

AGRICULTURAL

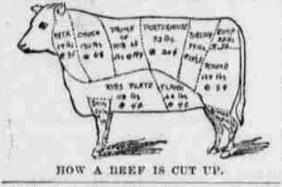


Points in Gardening.

A garden is not complete unless it contains a full variety of vegetables. It should not contain anything that is not desired. Peas should be grown for early, medium and late pickings, and early and late cabbages should be in the list. Tomatoes are essential in all gardens. The tomato is a plant that will have blossoms and fruit at all stages of growth, even to ripening, at the same time bearing a continuous crop until frost. There is nothing so easily grown as early beets, and they are luxuries compared with the field kinds. Carrots and parsnips are favorites with many, but the seeds should be planted early. A hundred strawberry plants will entail little or no labor, and are not only ornamental, but useful in a garden. Before next spring the bed will multiply to over 1,000 plants. They should be set out as early as the land will permit. Unless the garden is large, such crops as sweet corn and potatoes should be omitted. Try one or two plants, for experiment, of pepper, okra, eggplant and cauliflower, if not accustomed to growing such, and they will surely be added to the crops next year. The greater the variety the more enjoyment with a garden.

To Cut Up a Beef.

The following diagram shows the number and style of cuts into which a beef is divided at the Chicago Stock Yards. The average weight of each cut and the price paid per pound for it at



HOW A BEEF IS CUT UP.

wholesale are also given in the diagram. It will be seen that there is a wide range in the price per pound of the various parts, and that only a small portion commands the highest price. It is to be said of the pieces into which a steer is cut up that the choicest bits sell too high and some of the other portions too low.

Maple Sugar.

Is it not possible to utilize our maple trees more fully for making sugar? They are everywhere giving out as shade trees. In fact, the maple tree thrives admirably in groves, but you rarely find a perfect specimen standing alone on the lawn or in the street. Let us go back to the old habit of having a maple grove, and making our own sugar. Whether the beet-sugar enterprise will prove a success or not, we know that maple-sugar making is a natural enterprise throughout all the Northern States. There ought to be fifty pounds made where there is one made now. Those who are fortunate enough to be in condition for making sugar this spring should not be turned aside from it, and hope to make more money by growing beets. Let us have the largest possible crop of maple sugar. It will pay better at 8 or 10 cents a pound than beet sugar at 4.—New York Independent.

Care of Farm Tools.

Tools on the farm may be costly when they are not kept in place. When the hurry of work comes the implement most required may be out of its location—really lost—and a new one must then be procured. Some implements may then need repairs, which should have been procured weeks before. Cases are known in which farmers who have changed locations found themselves loaded with tools that they did not suppose they had, the clearing up of goods for removal bringing to light those that had been put in some out-of-the-way place. Another careless class of farmers is that which stores the tools in places so safe that they forget them, and though intending to be careful they endeavor to keep in remembrance the location which they cannot recall. An inventory of farm implements and tools once or twice a year would change such conditions.

Evergreen Trees from Seed.

Evergreen seeds may be planted in beds of leaf mold mixed with sand. The seeds should be covered with a little sand wet down, and clean hay put over the beds, until the seeds germinate. After the plants appear they may be shaded with screens of laths, watered in dry weather, and have dry sand sprinkled around them in wet weather to prevent too much dampness. Seeds of evergreens are often germinated and the plants well started only with great difficulty, and skill is requisite of success.

For Early Vegetables.

If you have a south slope, plow a heavy furrow on the north side of the row, throwing the soil as high as possible. Turn a light furrow slice back against this. Make the south slope to any pitch desired, and plant midway from top to bottom on the south side. This secures an earlier drying out of the soil, especially if rather coarse manure is covered inside the ridge,

which also assists in warming up the land, and permits more direct rays of the sun, increasing earliness from ten to fifteen days. To level land again, turn top of ridge back into the bottom of north side furrows.

Bare Places in Meadows.

It sometimes happens that meadows which were good one year are eaten out by grubs in the root in fall, or are destroyed by winter freezing, making bare places. These are not only unsightly, but as nature abhors a vacuum, such places are quickly filled up with weeds. If there are many such places, it is better to apply what manure can be spared and reseed. But if there are only a few, harrowing the bare places and throwing on some grass seed and a top dressing of manure will probably make a sod by fall. But no crop of grass can be expected from such land this year, and if possible, it should be plowed for a year's cropping, to be reseeded the following year.

The Draught of Chimneys.

Many chimneys have defective draught because more pains is taken to make a smooth outside where the mason work shows, than on the inside, where the efficiency of the chimney to carry off superfluous smoke depends on how the chimney was constructed. A well-proportioned chimney should be at least as large at its top as it is at bottom. This rule is often violated, some people having the idea that if the aperture at the top is made smaller the smoke will be forced out more violently. It may seem to be so, but such chimneys will soon clog up by the smoke condensing on their sides, besides throwing a good deal of smoke through the lower rooms of the house.

Charcoal for Lawns.

The dark color of charcoal makes it absorb heat, and thus warm the land to which it is applied as a dressing. It may also have considerable manurial value, as the charcoal easily absorbs ammonia, and if soaked in strong manure water from a compost, it will carry the ammonia to the lawn in less offensive form than in the manure, which is so often used for that purpose.

Cultivation of Beets.

Clay loam is often the finest beet soil, but on account of subsiding and because of the need of good drainage, it must not have a rough clay or hard-pan underneath. Perfect beets demand not only depth, mellowness and fertility as soil characteristics, but, as well, freedom from standing water for any length of time and from such stones as would interfere with cultivation.

Selecting a Calf.

A correspondent suggests a novel idea for selecting a calf which is intended for a milk cow. He says: "Never keep a calf with a thick, short, stubby tail or otherwise of an ox-like appearance unless for the feed lot. This is a simple way of ascertaining a desirable piece of information, and the writer wishes some would try it."—Journal of Agriculture.

Shippers' Improved Milk Can.

A milk can for shippers that will always hold a given quantity of milk is shown in the accompanying illustration. The method of securing this result is by having an exterior corrugated skin or covering, and within it the regulation can. Then, no matter if the can should be dented in transit, the interior receptacle will still hold its original shape. This alteration of capacity in cans when they become dented or battered is a very serious one in the dairy industry, resulting in frequent disputes and much litigation.—Philadelphia Record.

Sheep Feeding.

Feeding sheep for market should be a separate business from simply raising them in the usual manner. They should receive clover hay and a liberal allowance of ground grain, as well as be sheltered in a large yard, in order not to have them travel over the fields while fattening, the object being to fatten them quickly, and sell as soon as they are ready.

Marketing Parsnips.

The demand for parsnips is best in winter, and in the Southern States they are allowed to remain in the ground until wanted, while in the northern States they are dug late in fall and stored in trenches. They are shipped in small ventilated barrels, the tops having been removed and the roots washed when necessary.

Shelter Saves Food.

A herd of twenty cows that are not properly sheltered and kept warm in winter will eat enough additional food to more than pay for shingling the leaking roof over them, and they will also lose more than enough in the product of milk or butter to paint the building. Shelter saves food and promotes health.

Have a Trade Mark.

Business men have trade marks; so should the farmer. The farmer who uses a trade mark, and puts it on everything he sells in packages, advertises his goods and creates a market for his products. In adopting a trade mark, however, only the best and choicest articles should be sold.

A FORGERY.



THE POOR ALLIGATOR.

Rapid Decline of One of the Ugliest Beasts on Earth.

Florida tourists note a sharp advance in the price of alligator material, and also in the raw material in life. This is owing to the large decrease in the supply. Diminutive live alligators have advanced from 25 cents each to 50 cents, and larger ones in proportion; in some instances a greater per cent. is charged for the full-grown reptiles, for they are much scarcer than are the baby alligators.

This is because of the sportsman and his deadly gun, who shoots the saurian out of mere wantonness and a desire to make a record. The Seminole Indians also conduct a war of extermination against the alligators, but as they kill for revenue only they are, in a measure, excusable. They also trap the smaller ones, from the tiny babe 10 or 12 inches in length to the "youngster" of two, three or four feet.

The baby gators are boxed by the curio dealers and sold to ladies who affect great interest in the ugly things for pets. As the gator only lives on air and muddy water and an occasional chunk of meat every three or four days, they are not troublesome. The Indians, knowing of the scarcity of alligators in all of the Florida streams, have imitated the paleface curio dealer and charge more for their gators.

The baby alligators, while not valuable for their small hides, are killed by the hundreds and mounted. Some

grows potatoes. A row of cabbage grows all around on the sloping sides of the ditches with a row of onions just inside, leaving bare walking room between them and the grain. The shade trees round the house are pear trees. Every foot of land is made to produce. He keeps pigs and chickens. We refer to this as illustrating the possibilities of land production. In Belgium 6,000,000 people, chiefly farmers, live on a piece of land the size of the State of Maryland. They furnish an object lesson on successful farming.—Colman's Rural World.

"Forcing" the Studies.

The abandonment of the Froebel system in the government schools in Paris is an interesting educational announcement. The Paris correspondent of the New York Evening Post makes this comment upon the change: "Experience has proved the wisdom of the old saying, 'Work when you work, and play when you play.' A game forced, the teachers say, is no longer a game; and while the children are amused at first, they soon weary of Froebel's instructive 'mother play.' The authorities here consider that prolonging during the ages of 8 and even 9, as the Froebel kindergartens do, the association of amusement and instruction, makes the child lacking in application and retards him, which is clearly proved by the fact that the children who leave the kindergartens at 7 go into the second and third grade of the



SUBSTITUTE FOR REAL BABY.

serve as thermometers—the tube running up the back. Another curio is a baby alligator standing upon his hind feet and playing a violin with its forefeet. Others are arrayed as waiters offering some article for sale or holding a lamp to light visitors to a tank holding a 16-foot or 18-foot live saurian. Alligators three or four feet in length, mounted serve as grotesque advertisements and appear to be "so natural" that the stranger is frequently in doubt whether "the thing is alive" or not, and make a detour in order to be on the safe side.

Very few colored people are successful in catching large alligators. There seems to be a mutual distrust and antipathy on both sides. While the alligator is not always looking for a fight, but desires to be let alone, he will fight a "darky" on sight. As soon as he spies a negro he will dive and rise at about the proper place and land him, or rather sweep him in, if within reaching distance. Not so in the case of white hunters. The alligator will swim away, unless its young is attacked, and then it will crawl out on shore and use its huge tail as a battering ram. One stroke will knock a man senseless.

The scarcity of the alligator crop is now a live issue, and as this is one of Florida's attractions it is urged that something be done to stop this wholesale slaughter. It is possible that the next Legislature will come to the rescue of the friendless alligators.

Two Acres Enough in Belgium. What many an American farmer fails to do on 100 acres, the thrifty Hollander in Belgium easily does on two acres, namely, support a large family and lay by something for a rainy day. He does it by making the most of every inch, by heavy manuring, allowing no waste places. His two acres are surrounded by a ditch of running water. The typical two-acre Belgium farm contains a patch of wheat or rye and another of barley; another fair portion

primary schools, knowing reading, writing, addition, subtraction, the geography of France and the multiplication table up to seven. So while there are still occasional ardent devotees to this method in Paris, the government has pronounced against it, as falling to amuse from the standpoint of play, and hindering the fullest development in the nature of work." The prolonging of the kindergarten age is doubtless at the root of the trouble. There is no doubt that in this country, also, the spirit of the Froebel teaching is by no means always followed. But wherever it is comprehended the results are necessarily good, being founded upon a deep philosophical principle of life. The fault is not in Froebel's philosophy, not in the motor power, but in the sort of machinery used, so to speak, in the ignorance of the teachers of its rightful and spiritual and educational application.—Boston Transcript.

German Emigration.

Of the 32,232 Germans who emigrated in 1896 only 174 went to Australia. Most of the rest came here to assist in Germanizing America.

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