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Single load of hay that heats in a mow will steam up through ten loads or more that may be above it and injure the whole.

When hay goes to the barn so damp that it is liable to injure by heating, half a dozen forksful of old hay or straw sprinkled evenly over the new after each load will, in all cases, absorb the moisture, and frequently bring out bright green which would otherwise be nearly ruined.

The hay season is late. The grass continued to grow with the late rains, and many farmers who usually get half done before the "fourth" did not begin until after that date, and are now cutting a fair crop, between showers. The weather is catching, and progress is slow. Grass is maturing faster than usual, and much is liable to become over-ripe before it can be cut.

If there are stones in the mowings which interfere with the operation of the mower now is a good time to find them. Dig them out at odd jobs as opportunity offers and haul them off before the second crop gets up. A little stone, which could be removed in a minute often injures a mower, causing a loss in cost of repairs and delay, of many dollars.

We were the subject of a visitation of Providence on the 9th inst., in the shape of a hail storm. Stones a third to half an inch in diameter fell in abundance accompanied by a very high wind. The crops suffered severely. Corn was beaten down and combed out so that after nearly a week it looks like a hopeless case. Potato vines were cut off, turnip leaves ditto. Gardens are ruined. The storm covered a belt about a mile wide, and its course was towards the north east. How far it extended we have not learned, as we have been so unfortunate as not to be able to see our eyes at all for reading for nearly two weeks.

Agricultural Impossibilities.

The New England Farmer copies with approval an editorial under the above title from the Vermont Watchman, and then, apropos of the statement therein that it will take three times as much plant food to grow one thousand eight hundred pounds of oats as it will to grow six hundred pounds, copies from the same column the following item:
A pair of six-year-old graded Devon cows, weighing four thousand seven hundred pounds, were sold recently in Gilmanston, N. H., for \$225. A pair of ordinary native cattle would have cost just as much to raise, and would have sold for about half as much.

And then remarks:
Now, we are not quite sharp enough to see how, if the above reasoning about large crops is correct, it is possible to raise a pair of cattle weighing forty-seven hundred pounds, as cheaply as a pair weighing two-thirds that amount of pounds, allowing that each pair are healthy and good feeders. Of course, we do not doubt that cattle may sometimes be out of condition, and that at such times they may waste all the food they consume; but, aside from such disturbing influences, is it fair to assume that it takes no more hay and grain to grow two tons of beef than to grow one ton? Is not this, also, one of the "agricultural impossibilities?"

To this the Watchman responds as follows:
Yes, sir; it is an "agricultural impossibility" and we thank you for calling our attention to the item, which did not emanate from the agricultural editor, but was sensorially filled out the column. And that same scissoring by a non-expert in agriculture is a prominent element on the way "agricultural impossibilities" are raised, and that the dissemination of "a vast and varied misinformation." The printers who, without practical knowledge of the subject, undertake to supply their readers with agricultural readings, are continually printing similar absurdities.

Now we entertain the greatest respect for the opinion of Brothers Cheever and Huskins, and regard them as among the very ablest and most careful of agricultural editors, but the way in which that unfortunate item in relation to the yoke of Gilmanston oxen is treated, is in our opinion calculated to mislead farmers, and to convey by implication, the notion that native or scrub cattle are just as good for converting the forage of the farm into beef as those improved by grading up with the improved breeds. They appear to reason by analogy, that because the soil takes a given amount of plant food to make a pound of oats it will therefore use just three times that to make three pounds, hence if one animal requires a given amount of nutriment to make a pound of beef, another one will produce beef in the same proportion to available nutriment consumed. The proposition of the Watchman is correct in principle, of course. But Dr. Huskins is too sound a man to go one step further and say two plots of soil of different character will each make the same number of pounds of oats of a given quantity of plant food. And yet this is just what is to be implied in regard to the cattle statement.

The cattle item, if taken for an average,

is probably somewhat exaggerated. But experience and observation have taught us that in principle it is substantially correct. The capacity of some animals to digest and assimilate the food they consume and convert it into beef, milk, wool or other valuable animal tissue, is fully double that of others, and the farmers of New England are every year throwing millions of dollars' worth of food into the manure heap by feeding it to animals that make so fair return for it.

We have made no exact experiments and can at this moment refer to none to demonstrate the truth of this assertion, but its substantial accuracy is patent to every farmer. We can recall instances where it was so obvious that it was not possible there should be any great error.

We have in our own stable two horses, both healthy and of similar character and disposition, that are a fair example of the principle. One of them will do far work on hay and hold condition as well as the other will on the same quantity of hay and three quarts of corn meal a day. The same difference has been observed for at least half a dozen years.

A relative visiting us recently drove a sound, healthy four-year-old horse weighing 975 pounds that was so lean he felt called on to apologize for his condition. He "fed" him six quarts of corn meal and six quarts of wheat bran a day and all the hay he would eat. He had done no work, and been driven very little, and yet he was poor as a crow—couldn't get any flesh on him. "That old mare's collar is all just so."

Some fifteen years ago the late Abijah Miller, one of the most extensive and successful farmers and stock raisers of Springfield, hired a thorough bred Durham bull for a season. He raised a few calves of his get, and the neighbors also. The next year he bought them all up, some fifteen or twenty in number. The steers were mature and sold for as much as oxen at three years old, having been fed as calves, on skim milk, and afterwards on hay and coarse fodder in winter and grass in summer. One yoke was kept until four years old, and then weighed 4000 pounds. We had the assurance of Mr. Miller and his son Mr. A. C. Miller, the present occupant of the homestead, that these steers never had grain or extra keeping; that they did not eat much more than others, but that they did eat made them grow a great deal faster than others. There are several descendants in the female line of the bull on the farm at present, and the animals of the family all possess the same remarkable digestive capacity which the original representative transmitted to his immediate progeny. The older Mr. Miller lamented to the last day of his life that he heeded the advice of a busy-body who told him he was spoiling his herd and omitted to buy the bull when it could be done for forty dollars, the animal being worth a thousand.

We do not mean to be understood as saying that a thoroughbred or a high grade is necessarily better than a native, but that the difference in power of different animals to make any return for food consumed is greater than most farmers admit or realize, and that this power is to be cultivated by selecting and breeding.

For the Vermont Farmer.

Shall We Use Commercial Fertilizers?

This is a question of great importance to the farmers of Vermont, considering the amount of money that goes out of the state every year for the same. It is a question that, to a certain extent, we farmers must answer for ourselves by careful experiment as to what a certain fertilizer will do on one soil and under certain circumstances, it will not do on different soils and under different circumstances. For example, a farmer having a clayey loam for soil will nearly always get good results from the use of plaster; but then it does not follow that a farmer having a black fine rock soil will get the same results from its use. But let him use hard-wood ashes, and I venture the prediction that he will get as good results as the other man with his plaster. Then let us all experiment for ourselves, and when we get the results, report them through the columns of the Vermont Farmer for the benefit of our brother farmers. Right here I wish to disagree from my subject and say a word for the Farmer, and by "the Farmer," I do not mean the New England Farmer, as Dr. Huskins would inform us we mean when we say "the Farmer," but the Vermont Farmer, a paper I have taken since its start, and find it more than fills the place of the New England Farmer for me, as I took the New England Farmer previous to the starting of our Vermont Farmer; also the first year or two of its publication. Since which time I have heard the Vermont Farmer to be worth more to me, to say nothing of getting it at a less price, and knowing the publisher and proprietor as well as I do, I feel sure we may always depend upon him for giving us a paper that will stand with "right" for its motto. Then let us give him such a support as will pay him for his labors for us—the laboring men of old Vermont and the world; and let us, one and all, add our "motto" to the general store. How few there are of us who might give some fact for the Farmer that would be worth more than the subscription price of the paper to many of our farmers. Then let us give them a rousing subscription list, thereby furnishing the wherewith to give us the best paper in old Vermont.

But to return to my subject, the use of commercial fertilizers. When the results are such as I had, last year, with Bradley's phosphate on green sward potatoes, where a spoonful to the hill doubled the crop, and having seeded down the same piece, this spring, to oats without any manure, the rows and hills both show plainly where the phosphate was. I have also a piece where I used Bradley's phosphate in the hill on tur-

tops and potatoes, without any manure, where I could see the benefit of the phosphate not only on the grain crop, but on the grass getting a better catch where the hills were. I now have a piece of potatoes on broken-up ground, a part of the crop with stable manure well harrowed into the top, and part with a spoonful of Bradley's phosphate in each hill, planted at the same time. The potatoes where the phosphate was used are nearly twice as large and of better color than where the manure was harrowed in, but shall hardly expect the phosphate to come out ahead in the fall, although shall watch the results with interest. I find on our soil a spoonful of phosphate to the hill on well manured land increases the corn crop more than enough to pay the expense, to say nothing of its forwarding the crop from one to two weeks. I have averaged to use about half a ton of phosphate each year for the past eight years, and am satisfied on the whole that it has paid me well for using, but would advise no one to use any brand of phosphate to any great extent without first satisfying himself that it will pay on his soil.

Will you please inform us through the columns of the Farmer the best time to set out currant bushes, and oblige.

Yours truly,
K. P. ALLEN.

Mr. Allen's advice to test the effect of superphosphate on each man's soil before investing to any extent is sound. We have no doubt that on soil adapted to it, a good article of superphosphate in connection with barn-yard manure pays well in starting and forwarding crops. We cannot advise its use as a substitute for manure.

We have had no experience in setting currant bushes, but would suppose that they would do well at any time when not in active growth. Perhaps readers of the Farmer can answer.

Mr. Allen will accept our thanks for words of encouragement for the Farmer. We ask the farmers to help us make it worthy of the support and of the cause in which we are laborers in common.

Statement of Milk.

EAST BERNHURST, JUNE 28, 1875.

MR. EDITOR:

Enclosed you will find the statement of how much milk my cow gave in one week and how much butter was made from the milk.

Date	Milk (pounds)	Butter (pounds)
June 18	25	1.5
June 19	28	1.8
June 20	30	2.0
June 21	32	2.2
June 22	35	2.5
June 23	38	2.8
June 24	40	3.0
June 25	42	3.2
June 26	45	3.5
June 27	48	3.8
June 28	50	4.0

The cream weighed thirty pounds and made sixteen pounds of butter in the seven days. Her feed has been two quarts of ground wheat per day through the spring, and up to the night of the second day of the trial, then I gave her three quarts a day. The extra quart of wheat increased her milk five pounds per day. The cow was eleven years old last spring, in three-fourths Durham, one-fourth Ayrshire.

Yours truly,
A. A. MOORE.

Mr. Moore has our thanks for this model statement.

The variation of food to test its effect on the production of milk forms a valuable part of the experiment. We would have been glad if its effect on the quantity of cream had been noted also.

Mr. Moore is a good farmer. He believes liberal feeding pays with good cows, and that is the kind he keeps. We saw in his pasture a noble thoroughbred short horn cow, which with her heifers forms a fine little herd that are hard to beat as dairy cows. He has also a fine yearling bull of the same blood, all from the herd of Mr. Heman Hopkins, of Montgomery.

Dairying in Franklin County.

MR. EDITOR:

In your paper of July 9, referring to Franklin county, the question was asked, "why do not the dairymen of this county adopt the associated system in the manufacture of butter?" Only a few years ago, that system was adopted extensively here in the manufacture of cheese, but at present, only one cheese factory is in operation. The great improvements in dairy utensils for the manufacture of butter, such as the patent milk pans, have taken the place of cheese factories. The first of these pans introduced here was the Jewett pan, of which there were a great many sold for the first two years, but they did not prove to be very durable. Next came the South Farmer pan, but for some reason, but few were sold and they were generally considered to be but little improved. In the spring of 1873, W. O. Campbell, of Richford, came out with his compartment pan and met with surprising success in his sales, and succeeded in satisfying the people, in general, of its superior merits the first season, and since that time hundreds have been sold in this county alone, while their trade outside is rapidly increasing.

The indications early in this season were that Campbell & Co. were going to have a sharp competition, as several agents for other pans were canvassing the county, offering their pans at low prices, these happening to gain a reputation here, and they did succeed in several cases in putting them in on trial; but we have learned lately of most of them having been returned and we understand that in most of these instances the compartment pan is to take their places, which leaves it now almost the universal pan in this section.

Our dairymen milk their cows at home and want their waste milk or whey for their cows, calves, and swine, and as butter making with large pans properly adjusted is comparatively but little work, and as the compartment pan can be used at all seasons of the year, it is altogether probable that no butter factories will be built in this county for the present.

ENGLISH FARMING.

(Extracts from a Paper read before the Board of Agriculture, by William S. Thorp, Esq., of Morristown.)

Raising Roots.

The manner of preparing the ground for roots is to plow the ground five or six times over between the last of April and the time to put in the seed. At each plowing the ground is rolled and harrowed and every weed or root of any description is picked off by hand or either drawn off into a compost heap or else burnt on a pile. The seed is drilled on ridges mostly about 28 inches apart, hoed twice and thinned to ten to twelve inches apart. The manure generally used is common barnyard manure, well rotted, and phosphates. The season being favorable 35 or 40 tons of roots to the acre will be produced which are usually fed on the ground where raised. This is done by using movable fences, and fencing off a patch in proportion to the size of the stock in the field, the climate being favorable enough to allow cattle and sheep to be kept in the field all winter without shelter and with nothing for feed save roots.

The large amount of droppings that would be occasioned by a good crop of roots, and they being mostly soluble, leave the land in a very good condition for another crop, which on their best lands is generally barley which is raised for feeding purposes and the manufacture of English ales. On their clayey grounds this crop is generally oats but in other cases, the ground is stocked down with red clover if the owner wishes to cut it for fodder, but if he wishes to pasture it the next season he stocks it down to white clover and a mixture of some other grasses.

In either case, whether he cuts it for fodder or pastures it in the fall, it is plowed and sown with wheat for the fourth crop. Then comes the second round of the rotation again.

Plowing.
In plowing common soils the plow is gauged to lay the furrows at an angle of about 45 degrees or in other words to have one furrow lap over the other one a little so that beneath the furrow there will be a small open space. This serves as a drainage for the top of the ground, likewise for the circulation of air and has a tendency to keep the ground light, but in plowing their light soils they adopt the reverse course, plowing their land very early in the season and laying the furrow as flat as possible. This would keep the soil in a more moist condition; consequently the crop would not be so subject to suffer in the heat of the season.

At the time of my visit they were experimenting with the steam plow which I understand was a success. There are several different kinds but I believe the favorite plow to be one that had a small steam engine at either end of the field, the gang of ropes being attached to an endless wire pulley.

Raising Grains.
The grains and seeds of all descriptions are put into the ground by a drill. One reason for this is that the seed is put in all of one depth; consequently the product is more even, every seed having an equal chance with its neighbor. This precaution, combined with the care and judgment they exercise in selecting the seed, secures very even and fine samples. Their seed is all put through separators till it is perfectly clean, with all the poor, light and defective kernels taken out, and after all this pains, in the month of June when the grain is growing they spend days and days and sometimes a month in picking out by hand every weed that has made its appearance.

Manures.
Their barn yards are generally about two feet lower in the middle than they are on the outside, which answers the purpose of holding the liquids; but in case of heavy rains, causing the water to overflow, there is an outlet in one corner, which leads to a tank. When this is full, it is pumped into a hog-head or wheels, which is drawn upon the meadow, and is drawn out to a sprinkler something like a street sprinkler. They save and compost everything that will decay on the farm; they also use a great deal of lime. Bones are saved with the utmost care, and either made into phosphates or taken to the bone-mill and ground into what they call bone-dust. The flesh and bones of an old horse are often worth more than he was when alive. They import many thousands tons of bones, every year, from America, to be ground up and used as manures. They import flax seed and cotton seed from America by the tens of thousands of tons, which are ground, the oil extracted and the residue pressed into cake, which is fed to their fattening stock. The droppings, which are very rich, are afterwards used for manure.

Here, Mr. Chairman, is one case wherein the Englishman is too sharp for the Yankee. He extracts the oil, fats his cattle, manures his land, and rejoices, while the American farmer that sells him the seed is groaning over his hard luck and a run-out farm, and says farming don't pay. They import a great deal of guano, which is inspected by government inspectors, and if found adulterated, the owner is punished by a very heavy fine. They make use of a great many chemicals which they buy by the pound, in the market, and feed their crops the same as they do their cattle; that is to say, they take into consideration the crop they desire to raise, and then apply those manures and chemicals, whose component parts enter into the construction of the plant to be raised. They have special manures compounded by the manufacturers of artificial manures for certain crops. This is science in agriculture.

The professors of agricultural chemistry are all the time experimenting for the advancement of husbandry. They have large salaries from government to aid and assist them in carrying out their plans. They have the aid, assistance and cooperation of the masses of agriculturists throughout Europe.

Stocks.

This system of farming is well arranged for their purposes the turnip for the winter and the clover for the summer fattening of their stock. By this arrangement a continuous round is formed, by which the farmer can select the fittest of his stock every two weeks for the market. They have live stock markets established at all the principal places every two weeks, at which the farmer generally sells from twenty to fifty sheep according to the size of his flock, and he buys as many more lean ones to take back to replace those he has sold. In Yorkshire the most common breeds of sheep are the Leicesters and Cotswolds, the latter being the favorites among the majority of the farmers, but by many other breeds are raised in other parts of the country according to the pastures and other circumstances attending them. It is not uncommon to see whole flocks of two years old, that will dress 25 or 30 pounds to the quarter.

I notice a very great improvement in the cattle compared to what they were thirty years ago. They are nearly all of the high grade Durhams so near full blooded that a person would have to be a very good judge to discover that they were not full-blooded.

There is a great strife between the breeders of the Bates Durhams and the Booth Durhams. I went to Warily to see the original herd of Short Horns owned and kept by Mr. Thomas Booth and there I saw some of the best cattle in the world. The best cows that ever stood in England were there, consequently the best cow in the world. Her name is Lady Fragrant. She is the winner of 23 gold and silver cups and never was beaten. So famed are the Booth cattle all his young bulls are engaged or hired at very high figures by the farmers to go to different parts of England, Ireland, Scotland, and even across the channel to France, and other parts of Europe for the improvement of stock.

It can be readily seen that, while their cattle are nearly full blooded, they still wish to improve them. I saw but few Ayrshires and Jerseys, but suppose they may be kept in greater numbers in some other parts. The general complaint with them is, they are too small for beef when their usefulness for milk. Another objection which follows is that they have to raise all of their calves and this would diminish the size of their stock, instead of improving them, with their large population. It is a matter of economy that is very forcibly brought to their minds to produce the largest amount of meat from the smallest amount of feed; consequently their cattle, sheep and swine are fattened to perfection as a general thing. They cannot afford to sell an animal half fattened, as we often do here in this country. An animal that is designed for the butcher, is kept growing and fattening from its birth. To fatten a steer to tip the scales at eighteen or twenty hundred, live weight, it is best to have him attain to that weight as quickly as possible. Better to have him weigh that at three years or three and a half years of age, than to keep the same animal six or seven years, to weigh the same. You will see that they save two or three years' keeping, save the trouble of taking care of them, save the interest on the money, save the risk on the animal and can fill up his place by other young stock.

General Management.

The European farmers have seen the folly of following a system similar to that adopted usually by us in America, and they have within the last few years, not only improved greatly in farming, but have become more familiar with the collection of principles embodied in the science of their profession.

The same there as here, they condemn that which is here generally called book farming, but the force of circumstances has brought to bear upon them great improvements which were overlooked in times when their population was less massive. Now, the application of science is universally studied, and by no other means can the resources of England begin to meet the demands of the people. If in England they meet with more success by the application of science, in America, also, the farmer can ill afford to discard science in his profession and follow blindly the less desirable course.

With them, everything comes along in its time and place. The agriculturist knows beforehand the amount of work he has to perform, both this year and next, or any number of years almost, according to the size of the fields he has under rotation.

If I have brought to your notice any point that will cause any farmer of Vermont to study his profession more closely, I shall feel myself well paid, and will assure him that by putting more mind and talent into his business, he will not only get well paid but he will reap such satisfaction from his calling that he shall bear a less complaint about the farmers' life being a life of drudgery. His life will become pleasant, his family will be more satisfied to stop on the old homestead, and he will die a far wiser and happier man.

Alfalfa or Chilli Clover.

The California Farmer gives valuable instructions in reference to Alfalfa culture: Alfalfa, or Chilli clover, is especially adapted for a dry, hot climate. No matter how hot the weather may be, so long as the soil has been cultivated deep enough for the roots to go down in search of moisture—some twenty inches—Alfalfa will flourish. Deep plowing, also, even on black soil, after it has been thoroughly subdued, is the best. Give to Alfalfa free scope for the roots to go down, and no matter if heat is 120 degrees, it will do well and give from eight to twenty tons for the acre. There is no better feed for cattle or sheep than Alfalfa properly grown and cured, and for pasturage or hay it cannot be excelled.

How to Milk.

The first requisite to good milking is that the cow be kept where she is, teats and udder shall be clean and dry. In the summer, when cows are grazing, this is easy, but in the winter, when they are stabled, it requires some attention and effort to keep them clean. But it can and always should be done with cows which are milked. Some advise washing the udder before every milking. This is not necessary, except in accidental cases. A cow's bag has no business to be at every milking in a condition to require washing, whether stabled or not. The man who keeps his cows so filthy as to be habitually subject to this necessity has failed, not only in the initial step to good milking, but in the first essential to neatness in dairying. The udder of a cow is not likely to become filthy without involving other portions of her body. If it were necessary to wash her bag, it would be equally so to wash her sides also. Milk is a very powerful absorbent, and if there is filth upon or near the teats, it will infuse the milk, to say nothing of the danger of getting filth into the pail.

The next requisite is that she shall be where she will be comfortable and free from any annoyance or excitement. This is essential to her "giving down" perfectly. A cow's bag is interspersed with delicate mammae so much under the control of her will that she can easily contract them and hold back a portion of her milk. There are but few cows that can long "hold back" the milk of a full udder, but it is very easy for them to hold back whenever there is but little in the bag, as at the last end of milking, and this they are very sure to do if there is anything unusual to disturb or excite them, as loud talking, being milked by a stranger, or even his presence. I had my dairy of 20 cows fall short in their yield a pallid of several times over the usual amount, from a neighbor's dog following into the milking barn when I was milking, my cows not being accustomed to the sight of a dog.

Assuming that the cow and her bag are clean and dry, and that she is comfortable and quiet, the milker should sit down gently on a firm stool, and with a light and careful motion brush the teats, udder and side of the cow next to him, to free them from any specks of dust or dirt or hairs that would be liable to fall into the pail. A tin pail, with the top wider than the bottom, is the best vessel to milk in. Let this stand freely between the knees, with the bottom resting on the ankles, as this is the safest and best way to hold a pail to protect it against any sudden motion of the cow. If the bag is much pendulous, and the cow is very gentle, there is no objection to setting the pail on the ground. Let the milker now grasp the teats with his whole hand, and by a firm and rapid but steady pressure crowd the milk out by closing the fingers next to the udder a little in advance of those below, being careful not to hurt the cow by pinching her teats between the ends of his fingers and his hand, or by pressing his finger-nails into the teats as his hand is closed. Milk the left hand teat with the right forward one, and the right hind with the left forward, always holding the left hand teat as to be ready instantly to crowd the milk of the right hand teat, or to tempt to kick or step suddenly forward. The milking should always be done with dry hands, both on account of cleanliness and for the sake of keeping the teats in good order. If the teats are too dry and itching, to crowd them may be wet after milking with a little of the strippings, or with a little lissed oil or other soft grease. The hands should be pressed alternately not both at once; and when milking is once begun it should go on rapidly as it can consistently be done for the comfort of the cow and the strength of the operator, and without any cessation until the milk is all drawn, otherwise the cow will get out of patience and hold back the last part of her milk.

The milk in the udder is contained in branching tubes and numerous small cavities distributed through it, the tubes coming together just at the upper end of the teat, and forming a single constricted channel, which is inclined to keep closed, and is nearly equivalent to a valve. Toward the close of milking, a little pulling down on the teat is pressed works the milk out of the little cavities by stretching and flattening them, and at the same time pulls open the constricted channel to let it flow through. This pulling down must be gentle and moderate. As done usually, the milk is just rising in the teats and the teats are pulled too hard, the severe stretching of the walls of the passage at the upper end of the teat causes them to pull up and thicken, so much so as to impede the flow into the teat and often to stop it entirely. For this reason the practice of stripping the milk out by pulling down with the thumb and fingers, and letting the teat slip between them as the milk is drawn out, is not a good practice. It often causes the passage at the top of the teat to pull up and close, as just described, and to make the thickening of the walls apparent by a hard bunch which feels like a kernel of corn. The stripping method pulls too hard.

To get out the last drop of milk is an important matter of keeping up and prolonging the flow. Nothing will dry up a cow faster than to leave a part of her milk in her bag at each milking. It will often aid in getting that important drop to clasp the lower part of the udder, or so much of it as can be taken in, and slide the hand down, gently pressing, so as to help crowd the milk forward, till the hand comes to the position for grasping the teat, and pressing the milk out. All this should be done as expeditiously as possible, as the quicker the milk is got out the more perfectly it can be drawn.

[New York Tribune.]

Buckwheat.

Buckwheat, as a cultivated crop, is about as widely distributed throughout the world as wheat itself. It is found in nearly all civilized countries of the globe, and in many places forms an important part of the food eaten. Its unusual adaptability to all kinds of soils, and especially the success with which its culture is attended in poor and infertile soils, commends it to the attention of farmers everywhere. No other crop can equal it in subduing and clearing soil, and its merits as a green manure are too well known to the intelligent reader, to require repeating. Notwithstanding it will grow and produce well on most soils, it undoubtedly does best on a mellow sandy soil. On rich, and especially moist land, it does not grow in the fall, its growth running principally to straw. On rough lands and dry hills, it is as profitable a crop as can be cultivated. It is usually sown the latter part of this month or the first of next. When the season proves favorable, it fills better late in autumn, but the risk of frost is too great, and we advise sowing as early in July as possible. Sows broadcast, a bushel per acre is plenty—with a drill half that quantity will do. A dressing with lime and ashes, or both, will sometimes double the crop, where lime is deficient in the soil. A light dressing of gypsum or guano, on poor soils, will always pay. Buckwheat generally

Apples with a Flavor.

We have frequently said that while the Baldwin is the most profitable market apple we can grow, at present, when the public are unwilling to pay a fair compensation for quality, it is only second or third rate as an eating or cooking apple. Some think we should say nothing to discourage our readers from planting the Baldwin so long as there is so much more money in it than in other varieties, and we would not disparage it for market purposes, but most farmers can afford to put better apples in their cellar for their own consumption, even though it should cost fifty to one hundred per cent more to grow them.

Lewis Parrish, a young farmer of West Greece, Monroe Co., who has raised the Baldwin mainly for market, selling five hundred barrels, largely of that variety the past season, yet he is so sensible enough to put different kinds in his cellar. He brought us on the 18th of this month (May) a basket of Swears, Red Canadas, and Green Sweets that were well preserved, and in good condition.

The Swears were remarkably fine specimens of that delicious variety; large, of a bright golden color, and quite free from those black fungus specks that have marred the beauty, and impaired the eating and keeping qualities of the Swears of late years. Now we do not say plant the Swear for market, unless you are fortunate enough to be in a locality where the fungus will not affect them, but plant a few trees for the delectation of your family.

The Red Canadas were fair, bright colored, and in full possession of that rich, spicy, sub-acid flavor so well appreciated by all who are familiar with that variety. This apple is liable to attacks of the fungus, also, but as we said of the Swear, it will pay to raise a few for the family.

The Green Sweets were probably one of the best, if not the best of the winter sweet apples either for eating or baking and no family can afford to be without a sweet apple, in winter, for baking.

In writing of the merits of the Swear and Red Canada, let me mention one element, common to both varieties, and for a dessert to be eaten after a meat dinner, they are not quite acid enough. At such a time we would prefer the Spitzenburgh, the Spy, or even the Greening. But to be eaten at any other time, their quality is first rate.

Hen Manure.

It should be kept in boxes or barrels, perfectly dry, and will then lose none of its valuable properties. Neither lime nor ashes should ever be mixed with it while composting it, which is best done by adding about double the quantity of dry earth in the mixture, mixing well with the shovel, covering it moderately, and shoveling it over every three or four days until ready to use. It should be moistened sufficiently to allow of its being broken up and well mixed with earth; but when so moistened it is apt to heat, and the shoveling over is necessary to prevent this, and the consequent loss of valuable properties. A handful of this compost in a bill of corn will give it a powerful start. A barrel of hen manure so composted will often double the yield of an acre of wheat.

Recreation for Farmers.

We read in an agricultural journal, the recommendation to farmers, to take a few days for rest and recreation after harvest, by going on a fishing. This is a good idea, but we propose something better. We like recreation, but we never could get time to go fishing, nor could we discover the great fascination in holding a pole and cord in the water for hours, with the hope of jerking out occasionally a small animal with a sharp hook and tender mouth. Is there not a better way for farmers to enjoy themselves for a few days after harvest? If they and their children have any taste for science, sketching, and making natural history collections, let them hitch the horses to the carriage and take a jaunt to the wildest woods, rocks and ravines for this purpose. Collecting minerals, pressing and drying plants, sketching trees with twisted trunks and roots, or wild rocky scenery; securing the roots of wild flowers for remembrance to the garden or dooryard,—in all these and many other amusements of the kind, there is a great deal of real intellectual fascination. Do you say you have no such things? Then we are sorry for this great vacuum in life's enjoyment.

But is not fishing a good thing? It is too valuable to leave unexplored. It is not one person in ten who has not a real or latent taste for them. Examine and study the beauty of natural scenery, and in a little while you will begin to admire it. Use a microscope on the minute and beautiful parts of plants, flowers and insects, and you will soon find an inexhaustible fund of interest and enjoyment. If you can make collections of shells, minerals, insects, &c., you will secure a permanent record of your rambles, as well as a museum of scientific value. This is a kind of recreation that gives permanent enjoyment, not found in jolly and senseless parties and throngs.

[Country Gentlemen.]

BREVITIES.