agricultural chemistry, and of botany. He can then tell just what sorts of plant food his crops require, and he need not put constituents on or in the soil that are not going to benefit him. Feed the plants according to their necessities. This is as essential to plants as to animals. Animals fed according to their necessities will thrive and become a source of profit. Plants treated similarly will produce similar results. Study the effect of the air and water upon the soil—for these three combined are the sources of fertility in all crops.

FARMING BY IRRIGATION.

It is a little remarkable to note the strong aversion that people unaccustomed to the advantages of irrigation have to it, and stranger still to note that there are some in our midst who have practiced it for years who regard it as an untried task and would rather have it rain. These, however, are a shiftless class, who have neither energy nor industry. No intelligent, industrious farmer would for a moment think of changing the condition of things, where irrigation is possible, for that of the States, where it is not and the rains must be depended upon instead. Rains would be very nice if we could all have them when needed, and if all would get ready for them at the same time, but this being impossible, irrigation is far more preferable. The man who has his water ditches properly constructed need not enter into his closet to pray for rain when his crop needs it, but can go to the head of his ditch, raise his flood gates and turn on the water. He can do this, too, without disturbing his neighbor, and the advantage of such a system is too apparent to be questioned for a moment. The result is we find better yields in Montana than anywhere that irrigation is not practiced, which is positive proof of man's ability to make a better season than nature will furnish. If the slow-going, shiftless farmer of our Territory, who grumbles at the labor of applying the water, would but reflect for a moment on the inconceivable countries where this advantage is not possessed, and he would be satisfied that instead of a drawback, it is one of the greatest advantages a country can possess. A Colorado correspondent, writing to the Western Rural, gives the following gloomy account of this mode of husbandry:

"Irrigation is the moistening of crops at the will of the farmer, or as Webster defines it, it is the act of flowing water over land to nourish crops. Irrigation has been practiced in parts of Europe and Asia for more than a thousand years, and is old and new Mexico for perhaps a century. Northern Italy

has by means of irrigation become the richest agricultural portion of the world. In India the British government has expended with great success, several million pounds sterling in canals for irrigation, and in California large irrigation works have been in operation for many years. The numerous streams of the Rocky Mountains, flowing to the eastern slope of the State of Colorado, offer special advantages for irrigation and for more than twenty years this valuable adjunct to farming has been carried on in a limited way by the settlers. The widely known Greeley Colony, founded twelve years ago in Colorado by Horace Greeley, owes its great success in agriculture exclusively to irrigation. The favorable results produced in Colorado by the practice of irrigation in a small way, have attracted English and Scotch capitalists to that State, and within the last three years three canals of considerable magnitude have been completed, and notably among these is that known as the "High Line" or Platte Canal, constructed for a distance of eighty-two miles across the rolling prairies east of Denver, at a cost of nearly one million dollars. This canal is forty feet wide and six feet deep and draws its fertilizing waters from the Platte river at a point in the mountains of sufficient elevation to carry them out upon the divides and uplands between the valleys. The canal is capable of carrying twelve hundred cubic feet of water per second of time, and may be made to irrigate one hundred thousand acres of land. A cubic foot and forty-four one-hundredths of water running per second is the quantity necessary for irrigating eighty acres. No more than three irrigations during the season are necessary for producing good crops of cereals. From three to five inches of water in depth, are applied to the land at each irrigation. Sometimes two irrigations are sufficient. The irrigation season begins about May 15th and ends August 15th. After the latter date corn, potatoes and vegetables are irrigated a little. Where crops are planted in drills the water is run between the drills. Wheat and oats are irrigated by making small ditches through the field with a plow. These ditches are made from fifty to one hundred feet apart and the water is conducted from the main canal to the furrows by means of permanent ditches, varying in width from two to four feet, and in depth from six inches to one foot, or more. Two men can easily do the work of irrigating a hundred acres and one man has sometimes been found who irrigated eighty to one hundred acres. After the farmer has exercised all his skill and energy in cultivating his land and in selecting the seed and planting it, it must afford him a great deal of satisfaction and also inspire him with much confidence when he knows he has it within his power to apply the moisture to his crops whenever he sees it is needed. The farmer who has been accustomed to irrigation would be very slow in returning to the States, where the results of his labor would depend entirely upon the rains. It is somewhat surprising to those who have seen irrigation in practical operation and the large and steady yields in crops that are raised by this means, that it has not been adopted in some parts of the Middle and Eastern States. A striking example of the virtue of irrigation is to be seen at this time—September 6th—in the contrast between the deep green corn fields of Colorado and the brown and parched fields of some of the sister States where the hot winds and drought have burned the fodder to a crisp. The principal irrigation canals in Colorado are the Larimer and Weld, which draw its waters from the Cache a la Poudre; the Loveland and Greeley Canal, which gets its supply from the Big Thompson river, and the Platte Canal previously referred to. Owing to the proximity of the latter canal to the city of Denver, the lands under it—that is, that can be watered from it—are the most valuable in the State."

STORING POTATOES.

The conditions to be filled in keeping potatoes are:

1. A temperature that shall be a little above the freezing point. Freezing is fatal to the potato thaw it as we will. Applies

and many vegetables may be frozen, and it thawed slowly in the absence of light, will suffer little or no damage; but a potato once frozen is ruined. On the other hand, a temperature above 50 degrees will encourage sprouting if it does not induce rotting. Potatoes should be excluded from the light.

2. A medium degree of moisture. An atmosphere so damp that the potatoes will appear wet on handling will promote rotting; or if so dry that the potatoes shrivel, or appear wilted, will injure the quality of the crop and diminish the weight, though they may not rot or sprout.

3. Potatoes should not be stored in large heaps, or bins, and these should permit free ventilation. To fill these conditions potatoes may be kept in a vegetable cellar, for vegetables should not be kept in a cellar under a living room; but if so kept it will be a fer to store them in barrels, or bins not more than three feet deep, so that they can be inspected frequently. But if the crop is very large and is intended for the spring market, it will perhaps be cheaper and safer to store them in piles or holes, covered with earth, in the primitive way. About fifty bushels of potatoes may be piled in a conical shape, as steep as they will lie. This should be covered with a good coat of straw and on this ten inches of earth should be placed; or better, if dry sawdust can be procured, that four inches of this be spread over the earth covering, which may be reduced six inches. The pile should now be covered with corn fodder, or with boards, so as to keep it dry.

THE GENTLEMAN THAT PAYS THE RENT.

By a careful analysis of the treasury reports, it is found that the hog furnishes more export material than all the fat cattle, all the dairy products, all the horses, all the mules, all the sheep, and all the poultry and poultry products put together. While the exported hog products for the two years of 1879 and 1880 amounted to the great sum of \$186,087,726, and all the products of other domestic animals and the live animals themselves amounted to only \$105,870,382, making about \$75,000,000 in favor of the hogs as against all and every other domestic animal and products from the same, that found an export market. Really, this shows well for hog raising. Now important, then, is the hog stock in this nation, and of the great Northwest in particular. * * * The hog multiplies fast and matures quickly. When it is considered how important a factor a hog is in production of wealth, is it not a little strange that the real scientific knowledge of hogs to raise them and keep them healthy, is so little understood? As seen above, the hog brings more money to this nation from other nations than all other domestic animals put together, and yet there is not a man in America that understands the diseases of the hog, or can cure him when he is sick. We think there is a field that our agricultural colleges and veterinary doctors had better explore.—Iowa Homestead.

The Poultry Yard.

WHEAT AS A FOOD FOR FOWLS.

Most people think wheat is too good a food for poultry. Generally speaking, perhaps it is, but all depends upon how you look at it. We know and can name people who got more money out of their wheat last year by feeding it to laying hens than they could have got by selling it to the millers and merchants. This was on the Atlantic slope, of course, and not in the great Northwest, where they do not keep laying hens, but where the principal industry is wheat growing. But even there, a few hens would have converted a few bushels of their wheat into eggs at a profit.

Wheat is a good, rich food, in fact the best food, and excellently adapted to laying hens, as it furnishes nitrogenous matter in abundance, the sort of stuff eggs are made of. A bushel and a half of wheat will keep a hen a year, worth say \$1.50 average over the country. Fed to the right sort of a hen under proper management, this would make

fifteen dozen of eggs, worth here \$3.75. The value elsewhere can be calculated at market rates. That is a fair price for a bushel and a half of wheat, and the hen is worth to eat what it cost to keep her until she began to lay. So that wheat is the queen of the cereals and the best of them for human food, but it will pay better to put it through hens than through the mill either as a new food product or as a marketable commodity. Wheat is good for hens, and it will pay to feed the best of it to layers. Corn is cheaper but less profitable food.—Ez.

THE KIND TO CHOOSE.

An exchange says that there has been a wonderful improvement in the last few years in thoroughbred poultry, bred for special purposes. It is impossible to combine all the excellences in one breed. It is possible to combine them in a moderate degree, so as to get good layers and a fair average weight of body. The Plymouth Rocks are an illustration of the best that can be accomplished in this way. Those who breed for heavy weights must not expect to secure great laying qualities in the same breed, any more than they can expect speed from a heavy draft animal. Poultry men who are near large city markets, and take advantage of high prices for fresh eggs, must be satisfied with medium-sized fowls. All the best laying breeds are below the average weight. The Asiatics (Brahmas and Cochins) lay very large eggs, but not so many dozen during the year. We do not condemn any breed, but in the selection of poultry, as in that of other live stock, it is desirable to choose animals bred for the special purpose need.

GOOD AND POOR LAYERS.

The difference between the yield of eggs in the most prolific cases, as compared with poor layers, is as three or four to one. Individual hens have been known to produce 250 eggs a year. Yet 200 is reached so seldom as to be called a remarkable yield. The greatest average yield that we have ever had ourselves, in a flock of twelve hens, was 147 eggs, while the greatest average in twelve flocks, numbering in all 200 layers, of various breeds, was 102 eggs. In the latter case there were eight different breeds, and some were old hens and others were pullets, and many of the number were employed a part of the time in hatching and rearing chickens.—Western Rural.

The Household.

Crostades of Chicken.—Cut the crumb of a loaf of bread into slices two inches thick, and then with a round paste-cutter, about two inches in diameter, cut out of each slice as many pieces as possible. With another paste-cutter, about one and a half inches in diameter, make a mark on one side of each cylinder of bread crumb. When all are ready, fry them a golden color in very hot lard. A deep frying pan should be used, and plenty of lard, so that the crostades fairly swim in the fat. When done, lay them on a sieve in front of the fire to drain and afterwards remove the cover (marked with the small paste cutter) and with the handle of a teaspoon scoop out all the inside of each crostade. Mince finely some remnants of roast or boiled chicken, free from skin, etc., and add an equal quantity of ham or tongue, as well as a quantity of truffles or mushrooms, also finely minced. Toss the whole in a saucepan with a piece of butter, mixed with a pinch of flour; add white pepper, salt and powdered spice to taste; moisten, if necessary, with a little white stock. Stir in, off the fire, the yolk of an egg, beaten up with the juice of half a lemon; fill the crostades with this mince, put a button mushroom on the top of each, cover them with a sheet of oiled paper, put them into the oven to become thoroughly hot, and serve.

Backwoods Pie.—Grate a coffee cupful of maple sugar, beat it up with two eggs and a little salt, and add enough cream to fill a pie plate lined with crust. Bake until the top puffs.