

THE FARM AND HOME.

POINTERS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RAISE MULES.

How to Train Mules—Care of Dairy Cows—Cottonseed Meal for Feeding Cows and Pigs—Farm Notes—Home Hints.

To Raise Mules.

There seems to be a growing desire amongst the farmers of the West to raise mules to sell in place of horses, says the Wisconsin Farmer. About ten years ago a great many mules and good ones, too, were raised in central, Northern and Western Iowa, as well as in Southern Minnesota. The buyers of animals for heavy hauling liked these Northern grown mules, for they were hardy and strong and, when big enough, paid good prices for them. The buyers were, as a rule, more anxious to get the Northern grown mules, for these had been, as a general thing, more carefully raised and were not as likely to endanger the life of the truck teamster who might happen to be lid off to look after them.

About twelve years ago—it is not much less—we had the fortune, good or bad, to be employed on a farm, where mule raising was one of the principal industries. Not only were quite a good number of these long-eared animals raised by their mothers on this farm, but a large number were bought each year from neighboring farmers as yearlings and suckers, and, if our memory serves us right, actually brought more than the majority of the common horse stock of the country at the same age. We distinctly remember being assigned the honorary post of feeder-in-chief to this collection of mules, which consisted of thirty, big and little, ranging from three months' to as many years in age. As time went on and they reached the latter period of their existence they were matched as closely as possible, broken one at a time alongside a steady old mule and then sold. And it was astonishing with what alacrity they were picked up. They were fed very generously from the time they would eat, and we do not remember turning off a mule at three years' old that did not weigh a thousand pounds, and the average price per span was about \$275. There were two much larger pairs that went to a railway contractor to take to Montana at \$650, the four; but they were very large ones and we have since heard that they grew to weigh not less than fifteen hundred pounds apiece and were capable of moving anything "that was loose at one end."

Some things which must be noted in raising mules, so that the undertaking may be a success. A small mule is of no more use among his kind than a small horse, and the bigger he is the better he is and the more money can be gotten for him. We noticed that those men who had good big mares, weighing 1,200 pounds or more—that was a big mare in those days—and bred them to a certain jack that was owned in the neighborhood never failed to get a good serviceable animal that grew to good size, commanded a good price and proved to be sound, strong and healthy. The mules which were from smaller mares did not grow so large, naturally, and did not command such a good price, either to the breeder or to the man for whom we fed them.

It must also be set down as a fact that there is as much difference in jacks as sires and breeders as there is in horses, though that fact is not very generally accepted by the farmers, until they have ocular demonstration of the same. A jack should be large, weighing as near a thousand pounds as possible—the bigger the better—and should be of good bone, dark color, symmetrical shape, and good disposition. Small boned, light colored jacks are never good breeders; these very characteristics point to a lack of breeding. In the same proportion all mares are not suited to breed good mules, and no matter how satisfactory the jack may be in the points mentioned some mares will never produce good mules. The best mares to produce mules, in our experience, are large boned, grade draft mares, heavy in conformation, but not too much so, weighing anywhere from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds.

It may be noted, also, that it is just as natural for a mule to kick as it is to suck, after it is born. Consequently great care must be taken in raising not to plague them, annoy them nor ill-treat them in any way. They are revengeful in their natures, and their memories are far from being defective. It is quite often the practice with the young men on a farm where there is a mule colt to plough him to see him kick. A mule colt so used generally grows up as dangerous as a dynamite cartridge, and of about as much use. They should be well and kindly treated, never chased with a dog; in fact, everything that tends to teach them the use of their heels must be studiously avoided from the very start.

The nearer a mule approaches the "horse side of the house" the better he will prove. The best mules approach most closely the horse in conformation and disposition. Hence, great a mule in all ways as you would a horse. Give him the same generous care and feed and the more like a horse will he become. Their natural faults, such as chewing the fences and crawling under gates, must be overlooked or provided for, and the mule grown to working age will be found to eat much less and do more and harder work than a horse of corresponding size and weight.

Cottonseed Meal for Feeding. As cottonseed meal is gradually coming into use in Ohio as a valuable adjunct to the ration for dairy cows,

and as the scarcity and consequent high price of corn, the present season may tempt some farmers to add this meal to the pig ration, it seems advisable to call attention to bulletin 21 of the Texas experiment station. In this bulletin Director G. D. Curtis reports the results of a long series of experiments in feeding cotton seed to pigs, from which he comes to the conclusion that there is no profit whatever in feeding cotton seed in any form to pigs, whether the seed be boiled, roasted or ground. The ground seed seems to have produced the worst results, causing the death within six to eight weeks of a large proportion of the pigs to which it was fed, and especially of the medium and small sized shoats. The boiled seed was less injurious, but roasted seed was almost as fatal as the meal.

These pigs were fed alongside of similar pigs which had corn instead of cottonseed, and the corn-fed pigs remained in perfect health. The symptoms produced by the cottonseed are described as follows: The first sign of sickness, appearing in from six to eight weeks after cottonseed meal is added to the ration, is a moping dullness of the animal with loss of appetite and tendency to lie apart. Within the course of twelve to thirty-six hours, often within the shorter time, the animal becomes restless; staggering in his gait; breathing labored and spasmodic; bare skin showing reddish inflammation; sight defective, and both the nervous and the muscular systems feeble and abnormal in action. The fatal cases all show "thumps"—spasmodic breathing, and in many instances the animal will turn in one direction only—following a fence or building wall, so closely as to strike his nose against projections in a vain endeavor to push outward in that one direction which he tries to take. If no building intercept him he may travel in a circle—large or small according to the malady in his particular case. When exhausted by his efforts the animal drops down suddenly—sometimes flat upon his belly, sometimes drooping on his haunches with his fore legs well apart to keep from falling over—almost always with the evidence of more or less acute internal pain. At death a quantity of bloody foam exudes from the mouth and nostrils.—Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin.

Farm Notes.

Feeding corn and cob meal helps the digestion.

A clean skin is necessary for the health of horses.

The hand is a poor machine with which to work butter.

Mismanagement is an evil for which there is absolutely no remedy.

Superior horses can only be had by breeding both a good sire and dam.

It is rarely an advantage to push the growth of colts by stimulating food.

The true source of income in farm stock lies in performance and product.

With all classes of stock there is nothing like regularity in feeding and watering.

Breed in line as much as possible; crossing of bloods rarely does as well as pure breeding.

Oats make muscle and corn is fattening, but it is a mistake to feed one thing all of the time.

The best and easiest way to get rid of weeds is to keep the land occupied with something useful.

Selling the whole milk off the farm is ruinous to the fertility unless feed or fertilizer is purchased.

While pedigree is an important factor it must be attached to a fine animal to carry any value with it.

With nearly all classes of young stock it is poor economy to keep them unless they are growing every day.

Home Hints.

Very hot water is better for bumps and bruises than cold water.

Do not let fresh fish lie in water as it makes them soft and unfit to eat.

Egg stains can be removed by rubbing with common table salt.

Scratches on furniture may be re-finished by rubbing with a woolen rag dipped in boiled linseed oil. The varnishing may then be done with shellac dissolved in alcohol.

Silver becoming black may be avoided by keeping that which is not often used in canvas flannel bags, with small bags about the size of a thimble filled with bits of gum camphor packed in around the articles.

Silver in daily use may be kept bright a very long time if always washed in hot suds and rubbed briskly on a soft, dry towel. Silver and glass should both be wiped right out of the suds without rinsing. Dry salt will remove egg stains from spoons, and gum camphor kept with silver will prevent it from tarnishing.

Housekeepers find very often that crisp, white celery or the firm lettuce which they bring into the house in the evening has become wilted and worthless by morning. The cause of this is the exposure of the plant to the strong light of the early morning hours or to heat. To keep thoroughly firm, any green vegetable should be kept at as cool a temperature as possible and in the dark.

Cream toast is a delightful, old-fashioned supper dish, not at all like its modern substitute—milk toast. Heat the cream by setting the dish containing it in a dish of boiling water. When the cream is thoroughly heated salt it and drop thin slices of delicate brown toast in it. When all the toast is dipped serve what hot cream remains in a gravy boat. As the toast is served pour a little cream from the boat over it. This toast must be served very hot.

SUNDRY NOVELTIES.

The duke of Westminster's estate is worth about \$80,000,000. It yields an annual income of about \$2,750,000. There are seven Hebrew members who have seats in the British house of commons, and they are all related to the Rothschild family.

The village druggist refusing to sell rat poison to William K. Koons of Marietta, Pa., he decided to make some himself. He took the kernels from three dozen peach stones, put them in a pint of water and boiled them for three hours. The liquid killed rats as readily as arsenic.

Mr. Van Rogers of Georgia, has a couple of peculiar fowls—a cross between a rooster and a guinea hen. Their plumage is darker than that of a partridge, while they are speckled as a guinea. Their heads are like a buzzard's, while their general figure is a blending of guinea and chicken.

As a rule seats in first class theaters in Europe cost more than in this country. A seat in the parquet of a London theater costs \$2.63½ and one in the first balcony \$1.75. The program costs from two to six cents, and the fees of the attendants count up anywhere from a dime to fifty cents.

Probably the smallest electric light plant in the world is to be found in the little village of Bremen, near Dornbach, in Thuringia. It comprises a single arc lamp installed in the church. The lamp being operated when required by a small dynamo arranged in the village mill and driven by the mill wheel.

In Paris a novel apparatus has been fixed in front of the windows of a few shops, pioneering the way for the introduction of the invention. It consists of a small pipe laid along the exterior of a shop window, from which pipe, through numerous holes, is emitted a gentle current of warm air, slightly scented, which is very agreeable to the shop window gazers to sniff, while it keeps the window clear and bright, thus more effectively displaying the contents.

A well known milk dealer of Philadelphia has contrived quite an ingenious plan to hurry up things to enable him to start out on his morning ride to serve his customers. In order to feed his horse while he lies comfortably in bed, he has placed an alarm clock in the stable, which he sets to go off at 4 o'clock in the morning. The clock does not strike an alarm, but is fixed so that it releases a pin, and opens the door of a little box which contains sufficient feed for the horse. The feed runs into the trough in the stall and by the time the milkman is ready to start out the animal has had his breakfast and is in good shape to be hitched up and start on his route.

CHIPS AND CLIPPINGS.

More than 700 biographies of Columbus have been written in various languages. David A. Wells declares that the yearly waste in the United States, through drink, is at least \$500,000,000. Fifteen presidents wore smooth faces, four wore beard and mustache, two wore side whiskers, one wore beard and side growth, and one wore a mustache alone.

Among the exhibits at the world's fair will be two swords from Spain, one of which belonged to Queen Isabella, Columbus' patron, and the other to Cortez, the conquerer of Mexico. Alexandre Dumas pere used to receive a great many anonymous letters, and it was a playful remark of his that he preferred them to the other kind, because they required no answers.

Steele Mackaye is an absorbed student of reptile lore. At one time he kept a rattlesnake at large in his study. He would write with the creature coiled up on his table, its head close beside his hand.

Alonzo Cano, a French painter and sculptor of the seventeenth century, is said to have had such a fine sense of precision and symmetry that he refused to kiss a poorly executed cross within less than an hour of the time of his death.

John E. Fitzgerald of Boston, who not long ago visited Parnell's grave, says that every day since the remains of the Irish leader were deposited there fresh flowers have been not merely strewn but literally piled upon his grave by the common people.

Walter Satterlee, the artist, says one of the greatest difficulties he meets is the lack of models in this country whose hair is so black that it has blue or purple lights in it. He adds that what he wants is common in Europe, but almost unattainable here.

FACETIOUS ITEMS.

When a young lady insists on being a sister to you it is always a deal safer to let her be.

"What is that that Maude and Jack are playing on the piano?" asked Mawson. "Tag, I fancy," said Withers.

"Hicks—Your wife, of course, is a lover of the beautiful. Wicks—Generally speaking, yes; but she doesn't particularly dote on the women I consider beautiful.

Mrs. Watts—What is that you are making now? Mrs. Potts—A smoking jacket for my husband. If that doesn't cure him of smoking around the house, I don't know what will.

One of the most successful teachers of our public schools tells the following story: There was a boy in the school whom she frequently had occasion to reprove for saying "I seen." One day, with an air of injured innocence, the boy replied: "Well, when I say 'I seen' you scold me; and when I say 'I saw' ma scolds me. I told her this morning that I saw a man and she said 'what did you saw him with?'"

ABOUT NEBRASKA.

Newsp Notes About Nebraska Places and People. Omaha wants another distillery, also the earth. The North Loup will be bridged at Hawley Flats.

Business is generally good in this state at present. A new Episcopal church has just been completed at Ewing.

The big fire at Alliance last week wrought a damage of over \$40,000. A new bridge has been completed across the Republican river at Stratton.

The A. P. A. folks of Columbus are arranging to build a Protestant hospital. The packing house at Nebraska City has closed for want of something to pack.

The bridge across the North Loup at Brewster has been damaged by high water and gorges of ice. The Kearney Hub has been reorganized and is now financially all right—out of debt and plenty of working capital.

The Fremont-Omaha canal projectors have about concluded to draw their water supply from the Elkhorn instead of the Platte. The Plattsmouth News gives the "peculiar man who does not believe in advertising," a gentle jolt that is worth reading.

Arthur Cole of Brewster threw oil upon the troubled embers, and his face and neck are now dressed every day with belladonna and antiseptic gauze. Charles Miller of Hartington has been adjudged insane and taken to the asylum at Norfolk. He has been subject to epileptic fits for years, with the inevitable result.

A son of Peter Perry of Eight Mile Grove, shot a squirrel and received the heavy end of the explosion in the face. The gun was a muzzle loader and leaked at the breach.

Henry W. Hall, and John C. Mack of Seward county, are in jail, patiently waiting for district court to convene, so they may go to the penitentiary for stealing \$125 worth of seven cent hogs.

Ed. Farmer, a teacher in the Columbus schools, was waylaid by three big boys of his class and trounced to even up a punishment previously received by the boys at the hands of the trouncee.

Fullerton will soon have the popular modern illumination. The dynamo building abuts their flouring mill and the machinery will be run by the same great water power. Fullerton is one of the most enterprising cities in the state.

One night this week two well known printers sat down to a remarkable feast. One ate the meats of a quart of peanuts, while the other ate the shells. It is needless to say that the feast was the result of a wager, and the fellow who ate the husks bet on Harrison.—Pender Republican.

Willis Brown, who escaped from jail in Nebraska City about two years ago, was captured in St. Joseph Friday and was placed in jail. Brown is a dangerous character and at the time of his escape was waiting trial on several serious charges. His chances for a term in the pen are good.

Henry M. Hall and John C. Mick, the two men arrested on Saturday at Seward charged with stealing nine fat hogs from E. M. Hickman and selling them to Allen McLain, a shipper at Germantown, had a preliminary hearing before Justice Hall yesterday afternoon, resulting in Hall being bound over to the district court in bonds of \$1,000, and the discharge of Mick.

Chief Otto returned Friday to Lincoln from Omaha with two men who broke into Loomis' hardware store last week. They gave their names as J. M. Smith and Charles Hoppee, and are both young men of eighteen or twenty years. The chief also brought back the articles stolen. The fellows were endeavoring to sell them in Omaha, and were arrested on suspicion by Sergeant Dempsey of the Omaha police.

A young man who refused to reveal his identity had a narrow escape from death about 1 o'clock Friday morning at the boarding house of John Griffith on X street, Lincoln. He had come there the previous night and obtained lodgings. About 1 o'clock he gave vent to a few screams that woke up the household. It was found that he had taken aconite with suicidal intent, but a physician being summoned who forced down an antidote he pulled through.

Fred. Waggoner, a prosperous farmer of Eight Mile Grove precinct, marketed a bunch of hogs at South Omaha stock yards on Monday last which surpasses a great majority of shipments made from this section for the past several years. The porkers numbered 220, with an average of 321 pounds, which brought \$7.30 a hundred. After paying the freight and yardage Mr. Waggoner pocketed the neat sum of \$5,000 and returned home with the firm idea that a hog is a rather accommodating animal after all.—Plattsmouth Journal.

Mr. Weston, living eight or ten miles northwest of Table Rock, is slowly dying. He has been sick a long time with what was thought to be gout. Lately some are inclined to the belief that it is leprosy. His feet have rotted off and the flesh is sloughing off toward his knees. His death cannot long be delayed. He lives in the edge of Johnson county, is a widower, with two daughters, who are both old maids. They are quite wealthy, but the family is extremely penurious and miserly, almost denying themselves the comforts of life.

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