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Blight of Potatoes. Early blight is a potato disease which causes more or less damage to the crop every year. The trouble is most marked in unusually dry seasons and is caused by a fungus which grows and spreads rapidly. The spores of this fungus when seen through a microscope have the appearance of clubs. They enter the vines and the first thing one notices is that the leaves are turning yellow. The disease is likely to come during the first or second week in July. It may be easily prevented by spraying with Bordeaux mixture before the disease gets a hold on the crop. After it has started it is of no use to spray, because the spores are already inside the vines. In order to kill the potato beetle at the same time, one-fourth of a pound of Paris green may be added to



the barrel of Bordeaux mixture. The spraying can be done quite cheaply. The cost of four sprayings is estimated at \$1.85 per acre. This includes the cost of labor also. In Vermont a trial was conducted by one hundred farmers to test the value of this spray. The period covered five years, and the result was the increase of 70 per cent in yield. The high value of Bordeaux mixture as a preventive of early blight has been proved many times, and should not be overlooked by anyone who expects to raise a good crop of potatoes.

Moles Destroy Crop Enemies. A distinguished naturalist carefully examined the stomachs of fifteen moles caught in different localities, but failed to discover therein the slightest vestige of plants or roots. On the contrary, they were filled with the remains of earth worms. Not satisfied by this fact, he shut off several earth, on which fresh grass was growing, and a small cage of grubs and earth worms. In nine days two moles devoured 249 white worms, 192 earth worms, 25 caterpillars and a mouse (skin and bones) which had been alive in the box. He next gave them nothing but vegetables. In twenty-four hours two moles died from starvation. Another naturalist calculated that two moles destroyed 20,000 white worms or grubs in a single year. If this is correct, it is a strong argument in favor of multiplying rather than destroying the moles.

To Tan a Hide. Take the hide green and salt well. Let it stand for thirty-six hours; then take hair off with lime in the usual way. After taking off hair let hide soak for seven or eight days in clear running water; then scrape and clean off. For a hide of ordinary size dissolve three pounds of alum and five of salt in enough warm (not hot) water to cover it. Put in hide and leave five days, stirring every day. At the end of that time take out and put in vessel with enough clear water to cover; then add five pounds of clean bruised red oak bark. Let this stand till desired color is got; then take out, wash in clear water and hang up. When half dry begin working and work till dry. Small hides in proportion.—Southern Cultivator.

The Hen's Laying Possibilities. The Maine Experiment Station declares that two eggs a day from a hen is an actual possibility and proves it by one of its own hens with a trap nest. She has laid two eggs a day for periods of five days in succession, and frequently in periods of three or four days. The writer also runs trap nests on his farm, and can certify that every year he has one or two hens that produce two eggs in one day—one is laid early in the morning and one late in the afternoon.

Feeding Whole Grain. Bulletin No. 242 of the Michigan Experiment Station, offers some exact data upon the subject of feeding whole grain to cows, heifers and calves. When whole grain was fed to cows, 22 per cent was unmasticated; when fed to heifers, 10 per cent; when fed to calves, 8 per cent. Chemical analysis showed no change in composition of the unmasticated parts, so it is a safe assumption that the animal derives no benefit from grain that passes through the digestive tract unaltered.

Scalding Poultry. When scalding poultry for market it is best to first dry pick the legs, so and they will not necessarily be placed in the water and change color. Neither the heads nor the feet should touch the water. The water ought to be as near the boiling point as possible without boiling.

Foul Brood in Bees. The worst enemies of the bee are the foul brood and black brood. One or the other of these diseases are fit some parts of the State, and black brood have been very bad in New York State. These diseases of bees

have been carefully studied by the department in Washington, and we have some pretty definite information on the matter. The treatment for both is that of removing all the combs and starting the bees fresh without any contaminated honey in a new hive, and the use of the old combs for wax.

Horses Increasing in Value. A table has been compiled from the statistics of the Census Bureau and the Department of Agriculture, which shows that the rise in the market value of horses has been out of all proportion in the last fifteen years to the increase in their number in the United States. From 1893 to 1908 the horse population so to speak, increased 3,785,000, or 23 per cent. In the same period the gain in the number of human inhabitants was 21,979,000, or 33 per cent. But the increase in the value of the horses in this country was no less than \$875,300,000, or 88 per cent.

These facts will astonish many persons who have supposed that the growth of the automobile interest has been very adverse to the horse breeders and to the market demand for horses. On the contrary, the prices obtained for good horses, especially for heavy draft animals of blood and stamina, have risen far beyond the hopes of horse dealers a few years ago. Horses are worth about 50 per cent more in proportion to their number than they were in 1893.

Oats as a Poultry Food. Oats make an excellent food for the poultry, providing they are of the right kind. The long, slim oat, with plenty of husk or hull is poor feed for anything, but the plump, meaty oat is a good feed for all stock, including poultry.

Hulled oats for young chickens after they are three or four weeks old will help them to make bone and muscle faster than any other one feed, and this is the most desirable element at this period of growth.

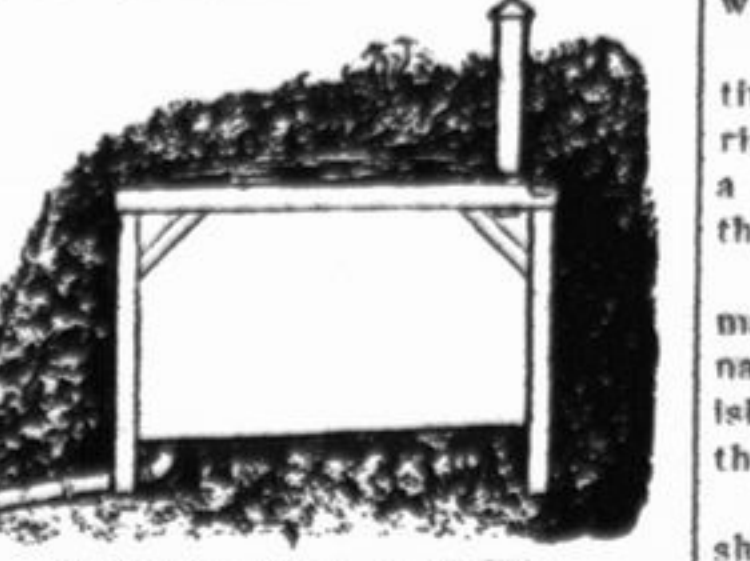
For grown or feeding fowls we have at most seasons of the year fed one feed of oats daily with most satisfactory results. We have fed some oats after boiling them for fall and winter feeding, but they were of poor quality, and the boiling was to soften the hulls rather than because the boiling added any other value to the oats feed itself. Boiling is not necessary with good oats except by way of variety in feeding. The best way is to feed them in the litter, scattered well and deeply so the fowls will have to do considerable scratching.—Agricultural Epitomist in the country.

To Curb Kicking Cows. To cure a kicking cow is often a difficult and tedious task, and unless some method of restraining them from kicking is adopted more loss than profit may result through spilt milk. The person milking also runs considerable risk of injury in some form or other.

When the cause of kicking can be assigned to vice or an acquired bad habit, the following little arrangement will be found useful, and, at the same time, simple, harmless, effective, inexpensive and easily applied. A strap about one inch wide should be buckled around each hind leg a little above the hock sufficiently tight to compress the hamstring.

The animal cannot kick, and if flies are troublesome and cause her to switch her tail, the best plan is to either strap it to her leg or secure it to one of the straps with a piece of cord. Use the straps every time the animal is milked, and after three weeks or so omit, to ascertain whether a cure has been effected or not.—Irish Farming World.

Apple Storage House. This apple storage house is built in a hillside. The roof is covered with brush and earth. A ventilator is arranged in the top and a tile drain at the lower side to carry off water and admit cool air.



Weeding One Unprofitable Cow. Dairy farms are continually advancing in value, which should be regarded as the part of the profits. Grain farming is hard on the land. Many hard run grain farms have been brought back to a good state of fertility by changing to cows.

With the case in test it will be possible to weed out the poor cheese cows on the same principle that we have used the Babcock butter test to weed out the poor butter cows. Instead of keeping cows for cheese which average 70 pounds of casein per 100 pounds of fat, we may breed cows that will produce milk containing close to 10 pounds of casein for 100 pounds of fat. We need to specialize in cheese just as intelligently and carefully as in butter production.

Picking Hops. There are two drawbacks to hop picking. One is so-called hop poisoning, which is simply a sort of prickly heat or rash, sometimes produced by contact of face and arms with the nettle-like fuzz on the stalks of the hop vine. It does not affect all pickers. The other is the darkening of the hands resulting from the resin of the blossom. It may be removed with the crushed green leaves of the hop.

HINTS FOR FARMERS.

The following is furnished by the Farm Journal, Philadelphia, Pa.:

WOMANLY WISDOM. The flowers are withered now and sear. It is the autumn of the year; The wind is moaning through the grass. There are no leaves on bush or tree;— The seasons come, the seasons pass. Many folks put salt in the water in which they boil green corn and then they wonder what makes the kernels so hard. Try leaving the salt out and see if that doesn't fix the matter all right.

Soaking the hands above the wrists in hot water will sometimes relieve a headache. I found this out while washing dishes and clothes when my head was aching. Keeping the feet warm at the same time also helps. Sheets and long table-cloths are bad things to take from the boiler to the tub on wash days. Did you ever think of looping them up in a big loose knot before placing them into the boiler? Try that and see if you don't find it a great improvement.

Green tomatoes will make excellent pies next winter if you pare them, cut in thick slices, and to seven pounds of them add three pounds of sugar and cook very slowly till clear and tender. Do not add any water. When the pies are made, thin slices of lemon added will improve the flavor.

To mend china: Dissolve half an ounce of gum arabic in three table-spoonfuls of boiling water and add enough plaster of Paris to make a thick paste. Then moisten the surface of the broken pieces with a camel-hair brush and apply a thin coating of the cement. Press the edges tightly together and bind with a cord. When dry remove the cord and clean the crack with a cloth dipped in warm water.

Green tomato pickle: Take one peck green tomatoes, slice and sprinkle with salt; put in jar, press tight and keep over night; in the morning drain through colander; add one dozen sliced onions, half ounce black pepper, one ounce ground mustard, a quarter pound mustard seed, one tea-spoonful red pepper, one ounce cloves, one ounce allspice and one pound brown sugar. Put in kettle, cook with good vinegar and boil until tender.

Do not spend all the fine October days in pickling, preserving, house-cleaning or sewing, but occasionally gather up the children and go for a walk or a drive through the woods, and thus lay up a supply of health and pleasant memories for the winter months to come. Take some of the neighbor's children along to help have a good time. Remember that so glorious a pageant will not be spread before your eyes for another year, so enjoy it while you may.

HINTS FOR STOCK OWNERS.

An easy way to fight lice is to drive down posts in the yard; wad an old bran sack soaked in crude kerosene about it and let the hogs do the rest.

The next time you run up against a contrary hog that refuses to go through a chute into the wagon, try the following plan: Clap a feed basket over his head and he will back anywhere you want him to go. By a little maneuvering you can have the hog in the wagon before he knows it.

Cows that are allowed to get dry too long never attain their best. Provide some device for supplying water in the stable for the cows.

The cows that have the most comfort are the ones that give the owner the most profit.

Don't forget the calves and yearlings. Don't leave them out in the cold nights until they are pinched and haggard.

There is no surer cause of scours than dirty feed pails. Be scrupulously clean as to pails, troughs and the food used in feeding young calves. It will save the trouble of carrying calves through.

More than one horse has been ruined for life by being made to pull hard when young.

Go down to the stable before bedtime and see that everything is all right with the horses. You may save a good horse by just that one little thing.

A spirited horse will in the end be made slow and spiritless by constant nagging, twitching of the lines, peevish urging and other wearing processes that fretful drivers practice.

Match your farm horses. They should be alike in size and shape, but by far the most important part is that they should possess like characteristics of temper and disposition so they will work in harmony.

Do not sell a faithful, worn-out horse to a peddler. Five dollars is usually the most he will give for such a horse, and few men would care to be kept awake at nights by disturbing thoughts of how they came by the five dollars.

Living the Heavenly Life Now. When the disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration, they wanted to stay there and continue the transfiguration and companionship and glory. But they could not do this—they had to return to the struggles and temptations of the lower world. We, too, have our transfiguration visions, but they come only to give us new assurance and strength. We must return, again to our work and our daily life of care. But the Master wants us always to live the transfiguration life, to live every moment as if the holy vision were shining before our eyes. We are to carry the communion fact and spirit with us to our homes. We are to live the immortal life wherever we go.

Farm hands for harvesting the grain and fruit crops of California are scarcer than ever. Efforts to utilize the spider's web for practical purposes were made as early as 1778 in France.

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