

Farm and Garden

SEED BED FOR ALFALFA.

Small Seed and Delicate Nature of Plant Require Compact Soil.

When alfalfa is grown on corn or potato ground the preparation of the seed bed is a comparatively simple affair, writes L. R. Waldron of the North Dakota experiment station. The land should be disked in the spring and worked with a peg tooth harrow. After disking and harrowing, the ground should be worked occasionally during the spring with disk and harrow, in order to conserve the moisture and to kill the young germinating weeds.

Growing alfalfa after a corn or potato crop is of added advantage in



Photograph by Long Island agricultural experiment station.

SEEDING ALFALFA WITH HAND DRILL. that the seed bed is firm below the top, two or three inches. The small seed of the alfalfa and the delicate nature of the young plant demand a compact seed bed in comparison to what is allowable for corn or even for wheat.

In an open, porous seed bed the soil is apt to dry out in the upper few inches, and if this occurs shortly after the germination of the alfalfa the young seedlings are quite liable to die through lack of moisture.

If alfalfa is to be grown after a crop of small grain the land should be fall plowed. The fall plowing allows the seed bed to become more compact than spring plowing and, in addition, aids in conserving moisture. The fall plowing should be worked in the spring in much the same manner as the corn or potato ground. Alfalfa may be grown upon summer fallow, though this probably has no advantage over corn ground in most instances.

GOOD ADVICE.

Reading good farm papers never made any man a poorer farmer or a poorer man. How many do you read?

SAVING THE STRAWBERRIES.

Marsh Hay is Good For Use as a Mulch—Way to Keep Celery.

As soon as the ground freezes mulch the strawberries. Use a light, coarse material that will not pack down too closely and thus smother the plants. Marsh hay is excellent for this purpose, as it contains few seeds.

Last winter I kept celery in the fruit cellar nearly all winter. At harvest I dug the plants, leaving considerable soil on the roots, removed them to a dimly lighted corner of the cellar and packed them closely. A little additional soil was packed in among the roots, and the plants were then thoroughly watered, taking care not to wet the tops or get any in the heart of the plant. Every three weeks during the winter it was thoroughly watered. It kept perfectly and continued to grow slowly throughout the winter. — Professor Wright, Pennsylvania State College, in American Agriculturist.

Among the Animals.

For some years past a number of dairymen in Australia have adopted the practice of blanketing cows during wet and cold weather. The results in every case are spoken of as being highly satisfactory.

Keep the horseshoes well tightened on the hoofs now, as this is the time of year they are most frequently lost by being loosened in the mud or snow or because of long usage. They are too high priced to be lost, and, besides, a loose shoe injures the hoof and is a hindrance to the animal in travel.

When an ewe drops her lamb put her in a small pen for two or three days or until the lamb is strong enough to follow the flock. Examine the udder and teats to see that they are not fevered. If the lamb is unable to consume all the milk for a few days the ewe should be milked out at least once each day.

The production of farm yard manure in this country now represents a value greater than the total value of the corn crop. The estimated annual value of farm manure produced in America is \$2,333,000,000. All authorities agree that more than one-third of this material is absolutely wasted by the farmers.

While the fall set strawberry bed may be all right for sections where the winters are mild and there is abundant moisture, the better time for all of that section east of the Rockies is next April, about the time you will be planting your early potatoes.

They tell of "mire days in June," and it is so, but those are likewise rare days in October and November when it is warm enough so that a fellow isn't running a heavy fire, yet cool enough so that he is not under the necessity of paying toll to the ice man.

A clean, well drained barnyard is essential from the standpoint of producing clean milk, not taking into consideration the comfort and satisfaction of milking in such yard. The barn should be located with the idea of obtaining a slope away from the farm buildings.

It is worth while putting a barrel of apples in the cellar for the youngsters simply for the happy recollections they will have in after years of the pleasure taken in eating them. Incidentally these same apples are helpful to the digestion and disposition of older folk if eaten just before going to bed.

In protecting the rosebushes for the winter a very satisfactory plan is to cover them with an old door or boards which will shield the canes from the thawing influence of the winter sunshine. If no litter is put around them there is far less likelihood that the mice will find a harbor near them and bark the stalks.

Feeders of beef cattle have come to be pretty well agreed that better results are secured if the grain ration is mixed with the roughage, this arrangement resulting in a more thorough mastication as well as assimilation of the ration. It seems to be in quite a measure due to this fact thatilage is proving so satisfactory a ration for fattening steers.

The interest on the amount invested in the materials necessary to build a machine shed is in most cases a good deal less than the amount already tied up in machinery to be protected. The slipshod manner in which high priced farm machinery is exposed to the elements constitutes one of the big yet avoidable leaks in American farm management.

A vaccine to check the ravages of the horse plague is being manufactured by the branch station of the Kansas Agricultural college at Hoxie at the rate of 6,000 doses every day. The station will ship the remedy to any district which makes application for it. The state veterinarian, Dr. Schoenleber, reports that but nineteen horses died out of 2,930 treated, two-fifths of which were from herds in which many animals had died.

Roup in the poultry family is what bad colds are in the human species. In the early stages of the disease a mixture made of ten drops of carbolic acid and a tablespoonful of kerosene is excellent, five drops of this being given twice a day. If the roup does not yield another medicine may be given made by adding five drops of acouite to a pint of water. Besides this treatment, the affected fowls should be put by themselves and kept dry and warm.

The frying pan may be a handy implement, but too many families depend upon it altogether too largely in the preparation of their bill of fare. Vegetables boiled are always more digestible than those fried, while broiled meats are not only more wholesome than those fried but more toothsome as well. The frying pan is a fertile source of indigestion, bad temper and domestic infelicity, and yet a whole lot of folks don't seem to realize the fact.

Unless the supply of seed corn is husked and pretty well dried out before the first hard freeze there will be the same stew and sweat next spring about seed corn that there was last spring. Owing to the constant effort of farmers living in the north part of the corn belt to grow a larger type of corn than can well mature in their latitude a good deal of corn does not ripen naturally and dry cures on the stalk, as it used to years ago, and the result is that it is no longer safe to select seed ears at husking time.

James J. Hill, the great railroad magnate and empire builder, of St. Paul has in view a plan which if put into execution here is due much to the farmers of Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana. He proposes to organize a company for the loaning of money to the farmers of the territory referred to at a rate of from 4 to 6 per cent, whereas they are at present paying 5 per cent or more. Mr. Hill usually brings to pass the plans he sets his mind on, and the outcome of this needed enterprise will be watched with a good deal of interest.

Success in agriculture or horticulture is too often attributed in too large measure to the farm being in this or that favored section, when the truth about the matter probably is that success in cases noted is more dependent on the man—his intelligence and perseverance—than upon the favorable environment to be found in soil and climate. The main thing is to have faith and hang on and do the best possible under conditions that may be afforded. Doubtless many a man in the hope of improving his condition has moved to what seemed to be a more favorable section and left a proposition which would have given him a good measure of success and prosperity if he had bit stuck by it.

DON'T HAVE A GROUCH!



This boy has one. There is a reason in his case, but there is none in yours, or, rather, there will be none if you go out and DO THAT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NOW.

But if you neglect it you will have regrets, like this boy. Have it over and be happy. The longer you leave it the more you will dread it, and the more you will have reason to dread it, for the shopping crowd is growing every day. Think what a glow of content will be yours when it is all over. Well, you can have it all over and feel that glow tonight if you will START RIGHT NOW.

A Fortunate Dream.

In 1720 a terrible epidemic of cholera decimated Marseilles and Provence, and Sardinia owed its escape to a dream. At this period the viceroy of Sardinia dreamed that the disease had invaded Sardinia and that the ravages were frightful. When the viceroy awoke he was deeply impressed by his dream. A little later a merchantman put in its appearance at Cagliari, the capital, and demanded a place to berth. The Sardinian refused, and when it was hinted that the merchantman wanted to land some sick the viceroy threatened to train the guns of the fort upon the vessel if the captain did not instantly depart. The people of Cagliari thought that the viceroy was mad, but great was their joy later when they learned that this very ship, which went on to Marseilles, was responsible for introducing cholera into the famous port.

Stage Fright.

Some alleged wise man across the water says he can eliminate stage

freight with a simple operation.

He doesn't tell us what the operation is. He says it's simple. So in the operation of the guillotine. And nothing could be more effective.

But do we want stage fright eliminated? Do we want to encourage brazen mouths and defiant orators? Suppose all men were hardened and fearless after dinner speakers—where would we get the listeners?

If a lot of so called actors should be frightened off the stage and a host of after dinner talkers could be weaned still, wouldn't it be better for art and humanity?

Eliminate stage fright?

Certainly not.

Let's have more of it.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Siberian Railway Fares.

In the matter of fares the Trans-Siberian puts all other railways to shame. For first class the charges are about two-thirds of a penny per mile, second only a little inferior less than a half-penny for the same distance, while if you care to risk a third class journey you get your four miles for a penny. Even this is the height of extortion when compared with the emigrant rate. This works out at something like a shilling for a hundred miles, and if the emigrant does not possess the shilling

the government will lend it him.—London Mail.

Tombstone Amid Waves.

American by the thousand visit Mont St. Michel every year, there to explore the famous old monastery and feast on the renowned omelets of Mme. Poularde, and most of them tarry en route at St. Malo, the gay watering place on the Brittany coast, whose grim past is recalled by the fortifications by which it is begirt. Chateaubriand, the father of French romanticism, is buried at St. Malo, and no true American sightseer fails to pay a visit to his tomb, nameless, which at high tide is covered by the sea. Jules La-maitre in a work on "the great egotist," as he calls Chateaubriand, tells how the author bargained with the mayor of St. Malo for the grant of a rock whereon to plant his tomb, which, he stipulated, was to be a simple stone with a cross, without a name, amid the waves. "He was bent," says Chateaubriand's latest biographer, "on astonishing the world, even when he could no longer be by to enjoy the effect. There was vanity in his very skeleton."—New York Press.

Hung by an Expert.

The box car nomad wiped the last lingering pie crumbs from his lips with

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