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**FARMERS CORNER**

**Raising Seed Corn.**

The best way of raising corn for seed, as followed in the West, says C. W. Morrill in Tri-State Farmer, is to prepare a seed bed or testing ground of from one to two acres far removed from other fields. To begin with, no ear should be used which is imperfect from which to select grains for the seed crop, selecting such type of corn that you wish to grow, the work of selection should be followed year after year, selecting the best ears that show an improvement over previous years. Any plant that is deficient in any requirement should not be allowed to develop a tassel, and especially a barren stalk.

As to corn feeding, the seed plots should not suffer for want of plant food. From field experiments with fertilizers on corn in the West last year, on soils of average fertility, a higher per cent of potash than ordinary fertilizer contains gave remarkable results and would undoubtedly give similar results on the average lands of Georgia. In Georgia last year were used more fertilizers with corn than was ever used in years before, and with proper fertilizers and more attention to the selection of seed, and intensive culture, there is no doubt or reason why the average yield of well-bred corn should not be increased in the South, and especially Georgia.

**Storing Winter Apples.**

Many growers must be reminded of the importance of getting fruit to storage as promptly as possible after picking. The United States Department of Agriculture has demonstrated that fruit deteriorates more in a few days between the time of leaving the trees and the time it reaches storage than it does in as many months of storage at a low temperature.

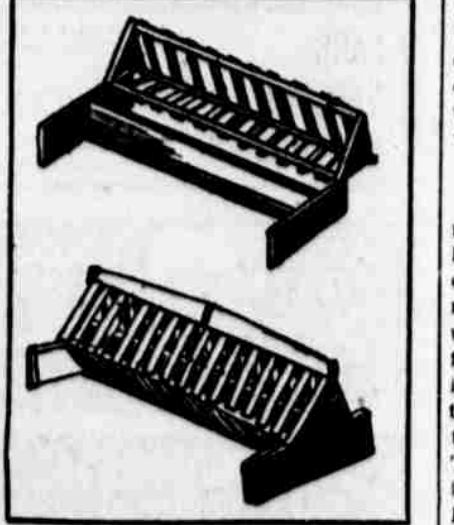
It was formerly thought necessary to put apples in piles in the orchard, to "sweat," but this has been shown to have been a mistake. Don't do this; but, on the contrary, send your apples to storage at once, in refrigerator cars, if the weather is warm and the distance is great. Many of the best apple handlers want their fruit in storage before night of the day it is picked, if at all possible, and there is no doubt that they are right in regard to this.—Western Fruit Grower.

**Influence of Dehorning.**

Fourteen cows were subjected to the tuberculin test by the Wisconsin Station and then dehorned. The milk of these cows, as regards yield and composition, was compared with the milk of cows dehorned but not tuberculin tested, of cows tuberculin tested but not dehorned, and of cows neither dehorned nor tuberculin tested. The result showed on an average a decrease of about 8 per cent in the yield of milk for the first few days after dehorning, but a loss of only about 2 per cent in the yield of butter fat. Dehorning, therefore, increased the fat content of the milk .027 per cent. These results are noted as being in accord with the results of investigations at other experiment stations which are cited. The tuberculin test was apparently without effect upon milk secretion.

**Convenient and Cheap.**

This feed trough, recently illustrated in Reliable Poultry Journal, is substantial, cheap and easy to construct. The length is forty inches and it is sufficient for twenty hens.



**Keeping Apples.**

Burying them in the ground proves successful when other methods fail, provided every apple is sound and free from bluish when harvested. The reason is that temperature in the ground or mound in which the apples are kept varies but little, and they are always cool. The same results will be obtained if a cold and even temperature can be secured in a cellar.

**Wintering Sheep.**

It is true of all poor stock that it is never profitable, and it is especially true of sheep. Weed out closely. The most important point in successful winter management of the flock is to begin with strong and healthy animals. Sheep need not be cared for in a different manner from most other farm stock, but there is more wisdom than luck in keeping them in good condition through the winter.

**Record Price for Land.**

The following from Orange Judd Farmer shows what profits some men undertake to make farming:

Ten acres of farm land in Christian County, Illinois, sold for \$5,000 a few days ago, or \$500 an acre. True, the land lies just outside the city limits of the county seat, but it is not to be cut into city lots. It will be used for raising fruit and vegetables. In other words, the purchaser, W. O. Simpson, expects to make the interest on his \$500 land, and considerable profit besides.

This shows what careful, intelligent farming and gardening will do. If Mr. Simpson can make money on his high-priced land, need his neighbors on farms equally productive feel discouraged? We in this country must practice intensive agriculture. There is abundant evidence that this will pay.

**Sheep-Shearing Machine.**

Sheep-shearing machines are a great improvement over hand work both in cleanliness of clipping and in the time required for each animal. It requires some skill to keep clippers sharp. Upon this much of the success and ease with which these machines are handled depends. It is necessary to know how to handle a sheep while clipping it.

A man who has had considerable experience in shearing sheep by hand will understand this part of the work and can usually handle a machine clipper with great ease. One man and a boy with a machine can handle about twice as many sheep in a day as is customary when they are hand-sheared. Every purchaser of a sheep-shearing machine should get a good sharpener with it.



**Handy Root Washer.**

A handy root washer can be had by making a slatted cylinder with hinged top and hanging in trough. Cylinder can be made any size, but one that holds one and one-half bushels is better than one made larger. Fill with parsnips or other roots, hook down cover and turn slowly a minute or two. Lift from the water and empty.

**Cure for Hog Cholera.**

After many years of experimenting for the cure of hog cholera the Department of Agriculture has worked out a method which gives promise of being an effective remedy. The method consists in the injection of serum from the blood of an immune hog, after the immune has been treated similarly with the serum from hogs affected with the disease.

Dr. Marion Dorset, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who has worked out the process, has had it patented in the name of the department and given the invention without price to the country. In this way the possibility of anyone monopolizing the new treatment will be avoided. It is estimated that the money loss from hog cholera reaches \$15,000,000 annually.

**Best Crop for Pigs.**

In the spring and summer, rye and clover are used for pastures until the pigs weigh about eighty-five to 100 pounds. Then barley is added until some early variety of flint or sweet corn is ready. Only a small field of this last is necessary, or an amount sufficient to carry the pigs until the field corn is denting. Then the pigs are turned in small areas of the field corn at a time, until they are fat. By fencing in and using these crops in this order the cost of growing pigs is reduced to a very low figure. We know of several farmers who are following this practice and are highly pleased with it.

**Safe Corn Shredder.**

As the corn shredder has killed and maimed a great many people, the belated suggestion for reducing the danger of using them will be welcomed. A man who runs one of them says: "To unchoke shredders with safety to the feeder, take a croquet ball and saw it in halves. Then bore a hole in the center of the flat side of one of these parts, through to the center of the oval side. Then insert the end of a broom handle in the hole, beginning at the flat side. Fasten this with a wedge or nail. Keep this tool in a convenient place, and when the machine clogs stir up the fodder with the ball end and all is right again. Try it."

**Feeding Value of Grain.**

The fattening value of grain depends largely upon the free oil or fat contained in them, with their sugar, starch, etc. One per cent of oil is considered equal to more than 2 per cent of sugar and starch. At these estimates 69 pounds of corn equals 78 pounds of barley, but the barley is richer in albuminoids, and is, therefore, more valuable than corn for the development of flesh.

**Fixed Wages on Farm.**

Fixed wages for a "day's work" is not the proper mode of contracting. There is as much difference in a day's work between individuals as in the value of the products of the farm. Nor can any method be devised for determining the value of a day's work on a farm until the labor has been performed. Wherever work can be done by the piece it should be the rule, though this cannot well be the case on a farm.

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