



"SPEED THE FLOW."

Red Clover.

The Clover leaf, published by the Birdsell Manufacturing Co., of South Bend, Ind., has a very interesting and well written article upon Red Clover, from Prof. W. J. Beal, of the State Agricultural College. We take the following extracts from the article:

"Clover seed in the best manure that a farmer can use." All plants draw much of their food from the atmosphere, and of those used in agriculture none are exceeded by clover in the large proportion of nutriment thus derived. In this respect other leguminous crops are much like red clover. Here we include all the clovers, vetches, beans, peas, sainfoin, lupins, and lucern or alfalfa.

"To keep up the fertility of our soil we must restore to it phosphoric acid, potash nitrogen and other substances which are found in farm crops. Of the three very important and valuable substances just named, nitrogen is the most precious and costly to obtain. In various places there are abundant supplies of potash and phosphoric acid. As may be said, these are in sight. Agricultural chemists are now studying on the problem of the future supply of nitrogen for agricultural purposes. So far, clover seems to be the important factor in this problem.

"Whole crops of clover are often plowed under, to restore or to keep up the fertility of the soil, but I am safe in saying that it has been proven a better practice to cut off the clover; feed it, and use the manure, than to plow under the whole crop. In other words, for various reasons, all of which may not seem plain it has been shown that plowing under a clover stubble is followed by about as good results (often better) as though the whole crop was turned under. Again, Vuelker shows that 'land on which clover has been sown for seed in the preceding year, yields a better crop of wheat than it does when the clover is mown twice for hay, or even once only, and afterwards laid off for sheep.'

"I can hardly do better than give here some of the conclusions of Dr. Vuelker in regard to the great value of clover. I find these in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, of England, for 1898, on page 422:

"First.—A good crop of clover removes from the soil more potash, phosphoric acid, lime and other mineral matter, which enter into the composition of any other crop usually grown in this country.

"Second.—There is fully three times as much nitrogen in a crop of clover as in the average produce of the grain and straw and wheat per acre.

"Third.—Clover is an excellent preparatory crop for wheat.

"Fourth.—During the growth of clover, a large amount of nitrogenous matter accumulates in the soil.

"Fifth.—This accumulation, which is greatest in the surface soil, is due to decaying leaves dropped during the growth of clover, and to an abundance of roots, containing, when dry, from 11 to 20 per cent. of nitrogen.

"Sixth.—The clover roots are stronger and also more numerous, and hence more leaves fall on the ground when clover is grown for seed than when it is mown for hay; in consequence, more nitrogen is left after clover seed than after hay.

"Seventh.—This crop causes a large accumulation of nitrogenous matters, which are gradually changed in the soil to nitrates.

"Eighth.—Clover not only provides an abundance of nitrogenous food but delivers this food in a ready available power (as nitrates) more gradually and continuously and with a great deal more certainty of a good result, than such food can be applied to the land in the shape of nitrogenous top-dressings.

"The above conclusions are somewhat condensed, but it would be well for every farmer to cut them out and post them up where he could read them daily, till they could be indelibly fixed in his mind."

Young pigs just weaned are sometimes over-fed in the desire to give them enough. When their sides distend they have to much. Hogs should not be over-fed just because they are hogs.

Sweet oil and kerosene mixed, well stirred, will free a colt or horse of lice.—Horses are not often troubled in this way, but they will be when the hen-roost is to close to their stall.

A whirlwind picked up a haystack in Stevensville, N. Y., the other day, carried it several hundred feet into the air, and deposited it intact a mile from where it started.

A simple and effective remedy for lice on cattle is to give them a thorough dusting over with ashes every other day, brushing them clean the following day.

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