OF INTEREST TO THE FARMER.

The Causes of the Spread of Hog Cholera

FEEDING OF CORN STALKS TO COWS

Why Potatoes Run Out-The Quality of Western Honey-The Laying Hen-General Farm News.

We think few things are more clearly established than that hog cholera is caused by a specific germ and spreads only by the spread of that germ, says the lowa Homestead. We have just now a case in hand illustrating the method in which the disease is spread through the deportation of the germs. Mr. John Smith wishes to buy some hogs to follow cattle. He had an opportunity to buy some very well bred shoats at 3 cents, but being what is known as a sharp trader, he went into a neighborhood at some distance and bought quite a lot at 10 cents per hundred less. He had a chance to buy a wagon load or so at the stock yards in the nearest town at a bargain and took them in. In a few days these last were taken with the cholera contracted no doubt before shipment to the yards. After about thirty or forty hogs had died he concluded that a change would do them good, and so he drove them along a public highway to a farm he owned at some distance. Some died on the way, others strayed off into the corn fields, others left the new yards and wandered round the neighborhood. Was it anything strange that the disease broke out along this highway and in the neighborhood where this herd was fed? This new lot was on the bank of a stream, and today fifty or more of these dead hogs are lying along its banks waiting to be carried down with the spring rains. We cite this case because it is a typical one, and do not give names or locality, because the circumstance is so common that it will be located by our readers in a great many counties and in several states. The man who is looking out for bargains abounds every fall of every year, and in buying hogs to follow cattle he connot resist the temptation to buy cheap. Again, he has heard that moving hogs will cure the disease, and in doing so he leaves a trail of disease along the highway. Many states have laws prohibiting this traffic, but neighbors do not wish to make trouble and the law remains a dead letter. Had the diseased herd been quarantined, the disease might have been stamped out, and the loss confined to the man who invited the disease through the mania for buying cheap. Another case comes to mind. A prominent Iowa breeder attended the Iowa state fair with a large number of hogs. He re-turned them in a stock car that had recently carried hogs, and for lack of crates had to leave two run loose in the car. Shortly after his return one of these two was taken sick; and, being in free communication with the rest of the herd, it was not long until the herd was practically wiped out. Although it is a case not clearly proven, there is every reason to believe that the infection was contracted in this car which had recently been loaded with hogs and used

again without being disinfected,
We know of another man who is losing his hogs with the disease and wondered long how it came to him. He dis-covered at last that the dead-hog-man had been along the road, and that a little pig had fallen off the load, and that some of his pigs had been seen eating the carcass. We might mention dozens of such cases. When cholera breaks out of such cases. When cholera breaks out suddenly in a new locality, a careful inquiry will show that it had some means of conveyance. There are so many means of conveyance; especially in the fall season, the season of the greatest movement of stock hogs, that it is not always possible to determine how it does some partie it always possible to come, nor is it always possible to guard against it. There is, however, much conveyance that is avoidable, and it is to call attention to the necessity of the utmost vigilance that we cite these cases that have come to our knowledge from different parties the last few days.

Feeding Cows Corn Stalks.

Feeding Cows Corn Stalks.

It has long been considered by many that in feeding corn stalks, with or without meal, bran, etc., it is best to cut them as short as possible. In a chat with Mr. Farrell, of Hampshire, Kane county Ill., at the O. J. Farmer office the other day, we drew out his method of feeding milch cows, of which he has about one hundred and fifty, most of whose milk he sends by railroad direct to Chicago dealers. So far this winter he has fed his cows no hay, but only cut corn stalks, and a mixture of one-quarter corn meal and three-quarters shorts. He will continue corn stalks as long as they last towards spring. This method they last towards spring. This method he has practiced for a dozen years or more. The corn mainly used is the common western dent. It is husked in common western dent. It is husked in the field, and partly set in stooks to be hauled in as fed, and partly drawn into stacks when dry. This feeding gives better milk and more of it than the best tame hay. He, however raises considerable B. & W. ensilage corn, which furnishes a large amount of stalks and leaves to the acre. It is grown in drills three feet ten inches apart, stalks six to ten inches apart in the row. This is drilled in from May 1 to June 20, and cut and shocked in time to escape the frost. No one of the ears mature—In regard to how long to cut feeding stalks, regard to how long to cut feeding stalks, he says he began with half inch lengths, but the cows soon had sore mouths, and on examination he found the woody portion of these short pieces would go up around the teeth and pierce the gums. and his experience the past ten years has been in favor of cutting about two inches long. These do not get on end and pierce the mouth, and perhaps assist better in forming a cud when no hay is used. In summer the cows go to pas-ture about the middle of May, but are fed every night and morning with a small ration of meal shorts, and this is continued into August, when he begins to feed heavier and gives some ensilage corn cut green, and this is continued on to the ripening of the corn. In winter the cut stalks fed are about half and half ensilage stalks and those from the regular

corn crop.

On the same day with the above, we had a chat at the office of James Warwick, of Mercer county, Illinois, who makes a business of raising cattle for market. He also feeds corn stalks largemarket. He also feeds corn stalks largely, but in his experience and observation the most profitable corn stalks are those which have produced fifty to 100 bushels of sound corn per acre, the corn to be cut as soon as the ears are glazed sufficiently to not shrink in drying. He believes that while the stalks are almost as good as lany raised exclusively for feeding, the sound corn itself has paid for raising, and so the

fodder in practically free. Hitherto he has fed his stalks whole, and allowed the cattle to chew them, but proposes the coming year to use one of the "fodder huskers" which cut and cruch the stalks and in the same operation husic the ears and throws them out separately. He has conversed with two or three farmers who have tried these machines the past year and they are much pleased with them. He thinks they are the coming machines, and that they will lessen the amount of hay fed, and in-crease the amount of corn fodder used. Mr. Warwick has used and is using a

Mr. Warwick has used and is using a good deal of Stowell's Evergreen sweet corn for fodder. While this does not produce so large a bulk as ensilage corn, he thinks it greatly superior in quality. He plants it as early as practicable, in drils, 3 feet, 10 inches apart, the hills 15 inches apart, two to four stalks together. This produces a great many ears, which are not husked at all, but ears, which are not husked at all, but fed with stalks. When thus fed, ears and all, he considers it the richest fodder

The Quality of Western Honey. Three and four years ago large quantitles of western honey found a market in the east. The Michigan, Ohio and New York beekeepers were somewhat surprised at the quality of this honey, it being exceptionally fine. The discus-sions in conventions and journals of fraternity decided that it was heartsease (mammoth smart weed) honey. While there is no doubt that there was large quantities of this kind shipped fully one-third to one-half was

buckwheat honey. It generally takes the surplus in hives after wintering, together with the May bloom, the white clover and the linden, to build up colonies in the spring preparatory to swarming, to go through summer drouths, and to build up new and old colonies after swarming to a surplus storing capacity, This period is generally some time in August and the irst of September. The bees are usually in a booming shape for surplus stor-ing at the time heartsease and buck-wheat are coming in and are at their best. So the product of these two classes of flowers are thrown into the supers together. Honey that is sold for all buckwheat may be half heartsease, and vice versa. A good quality of heartsease honey rathered in rather a dry season is very clear and of fine flavor, nearly as good as white clover. Buckwheat honey gathered from patches grown in the prairie country of the west beneath the rays of an almost tropical sun in color is very light and in quality is far better than the eastern grown product, where it is dark and has the strong buckwheat flavor that makes such, and every one having bees should be prepared for catching these crops if their locality is favorable for such honey. If eastern and southern buckwheat honey are set on the table with the western product from the same source, it will be found that the eastern and southern product cannot be compared with our west-ern honey. The humid east cannot pro-duce in this line what the dry west can. The east can produce quantity, the west

Why Potatoes Run Out.

In response to the query why farmers and others believe that potatoes, after a term of years, deteriorate or run out, a correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph writes: There are several reasons or believing that they do run out, but no valid reason for believing that they should run out if proper seed is planted in the right kind of soil at the proper time. The potato can be grown to perfection only upon high ground a little inclined to be dry, not sandy, but a strong loam that is light and fine. Good corn and will usually produce good potatoes, ut the practice has often been to plant them where the corn would not grow well. Low, wet, heavy, clayey or mucky soils are unsuitable for potato growing; the tubers will always be poor and watery. Such soils are lacking in the necessary mineral elements, therefore fore the potato is not perfectly matured.

Planting poor seed upon poor ground for a series of years in succession will have a tendency to run out any variety, however good. Planting late, after the sprouts get along and are knocked off, is poor economy; the second sprouts are apt to be weaker and smaller. There is apt to be weaker and smatter. There is no reason yet proved why any variety may not be kept up to its primitive yield and quality if good seed is selected and planted on suitable soil, and given the proper care and handling. It is gen-generally considered poor economy by close observers to use much green maclose observers to use much green manure upon potato land. A light dressing of fine old yard manure spread on, and a handful of superphospate in the hill, will produce a good crop on the right soil. As to the soil, which I consider of the greatest importance of all, Iwould say again, coarse, gravelly soils are unsuitable, as also are low, heavy or swampy soils that do not drain off readily. The soil may be clayey, but not heavy; in fact, a clayey loam that will produce herdsgrass or timothy, year after year, is good land for producing potatoes.

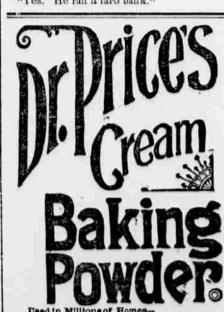
Possibilities of the Desert. The Yuma Sentinel draws the following picture of the products and possibil-ities bordering the desert: "In the

ities bordering the desert: 'In the great valley of the Colorado, below Yuma, rice, cotton, tobacco, and sugar cane will be grown in the rich bottom lands near the river. Just back of these lie the 50,000 acres of wild hemp. Another 50,000 acres can be put into ramie, flax, hemp and other fibrous plants. Back of the track comes the great area of alluvial soil, just adapted to the production of all of the citrus and comi-tropical fruits.

H. E. Van Deman, pemologist to the United States agricultural department, declares that there are in the southern parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas millions of acres which can be made to produce as good dates as those grown in Arabia and Persia.

DIED. MUITT.—Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Multt, at 11:39, February I, 1890, age 14 years, of diphtheria. Funeral 2 p. m. February 2 from residence, 32fl Charles. Friends in-

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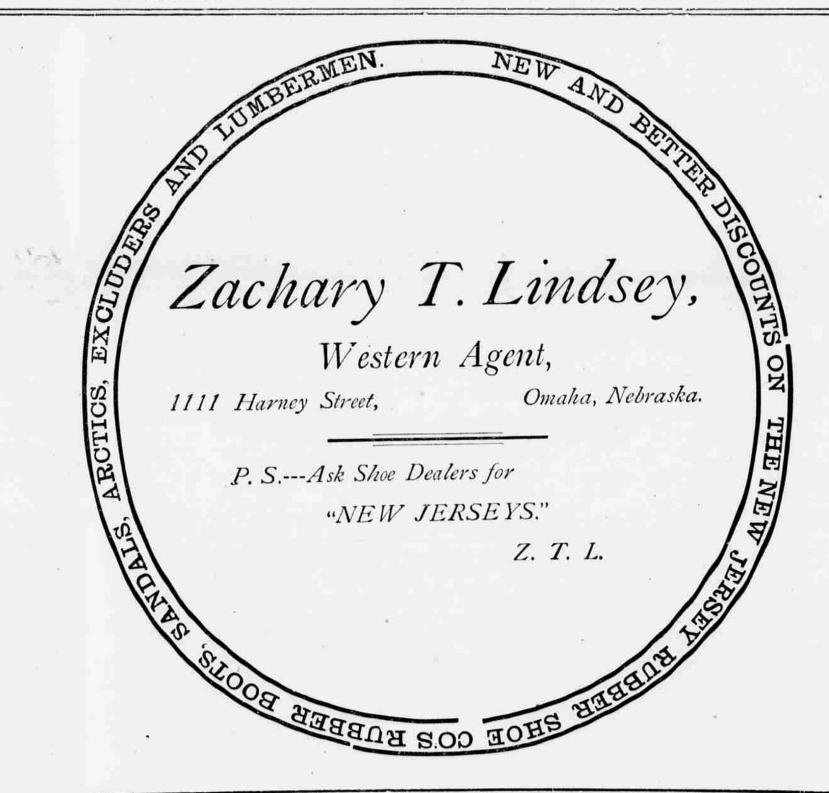
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