

THE HERALD.



AGRICULTURAL.

Smut in Wheat—Cause and Remedy.

The above reflections were called to mind from facts recently told me. Judge Spofford and other gentlemen and ladies of Putaski were spending the day, looking at the stock farm, etc. We had "horse-talk" most of the time, then farms and farming. The Judge told: "I (the Judge) have 100 acres in wheat. The seed put upon 97 acres was thoroughly soaked in bluestone water. My manager, Mr. La Mave, a most excellent executive officer, seeded 97 acres thus; The bluestone water gave out and rather than go to the country store to buy more, concluded to seed the remaining three acres "dry so." Result—no smut on the 97 acres, and any quantity of it on the three remaining acres. Mark you, it was all sown out of the same bin, same seed, soil and preparation. Here is the most conclusive proof as to the efficiency of bluestone as a preventive. Why does not every one else use it? The cost is a mere trifle, the result sure.

My neighbor, Ramsey, seeded about 75 acres to wheat on adjoining farm and in sight of mine. He seeded two days, when a soaking rain put a stop to plowing. After three days he got impatient—could not wait—was in a hurry to get through, so as to pick cotton. Commenced plowing when the ground was heavy, too wet. Result—no smut any where in the 75 acres, except the days plowing when the ground was too wet. Mark you, there was no bluestone or other preventive used on this occasion—but formerly had been till no smut appeared, and then dispensed with. From the above we learn—1st, That bluestone is a preventive. 2d, That ploughing in when the land is too wet is, if not the cause, both of the above facts were demonstrated as above—same seed, same soil, same culture. I hope the above may prove useful, if to no one else, at least to beginners, who need "more light." —G. T. A. in Rural Sun.

What to do with the Hogs.

All the probabilities now are that farmers will receive good prices for their hogs the coming Fall and Winter. It is also probable that the prices for corn will be quite satisfactory. It is evident that to many farmers it is important, in a more than usual degree, to receive as much money as practicable from their crops within the next few months. It is not at all improbable that the prices in the early part of the season will be as high as will be reached at any time during the Winter. It is a well-known fact that flesh can be put on hogs at less cost in moderate than in extremely cold weather. It is coming to be generally admitted that the weight can be increased on young animals at a less cost than on older ones.

Looking at all these facts and probabilities, it seems to us it will be wise to get the hogs, at least the older ones, in condition for market early in the season. If they have good clover pasture we would not feed them any corn now, but as soon as the new corn is fit for the purpose we should feed liberally, cutting the stalks and feeding them with the corn. If by thus feeding the hogs kept over, as pigs or breeding sows, are fat and marketed by October, the probabilities are that more profit will be made than by deferring liberal feeding until frost has destroyed the pasture and then marketing the hogs in January.

After the first lot has been sold, if, as we expect now, there should be a good prospect for well sustained prices, we should feed the early pigs, except the best which should be kept for breeding purposes, with reference to selling them during the Winter.

As a practical solution of the much discussed question, whether it is best to fatten pigs before they are a year old or keep them over one Winter and sell them from sixteen to twenty months old, we would suggest that for very many farmers both courses are advisable; that is, it is advisable to have some litters of pigs come early in the Spring, fattening them when from eight to ten months old, and keeping the later litters until the following year. —Western Rural.

Grangers and Manufacturers.

Judging from our exchanges, there is a growing spirit among the Patrons in favor of manufacturing, and we are pleased to learn that such is the case. But, "go slow," is a wise motto for the Order. It will not do, in such important ventures, to indulge the belief that such enterprises can be made success-

ful without the intervention of skill and experience. Convenient and entirely suitable buildings for each particular branch of manufacturing must be erected under the supervision of an experienced designer, and a skilled mechanic should select the most approved machinery for the work it is intended to perform. When these important preliminaries are duly attended to, there must be skilled laborers and a competent supervisor who understands how to turn out the largest amount of good work at the least cost. It is not every good business man that is fitted to take charge of such establishments until he is fitted by judicious training in all the secrets and minutia of the business. Therefore every Grange, or combination of Granges looking for the establishment of a factory, will do well to calculate the cost of these things, so indispensable to success and without which failure is inevitable. There are three essentials—money, the best machinery and skilled labor. —Clarksville Chronicle.

Change of Seed.

Seed grain should be changed every year or indeed every two years, but unless on farms where there is a variety of soil, sufficient to admit of frequent change within their own bounds, fresh seed would be advantageous every third or fourth year, especially oats. In any circumstances it is essential that seed grain should be well harvested and of a fresh healthy color. More stress should be laid on the absence of maling in harvest, and heating in the stack-yard than on the weight and plumpness of the grain intended for seed, and hitherto Scotch farmers have kept this, on the whole, pretty well in view. It would be unwise to advocate more attention to the latter consideration if that could only be accomplished at the expense of less to the former. But there is no such danger. It is quite possible, and it is very desirable, that, while farmers should in no degree relax their endeavors to avoid imperfectly harvested seed, they might obtain a better body of grain and a more frequent change from a different soil and climate. If they do so the gain would be theirs. —North British Agriculturist.

Wheat and Rye.

Wheat requires a better soil than rye, and where the soil is not good enough to yield at least 15 bushels of wheat to the acre, it would be better to sow rye, which might bring 25 or 30 bushels. It is useless to sow the more delicate white wheats except in the best soils. The amber and red wheats are safer to sow on medium and light soils. The past has been a wet season, and there will be few complaints of a soil too dry for sowing. Fields not yet plowed, should be turned over at once, and harrowed thoroughly until the soil is well settled. A firm mellow soil is needed for wheat or rye. Sowing by drill is the safest method. The saving of seed will nearly pay for the use of the drill. Drills may be hired for 40 cents an acre or less. The next best manner of sowing, is to broadcast the seed, and cover with a cultivator. If the seed is sown broadcast, the ground should be rolled thoroughly after being harrowed. Drill sowing saves the labor of harrowing afterwards. Where the fly is not feared, early sowing is to be preferred. It is a choice of evils between the dangers of the fly on the one hand, and of winter-killing on the other. If the soil is in good condition, the time of sowing is to be decided according to circumstances, locality, and the judgment of the individual. —American Agriculturist.

Sheep on the Farm.

No well regulated farm in the South is complete without sheep. They afford a profitable source of income with but a trifling expense for keeping and a small outlay of capital for the first purchase. They breed rapidly, and are really beneficial to every farm to cut down the weeds in fence corners; and on the whole we don't see how any farmer can do without sheep. But, you say, what breed is best to raise with other stock on the farm? If you only want a small flock, the Cotswolds are the most profitable, when provided in winter with good, warm shelter, and

fed on hay, straw, or fodder, with but little corn, and plenty of turnips or roots of any kind, and a good supply of clean water. The extra quality of the wool will well repay the little extra care. They mature early, the lambs find a good market at six months, and at two years, their good size, when fat, makes them good mutton sheep, while their wool always brings a good price in the wool market everywhere.

Cotswolds cross well with Merinos or with the common sheep.

The Merinos are better adapted to large flocks and exposure than the long wools. The Southdowns are the best mutton sheep, but their wool is not so valuable. —Er.

Proper amount of Food for Stock.

A farmer made an experiment. He took a sheep that weighed about 100 pounds, put it in a pen, and after it had become wonted, weighed all its food, and found that three pounds per day of fodder or grain was all he could make the sheep eat. The farmer had verified a rule well known to the much-despised "book farmer," and arrived at by many and careful experiments, that about three pounds of good food per day for each one hundred pounds of live stock is a fattening allowance. For illustration, a sheep weighing one hundred pounds requires three pounds of food per day and a steer weighing one thousand needs thirty pounds. These rules are approximately correct, being varied somewhat by quality of food and stock. The farmer knowing the weight of his food and that of his stock, by applying these rules, can guess closely as to whether he has enough food for his stock.

Who is the Best Farmer?

The best farmer is he who raises the best and largest crops on the smallest surface of land at the least expense, and at the same time annually improves his soil; who understands his business and attends to it; whose manure heap is very large and always increasing; whose corn-crib and smoke-house are at home; who is surrounded by all the necessaries and comforts of life; who studies his profession, and strives to reach perfection in it; who keeps a strict account of all his out-goes and incomes; and who knows how he stands the end of each season, such a farmer in nine times out of ten will succeed, and not only make farming a pleasant, but profitable occupation. Try it and see how it is yourself, reader. —Farmers' Vindicator.

For potatoes and corn, hog manure which contains plenty of well rotted corn-cobs is one of the best things used.

Cobs contain a great deal of potash, and are extremely useful on soils which are deficient in that material. On almost all kinds of land, and for all farm crops they are much more valuable than is usually thought, and ought to be carefully saved and used for manure.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Valuable Recipes.

APPLE BREAD.—A very light, pleasant bread is made in France by a mixture of apples and flour, in the proportion of one of the former to two of the latter. The usual quantity of yeast is employed as in making common bread, and is beaten with the flour and warm pulp of the apples after they have been boiled, and the dough is then considered as set; it is then put in a proper vessel, and allowed to rise for eight or twelve hours, and then baked in long loaves. Very little is requisite—none, generally, if the apples are very fresh.

APPLE SAUCE.—Pare and core three good-sized baking apples, and put them into a well-tinned pint saucepan, with two table-spoonsful of cold water; cover the saucepan close, and set it on a trivet over a slow fire a couple of hours before dinner; some apples will take a long time stewing—others will be ready in fifteen minutes; when the apples are done enough, pour off the water, let them stand a few minutes to get dry; then beat them up with a fork, with a bit of butter about as big as a nutmeg, and a teaspoonful of powdered sugar. Some add lemon-juice, grated or minced fine, or boil a bit with apples. Some are fond of apple sauce with cold pork.

BAKED APPLE PUDDING.—Four large apples boiled, some grated bread, four ounces of butter, four yolks and two whites of eggs well beaten, sugar to taste; edge a dish with puff-paste, and bake half an hour.

APPLE CREAM.—Boil twelve apples in water till soft; take off the peel and press the pulp through a hair sieve upon half a pound of pounded sugar; whip the whites of two eggs, add them to the apples, and beat all together till it becomes very stiff and looks quite white. Serve it heaped up on a dish.

BEEF CUTLETS.—Cut the inside of a sirloin or rump in slices half an inch thick; trim them neatly; melt a little butter in a frying-pan; season the cutlets; try them lightly; serve with tomato sauce.

How to Cook BEEFSTEAK.—The frying-pan being wiped dry, place it upon the stove and let it become hot. In the meantime mangle the steak—if it chance to be sirloin so much the better—pepper and salt it, then lay it on the hot, dry pan, which instantly covers as tight as possible. When the raw flesh touches the heated pan, of course it seethes and adheres to it, but in a few seconds it becomes loosened and juicy. Every half minute turn the steak; but be careful to keep it as much as possible under cover. When nearly done lay a small piece of butter upon it. In three minutes from the time the steak first goes into the pan it is ready for the table.

BETTER THAN HOPS.—The leaves of our common or basket willow, (salix nigra, Marshall,) treated the same as is usual for hops, make an excellent yeast leaven for light bread. The discovery was made this summer, and after thorough trial I was convinced that there is nothing equal to it, as it rises much quicker than hops—in half the time—imparts none of that hop flavor so disagreeable to some, and, in fact, makes better bread every way. The thing is well worthy the attention of every good housewife; and lest some should hesitate in consequence of not knowing the medical properties of the willow in question, I will add that it is a healthful tonic from which no harm can possibly arise.

TO TELL GOOD FLOUR.—When flour is of the best kind, it holds together in a mass when squeezed in the hand, and shows the impression of the fingers, and even the marks of the skin, much longer than when it is bad or adulterated. 2. Adulterated flour will be found to be heavier than the pure. 3. Knead a little between your fingers, if it works soft and sticky, it is poor.

CRACKERS.—One quart of flour, four ounces of butter or lard, half a teaspoon of soda, and the same of salt; sweet milk. Rub the butter thoroughly in the flour and salt; dissolve the soda in the milk, and enough more to take up the flour, which should be made into a very stiff dough; the more the dough is kneaded or pounded the better the crackers; roll out to the desired thickness—one quarter of an inch—and bake quickly.

TO BROIL FOWL.—Slit the fowl down the back, and score to the bone all the thicker parts, as the thighs and breasts, in order to its being all equally done. Brush over the inside and the places scored, with catsup and pepper, and broil over a clear fire. A sauce should be made of butter and flour melted brown, into which, when taken from the fire, should be put capers or button mushrooms.

GREEN CORN CAKES.—Grate the corn, make a rich batter with cream; use just sufficient of the batter to hold the corn together, and lay the cakes on the griddle as you would a common griddle cake. Serve with butter.

Good Coming Out of Nazareth

Nashville Banner, Aug. 25. "How do, Sam, hows you gettin' along by dis time?" said a rural darkey to another on the streets yesterday. "Ah," said the other with a deep sigh, "de bursting ob de Freedman's Bank brought me mighty near to de poor-house, an' I ain't much better off, no how. I hasn't got any more faith in de banks now."

The latter had come into the city from Columbia to inquire whether there was any hope of his ever getting even the slightest portion of the hard-earned money he had deposited, unsuspectingly, from the Republican sharks interested in swindling the colored people out of their little all. He was told that the bank had not paid a cent of the \$85,000 it abstracted from the colored men, women and children of Middle Tennessee, and very little was expected. Folding his arms solemnly across his breast he remarked, "Hain't ole narster come to my 'sistance, dis nigger would done been starved to death. I'm 'ginnin' t'believe my ole narster is about right. Ise been swindled by de 'publicans an' sinners, an' now Ise gwine to vote for de Democratic party."

Speaking in Public.

In too many cases, the public speaker substitutes sound for sense; rhetoric for argument; learned quotations for facts; he does not understand the value of words, and, using them prodigally, lessens their effect. Now this is clearly the result of the degeneracy of conversation as a fine art. There is no school for the extempore speaker, we believe, equal to that of the thoughtful talk of a company of intelligent friends, expressing freely their ideas on some vital question. Only let the talker, in private or in public, be not content with the slipshod modes of speech, the vulgar slang, the half-baked sentences which so many miscalled conversations, but let him aspire, even in the expression of the most commonplace facts, the most ordinary news, the commonest message, to clothe his thought in the language which shall be at once strongest and most graceful, clearest and most refined, saying fully and aptly all he means, yet not an iota more. Practiced with all such aims, no day need go by in which he may not take a hopeful lesson.

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