

of accomplishment. Don't select birds this season with a view particularly to increasing egg production, whereas last season the only aim was deep breast and wing color and perhaps next season nothing will be worth noticing but rich yellow legs. If there be a royal way to make nothing out of a bunch of chickens, this is surely the way.

Cull with an aim, after you have established one. Don't seriously attempt the work till this has been done. Once established, let nothing sidetrack you till you have followed the system far enough to know that you are thoroughly right or wrong. When you cull, cull with a vengeance. Remember always that a dead fowl with strong traits opposed to your highest aims will give you less trouble than a live one. Never lose sight of the ideal fowl as a whole by becoming absorbed in the rare qualities of a single section or trait. By using such a bird as a breeder you are apt to establish a family with these traits or qualities. Use ordinary good judgment and discretion and never make a decision hastily. Better weigh the matter for weeks and reach a just decision that have it over in an hour and wonder for weeks whether you possibly made a mistake.

#### Barn Pasture for Cows.

It has been said, as an objection to Florida as a stock raising state, that we have no good pasture grass that is equal to the blue grass of the North and West. It is true that blue grass will not thrive in this state, but excellent pasture can be made with Bermuda grass and we believe that St. Lucie grass, a sub-variety of Bermuda, would do still better. While it is no doubt true that stock raising, on a large scale, is dependent of pasture, yet it is also true that dairying can be made more profitable without pasture than with it. If you have any doubts on the subject, read the following from The Rural New Yorker:

On page 454 I described the system of feeding cows on green crops which is followed at the New Jersey Experiment Station. A table was printed showing when the various crops were planted this year. At the time of my visit (May 7) the cows were being fed on green rye, the wheat was about ready to feed, the oats and peas were about three inches high, and Crimson clover was being plowed under for corn planting. Since then the cows have been fed on green wheat, Crimson clover, green grass and oats and peas, while the ground upon which these crops grew has been plowed and seeded to cow peas or corn, while two crops of Alfalfa have been cut and either fed green or cured for hay. At the present time the barn is well stuffed with dry fodder, while in the fields are growing a bewildering mass of corn, cow peas and millet.

Let it be understood that here is a farm carrying 50 cows, besides young stock, 10 horses and 10 hogs, without any pasture at all, and with no idle land. There is a small yard where the cattle exercise, but the rest of the land is so arranged that it produces two or three crops each season. Imagine the amount of grass taken from the average pasture compared with the vast amount of green forage produced on such a farm. For example, last year an acre in rye cut over seven tons of green fodder. It could be plowed at once after cutting, and seeded to oats and vetch, which

cut five tons more of green fodder July 8 to 11. Then plowed once more it could be seeded to cow peas, which cut nearly 8 1-2 tons early in October, or planted to corn fodder July 19 to cut 8 1-2 tons of forage the middle of October. In either case, as soon as the cow peas or corn fodder were taken off the land was plowed and seeded to rye—giving early feed this year. Or take the case of an acre of wheat. It was seeded October 5-6. The following year it was cut and fed June 3-6, giving six tons of forage. The ground was plowed and seeded to cow peas or a mixture of cow peas and Kaffir corn, which gave six to seven tons during the first half of September, after which the land was fitted and seeded to rye or wheat for the winter. This gives an idea of the way this soil is driven and kept busy. I have been watching the farm for some years, and in spite of the enormous crops which are annually produced the soil is evidently growing more productive. An accurate plant-food account is kept with each field. For example, if this year 400 pounds of fertilizer or eight tons of manure are put on an acre, so many pounds of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid are charged to that acre. If five tons of rye and six tons of cow peas or other forage are taken from the acre the amounts of nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid (figured from average samples) are credited to the acre. This has been carried on for a series of years, making a doubly interesting experiment. Here it must be evident that one great advantage of the soiling system is the fact that more of the manure is saved for the farm. Where the cows spend all day and part of the night in pasture only a small proportion of the summer droppings are utilized—for pastures are rarely cultivated. From the figures showing the value of poultry manure we see that only 40 per cent of the manure was left at night. This proportion would be still less with cattle at pasture. Under this system practically all the manure is saved. The cows spend most of their time in the barn, and when out of doors the droppings are left on a small area, which is plowed at intervals and planted to forage crops. The average farmer will say at once that this system is impossible for him, as he cannot afford the time and teams required to plow and cultivate so frequently. With most of these crops a single plowing each year would be sufficient. A disk or Cutaway harrow would, if a stout team were used, fit the field for grain and cow peas, and do it rapidly. The labor required to cut and haul the fodder daily is considerable, yet if a farmer made a business of it he would find it quite possible to care for a good-sized herd.

On this farm the soiling system is carried out in elaborate detail. On July 31 there was a field of Japanese millet being cut, another which would be ready in about 10 days, Alfalfa ready for the third cutting, cow peas in all stages from just peeping through the ground to a mass, with Kaffir corn two feet high, a second crop of grass nearly ready, fodder corn ready to feed green, silo corn beginning to ear, and Crimson clover sprouting in corn and cow peas. One piece of land was being fitted for grass seeding. Most farmers, at least when they begin the system, could not hope for such a mixture. They might cut green rye or wheat, then oats and peas or grass,

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These with early corn would be a start, and clover sowed in the corn would come next. In time, the full mixture would be found useful. I will try to take up the crops in some detail, and tell how they are grown.

Japanese millet is now being fed. It was in full head, and some of the stems seemed a little hard, but the cows were evidently eating it up clean. This millet was seeded after rye. As soon as it is out of the way the ground will be fitted for cow peas, and by the time this is ready these peas will be several inches high. After they are cut and fed the land goes into rye again. Another great piece of Japanese millet had been seeded on an Alfalfa sod. Three weeks after seeding the millet stood at least three feet high, and dark green in color. The reason for plowing under the Alfalfa after the first cutting was that it was too weedy—the land needed cleaning. The dark color of the millet showed what a successful fertilizer factory that Alfalfa field was. We have potatoes planted on an old Alfalfa field—where the crop had mostly run out, and we have never had a finer growth, though only a moderate amount of fertilizer was used. Prof. Voorhees

says that this has been an ideal season for utilizing sod, since the hot, moist weather has hastened nitrification. That millet is certainly a great success.

#### Flourishing Orange Grove.

Of the many attractive places in the city, Dr. Garnett's orange grove is numbered among the most interesting at the present time. The trees are laden with golden fruit, and there are so many grapefruit that they are breaking the branches. Many trees were propped before the fruit attained mature size, but those that were neglected resented the omission by straining the branches beyond the breaking point. Dr. Garnett will soon build a pavilion and packing house in the grove. The pavilion will be for the accommodation of visitors, and will also serve other purposes.—St. Augustine Record.

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