

THE FARM AND HOME.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE DRAFT OF FARM WAGONS.

It Will Be a Good Thing for Every Farmer to Be These Points in Mind—Various Notes—Household Hints for the Day.

Draft of Wagons.

Prof. Sanborn, of the Utah agricultural experiment station, has made some interesting tests by means of the dynamometer, from which the following conclusions have been reached regarding the draft of wagons: 1. When the load was placed over the hind wheels it drew 10 per cent easier than when it was placed over the front wheels. 2. The hind wheels drew 23.3 per cent over an obstacle three inches higher than the front wheels. This was when attachment of the force was directly applied to each set of wheels. 3. The hind wheels when drawn over an obstacle with the usual hitch drew only 1.2 per cent easier than the fore wheels. 4. When the ends of the wagon were reversed and the draft was applied directly to the hind wheels it drew only 5 per cent easier. 5. The incline of the reach towards the front wheels, as now put in, causes the wagon to draw harder than it should. 6. Lowering the reach or the point of application of force on the hind wheels materially decreases the draft; therefore the reach should run horizontally or on an upward incline from the rear of the front wheels. 7. Higher front wheels will reduce draft. 8. The change of the angle of draft as applied from the end of the pole varied the draft very markedly, and the relation of the draft of the front to the rear wheels. 9. A long hitch or such a hitch as occurs when lead horses are used, increases draft on account of the angle of the hitch. 10. Loose burrs with one-half or more inches plus lessen the draft of the load by 4.5 per cent. 11. Little difference was found beneath the draft of three wagons. 12. Draft varied with the varieties of grease used from nothing to 17 per cent, lard proving the best or practically the same as a manufactured axle grease and but a little better than cylinder oil. 13. The draft of varying roads and condition of roads varied very markedly, being between the best and the poorest classes of local roads nearly 300 per cent in difference. In this trial neither the best nor the poorest roads were available, or only such as are found in country towns. 14. There is a decided opportunity for improvement in our wagons.

Microbes in Agriculture.

The somewhat recent discovery and demonstration that the fertility of the soil is due to the presence in it of living germs or creatures, and that they are active only when there are due proportions of certain vegetable and mineral substances, goes far toward the solution of problems in agricultural practice for which there has been heretofore no sufficient one. Why old gardens should be manure-sick after years of cultivation; why land should become clover-sick, dandelion-sick, plantain-sick, bull-thistle-sick, and sick of everything too long grown up on it, has never been so nearly clearly understood as now. It appears as if the work of preparing food for each separate plant was committed to one form of these microscopic creatures, and that for success in this work there must be certain essential mineral and vegetable elements; and, just as certain microbes which produce scarlet fever, whooping cough, and other germ diseases require a special medium to develop and work in, and after that the medium becomes to them sterilized, so the soil is sterile for a time after years of clover, plantain, dandelion, bull thistle, etc., etc., but subsequently recovers. As for manure-sick, it is simply the excess of vegetable matter and perhaps nitrogen, with a deficiency of the proper mineral substances that prevents the successful efforts of the little creatures to prepare the choice food for delicate vegetable organization. That is, the manure-sick gardens often produce the hardier and coarser vegetables, but fail with the others. But if lands may become sterile from excess of manure, they may be well from an excess of any of the essential mineral substances, and for a good illustration of the latter, I quote the fact that some cotton lands of the South have been rendered almost wholly barren by too liberal and too long-continued application of guano and other potash and phosphate fertilizers.—Country Gentleman.

Acorn Hogs.

There seems to be a general misunderstanding among hog producers as to the quality of an acorn hog, and many a shipper has thought himself robbed when shipping acorn hogs that had been put on grain for a month or two on finding that he was paid the price of soft hogs when he thought he ought to get the market price of hard. The facts of the case are simply these: you cannot make hard pork out of a hog that has been fed on acorns without you allow him to get poor before you feed grain. The reason of this is that any fat that is put on by acorns will be always soft, and the grain fat will be underneath it and entirely separate. The soft fat of the acorns will cause the hogs as soft. There is no money in feeding acorns to hogs, as soft hogs are always hard to sell and bring a very low price.

Growing Locust Fence Posts.

We know some large farmers who utilize waste corners of their farms by planting locust trees on them, to be cut every few years when large enough for fence posts. After once setting, a locust grove renews itself, sprouting readily if cut in fall or winter, and the new sprout making a more rapid growth than a young tree could do. The tops and refuse of the trees are good for fuel, and a locust plot of less than an acre thus in fuel and fence material gives as good profit for the labor required as do any farm crops. It is at least a variation of farm practice that many farmers might try with advantage.

Why Guano is Valuable.

It is sometimes said that ordinary hen manure is "worth as much as the best guano." This is not the fact, and those who use hen manure with this idea are sure to be disappointed. The grain food of domestic fowls has not the phosphate in it that the birds of the South American Pacific coast find in the small fish on which they mainly

feed. Then, too, the heaps of guano are deposits of bird dung that has lain for centuries without rain, and in that time has enormously concentrated its valuable properties. Composting hen manure, with enough phosphate to supply this deficiency would make it more like guano in supplying quickly available fertility.

Raising Turkeys.

Get a good breed to start with; it costs no more to raise a turkey that will bring the best price than to raise one that sells low. Generally it is best to arrange to hatch out, early. Keep them growing so that they will be ready to market early in the fall. Where one has a comfortable home and the turkeys are gentle enough, it will pay to hatch late turkeys and keep them until after the middle of winter, but with the average treatment given they ought to be ready to market before severe cold weather sets in.

Turkey hens seem to delight in stealing their nests out, and must be watched, or many of their eggs will be lost. A barrel or box laid on one side with a little straw in it and a few boards set up in a corner of the fence with a little straw or brush will often tempt them to make a nest there, and the eggs can be much more readily found than if they are allowed to hunt a place for nests among weeds or brush. Set the first layings under a common hen. Generally turkey hens are poor mothers and will tramp with their young through the wet weeds and grass without mercy.

Cold and dampness are death to young turkeys. They must be kept comfortable and dry, penning up at night and on rainy days so as to make sure of keeping them dry.

At first the young turkey needs to be fed often. They are hearty eaters and need feeding to get a good start to grow. Feed at regular intervals and give them all that they will eat up clean and no more. Poultry never should have any food left over.

Making Soap.

A valuable recipe that I gave some years ago for making soap is asked for by an old subscriber, and as so many new ones have come to us, I know they will like to try it also.

Take one can of concentrated potash to four pounds of good, clear grease. I bought beef tallow for the purpose, as I had no accumulation of fat, as some do who use a great deal of pork. If you have that kind of grease, it must be carefully tried out and strained. Dissolve the potash in two gallons of lukewarm water. Melt the grease and let it get lukewarm; then turn the dissolved potash into the grease, being careful not to lean over it, and remember the potash must be poured into the grease. No boiling is necessary. Stir thoroughly for fifteen minutes, away from the stove.

Line a shallow, wooden box with old muslin, and pour the mixture into it; set in a warm place and cover tight; throw a heavy piece of carpet over it. Let it stand four days, when you can cut it into cakes and set away to dry. If a perfume is desired, an ounce of any favorite odor will make it quite nice enough for toilet use. We used it to the exclusion of any other soap for a long time, both for toilet and kitchen use.

Among the Poultry.

Fowls will eat a large quantity of clover.

Feed young fowls liberally while growing.

Copperas is a good medicine to keep on hand for the poultry.

Tobacco stems are good to scatter about the nests.

Hens will eat the parings of any kind of vegetables if cooked.

From one bushel of corn a hen will produce 10 dozen eggs, worth at least \$1.

When it is possible, the nests should be placed in a separate place from the roosts.

One great advantage with the incubator is that the hatching is under control.

Feeding the ducks too much corn and getting them too fat will keep them from laying.

Hens will keep in better health if they are obliged to scratch for a part of a living.

Three kinds of food are essential to poultry, grain, green food and animal food of some kind.

Copperas dissolved in water is a good as well as a cheap tonic for poultry of all kinds.

One advantage in keeping a good breed of fowls is that generally they will receive better care.

Hints to Housekeepers.

Cow tails bleached and made into tassels are now used on the leopards of heavy portieres.

The skin of a boiled egg is the best remedy for a boil. Carefully peel it, wet, and apply to the boil; it draws out the matter and relieves soreness.

Large perforated and small, plain wooden spoons are needed in dessert making. On no account should butter be creamed, fruit juices measured, or cream beaten, with an iron spoon.

Bathing the nose with water in which there has been put a few drops of camphor is said to whiten it. But as redness of the nose usually results from stomach trouble, it would be wise to search for the cause and get rid of it before you apply external remedies.

The strained juice of a basket of berries added to a quart of whipped cream makes a delicious syllabub or sauce for an ice cream or any other delicate cold pudding. Then there are strawberry mousses, sponges and a variety of dishes that require only a basket of berries.

Neuralgia in the face has been cured by applying a mustard plaster to the elbow. For neuralgia in the head, apply the plaster to the back of the neck. The reason for this is that mustard is said to touch the nerves the moment it begins to draw or burn, and to be of most use must be applied to the nerve centres, or directly over the place where it will touch the affected nerve most quickly.

An excellent and simple wash to keep the hands white and smooth after the occasional dish-washing which comes to almost all housekeepers is equal parts of vinegar and water. It is a good plan to keep a bottle of it prepared and standing in the kitchen closet. Wash the hands first thoroughly in warm water, wipe them dry, and rinse thoroughly in the mixture. The same preparation is good to remove stains from the hands.

BASHFUL BRIDEGROOMS.

Men Whose Nervousness Causes Them to Make Blunders at the Altar.

Ministers declare that in nine cases out of ten brides are much more self-possessed than are bridegrooms when the marriage ceremony is being performed.

A shy, modest-looking little creature robed in white will stand perfectly erect, looking the minister calmly and squarely in the eye without for an instant losing her self-poise, while the big, blunt six-footer of a bridegroom by her side is pale and nervous and trembling. His fingers are likely to twitch nervously, and he may even hitch at his trouser legs or twist a corner of his coat skirt.

I was once "best man" to a stalwart, middle-aged bridegroom, noted for his courage and feats of daring, says a writer in the Philadelphia Call, and when the time came for us to go down stairs to meet the bride and her attendants, he nearly had a fit, and he looked like a walking corpse all through the ceremony. "I had to keep saying, 'Brace up old boy,' and 'Come, come, you've got to go down,' to get him started at all, and at the door he was idiotic enough to clutch at me and say—

"Say, Fred how would it do to have Mary and the preacher slip in here and have it all over with before we go down at all? I can't go through it before all that crowd."

"Idiot," I said briefly and pointedly enough to leave no doubt as to my meaning. "Mary won't come in here, and you will go down this instant."

He got through at last without doing or saying anything ridiculous, in which respect he was luckier than another stalwart bridegroom of my acquaintance who was so dazed and overcome that he held out one of his own fingers for the ring when the minister said: "With this ring I thee wed."

Another bridegroom I know lost his head to such a degree that when it came time for him to say "I, Horace, take thee, Annie, to be my lawful wedded wife," he said, in an unnaturally loud tone, "I, Annie, take thee, Horace, to be my lawful wedded wife," and when the time came for him to introduce his bride to some of his friends who had not yet seen her, he did it by saying awkwardly, "Ah, er—Miss Carter, this is my wife, Miss Barton, calling her by her maiden name."

Five men say "my wife" easily and naturally the first time they use the word in public.

A funny case was that of a badly rattled bridegroom who stared blankly at the minister until asked if he took "this woman to be his lawful wedded wife" when he started suddenly and hastily, and said, in the blindest manner—

"Ah! beg pardon, were you speaking to me?"

A village preacher said that he once married a rural couple at the home of the bride's parents in the presence of a large company of invited guests. The bridegroom was a big, bony, red-faced young fellow, who looked as though he could have felled an ox with his fist; but he shivered and turned pale at the beginning of the ceremony, and at its close fell down in a dead faint, to the manifest annoyance of his bride, who had been as cool as a cucumber.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The First Transatlantic Steamer.

The first steamer to cross the Atlantic was an American vessel named the Savannah, and the voyage was made in 1819. The Savannah was built in New York, and was of 300 tons burden, with a fuel capacity of seventy-five tons of coal and twenty-five cords of wood—a very large quantity considering her tonnage. She was advertised to take passengers, but no one was willing to go in so novel a craft. She cleared from New York on May 25 and on June 20 came to anchor off Liverpool, where she created an immense sensation, the impression at first sight, from the smoke pouring from her funnel, being that she was on fire. Her engines were used during but fourteen days of the voyage, as, when the wind was favorable, she proceeded under sail. The vessel visited several seaports in France, Germany, Sweden and Russia, and returned to America in the following year.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Cumulative Story.

Notes and Queries tells the following from the Persian: A hunter finds some honey in the fissure of a rock, fills a jar with it, and takes it to a grocer. While it is being weighed a drop falls on the ground is swallowed up by the grocer's weasel. Thereupon the huntsman's dog rushed upon the weasel and kills it. The grocer throws a stone at the dog and kills him. The huntsman draws his sword and cuts off the grocer's arm, after which he is cut down by the infuriated mob of the town. The governor of the town informed of the fact sent messengers to arrest the murderer. When the crowd resisted, troops were sent to the scene of the conflict, whereupon the townspeople mixed themselves up in the riot, which lasted three days and three nights, with the result that 70,000 men were slain. All this through a drop of honey.

Waterloo Veterans.

If Gen. Whitehouse is really the only survivor of the glorious 18th of June, England has been badly beaten in the matter of longevity by her allies as well as by her adversaries. France still boasts of at least a dozen heroes of the Old Guard. Germany counts about twice that number of Waterloo veterans, the oldest of them being reputed to be 117 years old; and Belgium possesses at least two soldiers of 1815, the most remarkable of them being Chevalier Georges d'Epinois, who took part in the great battle, formed a part of the guard of honor which welcomed Leopold I. 16 years later, and now, at the age of 97, discharged with the duties of burgomaster in the village of Epinois les Bains. Holland also claims 10 survivors, the majority being nonagenarians, and all except one being in distressed circumstances.—New York Tribune.

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