

# Tips For the Farmer

BY UNCLE JOSE.

## Scratching Post for Hogs.

If a hog knew how to tell his wants he would demand a scratching post for himself. A successful Maryland hog grower adopts this plan. Firmly plant a hickory or oak post in the ground in diameter in the hog run. Coil a rope around the post as high as a hog stands and staple it on securely. Then thoroughly saturate the rope with crude petroleum and it becomes an ideal scratching post for hogs and pigs. The rope will rub against it continually and oil is fatal to vermin. Kerosene can be used, but it evaporates too readily.

## Poultry Pointers.

It isn't so much a question of keeping too many chickens on a farm as it is of keeping too many in one place. Remember that one bad cow will eat up the profits of several good ones. The man who puts the finest product on the market, no matter what they consist of, is the one who reaps the best rewards.

While it may not be always convenient to provide separate quarters for them, young stock will do better along with the old stock.

Have the roosts in the poultry-house removable and apply kerosene on the under and upper sides once a week. A sandy soil makes a good poultry run. Filth is sooner washed into it and after a rain it is soonest dry. Then there is the grit.

To avoid dampness in the poultry-house the floor should be a foot higher of earth than the level of the outside lay of land. Then grade up to the outside walls so as to turn off the water.

No fowl is safe that eats with hogs. No one can tell what moment a hog may decide to have chicken for a relish. The more choice the fowl the greater the risks.

Ducks may be raised at little expense on the farm. They eat the food that is not desired by other fowls. Vegetable parings and food unrelished by either geese or chickens seem to be enjoyed.

## Care of Implements.

As soon as the season is over binders and other machinery no longer needed this year should be carefully cleaned; the grease and dirt should be removed from the bearings, and these should be carefully oiled and all bright parts greased, to prevent rusting. Preparations should be made for replacing any broken or defective parts.

If time does not permit of all this, make a memorandum to be given to on some stormy day, and then see that everything is put in readiness for the next harvesting or haying season. Get the repairs and place them on the machine at once. Take care of the plows. Get them under cover. Clean and grease the bright parts, so that when wanted next spring, they will scour and save the time so many farmers lose in getting their implements into working order. The following preparation applied to the surface will prevent any rusting: Melt one ounce of rosin in a gill of linseed oil, and when hot mix with two quarts of kerosene. This can be kept on hand and applied in a moment with a brush or rag to the metal surface of any tool that is not going to be used for a few days, preventing when it is to be used again. Gramere.

## The Sheep Industry.

Comparing the sheep industry with the dairy industry, Mr. Cook, President of the Connecticut Sheep Breeders' Association, believes that many of the dairymen are very much dissatisfied with conditions as they are at present. Feed is high and milk prices are low to the producer in the majority of cases. This, he believes, will cause many to make a change in their methods of farming, and without doubt a good many will take up sheep-raising and drop dairying. A fair profit, he estimates, is \$5 a head per year, although

without a doubt, much more than this is made by breeders who have a specialty, such as "hot-house lambs." There is, in Mr. Cook's opinion, more profit in sheep-raising than in dairying, except where cows are kept and the product may be marketed under specially favorable conditions. If necessity demands it, sheep will get along for a few days without special care, but cows must have such care every day without a let-up. To secure the best results, however, sheep must have attention and care. With poor care they will live and give a profit, but they respond readily, and better care means increased profits. Give to them and they will give to you in a greater proportion.

In order to keep sheep successfully you must have dog-proof fences. A wire fence is about the best. Better put your money into fences and keep less sheep than put it all into the sheep for dogs to ruin. Also put the sheep in every night. After they become accustomed to going in it takes hardly any time to do this, as they will go in as soon as you open the gate. This is the safest way, as it insures absolute protection from dogs when one is around.

The most favorable time for sheep to lamb is just before they go out to grass in the spring, as the flow of milk will then be the best.

It is preferable that a sheep should have one lamb rather than two, as one good one is better than two poor ones, and a sheep does not usually give enough milk for the best development of two lambs. Lambs should dress 25-30 pounds when ready for market. Mr. Cook had one Southdown lamb that dressed 27½ pounds when 99 days old. A lamb will begin to eat hay and grain when about a week old, and should be weaned when four months old, although market lambs are usually sold right from the mother's side. The mother should be fed for milk, the same as a cow. A good grain consists of 30 pounds bran, 35 pounds cracked corn, ten pounds linseed meal and 10 pounds brown sugar. This is a good mixture for lambs and sheep. Sell the lamb as soon as he is in good condition, as it is hard to keep him there.

## Good Plowing.

Good plowing is dependent on the fact that the best crop yields are contingent on a close capillary connection between the soil and the subsoil. This capillary connection is always broken by plowing, but its re-establishment may be made sure by either one of two ways: either by plowing long enough beforehand for the connection to become established or by stirring (disking) the ground before plowing so that the soil which falls into the bottom of the furrow is fine and well mixed with any litter present, says Rural New Yorker. In many places farmers do not seem to realize the importance of a close capillary union between soil and subsoil. They will tell you that straw or coarse manure will "seal" the crop unless the season be wet, but they do not seem to know that firing is due to the inability of the water in the subsoil to get into the furrow slice where it could be utilized by the plant. I have seen timothy sod turned over in the spring, and the plowman thought he was doing a splendid job. Certainly it did turn over beautifully, and the furrows were straight; but the capillary connection between soil and subsoil was efficiently prevented for months.

To do a good job of plowing takes time. A plow which is deep in the ground has a heavy draught, and to plow deeply and make a record for rapid work at the same time is exceedingly difficult. It is much easier, therefore, to do a satisfactory job in the fall than in the spring. There is always in the spring the hurry to get the crop in. Therefore, if the plow is cutting a deep furrow, and it is necessary occasionally to rest the team, there is a tremendous temptation to let it run just a half inch shallower. It would surprise you how much lighter it makes the draught, and the difference in the time of planting the crop will make as much difference in the yield as the depth of plowing will now, anyway. This argument is perfectly valid at that time, but it does not follow that an earlier and deeper plowing would not produce better results than either of the alternatives just mentioned. Furthermore, the soil often becomes so dry at corn plant-

ing time that a good job of plowing is impossible.

Now, this suggests the thought that as a rule we do not appreciate fully the value of water. Consequently we plow only to prepare a seed-bed, whereas we should plow with the additional purpose of conserving moisture. If we had any adequate idea of what an enormous amount of water it takes to produce a crop, how slowly water percolates to place storage in the subsoil, and how alarmingly rapid is its rate of evaporation if the storehouse is unprotected, we certainly would do all we could to prevent the loss. As it is, the springtime is usually wet, at ground gets dry, why the next rain will wet it. We are no deeper than the furrow slice. We do not see that when the soil gets dry between rains it does so only after tons and tons of water have been pumped up from the subsoil by capillarity and evaporation, and when the destructive drought of August or July is upon us it never occurs to us that its destructiveness is due to the loss of water from the subsoil in March and April. And yet such is the case. We are like a man who uses ice from his ice-house in winter instead of from his pond.

When we learn to put a higher value on the water in that storehouse—the soil—when we learn to plow to conserve moisture as well as to prepare a seed-bed, then will we plow more deeply and carefully, and most of us who now plow late in the spring will plow much earlier, or even in the autumn before.

## Home Buttermaking.

Market reports invariably quote creamery butter higher than farm butter which is the designation given to that which is made on the farm. It is unfortunate that circumstances at times make it impracticable for dairy farmers to patronize a creamery. When this can be done, not only are the products as a rule, increased, but much hard work is taken away from the overburdened members of the family.

There is no good reason why butter made in the home dairy should not be as fine as that made in a creamery where cream produced under all manner of conditions has to be made up. All that is necessary is the carrying out of a well established system in feeding the cows, caring for the milk and cream and the churning and putting up of the butter. In order to teach the proper method of carrying out these various operations, there has been prepared, under the direction of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner at Ottawa, a bulletin entitled "Butter-making on the Farm," written by Mr. Geo. H. Barr, Chief of the Dairy Division.

This work, which may be secured free from the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, explains the common defects of dairy butter as well as the conditions that are necessary to produce fine flavored cream. It then deals with churning, washing, salting, working and packing butter, and considers the modern necessary utensils and their care. These are shown in clear illustrations.

This bulletin, which is No. 17 of the Dairy and Cold Storage series, concludes with the following recommendations: "Keep good cows, feed them liberally, keep them comfortable and clean when in the stable, skim a rich cream and keep it cool, churn at a temperature that will give a fine granule in the butter; use clean, pure water for washing butter; not more than three degrees colder or warmer than the buttermilk. Put the butter up in neat, clean, attractive packages, and keep everything in and about the dairy clean and attractive."

## Working a Stallion.

Generally speaking, there is no good reason why a stallion should not be put to work after the breeding season is over. Such treatment insures regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and will give him the privilege of association with other horses, writes a stallion owner in The New York Farmer. It will do away with the solitary confinement and irregular attention of which he is otherwise the recipient.

If under ordinary conditions, at the close of the breeding season, a stallion is pressed into regular service and accustomed to work regularly, he will be the better for it in the end. Association with other horses will then come to be a regular occurrence, and the obnoxious actions so common to stallions in harness will become less frequent.

If conditions are such that a stallion cannot be worked a large paddock offers the next best opportunity for exercise. The difficulty encountered in such a method is that horses, particularly drafters, will not take enough exercise of their own free will.


Oats should constitute the basis of the grain ration for stallions. The efficiency of the grain may, in many cases, be increased by the addition of one-fifth or one-sixth bran. Roots of various sorts are palatable and succulent, and often improve the stallion's allowance. Barley has been very successfully used as part of the grain ration. Some complaint has been made against the use of linseed meal and the writer would not advise its use, except in limited quantities. Good sound oats with a small portion of bran makes the best grain ration for stallions.

Whatever hay is fed must be clean and well cured. Timothy and clover, a major portion of the former, have proven to be a very satisfactory hay ration. Alfalfa in large quantities as a stallion feed has been criticized, the objection being that it lessens the ability of a stallion to "settle" his mares. Corn fodder has been found to be inefficient. It contains too much crude fibre. A safe basis upon which to proceed is to feed one pound of grain and one pound of hay per 100 pounds of live weight. The amount should be sufficient to keep the horse in a vigorous and healthy condition, yet not fat and lazy.

To sum up the cardinal principles in the success of caring for a stallion, plenty of good, clean food and water, enough exercise and grooming along with a comfortable place to sleep, will, under ordinary conditions, give very satisfactory results.

## Produce and Prices.

Kingston, Nov. 22.—Market clerk reports the following: Meat, beef, local, carcass, \$9 to \$10; prime western, 10c to 11c; carcass, cuts, 10c to 20c; mutton, 9c to 10c; lamb, 15c to 22c; live, 9c; dressed hogs, 14c; veal, 9c to 14c; lamb, by carcass, 13c. Dairy—Butter, creamery, 33c; prints, 30c; eggs, 40c. Doz. J. A. McFarlane, Brook street, reports grain, flour and feed selling as follows: Oats, 45c; bush; wheat, \$1.10 bush;



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No man or woman who eats meat regularly can make a mistake by flushing the kidneys occasionally. Meat forms uric acid which clogs the kidney pores so they sluggishly filter or strain only part of the waste and poisons from the blood, then you get sick. Nearly all rheumatism, headaches, liver trouble, nervousness, constipation, dizziness, sleeplessness, bladder disorders come from sluggish kidneys.

The moment you feel a dull ache in the kidneys or your back, or if the urine is cloudy, offensive, full of sediment, irregular of passage or attended by a sensation of scalding, get about four ounces of Jad Salts from any reliable pharmacy and take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush clogged kidneys and stimulate them to activity, also to neutralize the acids in urine so it no longer causes irritation, thus ending bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which all regular meat eaters should take now and then to keep the kidneys clean and the blood pure, thereby avoiding serious kidney complications. Agent, Geo. W. Mahood.

ed wheat, 90c per bushel; yellow fed corn, 90c; bakers' flour, \$2.75 to \$3; farmers' flour, \$2.75 to \$3; Hungarian patent, \$3; oatmeal and rolled oats, \$3.50; cornmeal, \$2 cwt.; bran, \$23 ton; shorts, \$24.50 ton; baldd straw, \$10; loose straw, \$10; loose hay, \$15; pressed hay, \$15. Cabbage, 6c to 10c; head; celery, 5c; bunch; onions, 50c a peck; chickpeas, 15c to 17c a lb.; potatoes, \$1.10 bag; beets, 5c; bunch; carrots, 5c; bunch; parsley, 5c; bunch; cauliflower, 10c to 20c; egg plant, 15c; vegetable marrow, 15c each.

The Dominion Fish company reports the following prices: Whitefish, 15c lb.; pike, 10c; Chinook salmon, 30c; kippered herring, 60c; Yar mouth bladders, 40c; dozen; codfish, 12c lb.; halibut, 20c lb.; fresh had dock, 12c lb.; steak cod, 12c lb.; salmon trout, 15c lb.; fillets, 15c lb.; finnan haddis, 12c lb.; salt mackerel, 15c lb.; oysters, 50c to 60c; chickens, 15c lb.

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