

THE PRAIRIE FARMER

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"FARMERS, WRITE FOR YOUR PAPER."

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SUMMER CARE OF HOGS.

The hog crop, as compared with the other products of the farm, seems to increase in importance every year. While the price of everything else fluctuates—sometimes going so low as to make their production a loss to the grower—pork is constantly quoted at "steady," or "firm and the demand active." A few men have made small fortunes in hogs, but many more have lost money. The like may be said of those who have turned their attention to the raising of sheep, or the production of fruit. There is little danger of glutting the market with pork, at least for the present; and while the expense of sending a thousand dollars' worth of pork to market is scarcely more than that of sending a hundred dollars' worth of grain, there is an obvious advantage in favor of producing the former article.

We believe one of the reasons why many fail in realizing what they might from their swine herds, is that they devote too much attention to the corn field and too little to the hog pasture. In their eagerness to produce an abundance of feed for their hogs in autumn and winter, they are negligent in providing them with sufficient food during the earlier portions of the year. Hogs that are stunted during the summer will not take on fat readily on the approach of cold weather. A good healthy growth should be kept up all the season. Too many farmers imitate to some extent, at least, the practice of the honest Hibernian, who having learned that ten bushels of corn would be sufficient to fatten his shag, bought it, fed it all at once and sent for the butcher to come next day. They work early and late in their corn fields, the product of which is mainly designed for their hogs in the fall; while their hungry pigs run squealing about in a scanty pasture with hardly a weed to satisfy their hunger, or a drop of water to slake their thirst.

Now the truth is, an acre of clover to be fed off in June is worth more in making pork than an acre of corn that is to be devoured in November. The first can be produced by little labor, while the latter is only raised at the expense of patient and continued toil. The grunting hog delights in fat pastures no less than the bleating lamb and the lowing cow. Pure cold water is as grateful to the one as to the other. In fact the hog has greater need of it than either of the other animals, because he requires a bath every day, and would take it too if he had the facilities.

Many farmers who are in the habit of fattening their old horses and young steers by turning them into a good pasture, well supplied with water, seem to be unaware that the hog is a grazing animal, and that he, too, could gain flesh if treated in the same way.

August is ordinarily a hard month for hogs; the coming August threatens to be peculiarly severe. The hog pasture, unless it is of unusual size, is likely to become short and much of the ground rooted over. The soil is often parched; the vegetation dried up; the water scarce, and nothing abundant but heat and flies. At such a time of all times, the hog requires attention. Generally we have had an abundance of corn to feed out at this season; but the present year the majority of farmers have seen the bottom of their corn cribs at this early day. Don't think that your pigs will grow standing on a sand bank and looking through a fence on a field of corn that will ripen in October. The hog is not an imaginary animal, and if he was he could not live so long on hope.

If you have not already made provision for supplying your hogs with food during this part of the season, give attention to it now. A crop of peas, if sown even at this late day, will be ripe early in the month of August. Two bushels sown broadcast on an acre of well prepared land, should produce at least thirty bushels of shelled peas, to say nothing of pods and vines.

For growing swine in the warm season of the year there are few kinds of food that will compare with peas. They do not need to be harvested—the hogs will do that—will eat them, if they are not too dry, stalks, leaves and all. If peas will form less fat than corn, they will produce more flesh; and that is what is wanted at the period that precedes fattening. They are easy to raise where the soil and climate is suitable for them; do not exhaust the soil like most crops; and come in at just the time they are most needed. In England, where it is impossible to raise corn, farmers rely largely on peas to fatten their hogs; while in Canada, where they can raise very fair corn, they hold that more hog food can be raised from an acre of peas than from an acre of corn.

OUR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY. Where It Comes From and Who Make It.

CANTON, OHIO.

This place has long enjoyed a wide reputation for its manufactures, especially those of reapers, mowers and threshers. The business was commenced at this point by

E. BALL & CO.

about the year 1857, who that year patented the Ohio Mower, having a rear cutting bar; and commenced its manufacture in a small way. Mr. Ball soon after formed a business connection with C. Aultman, and L. & J. Miller, to pursue the same business under the name of Ball, Aultman & Co. They also commenced the manufacture of the reaper that became widely known as the "Tornado." During this business connection one of the new partners made important changes in the machine, bringing the cutter bar forward of the wheel; some difference arising regarding the relative value of the machines, the concern dissolved—E. Ball making other business connections and going on with manufacture of the original machine, while the other partners established a manufactory for making the new machine with the name of "Buckeye," and a reaper called "Sweepstake."

These rival mowers and reapers came prominently before the public at the great trial in Syracuse, New York, in 1865; since which time they have each enjoyed a large patronage.

Later, E. Ball patented another machine called the "World," which differed from the old Ohio Mower, in having a complete iron frame, and having all the gearing cut by machinery; altogether making one of the most complete machines yet devised for the farm. The E. Ball & Co.'s present works are in the hands of an incorporated company, with a capital of half a million dollars. The works are very extensive and complete. Much of the delicate and expensive machinery is gathered up with special reference to the manufacture of this machine. They still continue to manufacture the "Ohio Mower and Reaper," and the "Tornado Thresher," and will turn out about 500 of the "Ohio Mower," 3000 of the "World," and 500 of the threshers this year.

The various floors of the different buildings here occupied, will cover over four acres of ground, with large lumber and storage-yards adjoining. There is no class of farm machinery put upon the market more deserving of confidence than that made by this concern.

C. AULTMAN & Co.'s works are also in an incorporated company's hands, and are the outgrowth of the commencement referred to in notice of E. Ball & Co. Their business is confined to the manufacture of the "Buckeye Reaper and Mower" and the "Sweepstake Thresher," which are so familiar to every Western man. The machines need no description or praise from us to make their merits known. The mowers and reapers are now made in several places in the United States, and the aggregate number constructed the past year, we were informed, would reach nearly 25,000. There will be made at this establishment, this season, from 4,000 to 5,000 mowers and reapers and about 800 Sweepstake Threshers.

The main building for wood work is 374x54 feet, three stories high, besides a basement story. The machinery in this building is driven by a 90 horse power Corliss engine. The machine shop, smith shop and foundry, occupy separate buildings, and are all driven by one engine of 125 horse power. About 350 men are employed in the establishment. Much the larger portion of their goods find sale in the States west of Ohio.

BALLARD, FAST & Co. have a factory here for the manufacture of reaper and mower knives. They have been in operation some six years, employ about 60 hands and turn out excellent work, which finds a market among the manufacturers of the West. They also make an elliptic seat spring, which is largely used by reaper manufacturers.

MALLEABLE IRON WORKS.—There are also at this point extensive works for the manufacture of Malleable Iron, which is largely used by reaper manufacturers.

THE TRANSPORTATION QUESTION.

TO THE FARMERS OF THE NORTHWEST:—The Convention which assembled at Bloomington on April 20th, after a full discussion of the objects which called them together, presented among others the following resolution:

"That the claim of vested rights, set up by the chartered companies, by which they assume that the people have transferred to said companies an essential portion of their sovereignty, is an assumption which cannot be tolerated in a free government."

The corporations which set up this extra-

ordinary claim were, but a few years ago, suppliants at your hands for charters and right of way for the purpose of constructing highways of greater capacity, and subject, in all their details, to legislative direction and control.

Now the franchises so obtained are used to extort from the people the means of carrying on a war upon their interests, to render themselves independent of legislative action, and procure for their pretentious theories and outrageous practices the sanction of the courts.

They now claim to be private corporations, to be dealt with as individual common carriers, and the courts sustain them.

They usurp the functions of government by refusing to assessors the right to estimate the value of their property for taxation, listing it themselves at a mere tithe of its value; and again the decision of the courts is in their favor.

They contract to deliver property at certain points, but refuse consignees possession until they submit to arbitrary exactions of storage which never accrued.

They consolidate competing railroad lines, place constitutional impediments in the way of improvement of water courses, gobble up canals and lake marine already in operation—thus preventing competition on the one hand, and increasing indefinitely the rates of transit on the other.

These are but samples of the doings of an over-shadowing monopoly which dates its origin but little back of the present generation—scarcely half-fledged, yet already wielding a capital of \$3,000,000,000.

The farmers of the Northwest, from their position, must necessarily become the first victims, and should organize at once if they would not become tenants on their own soil.

I do not mean the organization which be-slavery you with its fulsome nonsense just before election, but which leaves the soulless monster to thrive equally well under the keeping of all parties—I mean a co-operative business effort, which shall concentrate upon any point desired, the votes, influence and means of a million men of similar interests and pursuits, which shall say to party politics, give us a fair field and we will demonstrate (what your honeyed speech has so often told us) that we are at least a portion of the bone and sinew of this fair land—that "The Word of Promise" so long kept to the ear, can no longer be "broken to the sense" with impunity.

In discharge of the duty devolved upon me by the convention, I respectfully submit the following call for action:

The farmers of the Northwestern States and Territories are requested to meet in their respective school districts on Saturday the fourth day of June next, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the discussion of the issues here presented, and to appoint committees for the following purposes, to wit:

1. To make a list of the names and post-office address of all persons who desire to become members of an association for the protection of agricultural interests by business means.

2. To estimate as nearly as may be the amount of agricultural products of such district, and the net cash value thereof at the place of production, to be used in the preparation of a report, showing the products of the Northwest, their rights to transportation and market, and the remedies available for existing wrongs, to be furnished subscriber and used before the proper departments of the State and national governments in our efforts to secure redress.

3. To send to the undersigned a report of their proceedings.

HENRY C. WHEELER,

Commissioner of Statistics.

Address HENRY C. WHEELER,

DOWNER'S GROVE, DU PAGE CO., ILL.

SOWING GRASS SEED ALONE.—A correspondent of the New England Farmer advocates sowing grass seed by itself at least when the land is moderately low. He says: The 14th of last May I sowed half an acre of low land to herds grass, clover and red top; in a few days the seed came up and grew equal to any of my meadows that had been in grass for years. The 4th of August I mowed it, it then being in bloom. I did not weigh it, but judged there was a ton and a quarter on the half-acre, and the best hay that I put in my barn last year, I should judge by the way the cattle ate it. This experiment has convinced me that the spring is the best time to sow grass seed, and sow it without any kind of grain.

FLAX IN CALIFORNIA.—A California paper says in Salinas valley there are 2,000 acres cultivated to flax. Of this amount one man put in 350 acres; he has also about 350 acres near Hollister, Monterey county. The crops are looking well, and flax raisers are already guaranteed a market for the seed, at from three to four cents per pound.

HILL'S PATENT LAWN MOWER.

The rapid increase of landscape adornment in our country has created a large demand for some better and more economical method of keeping the lawn in order than the scythe or hook, and the attention of mechanics has been turned to the perfecting of a lawn mower that could be easily operated by hand, resulting in several patterns, which have met with more or less encouragement and success. The illustration accompanying this article represents HILL'S PATENT, which has proved the most successful extant. It is perfectly adapted for use on unequal as well as even surfaces; being balanced on the main drum or roll, it is readily changed to any position desired and can be easily run by a miss or lad of fourteen. These machines are durably constructed and will last many years. They have been tested in many instances with the best of other makes, always commanding the confidence and approbation of the public. We have often used and seen them in use, and can confidently recommend them to the public as a machine every way desirable. They are for sale in this city by P. S. Meserole & Co., General Western Agents, at 204 Lake street, who will give any further information desired. See account of an interesting trial of machines held at Rose Hill, in our advertising columns.

KEEP THE CATTLE OUT OF THE WOODS AND SAVE THE YOUNG TIMBER.

The attention of the people has been repeatedly called to the necessity of planting forest trees. Especially has it been sounded in the ears of those who live on the prairies. They are much exposed to the severe winds, and often compelled to go eight or ten miles for all the wood they use. Even the scanty supply along the streams will soon be exhausted, and distant forests must be sought at great expense, unless the trees are planted at home. In the regions referred to, common sense seems to dictate to every body, to plant trees, for we shall soon need them—we even need them now.

But there is another class who do not live on the prairies, that we hope to arouse and interest by these remarks. Less than seventy years ago nearly all of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and many other states or parts of states, were covered with a heavy growth of timber. Our grandfathers, at great labor and expense, cut down, rolled into heaps, and burned the timber from thousands of acres in New York, because they must have room for corn and wheat and meadow. Our fathers did and are still doing the same thing for Michigan and other newer states. In many places the equilibrium of forest and field has been reached with wise foresight; many farmers have spared a generous wood-lot with which to keep up the supply of fire wood and to replenish their decaying fences and buildings. He carefully estimates the number of acres required to supply these wants. The wood-lot is inclosed by a good fence, the thrifty trees are spared, the dead and decaying are culled for use. With this care he thinks he and his posterity will avert the calamity—the dearth of timber. This is all right so far, but here comes the point where many of them fail. Most of them turn in their sheep, colts or young cattle, which pick up a respectable living from odds and ends, weeds and tame grasses that have been introduced along the fences and open places. The stock not only eat the grass and weeds, but clean up all the young woody plants. Thrifty young twigs of oak, elm, ash, maple, beech and bass-wood are real delicacies; where these had become scarce, we have often seen cattle and horses bend over young trees two and a half inches through and fifteen or twenty feet high, strip off the leaves, let them up and go on to others. In this way woods are cleaned of undergrowth, and when the present supply is cut off there will be no young plants coming on to take their places. Is it not a matter of doubtful economy to pasture such wood-lots, getting a little poor pasture and losing all the young stock of forest plants? Let the judicious farmer look to it, that he is not ruining his wood-lot for the use of his great grandchildren. See to it now, and if there is not a good supply of young oaks, ashes, walnuts and maples of various sizes coming on, let him turn off the cattle and allow the trees to have a chance. If this hint is worth anything pass it on to your neighbors, that all may not only spare the forest



trees, but see that the supply is not likely to become exhausted. W. J. BEAL.

TREATMENT OF CARROTS.

The best crop of carrots I ever saw was on land manured with horse manure. The manure was rich (the droppings of stage horses,) and had laid a year. In the spring it was applied. The soil was a deep sandy mould, and it was plowed up to the beam. This brought the manure in deep. The effect at first was nothing. A drouth set in, and the crop seemed destroyed. But there were a few plants left. These late in the season were cultivated after a rain had shown the owner that they were there. But the lot was overrun with weeds, and much labor had to be expended, with a poor prospect of remuneration. After the weeds were removed, there was a poor show enough. But now, in August, the manure began to tell, aided by the rain. No sooner had the spindling little roots touched the rich layer than a miracle, a true miracle, was wrought. People wondered where the crop came from. But there it was, and growing almost visibly. Black, rank, it shot up, and in a few weeks occupied the ground—crowded it—where before seemed all barrenness. The drouth had done a good thing; it had thinned the plants so that there was room. And it was the size of the roots that was remarkable, their brittleness, tenderness. Such a crop in quality was never raised—that remained so juicy during the winter and into the spring, good for the table as well as the stable; and it yielded enormously.

It was the depth of the manure in the ground that seemed to have something to do with this; it was just in the place where the roots took the best hold of it, and where there was a sufficient moisture, a necessity to this and all root crops. The lateness of the season when the crops began to grow, and its surprising pushing ahead thereafter, contributing to its quality. There were additional points which cannot be overlooked. Here were heat, manure, moisture, all combined; the ground was mellow, made mellow by thorough weeding, and the plants had room. When they were pulled up, however, they literally covered the ground.

F. G.

CONDENSED CORRESPONDENCE.

Tagging Sheep.

R. G. B., of Monda, writes on this timely topic: The time has arrived for flock masters to "tag" their flocks of sheep before turning them to grass, and the question arises what disposition shall we make of these tags. It has been the practice in some sections to put them into the fleeces again, but it is a bad practice, both for the manufacturer and the producer. In many parts of the East men keep their tags out of the fleeces, wash them and keep them separate and the buyers pay for them a price equal to that given for the fleeces.

This I think is just and fair. If the tags are before you they show for themselves, and if they are in the fleece you do not see them, and it gives a chance for an agreement as to how clean they are, or how much dirt, &c., is among them. The time has come when wool must sell on its merits, and on the owner's reputation for honesty in handling his wool. If a man has the reputation of handling his wool slovenly, let his flock go without "tagging," while his neighbor, with the same grade of wool, has the name of handling his wool in good shape, it certainly is more valuable, and why not pay the latter more for it and not go through a community

and give all one price for their wool. What say you wool dealers? If a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well.

Harvesting Timothy Seed.

Mr. M. Creswell, an experienced Timothy seed grower of Iowa, writes the PRAIRIE FARMER in reply to a question by a correspondent as to the best way of harvesting the Timothy seed crop, as follows:

Do not cut until the earlier heads shatter some. Wait until you have three swaths cut, then start the binders; or rather the hands that set it up. Put three sheaves or bunches together, on end and tie tightly around the top. The advantage of setting three swaths together is that it leaves your bunches in rows sufficiently wide apart to admit of driving between them in hauling in.

Let the binders stand until the outside is somewhat bleached and shattered. Thresh out of the shock. If you wish to stack before you thresh it is better to tie in sheaves same as grain; set six sheaves together and tie around the top. Always have a tight bottom in your rack to save shattering.

Early Rose as a Winter Potato.

S. B. Johnson, Esq., of Madison Co., Ill., sends us a box of fine Early Rose Potatoes that we may verify his opinion that this potato is superior to any other as a winter potato. Now we agree with our correspondent that the potatoes he sends are most excellent—good enough, in fact, for anybody—but we are not certain that the Early Rose will be the best winter potato everywhere. But we do believe that it gives better promise of being an universal favorite than any variety that has yet come before the public. Our correspondent speaks of it in this wise:

"We have had it on our table once a week during the winter and spring. It is now as firm and finely flavored, as when first dug. Whenever the Rose is on the 'bill of fare,' the Peach Blow, Neshamock, Shaker Russet, and Early York must stand aside. It cooks through in fifteen minutes; is white, mealy, and of a flavor not to be mistaken."

Biting Hogs.

"Berkshire," of Ridge Farm, writes in answer to inquiry in PRAIRIE FARMER of April 9th, for some way to prevent hogs from biting each other, as follows:

Fifteen years ago I began feeding a large number of hogs on floored pens around a flouring mill, and they commenced biting each other. One hog would give another a bite, when he would run and squeal, and each hog he passed near would give him a bite, and thus they kept the poor animal going until he died. I would go to the pen and stop them, but they would soon commenced again. I concluded they were feverish, which made them restless, and they just bit each other for the want of something to cool their fever. I tried a variety of remedies, and at length I tried feeding stove coal, which I found a complete remedy. I have continued ever since to feed my hogs all the coal they would eat, and have never had any more trouble with their biting each other.

Castor Bean in Florida.

One of our Florida patrons writes us that his adopted State probably produces this plant in greater size and with more abundant berries, than any other in the Union. One sees them in many farm yards, where they are grown as shelters for chickens. In his yard near, in Alachua Co., there are several measuring from six to twelve inches around the collar; and credit persons state, that in Southern Florida, the plant becomes a perennial tree, of six to eight inches in diameter. There is no doubt that the Castor Bean could be cultivated here on a large scale, with as much profit as anywhere else. Soil and climate are admirably adapted to it.

Cost of Raising Oats.

"Berkshire," of Ridge Farm, who grows oats at a cost of 17-47 cents per bushel, deducting straw, says this is the way in which he does it: "I plow them in with a sulky cultivator on corn stalk ground, straddling each row of stalks the same as in plowing corn, and follow with a harrow. Two teams thus putting in seven acres per day, and costing me \$2.50 per day for each team."

As to harvesting, I use a Marsh Harvester, the running of which costs about \$14 per day for cutting, binding and stacking, on an average, about seven acres. Some days we cut ten and eleven acres of wheat."

Wright Co., Iowa.

One of our readers residing in Wright county Iowa, thus presents the good features of that locality.

Much of the land was bought up by speculators at an early day, who now are very anxious to sell. Good lands now range from three to fifteen dollars per acre but some highly improved farms are held as high as twenty to thirty dollars per acre. Timber is comparatively plenty, with abundance of coal near us. We think we have the best stock growing county in the west. We have good schools, good school houses, and plenty of them; most of the inhabitants are eastern people.