# FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

ADVANTAGES OF RYE AS A GREEN MANURE.

The Best Way to Destroy Red Root-Breeding and Feeding Swine-Horticultural Hints and Household Helps.

### Rye as a Green Manure.

In our climate not less than in that of England there is a necessity for some crop to cover the land during the winter. English farm experiments show that much of the soluble nitrogen found in the soil in fall is washed out by the steady rainfall which usually takes the place of our snow in the English winter. Here, during winter, the ground is frozen, and the loss from a naked surface is more apt to be from blowing away of fine particles mellowed by frost, and which are always the richest soil. Very possibly this dry soil holds some of the nitrogen contained in the lower stratas as frost disintegrates them. The fact that fertility naturally tends to surface soil may thus receive further explanation. But however frozen the ground may be during the winter, in the spring it is always flooded and much of its accumulated fertility is washed out by spring rains. Then it is that a rye crop covering the surface does most good. In helping to dry the soil, sucking up by its numerous roots the water, it also holds from waste the plant food that it contains. It is true, green rye is not a very rich manure. But it has the moisture which stable manure too often lacks. By combining the two a better result is obtained, especially with hoed crops than by using either stable manure or rye alone.

Sowing rye after hoed crops in the fall has another most important effect in cleaning out millions of the pestilent annual weeds, says the American Cultivator. There are more or less of these in most stubble or hoed crops towards fall, and unless the land is plowed many of these weeds will seed. Specimens of weeds are sometimes found dwarfed by clover or grass, yet each out of sight perfects some seeds. Most weeds will ripen seeds after frost has killed other vegitation. The fall plowing that is necessary to seeding with rye destroys these weeds before they seed. It also by exposing a fresh surface starts thousands of weed seeds to growing, and that so late in the season that they cannot ripen seeds before winter.

There is no better way to destroy red root, the great pest of the wheat grower, than to sow rye every fail a few years and plow it under early the following spring. If a dressing of manure is applied with the rye each winter, this plan keeps up fertility while still growing a crop every year. After the annual weeds are thus cleaned out from the land. it is easy to get a clover or grass growth free from weeds, such as was impossible before.

Rve does not exhaust land, when grown thus. It is not so exhaustive as wheat when it is grown for the grain. But if plowed under just as it is about to head, there is a large mass of succulent vegetable matter that has been grown either by what its leaves get from the air or from plant food in the soil that without it would have been entirely wasted. The farmer who delights in what he regards as a 'stolen crop, 'something he gets merely for the cost of seed and the labor of sowing, ought surely to delight sowing rye for green manure. A crop of manure is, whether he knows it or not, what he needs more than anything else. Wherever he has land in corn or potatoes let him sow rye in the fall. It will pay even if plowed early in April for spring grain. But it will beart by putting on some More ma- | dying."-New York Press.

nure and plowing later for another hoed crop or for fodder corn.

It is thus that some dairymen are able on little land to keep a great many cows and grow much more of the feed than would be supposed. They sow rye after fodder corn every fall, and with the large amount of rich manure made from purchased grains they are able to manure heavily, so that it is all the plow can do in spring to turn the growth of rye and the dressing of cow dung under. It is thus that some of the largest crops of fodder corn have been grown.

Breeding and Feeding Swine.

If we had no corn, and never had had any, and if we had not bred our swine in and in so much, we should have less swine disease and better hogs generally. We may talk all we choose about the excelience of corn for fattening purposes and brag of its comparative cheapness-as a usual thing-for feeding swine, but the truth is that the reckless feeding of corn has cost the farmers of this country an incalculable sum of money in the aggregate. And with this corn we have been making pork which nobody likes as well as they would like pork made wholly or almost wholly of the bone and muscle forming foods. Our swine are weak in constitution; they are an easy prey to disease, and as we have frequently remarked. this sort of feeding has been going on so long that even if a farmer does feed properly it will require several generations to get the results of improper feeding of his original stock by somebody eise, out of his hogs.

But there is another fertile source of trouble among our swine, and that is in-and-in-breeding. Almost every week there comes to our veterinary department descriptions of disease which we know is attributable to too close in-breeding. Indeed almost any disease the hog is subject to is likely to be encouraged by that system of breeding. And yet we never write on this subject that we do not deem it wise to say that if both parents are without fault or blemish, there is no harm in in-breeding. The wild beasts in-breed, and while we have no means of knowing just how many of their offspring are imperfect-for in nature the law of the survival of the fittest operates to perfection-yet we do know that a large number of their offspring is strong and healthy. The trouble with in-breeding is that there may be defects in the breeders that we cannot detect, and family weaknesses are pretty apt to exist in both male and female and these weaknesses are intensified in the offspring. In view of this it is better to avoid in-and-in-breeding. - Farmers' Voice.

No Corn for Breeding Sows.

It is the practice of some farmers to feed all pigs alike, giving largely of corn after husking begins, and after a few weeks selecting a sow pig from the litter, that does not seem to be fattening so well as the others, and saving her for a breeder. This is not caricature but a solemu state. ment of the common practice in some places. It is no wonder that pigs thus 'run out' and become worthless. No other result could be expected after so much care had been taken to breed from sows of stunted growth. A sow pig intended for a breeder should be liberally fed on milk and wheat, bran or middlings, but never any corn. If she is at all fit for a breeder corn will either stunt her growth or fatten her and either result will spoil her for the breeding pen. -American Cultivator.

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'Yes, but the fact that he hangs on so long is favorable to his recovery."

"I think the contrary. He grows weaker every day, and the longer he pay still better if the land is in good lives the greater chance there is of his

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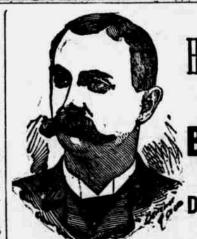
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