



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.

Those who failed to get in any fall wheat should speed the plow in order to have the ground ready for the spring sowing.

JOSEPH HARRIS, the renowned agriculturist of New York, recommends the planting out of currant and gooseberry cuttings in August or September.

As a rule it is best to have potatoes dug by the 1st of October, but we would not advise digging until after there has been sufficient frost to kill the vines.

EVEN if times do turn out to be hard this winter, it will not affect the farmers as much as it did one year ago, as they have made up their minds to expect it.

If you only have a few currant or gooseberry bushes, you may plant out a great many cuttings by trimming off the shoots and planting them. The cutting of these will not hurt the old bushes.

We advise farmers living near the railroads to club together and buy hay presses, and bale their hay. Several farmers could use one machine, and by clubbing together they will be able to bale and ship their hay profitably.

It would be better if every farmer could plow all of his farming land this fall. It will pay in more ways than one. The crop will be surer and yield much heavier; the spring work will be easier dispatched, and the farm work will be materially advanced.

FARMERS living along the railroads in this Territory find that hay is one of the most profitable crops that they can raise. When baled it can be shipped to market, and many farmers derive a considerable revenue from their hay land, a portion of their farms which have not heretofore been profitable.

We would be very glad to hear from farmers on the subject of experiments made by them with crops this year. Write us the facts and we will prepare them when needed for publication. Everyone who will take the pains to write we will undertake to compensate fully. Give us the facts whether the experiments were successful or not; they will be useful.

POTATOES should be dug as early as practical after the vines have become dead. A day or two exposed to the sun before the ground is wet by the rains will put the tubers in good keeping order and if properly housed in this nice dry condition, with a light sprinkling of dry earth closely covered with chaff and straw, we see no reason why they should not keep thoroughly well-barring a severe frost however.

THE number of farmers who believe in applying manure to grass lands in the autumn is every year increasing. The old idea that manure applied to the surface of the land, except just before it is to be taken up by the growing plants, loses a considerable

portion of its fertility, is at the present time believed by a very few. Observation and experiment have taught that the loss by evaporation of manure that is applied in the autumn is more than made up by the protection it affords to the roots of the grass.

DIGGING potatoes by hand we consider to be about as hard and tedious labor as there is connected with the farm. We should rejoice in finding a digger that will do the work well on all sorts of soils. For well cultivated, mellow soils, free from stones and weeds, where hand-digging is comparatively easy, we might get along without the implements, and where wanted most for stiff, stony, and weedy, or rough land, the digger is a failure.—*Gardener.*

THERE has been a large amount of wheat and oats cut and cured for hay this season. We advised stock raisers to make some hay in this manner, but it was not our design that the farmers should convert their grain crops into hay. However, as hay is a marketable crop, it is to be hoped that they will realize fully as well from it as to have allowed it to mature and market the grain. It will lessen the yield of bushels in the Territory.

A STACK of good straw is never amiss on a farm where there is any live stock. Even if it is not eaten it will not be wasted, as it will, in a few years, furnish a valuable compost heap which may be hauled out and profitably applied to the field, orchard or garden. It is not too late, neither will it take much time to build a straw stack, which should be in the pasture or near the barn where all the stock may have free access to it.—*Farmer and Dairyman.*

THE "best potato," as to real value, is the one containing the largest percentage of solid nutriment, that is, starch and albumen, and the gustatory nerves of people generally ratify the verdict of chemical analysis. It is the starch that makes the potato cook dry and mealy. In regard to the stronger or milder potato flavor, however, peoples' taste will differ so long as potatoes are grown. Some people like the flavor of young, that is, still immature, potatoes; to my mind these are watery, because deficient in starch, and therefore in nutriment, and entirely unfit to eat. But everyone to his taste.—*Farm and Garden.*

A FINE EXHIBIT AT THE FAIR.

The finest display of farm products at the late Territorial Fair at Helena, was made by A. Newbury, of Prickly Pear valley. It occupied the center table in the hall, covering it nearly the full length and comprised a complete variety of vegetables and cereals that are generally grown in this climate. There were cabbages, squashes, turnips, rutabagas, onions, citrons, beets, cowcubers, carrots, wheat, oats, barley and fourteen varieties of Irish potatoes.

The vegetables were generally admired by every visitor. Probably no other farmer in the Territory could have made such a showing, since none enter so extensively into the matter of experimenting. Mr. Newbury was awarded fourteen premiums and quite a number of second premiums on his farm products. Several premiums were awarded him on his show of hogs, which was most excellent, being only equaled by Governor Crosby's exhibit. Mr. N.'s premiums, which were paid in cash, amounted to ninety dollars, a pretty good reward for his efforts to show the products of his farm.

If Montana farmers generally were as well disposed to exhibit their products as Mr. Newbury, the agricultural show at our Territorial fairs would be by far the most interesting feature.

MORE ABOUT POTATO SCAB.

In confirmation of the opinion expressed in our former issues that scab is not caused by manure nor wire-worms, the experience of our correspondent F. A. B., in Massachusetts, is of considerable interest. He writes: "The past season I planted White Elephant potatoes, side by side, on old ground that had been planted three years, and also on new sod ground; used horse and cow manure broadcast, also Mape's 'A Brand' Fertilizer in the hills. The potatoes on old ground were very scabby, while on the new ground they were as nice and smooth as you could ask for. Now, had the old ground lost some properties necessary to the proper development of the tubers? and what was it? It not, why should they grow smooth on the new ground, all other conditions being the same: I hunted care-

fully for wire worms but could not find one. I had about as good a crop on the old as on the new ground, and satisfied myself that honest chemical fertilizers pay, even if you have animal manure."

Another instructive case bearing upon this question, in which scab occurred without the agency of wire-worms or manures, is reported in the *New York Tribune*, by H. Wadley, of Iowa:

"In my root cellar is a place holding about ten bushels, sunk two feet below the surface, where we always put the late keeping potatoes. Last season the hired girl, about June first, reported them all gone. I did not go down until about August, when I moved a box that was standing over one end of the hole, where I found about two bushels of Mammoth Pearl potatoes, and in removing them I found new potatoes among them as large as my fist, squeezed into all shapes, and I thought I would cook some of them; and when I cleaned the dust from them they were completely covered with scab—some just beginning to come, some eaten into the tubers more or less. When I put the potatoes in cellar I picked out every one that I thought was scabbed at all. I believe it to be a fungous growth of some kind.—*American Garden.*

THE INFLUENCE OF POLLEN.

The effect of pollen upon the fruit and seeds of plants is a subject that has frequently engaged the attention of both practical and scientific horticulturists during the past score or two of years. All admit that pollen is an important factor in the production of seed. Furthermore, if there is seed, there must be some other organ present to support it—a fruit-stalk; an envelope to enclose it, as in the apple, pear, cherry, and similar fruits, or something to rest upon, as in the strawberry, raspberry and blackberry. Consequently we must admit that the influence of the pollen does necessarily extend beyond what we term the fruit or even the seed. Quite recently this subject has come up anew, and interesting discussions have followed at several meetings of the horticulturists as well as in the columns of the various agricultural and horticultural journals.

We find the same influence exists in melons, squashes, cucumbers, and similar fruits, and often to such an extent that a choice and high-flavored variety is almost ruined by being planted near an inferior one. A more striking and familiar example of the influence of pollen is that of sweet corn fertilized by the pollen of field corn. If a yellow variety of field corn is planted near any variety of sweet corn, and both come into bloom at the same time, there will be yellow kernels interspersed among the grains of the sweet, and the flavor of these will be as distinct as their color. The influence of the pollen in this case not only extends to size, color, texture, and flavor, but often still further, for the coloring matter will usually be seen in the cob. It will be the same with two white varieties, but the effect is more readily observed when one variety is either yellow or red.—*American Agriculturist.*

AGAINST THE CHESS THEORY.

The everlasting chess question is up for discussion again. I convinced myself years ago of the utter fallacy of the theory that wheat could turn to chess. At the very most that could be claimed the product would be a hybrid. Can any one mention one instance of a hybrid either animal or vegetable reproducing itself? No, gentlemen, the thing is impossible. Then give up the fallacy and let us clean our seed from chess, and if our lands are clean we will have oceans of wheat. The object of this communication is to tell how I clean my wheat of chess. This is how: Take from your fanning-mill all the sides and in the place or groove made to put the sides, put a board running up to the discharge from the hopper and extending about two-thirds down to the foot of the shoe of the mill. Then into the lower groove made for sides put another board and push it up so there will be about two inches space from the upper to the lower board.

The fall will be about six inches. Now open the hopper so as to allow a smooth, steady stream of wheat to run, and turn just hard enough to blow the chaff out of the flowing stream of wheat onto the lower board, and thus cause it to be discharged at the hind end of the mill, or in the box under the mill. This process will clean all or nearly all the chess from very foul wheat. Of course some of the wheat will be blown over.

Again for market any farmer can thus get clean seed. Try it farmers. You will find it will do the work, and then if any of the believers in the theory of wheat turning to chess are not convinced, let them sow wheat thus cleaned on clean land.—*Cor. Western Rural.*

The Poultry Yard.

It is better to prepare a nice warm poultry house so that hens will lay in winter than depend on summer eggs for winter.

The annual production of chickens is 80,000,000, valued at \$24,000,000, while the capons and fatted fowls bring over \$2,000,000 more. The total value of productions from poultry reach but little below \$100,000,000.

AN exchange says: Would it not be better for the farmer's wife to sell those nice young chickens now than to feed additional grain to them, and then later in the fall, when fresh pork and game come into the markets sell them for less than they are now worth? Nevertheless, by all means keep the best pullets from the best laying strains, for egg layers next year.

For the amount of capital invested, says the *Poultry Keeper*, there is nothing on a farm that will return so large a profit as poultry. As a source of National wealth a comparison of figures shows that the sum derived by our people from the poultry and eggs, is much larger than from some animals, and strange to say despite all we can do to supply the demand for eggs, there are importations being made of them from Germany. France, with a limited area, compared with ours, produces eggs to the value of \$40,000,000 annually, and considering that this vast sum is the production of those of limited means, the raising of poultry is one that is not exclusively in the hands of the wealthy, but within the province of all.

TO FATTEN CHICKENS.

A correspondent of the *New York Tribune and Farmer* takes the position that it is hopeless to attempt to fatten young chickens while they are running at large. He says they must be put in proper coops, yet these, like other poultry appurtenances, need not be expensive. To fatten twelve chickens a coop may be three feet long, eighteen inches high, and eighteen inches deep, made entirely of bars. No part of it solid—neither top, sides or bottom. Discretion must be used according to the sizes of the chickens put up. They do not want room; indeed the closer they are, the better—provided they can all stand up at the same time. Care must be taken to put up such as have been accustomed to be together, or they will fight. If one is quarrelsome it is better to remove it at once; as, like other bad examples, it soon finds imitators. A diseased chicken should not be put up.

The food should be ground oats; and may either be put in a trough or on a flat board running along the front of the coop. It may be mixed with water or milk; the latter is better. It should be well slaked, forming a pulp as loose as can be, provided it don't run off the board. They must be well fed three times per day—the first time as soon after daybreak as it may be possible or convenient, and then at intervals of four hours. Each meal should be as much and no more than they can eat up clean. When they are done feeding the board should be wiped and some gravel may be spread. It causes them to feed and thrive.

After a fortnight of this treatment you will have good fat fowls. If, however, there are but four or six to be fattened, they must not have as much room as though there were twelve. Nothing is easier than to allot them the proper space; as it is only necessary to have two or three pieces of wood to pass between the bars, and form a partition. This may also serve when fowls are up at different stages of fatness. This requires attention, or fowls will not keep fat and healthy.

As soon as the fowl is sufficiently fatted it must be killed; otherwise it will still get fat, but it will still lose flesh. It fowls are intended for the market, of course they are, all fatted at once; but if for home consumption, it is better to put them up at such intervals as will be required for the table.

When the time arrives for killing, whether they are meant for market or otherwise, they should be fasted without food or water for twelve or fifteen hours. This enables them to be kept for some time after being killed, even in hot weather.

DIARRHEA.

Loose intestinal discharges are not always indicative of dangerous disease, although in those sections of the country where chicken cholera prevails, any tendency to diarrhea is sufficient to cause alarm, for that is the earliest and most prominent symptom of that disease. Sudden changes of food may cause a looseness of the bowels. All animals are subject to occasional attacks of this kind, the result of taking large quantities of green stuff after having been for a long time kept on dry food. There is no necessity for any medicine in such cases, and it is best not to interfere, as this is only a natural operation, and will result in an increase of health. A looseness of this kind will not reduce the strength rapidly; whereas, in case of cholera, the fowl will in most instances decline very rapidly, the discharges being green and frothy.

Diarrhea may be the result of taking cold in a draft of air, and the first thing to do is to correct the cause. Or it may be brought on by improper food, moldy corn, or an excess of meat. At time the fowl loses her laying powers, and will not commence laying again till perfectly well. Scalded meal and boiled rice should be given. Ordinarily there will be recovery without any care or trouble; but it is sometimes desirable to restore valuable fancy stock as soon as possible, to avoid loss of time in the breeding season. It is not advisable to give doses in these cases. A little oxide of iron in the drinking water is good, and may be obtained by scraping the rust from any old iron or putting the water in a very rusty iron vessel. This not a specific for diarrhea, but will give strength to fowls that from any cause have become debilitated. It hardly pays to doctor common fowls, but in some cases valuable fowls may be saved or benefitted by a little attention or a simple remedy.—*Poultry World.*

The Household.

Delicious Hot Cake for Tea.—Beat two eggs to a froth, and add to them half a cupful of sugar. In one cupful of sour cream beat half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in boiling water, and stir it into the eggs and sugar, adding a pinch of salt and flour enough to make it a thick batter as for griddle cakes. Bake in "gem" pans, and serve piping hot.

Cabbage Salad.—Chop one large cabbage very fine; put into dish in layers, with pepper and salt between. Take two teaspoonfuls of butter, two of sugar, two of flour, two of mustard, one egg, and small teacupful of vinegar. Stir all in saucepan and let come to a boil. Pour over cabbage while hot, and cover dish. When cool it is ready for use.

Flap Jacks.—Mrs. Heyward's recipe for flap jacks: Take a pint and a half of self-raising flour, a cup and a half of sour milk, one tablespoonful of syrup dissolved in a small teacup of water, and a teaspoonful of lard or butter. After salting to season, beat all together and cook on a hot griddle. A small lump of soda, stirred in just before cooking, adds somewhat to the excellence of the cakes.

Cottage Puffs.—One cup milk and the same of cream; 4 eggs beaten stiff, and the yolks strained; 1 tablespoonful butter chopped into the flour; a very little salt; enough prepared flour for thick batter. Mix the beaten yolks with the milk and cream; then the salts and whites; lastly the flour. Bake in buttered iron pans, such as are used for gems. The oven should be quick. Turn out and eat with sweet sauce.

Cucumber Catsup.—Three dozen full-grown cucumbers, eight onions; peel and chop as fine as possible (some prefer grating), sprinkle one gill of salt over, put them on a sieve and let them drip eight hours (or all night if fixed in the afternoon), one teacup of white mustard seed, half cup ground black pepper, a little grated horseradish; mix well and cover with strong vinegar, close tightly and it can be used in three days. If preferred, the horseradish can be left out.

Excellent Icing.—To one pound of granulated sugar, put two wineglasses of water; let it stand until well saturated, put in a kettle over a slow fire and let it simmer until a thick syrup, stirring it all the while. Have ready the white of two eggs well beaten. Pour out the syrup and let it cool enough not to cook the eggs, then beat in the eggs and beat until cool. Be particular not to let the sugar get too cool. Season to taste with lemon. This will ice a large cake, and thin as it is put on.