



AGRICULTURAL.

Butter Making.

Correspondence Cincinnati Gazette. Last winter I tried scalding the milk in a tin vessel set in hot water, then putting it in pans to raise cream. The cream was not so thick or the butter near so nice as when I warm the milk only a little more than blood warm.

This latter is an improvement to straining it away cold. Where only a small amount of milk is obtained from the cow, it chills too much before we can reach the house.

I do not warm the milk in summer, but I try to keep it cool. In summer, whenever my sour milk is skimmed, I always wash the pans and then scald them.

If earthen pans are used they should either be filled with boiling water or laked in a stove oven. To lade them properly, have them clean and dry, put them in the oven when the stove is not very hot, then heat gradually till too hot to hold in the hand. They are now ready to set away to cool.

Before straining the milk always fill the pans with cold water half an hour before they are wanted. Then empty them and dry them with a clean dry cloth. Now fill with milk and set away in a cool place, and your milk will keep sweet longer than if warm pans, not scalded, had been used.

Care should be taken to have the cream jar kept sweet and clean. Good butter depends much on this. If two jars be used, week about, it will be better.

Butter never should be worked when first taken from the churn. Simply rinse it with cold water, salt, and set away a few hours, then work with a paddle. If butter is worked when first churned it becomes oily, and the beautiful grain is destroyed.

I heartily agree with Lizzie Mac in regard to rinsing butter. The little buttermilk left in the butter sours much more than the little water, as the water unites with the salt, forming brine, which assists in preserving the butter.

I have had several years of experience in both ways of treating butter, and find more difference in packed butter than that which we have for immediate use.

Rinsed butter does not become rancid so soon. M. J. N.

Mules and Horses for Business.

Whatever may be said in favor of the horse as an agricultural laborer above the mule at the north, certain it is that the position of the Arkansas correspondent of the American Farm Journal is well taken, favoring the mule in southern agriculture: Mules on an average are more valuable than horses, are easier raised, are not as subject to disease, are not likely to run away in wagoning and plowing, are longer lived, will do more work, and require less feed and attention; they are stronger, will draw heavier loads and stand a great deal more hardship, and are in every way preferable to the horse for general farm use. Mules come in earlier, being ready for light work when three years old. They will then do enough work on the farm to pay for their food, and after having attained the age of four years, they are ready for any kind of service. But the horse (colt) must be kept until he is four years old before he is worked at all, and when he is four he must be a first-rate colt to bring as much as the mule will at two years old. But assume the animals are both required for farm work, see what a difference there is in favor of the mule. The working life of the mule can be safely estimated at thirty years, and that of a horse at ten years. So while a mule is working its life out, three horses will be required to do equal service. But these are not the only items. The saving of feed is at least one-fourth, or not less than 647 bushels of corn and 427 tons of hay. These amounts added to the original saving in purchase of animals show an advantage in favor of the use of the mule over the horse of over \$1,000 during the ordinary life of the animal. The mule is less dainty about food, unground grain and dry feed being just the thing for him. There are still other advantages in favor of the mule too numerous to mention.

Drilling vs. Broadcast Seeding.

The Department of Agriculture thus summarizes the facts received from its correspondents relative to drilling or broadcast seeding wheat: 1. Fifty-two per cent. of the winter wheat and 30 per cent. of the spring wheat, or about 40 per cent. aggregate

of both kinds, represent the proportion seeded with a drill.

2. Nine tenths of the testimony given asserts the superiority of the drill for winter wheat.

3. An average increase of one-tenth in the yield is assured by the use of the drill.

4. A large majority of observers declare that in most soils in which injury resulting from frost is liable to occur drilling prevents or reduces the loss.

5. The majority asserts that in certain clay soils with rolling surfaces, some advantage accrues in surface drainage by use of the drill; while in some heavy soils with flat surfaces, the water freezing in the drill furrow does positive injury.

6. The broadcast seeder predominates in spring wheat regions, because better adapted than the drill to seeding in unplowed corn fields, on rough surfaces, and in weedy fields.

7. About one-seventh of the seed wheat (or 5,000,000 bushels for the crop) might be saved by the exclusive use of the drill.

8. The drill is used for seeding in connection with thorough culture, more especially in winter wheat growing; the broadcast seeder for imperfect culture and rough surfaces, and sowing by hand is the method adopted for small patches and first efforts of impatient pioneers.

Brains of the Grange.

The lecturer is generally esteemed to be the brains of our Order. At any rate he who is elected to fill such a high position should be competent to edify his Grange on topics of interest to its membership. He should at each stated meeting read an essay or deliver a lecture. He should fix a programme of instruction, having agriculture, literature, and other subjects of importance as the basis of his interesting work. It is with him to make a drag of each session or a success of it.

Let him deal with essential, practical facts in relation to farming, and have the members follow, relating their experiences, methods and the results of their labor. This habit of timely interchange of views will develop a high order of membership, give life to the social element, obliterate differences, give breadth and depth to the views of individual members and prepare them to appreciate fully the blessings inherent in this noble brotherhood. No other movement has ever been inaugurated so capable as that of the patrons to dignify agricultural labor.

And to no officer in the whole staff of Grange officials is entrusted a greater extent of intellectual improvement and general success of the order than the worthy lecturer.—Rural Sun.

Preventing Weevil in Wheat.

It is said by those who have tried it, that they never lost any wheat that should be allowed to stand in the field in shocks for ten or twelve days, when it should be threshed, fanned, and salted. Half a pound of salt is the quantity generally used to a bushel of wheat. If the room, or granary, in which the wheat is put away, is dry, by following this method of salting the wheat is sure to keep well. Wheat, when put up in the usual way, will diminish in bulk as it gets old, and many persons consider that it will not yield as much, or as good flour, as when it was fresh from the field. Be this as it may, the diminishing in bulk, to which wheat is subject, is prevented by salting, in the manner above stated. The best salt adapted to this purpose is that brand known as the "Kanawha Salt." This salt is preferable on account of its dissolving, and being soon absorbed by the wheat. For the first eight or ten days after salting, the wheat, if examined, will be found to be somewhat damp; but if examined a few weeks later, it will in all cases be found perfectly dry, having kept cool all the time.

The advantages claimed by those who practice this mode of salting and saving wheat are as follows: 1st. It preserves the wheat with more certainty than sunning.

2d. The wheat does not lose in volume, or weight, by long keeping.

3d. It makes more and better flour.

4th. It costs much less labor.

5th. The wheat is better for seed, because it is preserved in a perfect state. There is not enough salt in it to prevent it from germinating; but there is enough to stimulate it to sprout vigorously.—Rural American.

Salt for Stock.

Salt should be furnished to all animals regularly. A cow, an ox, or a horse needs two to four ounces daily. Salt increases the butter in milk, helps the digestive and nutritive processes, and gives a good appetite. The people of interior Europe have a saying that a pound of salt makes 10 good pounds of flesh! Of course salt only assists in assimilating the food; it does not make flesh, nor bone, nor muscle.

Cement.

Three parts ashes, three parts clay, and one part sand, is said to make a cement as hard as marble, and impervious to water. Loose handles of knives and forks may be re-fastened by making cement of resin and brickdust. Heat the handle and pour in the cement very hot. Seal engravers use a cement made as follows: Melt a little isinglass in spirits of wine, adding one-fifth water, and using a gentle heat. When well melted and mixed, it will unite a transparent glue, which will form glass so firm that the fracture will hardly be seen.

Infallible Cure for Toothache.

Among the many diseases that humanity is heir to, there is scarcely any which, in violent pain and acute suffering, rival the toothache. And yet, as far as we are able to judge, though the affection is common to all, but few are aware of the fact that other remedies exist besides the extraction of the tooth, which, if only tried, will be infallible. The following for instance, suggested to us by a friend, will, if his experience and veracity are worth any thing, prove invaluable in the relief of this torment: Take equal quantities of alum and common salt, pulverize them, and apply them to the hollow tooth on a wet piece of cotton. The remedy is very simple, very cheap, and within the reach of all. If any one will try it he will find it infallible.

Cucumbers.

Cucumbers in the early part of July are a luxury, and, eaten in moderation, are not unwholesome. They should always be picked early in the morning, when the dew is on them. Gathered later in the day, under a broiling sun, they are wholly unfit to eat. This, no doubt, one reason why they are considered unwholesome by many persons.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

TO RESTORE LACES.—Laces, either black or white, when soiled, can be restored by placing it in milk for twelve or eighteen hours. The milk becomes acid; the lace should then be gently washed in it, and afterwards rinsed in clean lukewarm water, and laid out smooth upon a pillow in the sun.

LEMON BUTTER.—One pound of sugar, a large lemon, grated, using all but the seed; one egg; a piece of butter the size of a cherry; mix well; as soon as the whole mixture comes to the boiling point it is done.

PERSPIRATION OF THE HANDS.

Ladies who work lace or embroidery sometimes suffer inconvenience from the perspiration on their hands, which may be remedied by rubbing the hands frequently with a little dry wheaten brand.

BLACK CURRANT VINEGAR.—Well bruise the currants, pour the vinegar over them, putting in a little sugar to draw the juice. Let it stand three or four days, stirring it well each day. Strain the juice from the fruit, and after putting one pound of sugar to one pint of juice, boil gently three-quarters of an hour; skim, and when cold bottle it.

TO CLEAN BLACK CLOTH.—Dissolve one ounce of bi-carbonate of ammonia in one quart of warm water. With this liquid rub the cloth, using a piece of flannel or black cloth for the purpose. After the application of this solution clean the cloth well with clear water. Dry and iron it, brushing the cloth from time to time in the direction of the fiber.

APPLE CUSTARD.—Peel, quarter and bake rich tart apples, or stew them slowly in a very little water; fill a pudding dish two-thirds full. When cold, pour over a custard made by stirring into a quart of boiling milk, a table-spoonful of flour wet up with a little milk, two spoonfuls of white sugar and two eggs. Flavor with lemon. Bake in a quick oven. To be eaten cold.

RICE AND APPLE PUDDING.—Pick over and wash a teacup full of best rice. Steam it, until tender, in two cups of cold water; spread it over a quart or three pints of good ripe apples, quartered; pour over one or two cups of milk, if preferred, or omit the milk and add a little water to the apples, or sugar may be added at the table, if preferred. To an unperverted appetite this pudding will relish without the sugar, or indeed the milk, if carefully baked, and if rich apples are used. A good rice pudding is made by stirring two cups of pitted and stewed raisins into the steamed rice, milk and sugar, baked an hour.

Potato Pie.—One cupful of cold mashed potatoes, two cups of milk, three eggs, and half an ounce of butter. Beat the potatoes, eggs, and butter into a cream; add the milk; sweeten to taste; flavor with lemon or vanilla. Line a deep dish with puff paste, and fill with the potato custard. Bake thirty minutes.

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