

Miscellaneous.

Curing Hams and Bacon.

The curing of hams and bacon is a very simple process, and is well understood by many of our readers. The hams should be trimmed pretty closely, so that there shall be no large loose masses of fat lying in fatty folds at its lower extremity, for to leave this on is simply to have so much lard wasted.

Below are given a few recipes for curing hams, that have been long in use, and are fully approved: For 100 lbs of meat take 7 lbs of good salt, 2 1/2 lbs of brown sugar (or one of molasses), two ounces of salt peter, one ounce of cayenne pepper, and 2 1/2 ounces of cloves; 2 ounces of black pepper may also be used, if it is not distasteful to those who are to eat the hams.

For 100 lbs of bacon or hams take four gallons of water, 6 lbs of salt, 2 1/2 ounces of saltpeter, 1 1/2 lbs of A or granulated sugar; boil and skim carefully, and apply cold. The same recipe is equally useful for beef during all the except the hot months.

If the hams and bacon are carefully packed, the above mixture will entirely cover, if not, add enough to cover. A syrup or molasses barrel is probably the most easily attainable good barrel to use for hams and bacon.

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The curant crop in Greece this year is said to be one of the best ever known, both in quality and quantity. The entire crop is about 120,000 tons. About 45,000 tons have been already shipped to Great Britain, the European continent and America.

The Prairie Farmer is confident that the most profitable apples for market in Northern Illinois are the Willow Twig and Ben Davis. The Willow Twig is mentioned as the better of the two, though the Ben Davis is more attractive in appearance.

Mrs. Garfield will soon receive from the Women's Silk Culture Association the first silk dress, every part of which, from egg to finished fabric, has been produced in this country. The silk has just been reeled by the members of the Association, and is said to be equal to the best Italian silk.

A Connecticut minister says, "I am rich I would offer a prize for the best sermon on agriculture. A sermon on this subject in every pulpit would save our boys from the fascinations and dissipations that now tempt them from their homes, and do more toward emptying the drinking saloons than much denunciation and legislation against them."

The following veterinary item has been going the rounds of the press: "A veterinary surgeon in France performed the wonderful operation of cutting off the leg of a cow and replacing it by a wooden one, and the work was so cleverly done that the cow had not yet found out the difference." That may be accounted for by the fact that the cow died during the operation.—New Orleans Times.

The extent and profitability of the California fruit trade are indicated by the statement that Mr. Briggs, a fruit grower in Sacramento county, will this season pack 250,000 boxes of raisins, which will sell for at least \$2 per box at the vine yard, making \$500,000 for the whole. Besides this, he has already sold \$20,000 worth of grapes at \$45 per ton. One fruit grower, near Sacramento City, has sold \$10,000 worth of fruit from twenty acres of orchard, the profits being over \$7,000.

There is a boom in the clover seed market at Chicago, owing to large orders from Europe, and prices have materially advanced. The Times, of that city, says: "There is a good deal of clover seed stored here, which was raised in 1879. It has changed color, and is of very doubtful value, but it will be sold as new seed. A very short crop is reported, and dealers are buying up all they can obtain. Persons purchasing clover seed should be cautious. Buy seeds of houses whose reputation for integrity is well established. These old and reliable establishments know where their supplies are raised, and cannot be cheated in purchasing; and they cannot afford to lower their reputation by selling worthless seed of any kind."

T. S. Gold, Secretary of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture, gives the following reasons why timothy runs out: "Its disappearance from our natural mowings is variously accounted for. First it is charged to the mowing machine as cutting too closely. We usually run our machine at medium height, rarely using the closest cut, but would prefer the medium or highest. Here we encountered a difficulty from the fingers clogging with fine grass, so that we could not use the highest cut, and the machine would run over much of the lodged grass. Second, it is charged to too early mowing, as we mow some two weeks or a month earlier than formerly. Timothy runs out most upon seedlings of the early cut meadows. Third, we agree with those who attribute it to the peculiar character of our seasons rather than to either of the above. Some period of each year for the last ten has been remarkably dry, and the timothy has never recovered from the effects."

A widow at the West, intending to succeed her husband in the management of a hotel, advertises that "the hotel will be kept by the widow of the former landlord, Mr. Brown, who died last Summer on a new and improved plan."

An exchange says that in Iceland editors carry the papers about and trade them for dried meat and whisky. If this plan was practicable in America there would soon be a strong demand in Kentucky for delirium-tremens remedies.

Horse Lore.
The horse has the smallest stomach, in proportion to his size, of any animal. Fifteen or sixteen quarts is its utmost capacity. This space is completely filled by four quarts of oats and the saliva that goes into the stomach with them. Horses are generally over-fed and not fed often enough! For a horse with moderate work, six or eight quarts of bruised oats and ten pounds of fine hay a day is sufficient. This should be fed in at least three meals, and is better if fed in four. A horse's digestion is very rapid, and therefore he gets hungry sooner than a man. When he is hungry he is ineffective, and wears out very rapidly. Water fills the stomach, lowers the temperature and dilutes the gastric juice; therefore, a horse should not drink immediately before eating. Neither should he be watered immediately after eating, because he will drink too much and force some of the contents of the stomach into the large intestines, which will cause scouring. Scouring is also caused by rapid eating, which can be prevented by putting half a dozen pebble stones half the size of the fist into the manger with the oats. Give only a moderate drink of water to a horse. A large drink of cold water before being driven will have a very quieting effect on a nervous horse. A race-horse always runs on an empty stomach. Digestion progresses moderately during exercise, if the exercise is not so violent as to exhaust the powers of the horse.—Ez.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS.
Polled cattle are growing in public favor. In France parsnips are extensively raised as a forage plant.
James Vick says it may be regarded as an established fact that apples will keep better in moist or damp cellars than in dry ones.
Sheep husbandry is yearly increasing in importance in Maine. At the present time the fine wool Merinos seem to be preferred.
A turkey raiser says that turkeys will put on more fat in two weeks in a comfortable pen than in four weeks if permitted to ramble about.

The Texas State Fair recently held in Austin was noted for its exceedingly fine show of Angora goats and the best poultry exhibition ever made in that State.
The Michigan State Horticultural Society holds its annual meeting at South Haven, December 5th and 7th. The Michigan State Beekeepers' Association will be held at Battle Creek, December 8th and 9th.

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