

COLLIE SHEPHERDS

Hardly a winter passes but from the great sheep ranges of the northwest comes some story of the intelligence, faithfulness and endurance of a shepherd's only companion, his collie dog. These sheep dogs came by their nature and training honestly from the sheep or their ancestors came from the sheep-dotted hills of England, Scotland or Wales, where for generations past the supreme effort of the shepherd has been to produce a perfect sheep dog. They have succeeded well, for no man could excel them in sheep lore, no man could be as useful to the sheep owner, for man is neither so persistent nor agile, possesses such endurance or is so gentle under training and reproval. The dog does not reason as to the why and wherefore of his affection, for the worst sort of a brutal shepherd may have the most faithful dog, one that



BEST OF COLLIE SHEPHERDS.

will attend the sheep on the hills, patiently await his master's coming from the tavern and guide his reeling foot step to his home.

On the great plains of the west these dogs have made it possible for one man to care for 2,000 or 4,000 sheep in a flock. All they ask is a bite to eat, and once in awhile, when their feet are filled with the sharp spines of the cactus, they will come to have them taken out. There is no value on a well-trained sheep dog. The well-bred collie which takes the prize at the bench show is beautiful to look at, but his bouncer brother, the trained dog of the range, is worth more.

In the new country the work of the sheep dog is hard. It is in a big scale. In the old country the work is easier, but it has its finer points. In the new country the dog may drive 2,000 sheep; in the old country a dog may have to drive 2,000 or 4,000, which takes more thought and skill. In the old country the feature of every country fair in a sheep district is the sheep dog trials. A trophy is the annual prize, and the shepherds and their dogs come from afar off to try for the cup.

The field is cleared of the crowd. Three sheep are taken in a wagon to the far end, perhaps into a bit of wood, and there turned loose. The shepherd and his dog mount the sheep and together, driving them the length of the field, through certain staked walls, through gates and over bridges and finally into a pen built in the open with no guiding fences on either side and with but narrow openings. It is a test of word, gesture and whistle that the dog keeps one eye on his master and one on the sheep. He slinks along close to the ground, or covers it with lightning speed, as the need of the moment may demand. He works the sheep with human intelligence and a speed and energy of which no man is capable. The work of the trained sheep dog puts his kind at the head of the list of intelligent animals.

These trials for the trophy are a great feature of life in the sheep countries. Rivalries are engendered and often neighborhoods divided over the respective merits of the dogs. The day of the trial is the great day of the country fair, and the betting is high between the factions. Looks do not seem to count in this trial of skill, for the great long-haired collie of the type known in America is not always the best. The dog that carries away the trophy may be a little, short-haired, homely and insignificant brute, which slinks to the head of his master like a creature of no spirit. But send him after the sheep, and his whole character seems to change. He is slow and gentle or quick and bold, as the sheep may require. His whole attitude is tense and nervous. No human being could manifest a greater sense of responsibility.

Sheep Breeding Stock.

After the pigs are weaned and subsisting on foods other than the milk of the sow, or when 4 or 5 months old, those destined for brood sows should be selected, and only those should be chosen that are from sows that brought large and even litters, that proved good sucklers and feeders, that are thrifty growers themselves, that are of an open, loose build, long between shoulder and hump, broad on back and hind, wide between the fore legs and large in girth of heart and flank. Carelessness in her outward appearance should not be an objection, and the dams of such sows should be retained as the most valuable animals on the farm as long as they retain their normal reproductive powers.—The Lewis in Whinnery's Swine Journal.

Care of Cows.

Taking it all in all the trotter will grow and thrive as well with a good straw bed in a log hut as in a bed of moss in a palace barn, and the common farmer who, from long experience, has learned to attend to all the little wants that go to make up the everyday life of the cow, keep both ends growing equally and bring him up to the full size and form that nature designed, is the farmer that will realize the profit there is in breeding the trotter. Thousands of dollars may be lost to the breeder each year by carelessness in looking after the cow in the first years of its existence, says Live Stock. The indifference with which young horses are sometimes treated by the way the horse is reared. They are turned out when very young to rough it and left to roam at will, exposed to all kinds of weather and allowed only a dry ration of straw or a little hay, and that none of the best. Cows can stand a great deal of cold weather is dry, and it is not necessary to house them. It is the cold rain and sleet that chill them and material affect their growth, and, like plants, if they are stunted in the start, it is very hard to get a rapid, healthy growth out of them afterward, as it will show on them as long as they live.

Stockmen Buying Lands.

Wyoming cattle and sheep companies, says the Denver Stockman, are using large amounts of soldiers' and forest reserve scrip in purchasing lands on which there are springs and other water grazing areas. The scrip costs about \$5 an acre.

Donking Less Fashionable.

A New York man who is actively interested in all that pertains to light harness horses recently said that when fashion decreed that it was correct to drive a horse with as short a tail as it was possible to make, everybody who wanted to be in the swim followed the foolish idea, and the unfortunate horses suffered accordingly. Now that a large number of the dock-tailed horses have been worn out and broken down, says The National Stockman, they have become common in the ranks of hard-working horses, and delivery wagons, express wagons and even peddlers' wagons are now pulled by dock-tailed horses, so that diminished caudal appendage is no longer confined to the ranks of the high-toned brigade. When ever any fad—the dock-tailed horse was only a fad—becomes common the leaders of society drop out and it then naturally goes out of fashion. It was so with the bicycle. As long as the price of bicycles was held up to a point that kept them out of reach of the common people they were popular among society folk; but when Mrs. Bon Ton found that on her daily spin with her wheel she was liable to encounter her washerwoman, the grocery boy, her own servants or any other of the working class she soon became disgusted with the wheel. Now that the short-tailed horse is common the exclusive set have gone back to the long tail class, and many a fine pair now to be seen in the fashionable quarters. The shrewdest dealers quickly caught on, and while many horses are shown with their tails tied up, they are not docked except by order of the purchaser.

SEED CORN.

Ordinary Field Conditions.

It will not be a great while until the corn grower of the west ought to be providing his stock of seed corn. There are men who profess to be able to select seed corn that "every grain will grow" without testing it, but there are very few who can afford to rely upon selection alone and omit a test. They may think they can, but that is only because they have never tried their ability under exact test conditions. As a select with care, the seed is well tested seed by the side of that which had been selected merely and noted the different results. In view of these facts the Iowa Homestead affirms that every corn grower should test, as well as select with care, the seed for purposes to use, and, as to the manner of the test, it advises as follows:

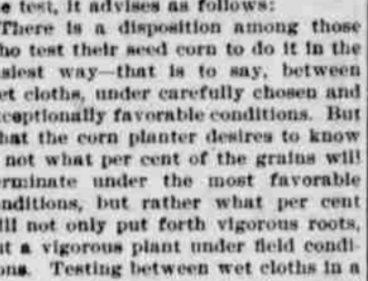
There is a disposition among those who test their seed corn to do it in the easiest way—that is, to say, between two cloths, under carefully chosen and exceptionally favorable conditions. But what the corn planter desires to know is not what per cent of the grains will germinate under the most favorable conditions, but rather what per cent will not only put forth vigorous roots, but a vigorous plant under field conditions. Testing between wet cloths in a pan will show a great many more grains germinating than will ever make a plant that ought to be allowed to grow in a part of the field stand. In testing, therefore, an effort should be made to give an approximation to field conditions.

As a means to this end we would suggest that a shallow box should be prepared large enough to contain the seed to be tested. Put into it a couple of inches of soil, well pulverized, place the seed upon this sufficiently thick, taking care to count the seeds, and then cover with an inch or more of soil. Keep the soil moist in the box in a germinating temperature. The seed should come up in from five to ten days, eight days being about the average if there be no forcing conditions. These boxes should be arranged in rows to the vigor of the seed the plants should be permitted to grow an inch or two in height. If by that time the observer can form a good opinion of the percentage of the seed that will grow, and grow vigorously.

After those have been counted, if the experimenter will examine the seeds yet in the ground he will find that a considerable number of them have put forth roots, but lack vigor sufficient to make plants. In an ordinary wet cloth test in a pan these grains would be counted good when, in fact, for the conditions in which the seed corn is intended to grow they are not good at all—no better, in fact, than those that did not even germinate. It is reasons of this kind that render it necessary to make the earth test under conditions as near like those of the field as possible, rather than to rely upon a mere pan test between cloths.

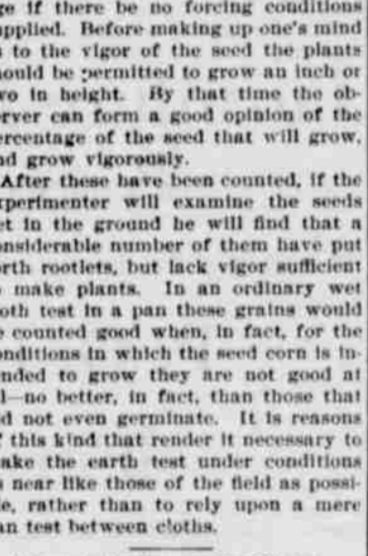
Sanitary Hog Trough.

Other correspondent sends a sketch of a device for preventing it. He says: The notched board must be high enough that the hogs cannot get their heads over it, and they will keep their feet out. We just drove a stake down at each end of the trough and nailed the trough to the stakes. Then we ran the notched board lengthwise of the trough and nailed to the stakes. This will do when you feed in one place all the time. If you want a movable trough, make the end boards longer, so that the trough will not upset, and nail a solid strip to each end, long enough to nail the notched board to. Do not let the notches come down lower than the top of the trough. We have had clean troughs ever since we adopted this plan.



The Hard Lot of the Grindstone.

The grindstone on the farm sees pretty hard usage. The softer the stone, the harder usage it receives. The grinding surfaces of the stone are more likely to be as shown at the left of the cut than it is to have an even face or slightly beveled surface, as at the right in the same picture. The former condition comes from grinding axes, scythes, machine knives, etc., with their edges lengthwise of the stone instead of across it. This cannot be helped in grinding some tools. But when the stone does assume this shape, making it impossible to grind a chisel or any flat edged tool decently, it is a good time to get a spade—spades are usually dull—and hold it on the stone until it is sharp, when the irregularities in the surface of the stone will



have disappeared. A grindstone should never be left exposed to the sun. The weight of the handle will cause one portion of the stone to remain uppermost, and this, from exposure, will assume a different degree of hardness from the underside, so that after while the stone will be ground out of a circle. If the stone has to stand in the open, a flat box can serve as a cover, says a correspondent, who gives the foregoing advice in Rural New Yorker.

One Thing and Another.

Six new forest reserves have recently been created in Wyoming in addition to effecting certain changes in the areas of those of the existing reserves. This makes 36 forest reservations, embracing an estimated area of 40,021,820 acres.

On Utah bench lands three irrigations seem sufficient for full development of wheat.

From foreign experiments it appears that heavy rape seeds produce larger seedlings than lighter ones, and if the seed of a given variety of rape be divided into groups according to specific gravity and absolute weight, on the whole, that of medium specific gravity is best for sowing.

It is stated that at the Wyoming experiment station a plot of Turkestan alfalfa was exposed for two weeks without injury to a daily temperature of 35 degrees below zero. The lowest point reached being 45 degrees below. In California it was subjected without damage to a drought which seriously injured ordinary alfalfa.

Good Roads a Blessing.

Good roads are of more than sentimental benefit to a community. The cost of hauling is reduced by every betterment of the highway. A level, hard, dry road allows the farmer to haul a heavier load at the same cost and thereby prevents waste. That saving comes indirectly but certainly to the merchants with whom the farmer deals. When travel is easy, inexpensive and agreeable, the farmer will come to town oftener, and he will seek the market that is easiest to reach, other things being equal.—St. Paul Dispatch.

"because you own cows, do you consider yourself a dairyman?" asks George E. Newell in The American Cultivator. "You are not a dairyman in the true sense of the word unless your cows are making you financially better off at the end of every year. Are they doing it?"

FARM GARDEN

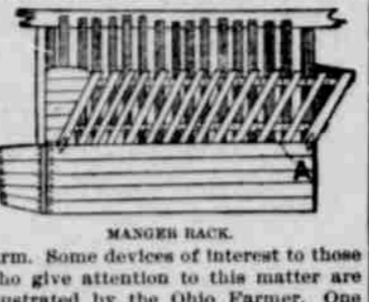
FARM CONVENIENCES.

Feeding Devices That Are Handy and Prevent Waste.

Economical and sanitary methods of feeding animals, whether they be few or many, are some of the exacting points of good farming. This is a homely saying that "a small leak will sink a great ship," and the small leaks of wasteful and careless feeding may in time destroy much of the profit on the average farm. Some devices of interest to those who give attention to this matter are illustrated by the Ohio Farmer. One correspondent writes:

Since the value of corn fodder is more closely estimated by our farmers, and hay is becoming more valuable and somewhat scarce and we are feeding more fodder in our barns during the winter season than in former years, various contrivances are brought into use to make the feeding of stalks more convenient. In our hay barns or barns with mangers built to economize space in the stable room, we find that the mangers are too small to feed stalks handily. In the first cut is shown a rack attachment which is much used and liked in our country. It is made of 1 by 2 lath throughout. An opening is cut at A, where grain can be easily thrown into the feed box. The outer portion of the rack is hinged on the manger, which makes it very convenient to let down and empty refuse stalks on the barn floor, where they may be worked out into the manure yard. The refuse can be worked out through the stable for bedding. This arrangement is very convenient also to feed hay, and where small mangers must be used they soon find for themselves in the saving of feed that is often trampled under foot.

As to the trouble of hogs getting their feet into the feeding trough, another correspondent sends a sketch of a device for preventing it. He says: The notched board must be high enough that the hogs cannot get their heads over it, and they will keep their feet out. We just drove a stake down at each end of the trough and nailed the trough to the stakes. Then we ran the notched board lengthwise of the trough and nailed to the stakes. This will do when you feed in one place all the time. If you want a movable trough, make the end boards longer, so that the trough will not upset, and nail a solid strip to each end, long enough to nail the notched board to. Do not let the notches come down lower than the top of the trough. We have had clean troughs ever since we adopted this plan.



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"Star" tin tags (showing small stars printed on under side of tag), "Horse Show," "J. T.," "Good Luck," "Cross Bow," and "Drummond" Natural Leaf Tin Tags are of equal value in securing presents mentioned below, and may be assorted. Every man, woman and child can find something on the list that they would like to have, and can have

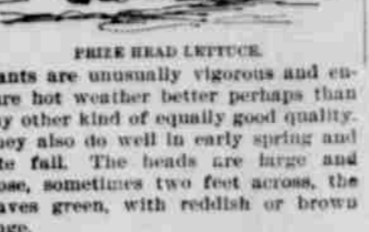
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| 10 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Dog Collar, leather, handsome | 500 |
| 11 Knife, "Kaiser" brand, best quality | 25 | 1 Sewing Machine, first class, with | 500 |
| 12 Butter Knife, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Sewing Machine, very handsome, in | 500 |
| 13 Spoon, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Revolver, Colt's, 38-caliber, nickel | 500 |
| 14 Nut Set, Cracker and 4 Picks, silver | 25 | 1 Rifle, Colt's, 16-caliber, 20-caliber | 500 |
| 15 Soap Dish, "Association," best quality | 25 | 1 Shotgun, double-barrel, handsome | 500 |
| 16 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, single-barrel, handsome | 500 |
| 17 1/2 Dozen Rogers' Teaspoons, best | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
| 18 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Rifle, Winchester, 30-caliber, in | 500 |
| 19 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
| 20 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
| 21 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
| 22 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
| 23 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
| 24 Curry Comb, 1/2 inch | 25 | 1 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 16 or 20 gauge | 500 |
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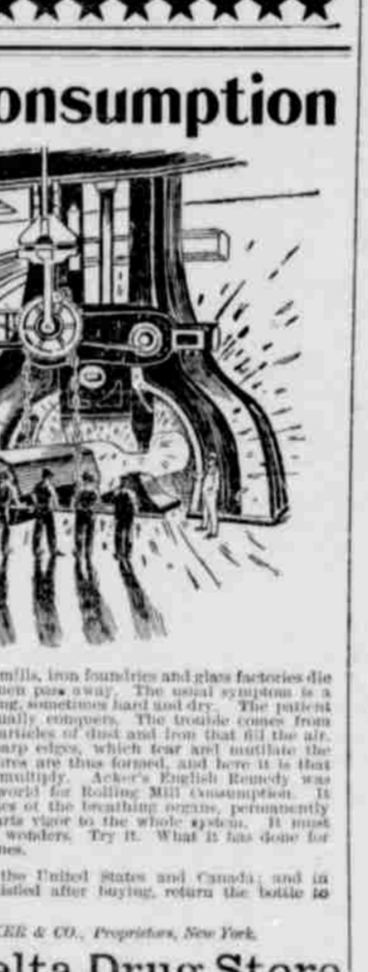
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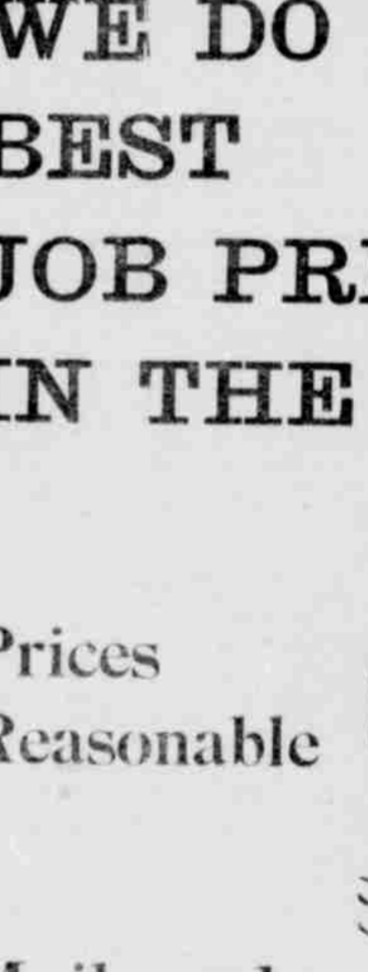
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