

## Farm Notes.

## HOG CHOLERA.

This disease is strictly contagious. It may be carried not only by affected animals but by droppings, litter or streams in which they wallow. Other animals, large and small, as cats and dogs, may spread it, so that the only safety for any infected neighborhood is for the time to abolish all swine, and after proper disinfection of all affected quarters, give time for nature to clear up the neighborhood.

## HUBBARD SQUASHES AMONG POTATOES.

Western farmers have taken to growing Hubbard squashes among hoed crops, and find them more profitable than the old-fashioned pumpkin, and quite as reliable. They require, or at least will pay, for some extra manuring and watering in a dry time. One of the advantages of growing Hubbard squashes with field crops is that many hills escape any visitation from the bugs.

## BREEDING COWS FOR MILK.

It is a curious fact, and one that has led to much disappointment in breeding for the dairy, that milk and butter production is most commonly transmitted through the male line. This is the time when cows should be bred to have them in full flow of milk next spring, and if the cow herself is a good one breed to a bull that comes of equally good strain, and the heifer calves will probably be valuable for the dairy.

## AFTERMATH OF TIMOTHY.

The second growth of timothy, or aftermath, does not get enough size to warrant cutting, nor would it be advisable if it did. It is, however, very important in keeping the grass from being run out. Timothy grass has a bulb just at the surface, and the roots are mostly straggling and near the top of the ground. It is not liable to be thrown out by frost as clover is, but it needs protection as much from the burning sun of summer as from the frosts of winter.

## BASEMENTS NOT SUITABLE FOR HORSES.

While basement barns have many advantages for wintering stock warmly, they are not adapted to keeping horses in summer. It is very difficult to get them ventilated as they should be, and the ammonia always rising from horse manure and urine is injurious to the health, and especially to the eyes. It is torture to horses that have worked hard during the day to be put into unventilated, bad smelling quarters at night. The fact that the underground stable is unfit induces many farmers to turn horses out to pasture at night, which for teams at work is scarcely less cruel than keeping them in poorly ventilated stables.

## SOWING HUNGARIAN GRASS ON SOD.

The advice is often given to plow up sod-land, often that which has borne a poor hay crop, and then sow Hungarian with the expectation of getting a full crop of that. The expectation is seldom realized. Hungarian grass needs rich soil, and as the seed is small it requires a finer and mellow seed bed than can be got on the sod plowed in or after midsummer. If warm, moist weather comes after the sod is turned it can be easily got in better condition for fodder corn than for Hungarian, and the corn, if it is advanced enough to tassel before frost, will make greater amount of more valuable fodder than the Hungarian.

## ENSILAGE IS THE MAIN RELIANCE.

Our extreme northwestern territory on the Pacific, including parts of Washington Territory and Alaska, has a very moist climate. So much rain falls while forage crops are being gathered that they can only be saved by ensilaging. Here, as the air is excluded, the water is less objectionable. Gov. Swineford of Alaska reports that by using ensilage in winter large numbers of cattle may be kept, as the summer forage is excellent. The difficulty has been in getting it dry so as to keep for food in winter, but with ensilage pits, which can be built more cheaply than barns, this difficulty can be avoided. If the question of curing fodder were unprejudiced in the East more silo pits and fewer barns would be built.

## WATERING HORSES AT WORK.

Horses hard at work in warm weather need water frequently. If a handful of oatmeal is thrown in a pailful of water, and one or two swallows given two or three times between morning and noon, or noon

and night, it will stimulate them to renewed exertions and keep them fresh all day. This sort of stimulation has no bad after effects, as does that which men often take in the harvest field. The work of harvesting with self-binders is now as severe for teams as cutting grain was in the old times for men when done by hand labor, and it is a time when grain for horses has been mostly used up. With the labor thus thrown on the teams they need proportionate good care.

## CURING HAY TOO MUCH.

The great fear of farmers in getting hay into the barn is that it will be too green and heat in the mow. This is more especially true where hay has been cured mainly, as hay should be, in the cock. After it has lain in cock one or two days, they will open and expose it to the sun several hours. This is not only unnecessary but injurious. We never knew hay left in cock twenty-four hours that could injure in the mow, if got in without rain. The dried pieces of grass have a preservative effect, very different from the moisture left on hay by rains. After being wet the outside moisture must be thoroughly dried out; but it is better to do it with as little exposure to the sun as possible. More hay is injured by bleaching and sunburning than by rotting.

## WHITE CLOVER SEED.

The pertinacity with white clover appears in land where it has never been sown suggests that it is a very reliable seeder. This is a fact. If white clover were not so valuable a forage plant it would be a bad weed, as indeed it is in strawberry beds. It propagates not only by seeds but by runners, just as the strawberry does. In most cases if the browned heads are examined they will be found filled with seed. Besides, white clover propagates often where it is least suspected. In meadows where no white clover is visible at mowing time the tiny plants are hidden under the grass, and soon show blossoms after their shade is removed. The fact that white clover has a hard struggle for existence among grass makes it all the surer seeder.

## REPAIRS FOR HARVESTING MACHINERY.

The competition among manufacturers of self-binding harvesters has reduced the price too low. This results in turning out machines where poor materials, especially of wood-work, are used. It is increasingly difficult to get just the right kind of wood, and in the necessity for selling cheaply few will afford the expense. The worst of the matter is that not half the agents keep repairs likely to be called for any day in the busiest season, and telegraphed for perhaps from a distance of several hundred miles. Castings have to be furnished from the factory, but a farmer using much machinery should keep a stock of hard-wood lumber from which he can make repairs to broken woodwork, saving time, which will often be worth more to him than the saving of the machinists' bill.

## DAIRYMEN PROSPEROUS.

Commissioner Norman J. Colman, in a recent address to the Virginia farmers, said: "Go to the great State of New York, the New England States, to Iowa, Minnesota, and many other States, and as you travel through the country you can tell when you come to the dairy region. There you see the finest residences, the most comfortable and best equipped stables and buildings, the best fences, the best surroundings, and if you can get into the bank you will find the largest bank accounts credited to the dairymen. Their farms in the East are worth from one hundred dollars to two hundred dollars per acre, notwithstanding the long winters, when they are compelled, on account of the severity of the weather, with the thermometer sometimes down to thirty or forty degrees below zero, to feed so many months of the year."—*Farm and Fair Journal*.

## A SUMMER DRINK.

Buttermilk is considered one of the best of summer drinks. Those who have a craving for something sour in warm weather will find the lactic acid which buttermilk contains, very grateful to the stomach, and the staying properties of the drink will enable a person to undergo more fatigue than anything else that he may drink.

## CATTLE DEHORNEED.

It has been only a year or more since the dehorning of cattle has received any attention from American cattle raisers.

At first an occasional article appeared in some journal, but with no decided advocacy of the practice of dehorning, and usually with comments on the supposed cruelty of the operation. But within the past year, the papers have been full of reports sent in by the pioneers, who have been pruning off the useless horns from their cattle on the same principle that they weed out useless or dangerous weeds or shrubs which grow in their lands to the exhaustion of the soil, or the endangering of either human or animal life or limbs.

The various reports as made by those who have already been dehorning cattle, show that the operation is not a very painful one to the animal, especially when performed on calves when very young and in every case so far as reported, entire satisfaction as to the result is expressed by those who are dehorning their cattle.

The earliest accounts which we have of any systematic practice of dehorning cattle, is that said to have been carried on amongst the dairies attached to the lands of the religious establishments in Great Britain, where the priests or monks being peaceful and non-combatant in their habits, considered it not in opposition to humanity and to their own safety to dehorn their cattle.

It is a fact established beyond doubt, that a large proportion of the polled breeds of England owe their origin to the practice of dehorning in the dairies of these pious and peaceful men, where it was carried on so persistently until the horns ceased to exist in the breed and the dehorned head became hereditary.

Another theory upon this subject is also upon historical record, and that is, that these religious dairymen selected the hornless cattle wherever they could find one and thereby produced their hornless herds by selection, but the theory that dehorning was practiced by them until the horns disappeared in breeding is the more plausible conclusion to be reached.

But the question of to-day is, shall we have horns, or shall we not have horns? and the question is very easily answered. Those who want horns can have them, and those who do not want horns can dehorn. It is simply a question of local option, and fortunately every cattle raiser has the option upon his own cattle and upon his own farm. There is only one vote to decide the question and each farmer can cast it for himself.

It is to be hoped that the spirit of dehorning cattle will continue to progress and do its work, for it is a good work, a sensible work, for the benefit of both man and beast and instead of being cruel it is in the fullest degree humane, as more pain is inflicted by horns than can ever be done by dehorning cattle.—*Mercantile and Exchange Advocate*.

## FOOD FOR HOGS.

Almost anything is supposed to be good enough for a hog to eat, provided it will eat it. Why the idea is so prevalent, it is hard to say, unless it be because the hog has such strong digestive powers, and is, therefore, able to make use of food that the stomachs of other animals will reject. The hog has the longest digestive canal, or intestines of any of the domestic animals, the sheep coming next, with 70 feet to the hog's 72 feet. But while the hog has the longest alimentary canal, it has also the smallest stomach. The stomach and contents of the ox are said to average 11½ per cent. of the entire weight of the body; of the sheep, 7½ per cent., and of the hog, 1½ per cent. But when it comes to the intestines, the case is reversed, the intestines of the hog and their contents constituting 6½ per cent. of the entire weight of the body, of the sheep 3½ per cent., and of the ox 2½ per cent. So it would seem that the wonderful digestive powers of the hog depend upon the length and capacity of the intestinal canal as compared with the size of the stomach. It can digest and assimilate more food in a given time, according to scientists, than any other animal. This is why it lays on fat so much more readily. But is this any reason why it should be compelled to live on refuse which no other animal will touch and which evidently will

not produce wholesome flesh for human food? The meat is made of what the animal eats, and even the splendid digestive organs of the hog can not purify wholly that which is impure, and convert it into wholesome and nutritious diet for man. For us we want no slaughter-house fattened pork, no distillery-slop pork, no pork made from the indigested material taken from the manure of other animals. As we prefer cider made from clean apples, with the rot and worms left out, so we prefer pork—and we like good ham and bacon—made from clean, sweet food, and that of the vegetable kind. In this way we stand a chance to steer clear of tape worm and trichinae, and we have a much solid, sweeter meat than can be made from animal refuse, distillery slops and rotten vegetables. We have known farmers who were fond of pork, that never ate pork away from home unless they knew how it had been fed and fattened. They made their own pork out of clean food, fed to a clean lot of hogs, kept in a clean pen.—*Ec.*

## MANURE HEAP IN SUMMER.

The manure heap should not be managed in summer as in winter. What is desired in winter is to have the ingredients in the heap in a state of gradual decomposition, as the cold season permits of greater control of the temperature where the manure is under cover and not exposed to the elements. There is then no fear of "fire-fanging," and the laborers have more time for turning it over. In the summer the case is different. The temperature of the atmosphere often reaches 100°, and largely controls the degree of heat within the heap. If the manure is carefully managed, it can be regulated with but little difficulty. All coarse substances should be placed in the center, and the freshest manure placed upon it, the heap being saturated with urine as it progresses. The heat may be started at any time by sprinkling a little lime water upon the materials as they are added. As soon as you are satisfied that the heat has reached a temperature sufficient to decompose all the materials, turn the heap over, placing those portions on the outside to the center, add urine, and they will soon be decomposed. No doubt every farmer understands well what we have said, but many of them are not careful. They allow the heat to reach any temperature, and when they are ready to use the manure, they find it has "fire-fanged," and the volatile matter gone, and its value greatly lessened. If you are too busy to turn it over and the manure is likely to become too hot, make holes here and there and pour in plenty of cold water, which will absorb the ammonia and prevent its escape.—*Farm, Field and Stockman*.

## ABOUT MILK RICH IN FATS.

Scientifically why the first milk drawn from a cow is the richest, may be, according to the experiments of Dr. Sturtevant and Prof. Arnold, stated as follows:

Prof. Arnold holds that it is not because the cow's udder is like an open vessel, in which the cream can rise, but there is no such thing as a backward motion to milk or any of its elements after it has once started from the point of formation, but that ducts converge into the one in the teat.

Dr. Sturtevant finds that the heavier, more liquid part of the milk will move through the milk tubes more easily than the solid and lighter portion, much on the principle, we suppose, that a pebble would move downward in a tube of running water faster than the water, and that accounts for part of the result.

Prof. Arnold says that in addition to this cause, the fat of the milk after it has passed the initial point of secretion, is absorbed in the general circulation faster than the proteic is, and so becomes poorer in fat the longer it is retained in the udder.

It has been proved that the per cent of butter fat increases with the shortness of the time between the milkings, that it adds wonderfully to the butter production of the cow to milk her every six hours, over milking once in twenty-four hours.

This may account, in some measure, for the phenomenal butter records of cows fed to the extreme of digestion with rich food and milked three or four times a day.—*Farm, Field and Stockman*.

## MORE ABOUT BURR CLOVER.

Having received many letters of inquiry as to the merits of burr clover, I desire to answer through your valuable journal, *The Southern Cultivator*. (1.) It will grow on our oldest lands, though, like everything else, the richer the soil the more luxuriant the growth. (2.) If sown in July or August it will withstand our coldest winters. When all other grasses are dead it remains green and flourishing. (3.) After once set will re-seed itself for years without any more cultivation, making a permanent winter pasture. (4.) Dies down in June to reappear in September. (5.) All kind of stock become very fond of it; is fine for fowls, chickens and turkeys eating it all winter. (6.) Cannot be exterminated by grazing if stock are taken off of it when in bloom, say the first of May. (7.) I have a lot planted six years ago, plowed once since, which is now nearly four feet high; as thickly matted as ever you saw red clover. One has but to have it to appreciate the value of it. Those who have had it for years speak the highest in its praise. (8.) It will prove to be one of the best and cheapest renovators of old worn lands we can have, as it will grow well on the hardest surface. (9.) It is easily exterminated when desired by plowing any time before the seed matures. (10.) The seeds are enclosed in a burr about the size of a buckshot. (11.) Prepare the ground as you would for turnips, sow the burrs, then pass roller over to pack them down. (12.) The past winter was very severe, killing all the small grain, nevertheless this clover stood the test and was then green and flourishing. J. W. M. Monroe county.

—*Southern Cultivator*.

## A REMEDY FOR HOG CHOLERA.

Collect the corn cobs in a pile, burn them until thoroughly charred, then take them out, sprinkle brine and salt freely on the coals, and let the hogs eat all they want.

Keep the hogs without salt for a few days over the regular time, so they will eat freely of the coals.

If farmers throughout the State will adopt this plan I don't think they will be troubled with the fell disease among their swine.

When fattening, give the cobs once in two weeks; stock hogs once a month. If some of the farmers whose hogs are now affected, and not too far gone, will give the cobs to them as prepared, and let them eat freely (which they will) of it, I think they will find their hogs soon getting well.—*Richmond Dispatch*.

## FARMERS' SOCIETIES.

We are heartily in sympathy with all the societies which bring the farmers together to discuss those topics which interest and benefit them. The more such organizations are formed, the wider will be the prevalence of just ideas and better methods of farming.

We care very little what may be the name of the society thus formed, whether it be a Farmers' Club, a Farmers' Grange, a Farmers' Alliance, a Farmers' Institute, or any other name; if it will only bring the farmers together to talk over the topics that stir the agricultural world, and render them better capable of cultivating their lands, harvesting their crops, marketing their produce; thus elevating their pursuits to something nearer the scientific basis upon which their profession should stand.—*New Farm*.

## KEEPING FRUIT.

By preserving a portion of the surplus fruit for winter, many little delicacies can be had at a time when such things are scarce. There are methods for preserving some fruits by which they are retained in solidity, color and flavor until late in the winter. Mr. Roe, a fruit-grower, took a large stone pot and placed in it a layer of Isabella grapes then a double thickness of straw paper, and followed with alternate layers of grapes and paper until the pot was full, pasting a piece of cloth over the stone cover to make it water-tight. He then buried the pot in a dry knoll, below the reach of frost, and on digging the pot up, about New Year's day, he found that the grapes looked and tasted as if just picked off the vines. The suggestion is given that other fruits might be treated in the same manner, while other experiments should also be tried.