

Crook County Journal Supplement

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KEEPING SHEEP.

The Farmer's Flock Can Be Maintained With Small Expense.

In an address before Ontario farmers in regard to success with sheep on the farm, Professor Day said in part:

I do not think it would be wise for every man to keep sheep, for the reason that in order to be successful with any class of animals a man must have love for them, and if a man does not like sheep he would not be likely to make a success of them. There are several things about the sheep, however, which make them especially well adapted to occupy a place on almost any farm.

Sheep will eat a great many kinds of weeds which other animals will not touch. This makes them especially valuable about a farm as a sort of scavenger.

They will live on very poor pasture, where many other animals would starve. Their activity enables them to travel long distances in search of their food, and the formation of their mouths is such that they can bite very closely to the ground, enabling them to gather a living from the poorest soils.

Cheap Shelter.

Sheep require very inexpensive buildings. Almost any sort of building will answer the purpose so long as it protects them from storms in the roughest weather and is reasonably dry and free from drafts. There is no other farm animal for which cheaper buildings are required.

There is comparatively little labor involved in taking care of a flock of sheep. I do not know of any animal that requires less labor in its feeding and management.

Grind Their Own Grain.

They grind their own grain, which is another factor which adds to the cheapness of their maintenance. They are the best grain grinders which we have, and the weed seeds consumed by sheep are never known to grow afterward. This is not true of other farm animals.

FINE POTATOES.

An Improved Product Containing Many Strong Points.

Farmers who have grown the Green Mountain potato will be interested in the picture reproduced herewith. These potatoes were grown by a practical farmer of Licking county, O. The product shown in this basket is the result of many years' careful selection. They represent a highly improved strain of Green Mountain potatoes, containing all the strong qualities of



GREEN MOUNTAIN TUBERS.

the original, with all the weaker points bred out. The following from American Agriculturist gives further details of this splendid potato:

One of the potatoes exhibited at the Ohio state fair last fall which attracted our attention was an improved strain of Green Mountain. Speaking of this variety, the producer says: Several years ago we procured a small amount of seed from a well known farm of the original Green Mountain potato. I noted the very desirable and strong features this potato possessed. On the other hand, among the undesirable qualities was lack of uniformity and smoothness in the tubers. The eyes were too deep and the yield usually not in keeping with the vigor and spread of the vine.

By careful selection of certain hills and tubers showing the least fault in these respects I eventually secured a potato that practically eliminated all the faults. By growing these several years under most favorable cultural conditions on a light loam soil abundantly supplied with humus and chemicals I finally secured what I consider a strain of Green Mountain that is far superior to the original. I planted only perfect specimens and as a result have secured a potato possessing all the strong points of the original and lacking the undesirable ones.

The potato is cream white, with a slightly netted skin, rather oblong and somewhat flattened as well as uniform in size. It sets moderately well, and a large per cent of the tubers of the potatoes develop to marketable size. Only 4 per cent of the total yield has been considered culls on my farm during the past six years. Tubers are rarely if ever hollow and are superb for table use. It is a yielder of exceptional merit, and it is popular wherever it has been grown.

Plants Resistant to Disease.

It has long been known that plants vary widely in their power of resistance to disease. Not only do certain kinds of plants seem to be almost immune to diseases of every kind, but some varieties of the same plant are but little affected by disease, while others are badly injured by disease. Variations in this respect also extend to individual plants.

Silage in Florida.

Silage is used in Florida to a limited extent, but in a number of the different sections, on the coast of Florida especially, the silage is of good quality. Probably the greatest reduction in profits is usually caused by the use of inferior cattle, which are found in a large majority of the dairies throughout the entire south.

HAULING MANURE.

Some Reasons Advanced For Postponing the Work.

There is no best time to haul manure that will apply in all cases. The matter depends upon conditions. In one case it might be well to haul and spread directly on the field as fast as the manure is made, and in another case such a proceeding might involve considerable loss. It is good judgment in this as in other things that counts in the end, remarks a writer in Orange Judd Farmer.

Hauling manure directly from the stable to the field in winter is economical of labor, inasmuch as it may be done with sleighs when there is not much other work to do, but it is not economical of manure if the manure of the land it is hauled on to is such that the fertilizing elements of the manure will be largely lost by leaching and running away. Such conditions would be met on hilly ground, where the water would run into the hollows and carry the fertilizing elements with it or in waterways where spring freshets run.

Mere or Less Loss.

There is more or less loss on all fields from this cause since the ground is usually sufficiently frozen when the spring thaw comes to cause more or less water to run away before the ground thaws sufficiently to allow of its soaking in. The question to decide, then, is as to whether the loss from leaching in the field will be greater than what would be encountered in the pile.

Formerly I preferred to haul directly to the fields in winter, but with the perfection of the litter carrier and the manure spreader I am better satisfied with the results of dumping the manure under cover and hauling it out in the spring.

I do not favor the plan of hauling manure on grass or clover, especially the latter, in the fall or winter. If hauled in the fall, it has a tendency to smother the plants, and if hauled in winter the manure draws the sun, and the melted snow runs down and freezes, forming a coating of ice on the ground that I have found to be against the welfare of the plants.

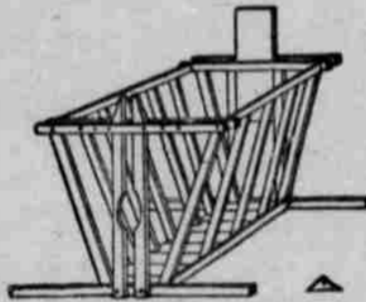
It is true that under certain conditions the snow will stay on the ground longer in the spring if covered with manure than it will if not, but it will also melt off more during the warm days in winter. Moreover, I think it very questionable whether it is desirable to have the snow lie on grass late in the spring. I prefer to have my grass and clover get as early a start in the spring as is possible.

HANDY DEVICE.

A Simple Contrivance That is Easily Made and Used.

A hog ring device is here pictured in regard to which a writer in Farm Press says:

In making this crate I use 2 by 4 timber for all cross and upright pieces except the board at the back to fasten



HOG CRATE.

the hogs in, the stanchion and the crosspiece in front, which should be wider to hold the pins, and I find inch lumber sufficient for this piece. The floor also is inch stuff, and the upright stanchion is made of 2 by 6 stuff, with bolts at the bottom and two other bolts to use as pins at the top. The crate is four feet long, fourteen inches wide at the bottom and twenty-four inches wide at the top. I place it in the hogpen door, let the hogs in from the rear and let them out from the front after the rings are adjusted.

Hibernation of Boll Weevils.

It has been often noticed that in a wooded country boll weevils appear first in spring along the borders of fields next to the woods and gradually work inward from the edges, so that it seems probable that in a wooded country most of them hibernate in woodland. Around outbuildings and barns also are found favorable places, as there are always more or less rubbish and protection in such situations. In 1908 more than five times as many weevils were found in a piece of cotton near the Texas State college barn, where cotton had been grown the previous year, than were found in any other locality in that neighborhood. It is also noticeable that weevils are always more numerous near pins than at a distance from them. Unfortunately where much rubbish and grass are present and where the soil remains loose and is not packed by rains large numbers of the weevils winter in the cotton fields.

Breeding Dairy Cows.

In breeding dairy cows a man should have a definite object in view. Too many shift from beef to dairy when dairy products are high and beef products are low and then shift back again from dairy to beef when beef rises in value. By this method a man is constantly shifting from one breed to another, and as a result he is getting a herd that is good for neither milk nor beef. A man must have an ideal to ward which he is breeding and then bend all his energies to that end. This shifting from one breed to another is a suicidal policy that will ruin any man and any herd.—Kansas Experiment Station.

THE FARM HORSE.

Errors in Care During the Season of Light Work.

With a great many farmers the winter season is one of comparative rest for the farm horse. Of course there are farmers who make it a point of keeping the team busy all winter, but even with these the work is not what it is in the other seasons. During the cold weather there is generally more or less teaming, such as hauling wood, ice, etc., but the work is not regular. Then in grain and hay growing sections there is considerable team work to be done in getting this produce to market, and there is other work for which a team is required, but with all this the horse is not called on to do anything like what he has to do in spring and summer.

Winter Feeding.

But while the work for the average farm horse is not nearly as hard in winter as in other seasons, a time of comparative idleness is by no means the most agreeable to him or the best for his health. On the contrary, he is exposed to various ills from which he does not suffer during the season of hard but regular work. One of these ills is irregular and careless feeding. During the spring and summer, when the horse is working hard, he is regularly fed a certain amount of grain and a reasonable quantity of hay. In winter the grain ration is cut down and the hay is increased. Some farmers make the mistake of feeding a great quantity of coarse fodder through the winter to the detriment of the animal's health. Others stuff their horses with hay until they are entirely out of condition for any kind of use. Probably in nine cases out of ten the heaves are brought on by the injurious method of feeding horses in winter.

Watering the Work Horse.

Another mistake is the manner in which the work horse is supplied with water. Often the water is offered the horse when he wants to eat rather than drink, and because he refuses no more is given him until the next regular time for watering. By this time he has become very thirsty and drinks too much, says a writer in Country Gentleman. And in freezing cold weather how many warm or take the chill off the water before giving it to the horse?

POULTRY PENS.

Satisfactory Ventilation Secured by Duck Covered Openings.

In giving a description of a New York poultry house, which contains a number of pens, G. Arthur Bell writes of the system of ventilation in use as follows: Several of the partitions in the house are boarded up solidly from floor to ceiling to prevent the drafts which are so likely to be found in long houses.

In the front or south side of each pen are placed two windows, each



UPPER SASH IS DROPPED.

window consisting of two twelve light sashes. The windows are arranged to slide up and down as in an ordinary dwelling, special care being exercised to have them move freely in order that they may be opened at any time regardless of weather conditions. Unless this point is considered the windows are very apt to become frozen in on the arrival of cold weather, and it becomes difficult to open them; hence the ventilation is frequently neglected. During the past winter one window in each pen was arranged as shown in the cut, the upper sash being dropped to the window sill and the opening thus made covered with a piece of eight ounce duck, the latter being tacked to the upper bar of the lower sash and to the sides and top of the window frame. In extreme cold weather the lower sash is slipped up to the top of the window, thus effectually closing it. This method proved to be very satisfactory, the house being unusually dry and the birds appearing to be in excellent health.

Cutting Back Trees.

In highly interesting experiments at the Woburn (England) experimental fruit farm in cutting back apple trees when planted the ultimate result was found to be that trees not cut back until the end of the first year continued to form wood in subsequent years, and the crop borne by them during the first ten years was only one-third of that borne by those which were cut back when planted.

Winter Hay.

There should be no difficulty anywhere in the south in getting a winter hay crop that would yield one ton per acre, to be followed by a summer crop of cowpeas that would yield from one to two tons per acre. Considering the price of hay in the south and the considerable income from a hay farm, the cost of the necessary equipment is not too large.—Harman Benton.

Cotton as a Surplus Crop.

High priced cotton does not help the all cotton farmer, for the price of everything else rises at the same time. The man who raises cotton as a surplus crop makes net money when cotton goes to good prices.—Texas Farm and Ranch.

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