

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE FARMER

MORAL ASPECT OF GOOD ROADS

Henry Wallace Says We Must Get Practical Christianity Into the Making of Them.

The greatest difficulty in securing good dirt roads is not in the cost of the drag which we are recommending, for that is merely nominal, nor the time required to operate it, but a moral difficulty, we came very near saying an immoral one. A great many farmers look upon the subject in this way:

They say they have paid their taxes in cash, as the law requires, and it is the business of the trustees to see that it is expended properly. It is the business of the road supervisor or contractor to do the work under the direction of the trustees, and having done this, why should they go to the trouble of smoothing up the roads along their farms?

They do not intend to do something for nothing. The responsibility is not on them. It is on the men to whom they have furnished the money, to do this work, and they do not propose to do it.

This is especially the case with a retired farmer. He is a little disgruntled, anyhow. Heretofore, in leasing his lands he has compelled the renter to work out all the road tax except that which is specifically payable in cash. The new law comes in and says it must all be paid in cash. The renter says this is part of the taxes and he does not have to pay it; it is the part of the landlord to pay his taxes, and he is not going to help him out.

This is the hardest proposition we are up against, and the only way which we know that it can be removed is to develop a different code of ethics among farmers; in other words, to get a little practical-applied Christianity into this road business. The disciples of Christ were a good deal in the position of the average farmer; they wanted first to get the most there was in it for themselves, hence they were constantly scrapping among themselves as to which should have the highest honor in the temporal kingdom which they believed until the last that Jesus was about to establish.

He laid down this law for our guidance and by which to measure character: "He that is greatest among you, let him do the most service." He never said a word to them about standing up for their rights, but He had a great deal to say to them about their duties.

Now, if we could get the farmers in sections where this good roads train has visited to quit thinking about the money that they have paid for taxes and think about the duty to themselves as well as to their neighbors and the whole community of having a good, smooth road in front of their farms, we could solve this good roads problem, in those localities at least, within the short space of one year.

It will cost the farmer with a half-mile road from 75 cents to \$2.00 for a drag; probably 75 cents worth of labor where he has a log which he can split up, or perhaps \$2.00 in labor and lumber where he has to buy the lumber.

It will cost him not more than \$1.50

in labor which would otherwise be wasted to keep his half-mile road smooth each year. The simple question is whether he will forget about his road taxes and do this without asking anybody for any pay but as a service done to the public, or whether he will sit back and say:

"I have paid somebody else for doing it, and let them do it or let it go undone." As a matter of fact, it will go undone unless the farmer or landowner has this public spirit that will induce him to do it without remuneration.

The railroads, the elevator men, and the town merchants are quick to see the value of these good roads. They know very well that there is just a certain amount of business to be done in any community; in other words, just a certain amount of farmers' goods to be supplied, so much grain and live stock to market, and so many goods to be bought.

They see perfectly clearly that while the farmer may be indifferent about the road in front of his farm, he is not indifferent about the roads between his farm and town.

Where, for example, there are two towns ten miles apart which are competing for the farmers' trade, the merchants see that if they can get the roads put in first-class shape the farmers who are nearest the next town will haul their stuff a mile further in order that they have the advantage of the good road.

They want to enlarge their territory as much as possible and they see very quickly that the best way they can do it is to make the roads leading to their town the very best possible.

The towns that start in now will have the advantage of the towns that have not awakened to the situation, and by giving their new customers the right treatment they will hold and maintain this trade for some time to come.

If the farmer were wise he would see that it is to his interest to have the roads good to both towns so that he could go to one quite as well as the other and stay with the one that treats him best.

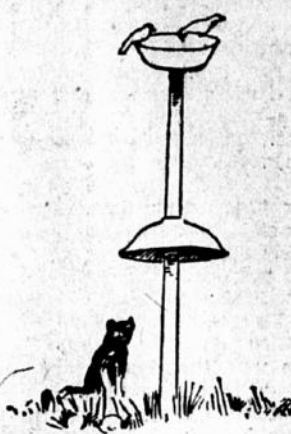
It is quite possible to make in one year a good beginning at the solution of this problem which has vexed us ever since the west was opened up, but the greatest obstacle in the way of it is this feeling on the part of farmers that they have paid for doing the thing and they should now turn around and do it themselves.

They do not seem to understand that if they would adopt this simple method of keeping the roads smooth one year without money and without price it would not be necessary to levy road taxes in the future except for drainage, bridges and culverts, and this in many counties in the west would cut the road tax somewhere in two and save a two-mill levy.

Turn the question around and look at it from this way, and if you will not look at it from the standpoint of public spirit and applied Christianity, take a good square look at it from the point of future savings.

A Drink in Safety

A drinking place for birds which offers protection from cats should be on every farm and every suburban home yard should contain one. The water is furnished in an old



tin fastened to the top of a post, below which is an inverted pan which should extend out at least six inches from the pole. Such a drinking place is cheap and easily constructed.

The pepper called Paprika, which is in great demand can now be grown in the Southern states profitably. The government has conducted some valuable experiments during the past few years, and has grown and marketed about 7,000 pounds of the pods of fine quality.

Short rows cause frequent turning and a consequent loss of time and wasted energy for both man and team.

CONTRACTED FEET.

Owing to bad shoeing and also many other causes many horses suffer with contracted feet.

The heels are narrowed and the horse steps gingerly with a desire to extend himself when forced to trot or gallop.

The writer is now using a horse 21 years old and when he drove him for the first time in December last saw that he experienced great difficulty in extending himself and especially on rough or stony roads.

He was shod with heel calks on the front as well as the hind feet and it was very perceptible that the heels of his front feet were too narrow.

After three unsuccessful trials with regular blacksmiths the horse was examined by a competent veterinary surgeon who pronounced his trouble to be contracted heels.

He has them shod perfectly level in front, springs were placed in between the back of his shoes to keep the heels spread and a piece of sole leather was tacked across the hollows of the hoof below the foot and shoes to protect the sole of the foot and break the jar of traveling on rough and stony places.

About once or twice a week a hoof ointment consisting of one pint of Neat's foot oil with two table-spoons of oil of tar was applied on the outside of the front feet with a soft rag and then, raising the edge of the leather, a little is poured over the sole of the foot and a few drops in the heel cleft.

Since the last shoeing and following the treatment above described the horse has improved wonderfully; in his road work and rarely flinches, even going at a 12-mile-an-hour clip.

Silt Hopping for Hops

Hop-growers of Kent, England, have discovered a novel way of fixing the wires on the tall poles on which the hops are trained to grow. The poles are about twelve feet high, and placed



in rows at intervals of four or five feet in the fields. Upon these, wires must be stretched, and for this operation the ingenious farmers have devised long stilts, which are fastened to their legs, enabling them to stand at a height of seven or more feet from the ground.

RATIONAL CARE OF DAIRY HERDS

Cows Must Have Good Care and Comfortable Surroundings if They Are to Give the Best Results.

To increase the profits from our herds or decrease the profits of production we must eliminate the cows which individually run us into debt.

In the second place we must feed our cows more intelligently. The feeding of a dairy herd to produce profits more economically is a hard proposition to put to a man at the present time. Under the present conditions the only way to produce butter fat at less cost than we did last year is by increasing the efficiency of our home-grown dairy foods.

The feeding value of our home-grown foods will depend largely upon their palatability. By feeding a variety of feeds we make our rations more appetizing and palatable than a few foods.

Ensilage and roots are more palatable than dry fodders. Cows that are fed these appetizing feeds with clover hay will eat more hay than when confined to clover alone.

Early cut hay is more suited to the ration than late cut hay and the cows will consume larger quantities of it. In feeding home-grown feeds we must feed such foods in a practical way, as will induce the cows to eat more.

The more easily digested the ration, the larger the milk flow. A certain amount of energy is required to prepare these foods for assimilation. In feeding coarse foods we find this is a large per cent.

Tender pasture grass is more easily digested than dry fodders. Again we see that succulent foods are more easily digested than dry fodders; that early cut hay is more easily digested than late cut hay and that grain and concentrates are more easily digested than hay and coarse fodders.

We can make a balanced ration from corn ensilage and alfalfa hay, but such a ration contains an excess of coarse fiber and requires too great an expenditure of energy to digest and assimilate it.

Such a ration may be greatly improved by the addition of a few pounds of concentrates.

Cows that are giving milk must have an abundance of protein. The more protein we feed up to a certain point the larger the milk flow. It is the amount of food over and above that required to maintain the body that goes to stimulate the milk production.

The German standard of feeding calls for one and one-quarter pounds of protein for every ten or twelve pounds of milk.

Another principle is that feeding concentrates rich in nitrogen and mineral matter increases the value of the manure and much of the profits from high feeding must be made

through the fertility brought onto the farm by the increased value of the manure fertility.

But, high feeding is not always the most profitable. This is a matter that must be worked out by the man himself according to his farm and conditions. Conditions are not the same on two farms. The difference in cows, the kinds and amount of available home-grown foods, the market prices of dairy products and dairy foods, compel each man to work out the problem as it applies to his own particular farm, always watching the milk flow, increasing the foods and protein until a point is reached that yields the most profit.

Cows must have good care and comfortable surroundings if they are to respond to intelligent feeding. The great problem in connection with the stable is to keep it warm and well ventilated at the same time. Pure air is just as necessary to the cow as food. Sunlight is another essential. Dark stables where sunshine never reaches breed disease. Sunlight is a tonic, a stimulator and invigorator to all animals.

There seems to be a wide diversity of opinion among dairymen as to how much exercise the dairy cow should have, and I wish to say that I am not a member of the class who believe in shutting in the cows from October until June without turning them out for exercise.

There is a muscular tone and vigor that must be kept up to maintain health. With all our present-day systems of ventilation and improved methods of tending the cows, we must give the cows some outdoor exercise if we secure the best results of production and procreation.

If we look upon the cow as a milk-producing machine alone and do not place a value upon her ability to bring a strong and vigorous calf, it may be more profitable for us to keep her inside all the time where she can turn all of her energy toward the producing of milk alone and be discarded in two or three years and another cow take her place.

Such practice may pay the milk producer but not the man who is trying to build up a herd of economical butter-makers.

If any man thinks a little exercise a waste of energy let him shut himself up in a close room kept at the right temperature all winter and let him himself to just such kinds of food and see if he comes through the winter in condition to start a hard spring's work.

If the experiment worked well by himself why then he might be justified in trying it on the cows.

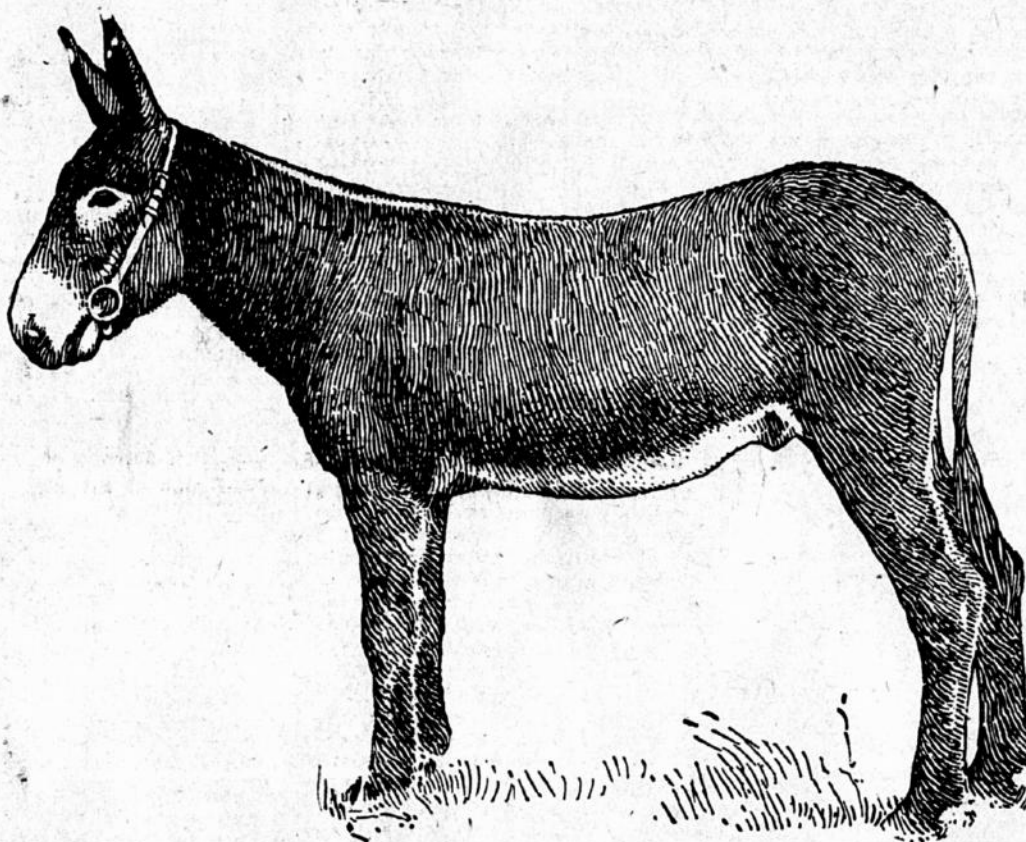
We must fight the encroachment of the gutters on our hillside farms as we fight weeds. Both can be held in check and often entirely eliminated.

Jealousy and envy are like weeds—they grow quickly and flourish on many soils but produce nothing that is not despised.

If we were always as ready to forgive the faults of others as we are to overlook our own, the world would not be so awfully bad.

Some people always are worrying about the troubles which may come, forgetting that there are enough troubles already here to keep us busy.

A Prize-Winning Kentucky Jack.



PREPARE THE WHEAT-SEED BED EARLY

I have had a good many years of experience in growing wheat and have found that the earlier the seed bed can be prepared the better.

To endure the vicissitudes of winter the wheat plant must have a firm root, but not too deep, spreading near the surface, rather than striking down.

The wheat plant makes its growth while there is plenty of moisture in the soil, so it does not send any of its top roots down into the subsoil in search of moisture, as does the clover or corn crop.

I find that early plowing gives the best opportunity and conditions to the seed bed in perfect condition for the wheat crop.

It is the only way we can insure a compact, firm soil with the right kind of seed bed on top to insure a good crop.

The seed bed should be two or three inches deep, with a well-hardened stratum of compact soil below that which has been thus settled by rains and the pressing of the roller and trampling of teams.

I have found that when the soil below the seed bed is open the crop is unsatisfactory.

A large acreage of wheat is now grown after crops of spring grain, and it is equally as necessary to get the planting done early as it was when the summer fallow was the prevailing method of preparing for wheat seeding.

The stubble and weeds are in themselves an injury to the seed bed. They help to hold up the furrow under which they are turned and some time is required to allow them to settle down and rot. The manurial value of this rubbish is next to nothing and

is more than offset by the injury it does to the seed bed by making it too light and dry.

When the plowing is not done early it is better to rake up and burn this trash before plowing.

Some husks in the soil might be lost, but this will be more than made up by the increased yield of grain secured. The stubble is always a hiding and breeding place for insects that prey upon, and if gotten rid of either by early plowing or burning, the crop is more certain.

One of the chief advantages I find of early plowing of stubble land is in getting grain up and out of the way before the wheat is sown. It should be sown every ten days or two weeks after plowing to pulverize lumps and keep down the weeds and grass and also to compress the furrow beneath the shallow seed bed.

On no account should this cultivation go deeper than two or three inches, and perhaps an inch of depth might be better still, if there were frequent rains about seeding time. Rains help to compact the seed bed for wheat better even than cultivation.

When cultivation is too deep the seed is apt to be put too deeply in the ground.

I never sow my wheat when the ground is very loose, waiting for rains to settle it. It is better to wait past the season for favorable seeding time than to cover the seed deeply in a bed of fine dust, which is sure to run together and compact when rains do come.

Wheat sown in this manner will not come up as well as it otherwise would and it is sure to winter kill.

W. H. Underwood.

A GOOD COW-STALL.

There are many kinds of stall fixtures. The stanchions, cribs and racks and the empty stall with no place for hay but to throw it in front



of the cow, and what she does not clean up at once is trampled on.

The stanchion is not very good for the cow. She must stand there in one place and is not free as in a stall.

In a properly built stall, when the cow feeds, the hind feet are on the plank floor, and when she lies down she will get up into the stall with her head under the rack.

With the old style cribs it is reversed. When she feeds she must get up, her head into the crib, and when lying down get back into the dirt, and if not kept well bedded she will be dirty clear to the ears.

SUGGESTIONS THAT MAY HELP.

It's a losing game to buy staple supplies in little drils. The reason so many city people are poor is because they buy groceries and coal in five and ten cent lots.

Farm machinery comes pretty high, we sometimes think, but there is one thing in its favor, it is not eating three meals a day when it is not working.

If your neighbor comes along and offers to let you in on a ground floor gold mine or any other sure thing proposition "just because you are a good fellow," ask time to think it over and then refuse.

Swamps on the farm are like dark spots on the human character. They are neglected and misunderstood and may be redeemed to usefulness and beauty by proper cultivation.

Many a farmer who despises "little things" has been tided over bankruptcy by the savings from their wife's chicken yards.

To avoid criticism say nothing evil about your neighbors.

TWO BARLEY BLIGHTS.

During the past two seasons there has appeared in many sections, a widespread disease on barley, commonly called rust, but in no way related to this disease. It is caused by an imperfect fungus.

There are two forms of these leaf-spot diseases of the barley, one an early blight which has been designated as "the yellow leaf disease," and the other "the late barley blight."

The yellow leaf disease appears early during the season. This is characterized by yellowish longitudinal stripes alternating with darker lines. This is transmitted by the seed.

The late barley blight causes brown spots of irregular outline, and occurs on the leaves, glumes and seed. The



a.—Barley leaf affected by "late blight." b.—Barley leaf affected by "yellow leaf disease." c.—Blade of corn affected by this fungus.

leaves are easily broken up and completely destroyed in some cases.

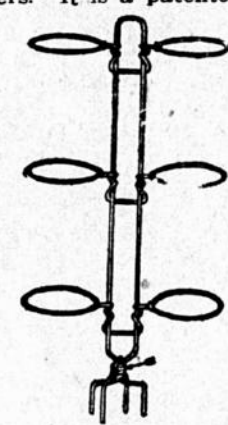
There are many species of this fungus on grasses, and one occurs on the leaves of corn, sometimes doing much injury.

Stark Bros., who own a large nursery near Louisiana, Mo., gave to the school children of nearby towns a carload of fruit trees, all of which were planted and yet there were not half enough to around. The car contained 4,000 apple trees, 2,500 pear trees, 4,000 cherry trees, 2,000 peach trees, 10,000 grape vines and 1,500 rose bushes.

Some women are so unreasonable as to expect a man to stop pitching horse shoes just to saw wood for the kitchen stove.

A USEFUL PLANT SUPPORT.

The accompanying picture shows a support for plants which can be used to good advantage, both for vegetables and flowers. It is a patented article.



but the cost is not great. It is made of galvanized wire, which will not rust and can be raised and lowered to suit the plant. When not in use it can be rolled and packed away for the next season. It is very useful for training tomatoes, carnations, roses or any plant that needs support.

WHY USE DAIRY RECORDS?

Accurate records of each cow's milk yield enables us to weed out the herd and retain only the money-makers.

They serve as a tab on the milkers. If the cows are not milked clean the fact is discovered. Poor milking by hired help is discouraged and the drying off from imperfect milking reduced to a minimum.

The cow's daily record is an excellent barometer of her physical condition. Derangements are more quickly discovered and checked and better methods of feeding are encouraged.

Both owners and help are stimulated to increase the product and it educates them in the matter of dairy economy.

They induce better business in the management of the business. A place where business methods have been too long ignored.

They serve as an excellent guide in selecting heifers that are to be raised to replace the cows we annually discard from the herd.

He is the real wise man who can keep from getting the big head when folks praise him for his good deeds.

ARE LICE EATING UP YOUR MONEY?

Not long ago in looking over a bunch of hogs in Western Illinois, we observed that most of the animals were afflicted with little sores, red spots on the thin places in their skins.

These eruptions were particularly noticeable back of the ear and on the flanks. The farmer complained that his hogs were not eating well and he could not understand what caused the sores to break out.

This bunch of hogs of all ages, from three-months-old pigs to three-year-old sows, ran on a pasture during the day but at night slept in houses which were used for the winter quarters.

I suggested that the trouble might be caused by lice, and the farmer caught two or three pigs and found them almost alive with parasites. He was astonished and admitted that he had never examined one of his animals before.

Many farmers do not realize that lice are a source of tremendous loss in the raising of hogs. They worry the animals and prevent their feeding well, and in many cases produce sores or eruptions which naturally retard growth.

It is not difficult to rid the pig of lice by dipping or spraying, but these remedies are of no use unless the pens and sleeping quarters are rid of the lice as well.

The best dip to use is some of the tar solutions as they are harmless. We do not believe in kerosene emulsion because unless great care is taken to keep the solution very weak the animals will blister if allowed to run in the hot sun after being sprayed.

When a bunch of hogs is badly infested the animals should be dipped, although spraying may be used, pro-

vided the hogs are tied and thrown so that the spray may cover every portion of the body. It is no use to spray the upper part of a hog and leave the under side untouched, because every louse will multiply and soon spread all over the animal's body.

After the hogs have been dipped or sprayed they should be turned into a clean lot that has never been used for hogs and the old quarters should be abandoned, or if this is not practicable, every particle of bedding and litter in the yards must be raked swept up and burned, and every foot of ground in the yards and the fences and sleeping quarters, as well, thoroughly sprayed with a strong disinfectant.

Kerosene emulsion, which is cheap, can be used in this way to advantage.

The hogs should not be returned to the old quarters for several weeks, and a second spraying of the quarters before the hogs are turned in is advisable.

If the hogs are allowed to occupy the same pens and sleeping quarters year after year, which are not frequently cleaned and sprayed as above suggested, lice will surely get into the herd.

As this parasite multiplies with tremendous rapidity it only takes a short time to thoroughly infest hogs so that their thrift will be impeded.

The hog louse affects no other animal, but devotes his entire time and attention to the swine. While he is quite tenacious in his efforts to live, still a moderate application of disinfectants and the burning of old bedding and whitewashing of the interiors of sleeping quarters will quickly put him out of business.

A QUIET LITTLE SMOKE.

A farmer living in Wisconsin scraped together a pipeful of tobacco out of his son's pocket without noticing that the young man carried revolver cartridges loose in the same pocket. The old man had just fired



up and settled down for a comfortable smoke when a cartridge which he

had placed in the pipe along with the tobacco, exploded, clipping off a portion of his left ear, passing within an inch of his granddaughter's head, and finally burying itself in the piano.

As farms become smaller and our methods more intensive, it will be necessary for us to secure higher prices for our meat production and animal foods. Sheep are economical producers and can be handled profitably under intense conditions of farming.

Many of the annuals, if sown now, will make a fine show in late fall.

A SIMPLE TOPPING-TOOL.

A good topping-tool can be made from an old scythe-blade, ground down to the size desired. This will remove the tops of onions or other



vegetables and saves the hands and time. Place the vegetables directly under the blade, which if kept sharp, does such work in good shape.

RAIL FENCE PHILOSOPHY.

A harsh word spoken to the wife or children or a simple act of injustice is often the germ which grows into a monster which strangles affection and starves our hungry hearts.

The man who really loves his wife does not forget at 75 how beautiful she was at 20.

It is all right to ask the Lord to aid us in our work but all the same, he expects us to do our level best.

There was never a woman whose heart has not been touched with jealousy. If there was no jealousy there would be no love in the world.