

FARM, DAIRY, and HOUSEHOLD.

TEST OF MILKING MACHINE.

Interesting Experiment Will be Made at Corvallis and Results Carefully Noted.

The experiment station is about to install a milking machine for the purpose of testing its practicability and economy. It will also be a part of the test to determine the physical and mental effect upon the cow. As a check against the machine, one-half of the herd will be milked by hand. The milk will be tested for keeping qualities, and repeated bacteriological and chemical analyses will be made. The principal purpose of the test is to secure data which may be of service to practical dairymen who contemplate use of the machine. There are as yet no authentic records of what the machine will accomplish in actual practical use.

There is great interest at the present time in the machine because of the difficulty in obtaining satisfactory employees on dairy farms. It is also expected that the keeping qualities of milk will be improved by means of the machine, but there is a question as to how the cow will behave under its use. It is feared that it will unfavorably effect the mental condition of the cow, causing a shrinkage in the yield of milk. It is very possible that this feature may turn out to be the chief stumbling block in the way of popular use of the device. This feature will be carefully noted during the progress of the test to be made.

Another phase will be the question of the durability of the machine, and its convenience for operation under ordinary dairy conditions. The test will begin January 1 and continue through out the year. It will be a feature of interest to those who are to attend the coming Farmers' Short Course, which begins January 8.

Destruction of Birds.

The warnings sent out by the United States agricultural department, and also from several of the New England experiment stations, regarding the gypsy moth and the brown-tail moth, which are rapidly extending over larger fields of depredations, should be heeded by all who are interested in the destruction of the enemies of crops. The rapid increase of insect pests in orchards and gardens, even in an enormous expanse upon the farms of this country, and yet it is possible the farmer himself is at fault to a certain extent, by assisting in the destruction of animals and birds that would perform valuable service for him if permitted. Beasts and birds of prey are sufficient to prevent any alarming increase of many of the enemies that are capable of doing harm, but nearly all birds are carnivorous to some extent, as they can subsist on animal food. Birds prey upon worms, and the natural increase of all kinds of insects would soon render the earth uninhabitable by man but for the assistance given him by the creature which he so ruthlessly destroys without regard to consequences. As the insects are cleared the destructive animals and birds are driven away or restricted in their capacity to do harm, but man seems to become himself a beast of prey and wantonly destroys for the pleasure of so doing. He considers certain animals as "game," the hawk and owl being always regarded as his foes. He adopts the dog and cat, the latter being more destructive to birds than any other animal, as it is not only active and somewhat nocturnal in habit, but also climbs trees. Some of the carnivorous birds are among the most useful known, as they seek their food where field mice and ground insects abound. The little damage done by them is not worthy of consideration, compared with the service performed.

Manurel Value of Clover.

The roots of clover comprise an important proportion of the plant, so far as the improvement of the land is concerned, not that the tops are less valuable, but that there are many other plants which for only and quick growth above ground may be said to excel it, which when turned under with the view of improving the land, however, are less beneficial than clover in their effects. Buckwheat, for instance, has a much more rampant growth of top, but the effects of this, when turned under, are not as beneficial as clover, for the reason that buckwheat and such annual plants do not penetrate the subsoil and bring up therefrom and deposit near the surface the mineral matter contained therein, and which is so essential to the successful growth of the plants, their growth being due only to that which the roots took from the ordinary surface soil. The roots of the clover plant bring up fertilizing matter from the deeper subsoil, which the roots of buckwheat and such other annual plants can not reach. Clover should never be turned under until it has attained its largest growth as well below as above ground. For this reason the old practice of plowing it under when in bloom is objectionable, for, although the growth of stem and leaf is then at its minimum the roots have not completed their growth; but by cutting the first crop a second growth is the sooner induced, which, although much less in amount, secures an enormous increase

in the growth of the roots, thereby placing it in the best condition for turning under. In experiments made, the clover being seeded in July and the crop (stems, leaves and roots) collected in October in the same year, there were about four and three-quarters tons of stems and leaves, and a little less than two and three-quarters tons of roots per acre of green material, which is not a large quantity of green clover, but is sufficient to show what is left in the soil as nitrogen. The stems and leaves contained 70 pounds of nitrogen, valued at \$10.50 (at 15 cents per pound,) while the roots left in the ground to the depth of two feet contain 47 pounds of nitrogen, worth \$7.05, the total amount of nitrogen in the crop being 117 pounds, valued at \$17.55. Red clover, seeded in May and cut in October of the same year, produced over five tons of stems and leaves and over three tons of roots, the total amount of nitrogen being 130 pounds. Mammoth red clover, seeded in April and cut in May of the following year, produced ten tons of stems and leaves and over five and one-half tons of roots per acre, the total amount of nitrogen being 150 pounds. These tests were made to determine the manurel value of clover, and the time was but a little over one year, the increase of nitrogen being much more than would be expected by farmers who grow the crop for hay rather than for the purpose of improving the soil.

Gleanings.

Look over the peas and beans for the weevil. Place the seeds in a close box, saving a top—such as a cigar box—and pour half a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda over them, closing the box tightly. Allow it to remain closed for an hour and the seed will be clear of weevil. Any one who has a few acres of land, whether used as a truck patch or a fruit farm, should keep a few owls, not only for the direct income they will bring, but also for the large amount of valuable fertilizer they will furnish him, as well as the insects they destroy.

Pedigree does not always indicate a good animal, but it enables the breeder to know something of the family from which the animal came, and permits him to better understand how to develop it and what may be expected. In all families there are some animals superior to others, but the pedigree is a guide to breeding.

If a garden is made on sandy soil, especially in a section where nearly all the soil is sandy, the use of air-slaked lime will be found very beneficial, as such soils are deficient in lime. Gas lime will not serve as a substitute for stone lime, but shell lime is excellent, however, though the use of stone lime should be preferred. The cost is small compared with the benefits derived.

Animals for Boys.

The man who would have his son love the farm and appreciate country life can give that son no better training than to give him an animal or two for his very own.

The boy will unconsciously learn more from his contact with his pet animals than he would ever learn otherwise. A boy whose lambs and colts and calves follow will develop into a man who will not only be able to care for animals in a comprehensive manner, but his character will be stronger and sweeter.

The father who beats his animals and yells around the barnyard can only expect his son to do likewise. But a son to such a father will find no pleasure in whacking the animals. He will seek pleasure in the nearest town.

Give the boy animals of his own. Personal ownership makes responsibility, and responsibility well met makes character.—American Home and Farm.

Keep the Hens at Work.

To prevent disease keep the hens at work by making them scratch for their grain food. Overfeeding is the cause of bowel diseases in the summer, or rather, too much concentrated food is given, and not enough of that which is bulky. If the quarters are kept clean there is little danger of contagious disease unless an addition is made to the flock by bringing a bird from some other farm. When "new blood" is wanted procure a sitting of eggs of the breed desired, as it is very important that when the crops are clean, and the fowls free from disease, no fowls from other places be introduced, as a flock may thus be stocked with lice or infected with disease.

Corn in Benton County.

On old wheat land in this county, John Whitaker, living 12 miles South of Corvallis, grew this season 1000 bushels of corn on 14 acres of ground. The yield is more than 70 bushels per acre, which is understood to be a satisfactory yield in the corn belt of the Middle West. The soil is sandy loam, but has been cropped for many years to wheat. The success Mr. Whitaker has had this and other years will lead him to plant a larger acreage of corn next season.

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FOR THE KITCHEN

Children's Fruit Pie.

Use a pudding dish of crockery or enameled ware and place in the center a teaspoon (without a handle) upside-down. If you use peaches, peel and cut them in small pieces, filling up the dish all around the cup. Sweeten with sugar according to the tartness of the fruit. Add a few spoonfuls of water and a dredging of flour. When you use apples cut them up fine and heap up the dish until a little above the cup. Season and add some spice, either nutmeg or cinnamon, and put little pieces of butter all about the top and a little water. Cover the entire top of the dish with crust and cut slits at intervals or prick holes in the crust. Do not remove the cup until the pie is served at the table.

Pear Salad.

For pear salad select very ripe, rich-flavored fruit, pare, core and cut in thin slices. Mix with one-third the quantity of diced banana, one-fourth as much broken English walnut meats and enough simple French dressing to make very slightly moist. Prepare only a short time before it is to be served, and serve very cold in bleached lettuce cups. If preferred a sweet dressing may be made with the well-beaten yolks of three eggs, a small cupful of powdered sugar, the juice of one lemon and half a cupful of any tart fruit juice, fresh, canned or dissolved jelly.

Mince Meat.

To one pint of finely chopped boiled beef, add a quart of chopped tart apples, one cup of chopped raisins, one cup of small seedless raisins, one cup of currants, two cups of brown sugar, two teaspoons of salt, two teaspoons of cinnamon, one teaspoon of allspice, one teaspoon of cloves, and moisten with one pint of cider or sweet pickle vinegar. Let simmer until the fruit is tender.

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