

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN

BY **F. E. TRIGG**

REGISTER, ROCKFORD, ILL.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

We have found nothing better than mellow earth for banking up the house, while it is about the first soil to thaw in the spring and can be used in the hotbed the latter part of March.

Nine times out of ten the ill mannered cur which chases and barks at passing teams in the highway and makes an all around nuisance of himself isn't worth a continental when it comes to practical work out behind the barn.

In all cases where the floors of the barns and sheds are not earth or cement and are raised from the ground a great deal can be added to the comfort of the farm animals by giving such buildings a thorough banking with straw, litter or manure.

There's many a fellow who would meet wild varnats face to face or stand before a cannon's mouth in protection of his dear ones who, after all, lacks the spunk and animation necessary to hop out of a warm bed on a cold morning to build the kitchen fire. A queer, inconsistent animal is man.

A careful system of crop rotation is not only to be commended from the standpoint of securing an increased yield from the land, but is also beneficial along the line of keeping in check a great many weed and insect pests. Such rotation (and it should include clover) should be a cardinal principle in the management of every well regulated farm.

In view of the fact that eggs already range in price from 20 to 30 cents per dozen, it would be a piece of good management to put down a supply for cooking purposes at least. A method of preserving that we have heard highly recommended is to immerse the eggs in boiling hot water for about ten to fifteen seconds, using some wire receptacle. This closes the pores of the outer covering and greatly increases their keeping qualities.

A recent decision of the court of appeals at Kansas City will be of interest to the fruit and produce trade. It was in substance that a railroad in its capacity as a common carrier is obliged to accept freight for shipment and be responsible therefor regardless of any plea it may make that it is not in a position to carry the same. In this case a shipper asked to have a hog transported from one point to another, but the road refused it on the ground that it was already overloaded with business. The court did not concur in its view, holding that the road must accept business whether it wishes to or not.

Don't Use "Henny" Cocks.
Never use a "henny" cock bird, and there are too many of the kind—birds with only a half a crow to them, cowardly in their disposition, would not stand up in defense of their mates even against a young, immature cockerel. Such a bird is no good, however well he may look as far as feathers are concerned. He will ultimately ruin the strain by lessening its vitality. A cock that doesn't spout for a fight is no good, and neither is the cock with no crow to him. A well, strong and potent cock will crow incessantly and give full evidence of his lordship.

Layers and Breeders.
Pullets on their first winter are the best egg producers. The older the pullets are when winter begins the more continuous will be the egg supply, according to the feather. Eggs from young pullets are not the best for hatching. Hens two years old are better for producing eggs for hatching than pullets. Immaturity is not conducive to strength and vigor in the offspring.

Chicks on Plowed Ground.
It is well known, though less well known than it should be, that chicks thrive wonderfully on plowed ground, and one well known poultryman plows up alternate strips of his chick range so that the young stock can have their choice of either fresh ground or grass ground. He insists that the youngsters spend most of their time on the plowed ground.

The whitish kernels which are quite frequently seen in the finest ears of Reid's yellow dent corn are said to be the result of the grudge held by a neighbor a generation ago, who, to spite the originator of this fine type of corn, scattered white kernels in his field at planting time. This is nicely illustrated the saying, "The evil men do lives after them."

A natural history student of considerable note refers to the poison ivy as a spiral climber on trees and other supports. We do not recall an instance covering a considerable period of years in which the poison ivy followed the above habit. It is a slovenly sprawler and not a graceful climber like the five leaved Virginia creeper and other vines which might be named.

A friend of the writer who lately had a mason figure on the cost of a concrete smokehouse found that it would cost completed \$3 less than would the lumber that would be required for the same purpose. The figure opened his eyes and will doubtless cause him to figure with the mason as well as the carpenter on a number of farm structures that he may need.

It is a strange inconsistency in the planning of things that we should have more butter to sell when the price is 15 instead of 30 cents and that Biddy should be willing to furnish more eggs—good fresh ones, too—at 12½ cents than at 25 cents a dozen. The pure food bill will not tend to ease the conditions any. Bossy and Biddy are no respecters of prices and will keep on just the same.

E. H. Grover
This signature is on every box of the genuine **Laxative Bromo-Quinine** Tablets. The remedy that cures a cold in one day.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON VI, FIRST QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, FEB. 10.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xii, 1-8. Memory Verses, 1-3—Golden Text, Gen. xii, 2—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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Not counting Adam, who in many respects stands alone, there are seven typical representative men in Genesis—Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. We have had the first and third under consideration, with just a glance at the second, and now we come to the middle one of the seven, the only man in Scripture who is specially called "the friend of God," and he is so called three different times (II Chron. xx, 7; Isa. xli, 8; Jas. ii, 23). Our Lord says that we are His friends if we do His commandments, and He also says that if we do the will of God we are His brother and sister and mother (John xv, 14, 15; Matt. xii, 50).

The new people on earth, the descendants of Noah, the new head of the race, became degenerate, like the antediluvians, though possibly not to the same extent, but we find them in chapter xi, 4, in organized rebellion against God, so much so that the Lord had to confound their language and scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. Then in chapter xi, 10-32, we have the next ten generations from Shem bringing us to Abram, concerning whose times it is written that his people served other gods (Josh. xxiv, 2). From the surrounding idolatry God called him out that He might transplant him and make of him and his descendants, in a separate land, a separate people unto Himself that through them the nations might know the only living and true God. God does not drive people, but draws them by some revelation of Himself and His glory; so we read that "the God of Glory appeared unto Abram" (Acts vii, 2). We are also told concerning him that he looked for a city, which hath foundations (Heb. xi, 10), evidently the city of Rev. xxi. Moses also was encouraged by a glorious prospect set before him which made Egyptian prospects seem of small account. The antediluvians, who believed God, saw something in the cherubim which made them as strangers here. And when our Lord asked the disciples to deny self and follow Him, He did not fail to tell them of a time of reward and glory (Matt. xvi, 24-25).

Believers will never be content to glorify on earth as strangers till a glorious future takes hold of their hearts, making them blind to the allurements of earth because of the glory of that light. Then all things merely earthly will seem as nothing compared with the glory of the kingdom. It was the Lord who appeared to Abram and spoke to him, and we must hear His voice in our hearts for ourselves—that is, we must receive His word as a message to our hearts, believing that He means us.

The promise to Abram in the first three verses of our lesson included a land, a posterity and a worldwide blessing and still awaits its complete fulfillment. The fourth "I will" of these verses is suggestive of the worldwide reach of the promise, but one "I will" of God makes the thing sure.
At Haran Abram was detained till his father died (chapter xi, 31, 32). Just why is not plainly told, but we see later in the Bible story that Caleb and Joshua were kept many years from entering the land of promise by the unbelief of others, and there is a possibility that there was some unbelief on the part of Terah, for we know that unbelief cannot enter in (Heb. iii, 19). Abram was seventy-five when he and Sarai, his wife, and his nephew Lot left Haran and entered Canaan with all their possessions and pitched at Sichem (verses 4 to 6) with the Canaanite still occupying the land, but he saw the Lord and not the Canaanite, for

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees and looks to that alone. Laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done.

Here the Lord appeared again to Abram (verse 7), the first time in the land and probably the first time since He appeared to him in his faraway eastern home, and confirmed to him the promise. And Abram built his first altar in the land and worshiped God in His appointed way according to the teaching of Gen. iii, 21, and the example of Abel and Noah.

In verse 8 we find that he removed to a new place, but he does not fail to build an altar and worship. We can go in peace anywhere on earth with God, but one has well said that we had better not cross the threshold without Him. The rest of the chapter tells of further journeys, but this time it is down to Egypt, because there was a famine in Canaan, and we find no altar in Egypt. We do see Abram afraid of his life and he and Sarai planning a lie and afterward rebuked for it by the king of Egypt.

The Lord who fed the children of Israel for forty years and sent Elijah food by the ravens and multiplied the widow's meal and oil could easily care for Abram in famine time.

But Abram did not know of these things, and he was only learning the way of faith. With all our increase of light and knowledge, are we doing better than he did? We have also the story of Naomi, but do we never leave our Bethlehem? A study of events which happened afterward at Sichem and Bethel is most profitable. If we take the words in verse 9 "going on still," we have a good motto, provided we journey with God always.

Concerning the yet future fulfillment of the promise to Abram see Mic. vii, 20; Jer. xxxiii, 41.

TWO IMPORTANT "FINDS."
Professor Hanson of the South Dakota experiment station, who is at present acting as special agent for the United States department of agriculture, has lately reported to Secretary Wilson two discoveries along the line of new plants that give promise of being both practical and valuable to the agricultural interests of the country. One is a variety of Irish potato which he has run across far up in Labrador which, it is claimed, will produce four times the amount of alcohol that can be got from the ordinary varieties. Should this variety prove all that is hoped it will be of inestimable value, particularly in view of the passage of the denatured alcohol bill, which removed a tax of \$2.07 per gallon from all alcohol made unfit for use as a beverage. The second "find" consists in the discovery of a new type of alfalfa in the bleak stretches of northern Siberia, which he claims is very hardy and admirably adapted to all the northern states and particularly those in which arid or semiarid conditions prevail. The discovery of this alfalfa is possessed of more than usual interest because of the fact that Professor Hanson made an attempt to get it a year ago, but due to the lateness of the season was unsuccessful and was badly frozen in the attempt. This year, however, he made another trial and has succeeded in getting seed of this hardy alfalfa and is on his way home with them. The service which this droughty specialist has already rendered to the cause of agriculture is great, and the two discoveries mentioned bid fair to be among the most important.

SAVING THE FIRST \$100.
There's many a young fellow without family responsibility perhaps, but hard working and industrious, who lives from year to year in a hand to mouth condition, spending all and sometimes more than his liberal wages as fast as he earns them, who might effect a transformation in his own financial condition by making a superhuman effort to lay by \$100 in his local bank. While not so in every case, it is quite likely to be true that if a fellow saves \$100 the rest comes much more easily, for it is in saving this first sum that the habit of saving is formed, and that's the rub. We have in mind in way of illustrating this point the case of a young man who for a period of years didn't save a cent from the wages he earned, and, if we remember correctly, he was boarding at home during most of this time, so his keep didn't cost him much. Two or three years ago a friend talked him into the scheme of loaning him his wages in small amounts, \$5 and \$10, on which the friend was willing to pay 8 per cent interest. This not only stopped the leak, but formed the beginning of a habit of saving that has persisted until today the young man in question has in the neighborhood of \$1,000 out at interest and is now looking around with a view to making a permanent investment of it in land or other property. There are thousands of young fellows in the condition of the one in question for whom a saving of the first \$100 would prove an equal boon.

KEEP THE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL.
While occasions may arise when it is an absolute necessity that children should stay out of school to assist in the home or farm work, it is a practice that should be discouraged as much as possible. Youth, with its opportunities for improvement and education, comes but once, and if these are neglected the boy or girl sustains a loss that is seldom made good in later years. Much of the present carelessness on the part of parents in this matter is due to the fact that they see a quick and definite return from the manual labor of the child and do not realize that the returns from an educational investment are spread out over all the remaining years of the child's life, but are none the less substantial and real on that account.

VALUE OF NEATNESS.
It is worth while remembering that just in the same way that many fruit and vegetable products bring a higher price when put in attractive shape for the market so is it true that the farm or town property will fetch a better price if it is kept in neat and attractive shape. A friend who has moved several times in the past twelve years tells us that he has always made good money by buying run down places and fixing them up with a moderate expenditure for carpenter work, paint and general overhauling and cleaning up. Not only is the value of a run down place doubled by such treatment, but the satisfaction which one gets out of living in a place that is kept shipshape more than repays the cost of maintenance.

THE IMPROVEMENT SEASON.
The winter season is one in which the farmer should try to take advantage of some of the numerous short courses that are offered by his state agricultural college. They include one and two week courses in stock judging and feeding, horticulture, special courses in the study of soils and soil fertility, etc., any one of which it would pay the farmer to attend. The winter is the season of slack work, and every opportunity of the kind mentioned should be taken advantage of by some member of the family. The practical value of the information thus obtained will more than pay for the expense entailed.

It is pretty safe to say that well adjusted storm windows will pay for themselves during a period of two years simply in the amount of fuel saved, letting pass entirely the question of physical comfort involved.

Selecting Sheep For Breeding

When selecting sheep for breeding the precise object for which the selection is made is all important with him who selects, writes Professor Thomas Shaw in American Agriculturist. The breeder of pure breeds must give due consideration to purity of breeding as well as to individuality. In selecting breeding ewes good average size should be sought.

A female somewhat long in body and even almost bordering on the upstanding type is to be preferred to one that is a chunk in makeup. The degree to which such form should be sought will be qualified by breed. Some breeds are naturally less rangy than others. The ewe that is a chunk is less likely to breed than one with a good, long barrel. She is also less likely to be prolific and likewise a good milker.

When selecting a good breeding ewe look first to size and symmetry; second, to capacity in barrel; third, to refinement in form, and, fourth, to the character of the fleece. Size has already been dwelt upon. Symmetry means due correspondence between the different parts in their development. The body inclining to long should be associated with neck inclining to long, and so of all the various parts. Within that capacious body is ample room for the processes of generation. The evidences of refined form are to be sought for, particularly in a head neat, clean cut and inclining to long, in a neck inclining to long, or at least medium for the breed, and in limbs fine, but straight and well placed. The fleece should be long and fine for the breed, strong in the fiber, bright in luster and of even length and density over the body. These essentials should be sought for in greater or less degree among all breeds.

The first requisite to look for in the ram is good individuality. This means, first, a compact form and symmetrical; second, a good wide level back; third, evidences of strong vigor, as shown in a massive breast, a proud carriage of the neck, an easy and active movement and an observant eye, and, fourth, wool characteristics in the ewes.

A Champion Cheviot.
The fine Cheviot ram Victor, whose portrait is here reproduced from the



CHEVIOT RAM VICTOR.
American Cultivator, was four years old when photographed. He was sired by Mike Johnstone and was grand champion ram of his breed at the St. Louis world's fair.

Steers For the Feed Yard.
There was a time when farmers were looking for thin animals for feeding purposes. They seemed to think the gap between the "skin and bones" stage and a finished condition must be bridged by the feeder if any profit were to be made, says the Detroit News-Tribune. All of this has been changed, however, and now the experienced feeder no longer looks for thin feeding stock, but prefers that which has been well conditioned in advance of the time when a full grain ration is to be fed. That more grain is required to make the first hundred pounds of gain on a bullock than the last has been repeatedly demonstrated, and experienced feeders prefer to buy steers that are in fair killing condition. There are now many cattle feeders in Michigan who make it a rule to fill their feed yards in February or March with cattle that have been well started by others.

Culling the Stud.
Now is an excellent time to do a general culling of studs of either pure breeds or grades, says Breeder's Gazette. If two can be matched up into a pair they may be sold as such and will probably return a better figure than if sold singly. The young and unworthy males there is more question about. Whether to sell or to hold in the hope of future improvement is always a matter of the gravest moment. In general, however, it will be found to be good reasoning that the first cost is always the least, and if the material is not promising to work on there are indeed few men who can take cull colts and make great horses of them. There is notwithstanding a place for every horse foaled, and if properly placed he will fulfill his destiny in life.

Winter Ration For Cattle.
A mixture of tame and wild hay together with shock corn would furnish the most economical roughage for the young stock during the winter, says Andrew Boss of the Minnesota station in Breeder's Gazette. If it is supplied to them in a sheltered yard where provision is made against trampling the fodder under foot, profitable growth should be obtained at reasonable cost. A mixture of bran and oats not to exceed three or four pounds per day for each thousand pounds live weight would be a good addition to the ration. The steers will get enough grain from the shock corn to make up the rest of the seven pounds to ten pounds grain ration required for good growth.

FARM PORK RAISING

The Hog a Money Maker When Closely Fed.
The high price of pork this fall is likely to make the farmer who has no fat hogs to sell wish that they had a few and those who have a few wish that they had more, writes M. F. Shaw in American Cultivator. With pork selling at 65 to 70 cents a pound, a tall and dressed hog at 75 to 80 cents a pound, it reminds us that there is a profit in keeping hogs if the truth in the old saying that "a hog of corn will make ten pounds of pork" is not a fallacy. But really that does not fairly represent the feeding capabilities of the hog with a properly mixed ration for kept in a thrifty condition, growing every day from birth and fattening six or seven months old.

The experiment stations seem to agree in saying that a judicious mixture of cornmeal, bran and skim milk will make more growth and the milk and milk fat the hog takes, making pork cheaper than when grain is used without milk or milk whey grain. But so many farmers are so or patronize the creameries and dairies that it is little use to tell them about the value of skim milk, less they will establish a separate home and send off only their cream.

There are, however, always vegetables in the field and garden that would be worth more to feed to hogs than to carry to market, and many of them are worth as much as they would be cooked. The old apples and perhaps some of the others which are put in the middle of the barrel by some farmer would be better cooked and with the grain mixed with them than to be used as they are.

Seldom is there a field of corn when at husking time does not show some soft, unripe corn, which hogs are fond of eating, will eat greedily, hogs, cobs and all, and turn into good meat. So, too, there will be unripe pumpkins and squashes as well as the many chautauk roots, which are as valuable raw as cooked.

All of these things the hogs will eat and pay a price for them in good profit if they are fed mixed in proper proportion with the grain ration. They are valuable not only for the food value in them, but as helps to digest the heavy grain food and to promote healthier condition and thus make more wholesome meat. To breed and fatten two litters of pigs a year, like one as soon as the other is ready or before, should be the aim of a farmer. And in addition to that should, by a liberal use of hedges, the pens and absorbents in the yard make two good piles of manure to grow crops upon with which to begin another year another crop of manure.

Asthma in Sheep.
For asthma in sheep give ten drops of tincture of lobelia, five drops of tincture of digitalis and ten drops of tincture nux vomica in an ounce of water three times daily.—Michigan Farmer.

THE HORSEMAN

No horse can receive too much grooming when stabled and washed, says American Cultivator. It should be cases be groomed, at any rate once a day and as thoroughly as circumstances will permit. In grooming the horse the chief things are to get plenty of vigorous friction to the skin and to remove all loose dandruff from the coat. The mere removal of superficial dirt and caked sweat is of no use and by no means constitutes grooming. The body brush offers the best means of removing loose dandruff from the skin and is also most useful for the purpose of removing sweat from the coat. Brushes answer well for the purpose of removing sweat from the coat, but there their usefulness ends. Hay pads and the hands are good means of applying friction to the full use has been made of the body brush.

Mane and tail should receive due attention when the horse is groomed. These appendages must be kept clean and free from dandruff. If it is neglected to brush the mane and the accumulated dandruff is very bad to give rise to an irritated condition of the crest or dock, and this will make the horse to rub and disfigure these parts.

Care of Farm Horses.
It is a good plan to allow a little time for the horse to cool off before giving him his evening grain ration. Some men allow him to stand all day while they themselves are at work and then feed the grain ration before. After standing all night the horse will be thirsty and will appreciate the drink the first thing in the morning. If water is given before feeding there will be a tendency to wash the food out of the stomach into the intestines.—Can. American Agriculturist.

Straw For Horses.
Idle horses can subsist largely on good bright straw, as they have no time for mastication and digestion, while hard worked animals or those which are required to move rapidly can make use of only a little. It is a notable fact that horses are often fed with straw hay for roughage when cheap grain or corn fodder could be used to advantage.—Farm Journal.

Corn For Horses.
New corn should never be fed to horses, says Farm Journal. When changing the ration from oats to corn it should be done very gradually, the changing process lasting from two to four weeks, according to the quantity of oats that is to be fed with the corn.

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