THE FARM AND HOME

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Cheese Considered a Healthful Article of Food—Three Horses Can Often Be Profitably Used—Have Variety in Pasture—General Farm Gleanings.

Making Cheese at Home.

Until within a comparatively recent time, all the cheese made in this country has been of home manufacture. The method usually was where only two, three or four cows were kept, to use two messes of milk, skimming that twelve hours old, at which time probably one-half of its butter fats, and those containing least caseine matter, would have risen to the surface, and mixing this with the new milk of either night or morning, this was heated to 140 degrees or 150 degrees, and as it cooled rennet was added. This was usually from a calf's stomach whose digestive juices, dried and finely powdered, when put into the milk quickly coagulated it. If the stomach of calves could not be had those of pigs were equally good, as each contained the pepsin, whose use was to partially digest the milk. In Holland there was general use of hydrochloric acid, which answered the same purpose. Thus while milk and especially scalded milk is hard to digest, the cheese made from it is generally considered an aid to the digestion of other substances eaten with or before it. Hence it is regarded as a healthful article of food, especially for those with weak stomachs.—American Cultivator.

Dragging with Three Horses.

There are many farm operations where three horses can be profitably used. While the work of plowing, especially in spring, is comparatively light, if grass land or stubble has to be plowed in the fall for wheat, three horses will do enough more work to make it advisable to use them. If horse labor is cheaper than hand labor, as it surely is, to enable one man to use three horses instead of two increases the advantage. But the work of dragging, especially with the spring tooth harrows which tear up the soil, is better done with three horses than with two.

Variety in Pasture.

In seeding land to grass it would be much better if greater variety of plants were grown. Some kinds succeed better than others under special conditions of soil, so that the greater variety sown, the better the land is likely to be covered and the larger the quantity of feed produced. But the advantage of much greater palatableness of pasture or hay which contains a variety of grasses is even more important. As an aid to make all hay more eagerly eaten, some sweet-scented vernal grass seed ought to be sown. It will be eaten close to the soil by every kind of stock, and when left for hay the aroma from it will penetrate the whole mass and increase its feeding value.

Cherries.

The Early Richmond is the prime favorite. It is a rapid grower, healthy, vigorous and always fruitful. When planted on different slopes the time for picking this one variety may be extended over twenty days. The cherry is not as freely planted as it should be. It perhaps gives better satisfaction for the cost involved than any other fruit. Suitable varieties like Early Richmond, Montmorenci, English Morello and Wragg, planted on average soil and freely and frequently cultivated, will bear in three years, and in the sixth year will ordinarily yield forty or fifty quarts to each tree. The Early Richmond and Montmorenci are the stronger growers and ultimately yield the most bushels per tree because they have the largest number of branches and grow to a larger size and can set and carry more fruit than the English Morello, and when in full bearing at the age of nine or ten years the maximum crop of the Early Richmond is about three and a half bushels per tree, that of the English Morello about two bushels per tree. With fair care these trees will live and do well until the age of 18 or 20 years, and may be destroyed sooner by neglect and lack of cultivation and the result of severe drouth without cultivation.—Green's Fruit Grower.

Flower Beds.

Lay your plans, so there will be no delay when the time comes for planting, says an exchange. There is no investment you can make that will bring a larger proportionate return of pleasure than a small sum devoted to flower seed. It is a good time, while the men have leisure, to prepare the beds. If the ground is poor and the subsoil compact it will pay to dig it out at least two spades deep and fill in good soil. When it is done once it is done forever, and an occasional top dressing is all it will need while you live. The men and teams have leisure now; this work can be done wherever the ground is not frozen. If the soil is fairly good throw out a spade deep, and then take out another spade deep and haul it away, replacing with good surface soil from the woods or fields, mixing in some sand, if needed, and some old manure, or chip dirt from wood pile. A bed prepared in this way, if the water does not stand in it, will produce a vigorous growth and abundant bloom in most garden flowers, and well repay the labor. Some few kinds do best in poor soil, or in special locations, but the great majority thrive best in a deep, rich, moist, but not wet loam. When such a bed is once prepared it needs only an occasional top dressing to keep it in fine condition forever.—Farmers' Review.

Successful Egg Farming.

Egg farming, when properly carried on, has proven to be one of the most profitable branches of the poultry industry. The writer has in mind a young farmer who runs a fruit, truck and egg farm, and in a recent conversation with him, learned that the income from his egg farm supported his family, while that from fruit and vegetables was put in bank. Five acres are devoted to poultry, on which are kept 500 hens, divided between the Brown Leghorn and Black Hamburg. The five acres are subdivided into ten yards, giving 50 hens to the yard. These hens average 125 eggs per year apiece, making 5,208 dozen, which bring an average price of 15 cents, making $781.20. Deducting $500 for food, leaves a profit of $281.20. Southern farmers do not pay enough attention to their poultry. A number of the Northerners who have come South recently have taken up the poultry business and are pushing it industriously.—A. B. Cook, in American Agriculturist.

Feeding for Flavor.

A New York station bulletin says that at the station dairy it has generally been customary to feed once a day some dry fodder, preferably clover hay, and silage twice with grain. Feeding of corn silage did not produce any inferior quality of milk so far as chemical composition would indicate, and no objectionable flavor was noticed. If radical changes in the ration were made gradually and not suddenly, and no spoiled or moldy silage allowed to reach the cow, it is probable there would be little complaint of any unpleasant flavor from silage. Of course, milk should not be exposed long in a stable filled with odors of silage or any others objectionable. At the Kansas station the occasional taint noticed in the milk when silage was fed was entirely avoided by feeding the silage immediately after instead of before milking.

The Idaho Pear.

The Idaho pear is a pear of great hardiness and will grow where scarcely any other pear will. The editor of the Plowman visited the originator of the pear two years ago. The pear in shape is more like an apple than a pear. It is above medium size, and is of good flavor. It is not an extra keeper, but it is a fine pear for as late as say the first of November. As grown in the East, or Middle West, it is described as being of medium to large in size—9, 10 and 11 inches in circumference, of Duchesse shape, though rounder, flesh finer grained than that variety, quite as good as the leading market pears, flesh fine-grained, buttery and melting, with a "very good" flavor.—Western Plowman.

Destroying Potato Scab.

It has long been known that flour of sulphur applied to anything was a good germicide. The experience of a practical farmer, as told by Horace F. Wilcox, in the New York Tribune, shows how this knowledge saved his potato crop from destruction, though planted on land where, a year before, the potato scab had entirely destroyed it. He first cut the potatoes, and while in the pail with the cut surface fresh, he put a pint of sulphur on top of the heap, allowing it to sift down so that all got some of the sulphur. The crop was entirely free from scab, and many of the cut pieces, used for seed, were yet yellow with sulphur in the hills when the crop was dug.

Horticultural Notes.

Plant fruit first for the family and then for the market.

Get that rotten apple out of the pile in the cellar if you have to sort the whole pile.

Keep the house plants in health. An occasional smoking with tobacco will do them good.

Frozen fruits and roots are not as valuable as when they are not frozen, are they? Keep them from freezing, then.

We insist that on a farm that is near a market more money can be made from gardening than from general farming.—Western Plowman.

Gleanings.

No inexpensive thing will insure quality in butter as a quantity of dry earth to use freely about the stable. It absorbs odors as well as liquids.

When hogs die from cholera, the safest plan is to burn rather than bury the carcass and all that has been in contact with it. Fire is a certain purifier.

If a cow loses her appetite, treat her as you do yourself (if you are sensible), give her a change of diet. By the way, a warm bran mash is an excellent "change of diet."

Chicks hatched in September and October will be better for market than those hatched in spring. But for show purposes and to look at and admire, hatch early—before the peach blooms appear.

An overfed steer now sells in most markets about as slowly as a half-fat one. What is really wanted is the well-fatted steer. The public will not now buy any over-fat meat. The neat, level, well-shaped, fine bone animal sells best at present.

The intelligent poultry raiser, like the dairyman, never fails in business. There is always a market for his product, and the conditions are such that he can keep up production despite the hard times; the constant income does the business.

It is not cold, but wet weather that doubles up the sheep. Dry cold is a tonic for them, but when the thick woolen coat becomes soaked with water, and then the cold wind strikes them, look away to the east for buzzards. Therefore make shelters for sheep, that are always accessible.

Many farmers purchase farming tools without any assurance that they will meet the requirements of soil and crop, the purchase price being, in many cases, virtually thrown away. This is not business. Judicious men do not let the craze for something new to thus get away with their judgment.

Turkeys are the nearest self-sustaining of all domestic fowls. Give them room enough out doors and they will keep fat the year round. But it is prudent to teach them that "there is no place like home," and that there is always a little corn there later in the evening. Turkeys need a little looking after or they may "take up with some other fellow." If there were no thieves outside of the penitentiary there would be more profit in raising turkeys.

Leave Their Wives at Home.

It is a strict rule with the big transatlantic steamship companies that the wife of the Captain shall not travel in his ship. The company strongly prohibits its Captains from taking their wives aboard with them. The supposition is that if anything should happen to the ship the Captain, instead of attending to his public duty, would devote his attention mainly to the safety of his wife. So that if the wife of a Captain wants to go abroad she must take passage in some other vessel. This rule also holds in many of the freight lines.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

One could write yards of matter and fill innumerable columns of space in attempting to describe the wheat market and its variations this week, giving a reason for each and every movement. A well-known operator puts it correctly and tersely when he says "the market is suffering from too much news and too many statistics." There is all kinds of news in wheat, and statistics enough to supply everybody, but whether traders are any better for having so much information is a question. Figures themselves don't lie, but it is said liars can figure, and they evidently have been doing it in a manner that may be satisfactory to themselves but certainly not soul-filling enough for the public who are growing rather chary of statisticians and their methods.

In speaking of figures, it must be confessed that they are unusually favorable for higher prices, but they, like bad crop reports, are ignored. The visible supply for the week was cut 1,407,000 bushels. The total is now 39,623,000 bushels, compared with 61,045,000 bushels last year; for the same week one year ago, a difference of 22,000,000 bushels. The world's stock for the week underwent a decrease of about 5,000,000 bushels. World's shipment for three weeks have been under 4,000,000 bushels, while the supposed or estimated requirements of the importing countries is 7,250,000 bushels per week. Wheat and flour on ocean passage decreases steadily, and this week was reduced 1,500,000 bushels. If that is not a phalanx of figures to wararnt purchases of wheat, the buyer had better go out of the business. Sad to relate, however, statistics have little effect upon the market and professional sellers go right ahead, never thinking that there is the barest sort of possibility of a day of reckoning before the new crop is in the stack.

Corn has held its own, and there is very little change to be noted in the market. That corn possesses merit on its own account has been and is daily demonstrated by the course of the market.

Market Quotations.

Portland, Or., April 9, 1897.

Flour—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, $4.10; Benton county and White Lily, $4.10; graham, $3.40; superfine, $2.75 per barrel.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 74@75c; Valley, 76c per bushel.

Oats—Choice white, 38@40c per bushel; choice gray, 37@39c.

Hay—Timothy, $14.00@15.00 per ton; clover, $11.50@12.50; wheat and oat, $10.00@11.00 per ton.

Barley—Feed barley, $17.50 per ton; brewing, $18@19.

Millstuffs — Bran, $14.50; shorts, $16.50; middlings, $26.

Butter—Creamery, 40c; dairy, 30@32½c; store, 17½@30c per roll.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 55@65c; Garnet Chilies, 65@75c; Early Rose, 80@85c per sack; sweets, $3.00 per cental for Merced; new potatoes, 3c per pound.

Onions—$2.00@2.50 per cental.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $2.50@3.00; geese, $4.00@5.00; turkeys, live, 11@12c; ducks, $6.00@7.00 per dozen.

Eggs—Oregon, 9½c per dozen.

Cheese — Oregon, 12c; Young America, 12½c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 11c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@9c.

Hops—9@10c per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, $2.60@3.50; cows, $2.25@3.00; dressed beef, 4@6c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, $3.50@3.75; dressed mutton, 6c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice, heavy, $4.00@4.25; light and feeders, $2.50@3.00; dressed $4.50@5.25 per cwt.

Seattle, Wash., April 9, 1897.

Wheat—Chicken feed, $27 per ton.

Oats—Choice, $23@24 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, $20 per ton.

Corn—Whole, $19 per ton; cracked, $19@20; feed meal, $19@20.

Flour—(Jobbing)—Patent excellent, $5.00; Novelty A, $4.60; California brands, $5.35; Dakota, $5.65; patent, $6.40.

Millstuffs—Bran, $14.00 per ton; shorts, $18.

Feed—Chopped feed, $18.00 per ton; middlings, $22; oilcake meal, $30.

Hay—Puget sound, per ton, $10.00; Eastern Washington, $14.

Butter — Fancy native creamery, brick, 22c; select, 22c; tubs, 23c; ranch, 15@17.

Cheese—Native Washington, 12½c.

Vegetables—Potatoes, per ton, $16.50@18; parsnips, per sack, 75c; beets, per sack, 60c; turnips, per sack, 60c; rutabagas, per sack, 50c; carrots, per sack, 40@50c; cabbage, per 100 lbs, $1.50; onions, per 100 lbs, $3.25.

Sweet potatoes—Per 100 lbs, $4.00.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10@11c; ducks, $6@6.50; dressed turkeys, 15c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 12c.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 7c; cows, 6½c; mutton, sheep, 9c per pound; lamb, 5c; pork, 6c per pound; veal, small, 8c.

Fresh Fish — Halibut, 4½@6c; salmon, 5@6c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and soles, 3@4c.

Provisions—Hams, large, 11½c; hams, small, 11½c; breakfast bacon, 10c; dry salt sides, 6½c per pound.

San Francisco, April 9, 1897.

Potatoes—Salinas Burbanks, 90c@$1.10; Early Rose, 65@75c; River Burbanks, 50@70c; sweets, $1.00@1.75 per cental.

Onions—$2.75@3.25 per cental.

Eggs—Ranch, 10½@12c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 13½c; do seconds, 12½@13c; fancy dairy, 12c; seconds, 11@11½c.

Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 6½c; fair to good, 5½@6c; Young America, 7@8c; Eastern, 14@14½c.

Wool—Choice foothill, 8@9c; San Joaquin plains, 6@8c; do 12 months, 8@9c per pound.

Hay—Wheat and oat, $7@7.50; best barley, $6.50@8.00; alfalfa, $5@8; clover, $[illegible]; compressed wheat, $6@9.50; do oat, $6@7 per ton.

Tropical Fruit—Bananas, $1.00@2.00 per bunch; pineapples, $2@4.

Citrus Fruit—Oranges, navel, $2@3.50; seedlings, do, 75c@$1.25; common lemons, 75c@$1; good to choice, $1.50@2; fancy, $2 per box.

Apples—Good to choice, $1@1.75; fancy, $2@2.65 per box.

Hops—9@12½c per pound.

Raising the Backs of Pews.

A device for heightening the backs of pews when the same are too low has been patented by a church-goer of Sandy Lake, Pa. It consists of brackets being grooved to receive the end of a panel, and having a recess in the sides of the upper part of the bracket to receive the top rail. Clamps in the center of the panel strengthen the attachment, which can be rendered as ornamental as may be desired.

Legislation in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin senate has passed a bill providing that no foreign corporation which is a member of a trust be permitted to enforce any contract in the state. It also adopted an amendment to the general election law to allow the gold Democrats a place on the ticket and to enable them to retain their party organization. The house rejected a bill for the taxation of church property.

The Hide in Evidence.

A Chicago man who sued a street car company for $5,000 damages for killing his $2,000 St. Bernard dog, which was said to be one of the largest in America, brought into court as one of his exhibits a handsome rug made of the skin and the head of his dog. The jury were seemingly greatly impressed by its appearance, but gave a verdict for the company.

War Vessels Now Being Built.

There are now in process of building for the British navy eighty-nine vessels; for the French, thirty-three; for the Russian, thirty-nine; for the German, nineteen, and for the Italian, thirteen. Of these vessels which are being built by Great Britain, forty-eight are torpedo boats, while of the others powers Italy is the only one that is building any, and she only one.

A Custom of the Rothschilds.

It is the custom in the Rothschild family to purchase six pearls, each costing £100, at the birth of each girl baby. Upon each birthday six more pearls are added to the original nest egg, so that when the young woman makes her debut into society a casket of magnificent gems is presented to her.

Canada's Population.

The Canadian department of agriculture estimates the population of the Dominion to be 5,125,438, a gain of rather less than 300,000 since the census of 1891. In 1890 there were two states of the Union that exceeded Canada in population—New York, with 5,997,853 inhabitants, and Pennsylvania, with 5,258,014.

Rival Seaports.

Hamburg has passed Liverpool within the last few years in the tonnage of its foreign commerce. Liverpool still is far ahead in the matter of coastwise trade by sea, and, owing to that fact, the total tonnage of shipping entering and clearing in a year is greater in the English city.

Leprosy Congress.

The German government is sending out invitations to an international congress on leprosy, at which Dr. Koch, the eminent bacteriologist, will preside. Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Russia have already intimated their intention of being officially represented.

Some Things That Never Sleep.

Naturalists have discovered that there are several species of fish which never sleep, and that many species of flies are awake from the time they are hatched until they die. There are some dogs and cats, also, that apparently never sleep—that is, at night.

Ruined by the Famine.

Among the greatest sufferers from the Indian famine are the jewelers in Delhi, whose business is ruined, as hardly any marriages take place, and everybody wants to sell ornaments instead of buying.