

Farmer's Column.



Give fools their gold & knives their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall. Who sows a field or plants a flower. Or plants a tree, is more than all.

The Chapter on Farm Economy.

There is no trade or occupation in life in which true economy is as important as in farming. By economy we do not mean stinginess or denying one's self the common comforts of life. The farmer who practices it cannot expect to command the esteem and respect of his fellowmen, nor retain it himself. Nor is it necessary in this connection to admonish farmers of the importance and necessity of saving what they make and of turning into ready cash all kinds of products not needed on farm. But it is the little economies to which we would now more particularly direct the attention of farmers.

In the first place, and economical farmer is necessarily a neat farmer. He cannot afford to allow weeds and briars to grow up in his fence corners to rob the soil of its fertility and rot his fences. He cannot afford to allow his gates and farm implements to go to rack for the want of a little repair. His farm buildings do the same for the want of a little painting, so that he will know that much of the value of his property depends upon its appearance.

Take any two farms of the same number of acres lying in the same neighborhood, and composed of the same character of land, the one with its fencing (were it not for the briars and weeds that support it) about to tumble down, its fields inconveniently located, its building in a state of dilapidation without any approach or lawn to give an air of comfort to the premises, and the other with all these improvements plainly in view, and the difference in the market value of the two will be from twenty to thirty per cent. in favor of the latter, simply on account of its neatness. Another essential point in economical farming is system. In no business is it more necessary to success. Haphazard farming may, it is true, earn a living such as it is, for the time being, but can never lay up anything for a rainy day.

The methodical man, however, always knows his business, and can arrange it to accomplish what he has to do with much less inconvenience, expense or labor than he who farms it in a desultory slipshod manner. There must be system in everything pertaining to the farm; system in doing everything in time; system in having a place for every thing and everything in its place; system in not putting off anything to-morrow that can be done today; system in planning in working, in grain-growing, in stock-breeding and feeding; in short, system in everything.

Deep Plowing. In farming, it is well as in dairying or raising everything dependent upon the condition of the soil. Here is the foundation and unless this is in proper condition the substructure is bound to fall. A great deal has been said and written as to the proper depth to plow, and there is such a difference of opinion among farmers in regard to it the question is still as far from being settled as ever. We think, however, that the leading cause of such difference of opinion may be found in the land itself. That good crops are and can be grown on shallow plowed land that is good no one will deny, provided the season be neither too wet or too dry—i. e., with moderate rains the whole season. In such a season any one can raise good crops. But such seasons are rare, and, in fact, every season is likely to be attended with either a long drought or a long wet spell. Now what the farmer wants is to guard against both, and the only way to do it is to break up his land deeply as possible—say not less than seven to ten inches. But how is this to be done? We answer very easily. In case of a heavy rain a large portion of the water, instead of running off, will be absorbed by the deeply disintegrated land, where it is held as if by a sponge for the use of the plants, and if a drought should intervene, there is a supply of water just where the plants want it, and when exhausted, its place is at once supplied by capillary attraction from below. It will thus be seen that by deep plowing the farmer provides against drought by having a supply of water in reserve, or a place ready to receive and hold whenever it comes. The better to insure this, however, as well as to facilitate the escape of too much water, it is better to use a subsoil plow and an additional team, running the same immediately after the breaking by the plow and ripping up the subsoil to the desired depth. This need not be done for every crop raised on the land, but only once in every three or four years.

It has been well said that it is better to have two acres of good land, one on top of the other, than as many acres along-side of each other, as it costs only half as much to tend them. The way to do this is by deep plowing, and thus double the depth of the soil, as well as the crops grown thereon.

Vinegar in the rinsing water of pink or green calico brings, and soda answers the same purpose for blue or purple.

Keeping fowl before the fowls continually removes all inducement for them to scratch. They should be so fed as to be compelled to work.

To educate his fix moral principles and the work of a farmer so conducted as to secure to him a neat and comfortable home is Christianizing.

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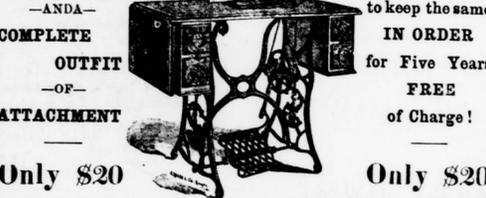
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