Agricultural Department.

☞ This department is conducted by a gentleman of long experience in Northwestern Farming.

Hay for Stock.

Let it be said with emphasis to every farmer: "Place more importance on feeding good hay and less grain in the winter." Good hay is secured by cutting grass a little green, and by all means securing it before the seed matures. Do not sun-cure grass; let it wilt in a good sun from three to five hours and then cure in cocks. All classes of stock should have good bedding in the winter.

Feed For Short-Horns.

At a fine stock convention held recently at Vinton, Iowa, the well-known short-horn breeder and dealer, S. W. Jacobs, said the average wieght of his short-horns at one year old was 1,000 pounds. He fed milk six months and grain six months, giving four quarts daily. He also said:—I treat a calf kindly, give it its mother's milk only; at four weeks old it will eat dry shelled corn. I do not measure the quantity. but let it eat what it will eat clean; feed three times per day; do not let it out in the hot sun to graze; curry it sometimes; at three months old I feed some wheat, and about what will lay in my hand of linseed meal. That does not physic, and improves the hair and appearance of the head; and also when an animal scours, give it oil-cake. For a large bull you want a double stall; half an hour of exercise by letting him run in the yard; water as often as he wants it. We water our stock three times a day. Feed a bushel of cut hay mixed with fifteen pounds of corn meal and three pounds of oil-cake.

The Annatto Plant.

Annatto, used so extensively by dairy men. in coloring their produdcts, is a substance taken from the seed pod of the annatto plant, bexa orellana, of Brazil. The plant is an evergreen, and is grown in some green-houses as a curiosity.

The coloring matter is wholly upon the outside of the seeds, which are about the size of common raisin seeds, which they much resemble. They are contained to the number of forty or fifty in the pods.

The coloring matter is about as thick as common writing paper, and may be scraped off from the seeds, leaving the latter as clean and bright as buckwheat grain, and of about the same color. This outer covering from which the coloring is extracted, is a portion of the dried pulp of the fruit adhering to the seeds like the mucilagenious matter of unwashed pumpkin or squash seeds. It is entirely free from taste or odor, and appears to be pure color and nothing else.

Annatto, as it is received in paste form, from Brazil. has a peculiar armatic or nutty odor, which is derived from the flour and meat of the seeds. This flour is as white as the flour of wheat or other grain, but is not as dry and starchy, resembling in consistency more the meat of a fresh shagbark or butternut.

Experimenting with Grades.

S. W. Hart, of Lapeer county, Mich., has been experimenting with grades, and the following is a report of the results as given by the Michigan Farmer. It shows conclusively that hay is not a sine qua non with stock, and that it can be successfully bred, in seasons when the hay crop is short, by the use of auxiliary crops. These cattle were bred from fair native cows, and the bull a thoroughbred Short-horn, so that we may consider them half-breeds. The cattle were sold as follows:

One pair oxen	3636 lbs.
One cow	1450 "

The 3-year old steers bred and fed by Hart are as follows:

1 pair 3-year old steers	3015 lbs.
1 pair 3-year old steers	2754 "
1 pair 3-year old steers	2632 "
1 pair 3-year olds (twins, steer and heifer)	2400 "

Hart raised these 3-year olds on skim milk when calves; they never ate a ton of hay, and no hay at all, for the reason that he did not have the hay. All the past season he fed them cornstalks, turnips and g ain. The drover who purchased them took the whole lot with an allowance for shrinkage of 91 lbs. for their delivery in Detroit, below their weight at Milton. We have a lesson here about feeding. Hart, by the use of a good bull has good stock to work with, and taking into consideration that he was short of hay, fed a splendid lot of cattle, making up in attention to his stock for his want of hay. In this he has set us an example, and we are much pleased to present his report to our readers. for it shows that "blood will tell." We ask, then, can any farmer that takes his chance of the balls met with, show anything like this record?

On Souring of Milk During Thunder Storms.

It is a fact, to the truth of which all housewives will testify, that immediately after a brilliant display of atmospheric electricity, milk which was sweet before will be found to be sour. The souring of milk is undoubtedly caused by the sugar of milk being changed into lactic acid. But what produces this change in so short a time? Under natural conditions, milk will remain sweet for at least a day, while during a thnnder storm the change will take place in an hour's time.

A great number of reasons have been given for this rapid souring of milk, as the jarring of thunder, etc. But the simple explanation was the result of an experiment tried by an Englishman named Andrew Crossee, about fifty years ago. The gentleman was endeavoring to produce crystals by decomposing a silicious solution by means of the electric current. After he had passed electricity through the solution several hours, he was astonished to find some oval bodies covered with bristles moving through the solution, and kicking out in every direction. At first it seemed as if electricity produced life, but further experiments showed that it simply hatched the germs already in the liquid, for if precautions were taken to exclude them, no animal life was produced by electricity.

These wonderful experiments set the scientific world to experimenting; and, as the result, Hallier. Pasteur and a host of investigators, have shown that the souring of milk is caused by the presence of a large number of minute plants called fungi. The presence of negative electricity is essential to the rapid development of these minute plants. By charging milk with positive electricity, it may be kept sweet for several weeks. This fact may prove to be of practical utility in the arts.

Now, during thunder storms everything is favorable to the growth of fungi. The air is warm, moist and charged with negative electricity. In a short space of time whole forests spring up in every pan of milk, and succeed in souring the milk and the temper of the housewife.

Dried Sweet Corn—As it is now the season for drying sweet corn, I send my process: Pick the corn the night beforehand; husk it in the morning, in order to give it the benefit of the fire while morning's work is being done up. Cut the corn from the cob. It dries quicker not to scrape the cob with the knife afterwards. Put it into pans and set it in the oven, with the doors open, if the fire is brisk. Stir it often until it is thoroughly scalded through. Spread it in the sun. When sufficiently dry, put up in paper bags and hang near the fire some time, as it is apt to gather dampness. Some complete the process by the fire entirely, but it requires more attention. The object in scalding it and hurrying the drying is to prevent the corn souring. In good weather a batch can be finished in twenty-four hours. Many housekeepers do not know the luxury of having dried sweet corn for a winter dish. To cook it, soak over night in cold water, then simmer on the stove until tender, then season like succotash, with cream and butter. The Minnesota sweet corn is the best and earliest variety we have ever tried.—FARMER'S WIFE.

Mayor Latrobe states that no case of Yellow fever prevails in Baltimore, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

See adv't of Ladies Floral Cabinet. It is the most beautiful magazine in America.

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THE MARKETS.

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HOGS—Live	5 70	@ 6 40
SHEEP—Fair to prime, shorn.	5 00	@ 7 00
FLOUR—Spring extra	5 00	@ 5 00
WHEAT—No. 2 Mil. spring		1 06
CORN—Western	54	@ 57
OATS—Western	35	@ 44
RYE—Western	69	@ 73
BARLEY—State, 2-rowed	89	@ 90
PORK—Mess		16 70
LARD		10

CHICAGO.

CATTLE—Choice to ex. prime.	4 75	@ 5 10
Medium to choice	4 40	@ 4 65
Common to fair	2 60	@ 3 15
HOGS—Live	3 90	@ 6 30
SHEEP—Good to choice	3 60	@ 4 50
BUTTER—Good to choice	16	@ 18
EGGS—Fresh	12	@ 15
FLOUR—		
White winter extra	5 25	@ 6 50
Spring extra	4 00	@ 4 50
Fancy Minnesota spring ex	5 25	@ 6 25
Common " " "	4 75	@ 5 00
WHEAT—Spring No. 2	1 02	@ 1 03
OATS—No. 2		33
RYE—No. 2		64¾
BARLEY—No. 2		77
PORK—New mess		16 30
LARD		10¼

MILWAUKEE.

WHEAT—Spring No. 1, old	1 17
Spring No. 1, new	1 17¾
Spring No. 1, hard	1 20
Spring No. 2, old	1 08½
Spring No. 2, new	1 10
Spring No. 3, old	97½
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RYE—No. 1	66½
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100 cash gifts of	500 each	50,000
100 cash gifts of	400 each	40,000
100 cash gifts of	300 each	30,000
200 cash gifts of	200 each	40,000
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