

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

How to Educate a Good Dairy Cow—Caring for Poultry in Winter—Cost of Raising Corn—Value of Clean Milking—Farm Notes.

A Good Dairy Cow.

In his address at the Indiana State Dairy Association, Mr. Goodrich stated that educating an animal to become a good dairy cow must begin with the young calf. Muscle-forming foods should be fed, such as bran, oil meal, skim milk, etc. Educate the calf to eat muscle-forming foods as much as possible. Begin to feed the calf with skim milk and a spoonful or two of oil meal. Then give a few whole oats to follow. Nice clover hay should be available. Feed skim milk six months or so. Wants animal to come in milk at two years. Give heifer a good box stall and plenty of straw to calve in. After calving give her warm water—not cold. Take calf away gradually in two or three days. After calving, feed for a while only a little grain, and then depend mostly on bran. After two weeks can begin to feed to full capacity. Feed a variety. Desirable to have a balanced ration as nearly as can be. Quotations were given from the Wisconsin Bulletin of one hundred feeding rations, showing how some so-called successful feeders combined dairy cattle foods. Mr. Goodrich has found a production of two pounds of coarse food to one of concentrated as most satisfactory. Succulent foods are important. Of Woll's one hundred feeders, sixty-five fed ensilage and two roots. If we cannot have green grass should feed either ensilage or roots. Has paid Mr. Goodrich to feed a little bran or corn meal in summer. His cows produced fifty pounds more butter per animal the summer when fed grain than did the summer before when no grain was fed. His grain cost \$5 to \$13 was derived from the butter, showing a good balance in favor of the grain. Don't feed every cow alike. Mr. Goodrich's standard feed is thirty-two pounds silage, five pounds clover hay, five pounds corn stover, eight pounds wheat bran and two pounds cottonseed meal. Lighten up on feed of some cows and increase on others. If she gives more milk by more feed—Increase.—Indiana Farmer.

Winter Poultry Directions.

In order to get early eggs some extra feed in addition to the ordinary ration generally given by farmers is needed. As a rule the trouble on the farm is that after corn is gathered there is an overabundance of grain lying around, and in consequence the fowls become too fat. All farmers have hay to spare, at least they should have, and a few pounds per week fed to hens will greatly increase the egg production. Clover hay is best, but any good hay will do. Cut into short lengths as possible $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and in the evening fill a 2-gallon bucket full, cover and place on the kitchen stove and allow it to boil as long as there is fire. When the morning hay is built allow the hay to heat again, then drain off the water and mix with the hay three quarts of wheat bran or enough to make it crumbly. This will make nearly two gallons of feed. Give it to 100 hens as a morning feed. Remember, this is for cold weather and for fowls that are at liberty on the farm.

In the evening late supply what they will consume of corn one day, and oats next and so on. Be sure to give plenty fresh water every day, and on very cold mornings it is a good idea to make the water slightly warm. If you do not, it will freeze at once and be of no service. Be sure the hen-house has good tight ends and sides and always front the house to the south. The warmer the fowls are in winter, without supplying artificial heat, the more eggs they will lay and the earlier they will become broody.

If eggs are wanted for hatching purposes do not have too many cocks. One male to fifteen hens for the farm is much better than two, if all run together. Dispose of all hens that are past the profitable age, which is, generally speaking, 3 years, and do not expect fertile eggs from cocks 4 to 6 years old. It is best to use either 1 or 2 year old males.—North Carolina Experiment Station Bulletin.

Raising Corn.

The following is a statement, made by a late farmer, who possessed good authority, that corn was raised at the "surprisingly low cost" of six cents a bushel; and the majority of the people—those who know nothing about the cost of raising corn—assume that about all the farmer gets over six cents a bushel for his corn is clear gain. Will the corn-grower thank any one for giving currency to such assumption?

"The best posted," who have taken the trouble to wade through the long array of figures and explanations, to get down to the conclusion that it costs only six cents to raise a bushel of corn, have thought, perhaps, that the mountain had labored hard to bring forth such a mouse, for the insignificance and worthlessness of the result are made strikingly manifest by the closing short paragraph of guesses at other items that should be reckoned in, which run the cost up so that "corn can not be profitably grown to sell at very much less than three times that figure (six cents). The really "best posted" are those who have raised corn for many years, and they know that cost of production varies widely according to character of the seasons and the soil—good weather and big yields reducing cost, and bad weather and light yields increasing it—and that to

attain approximate accuracy an average must be taken of expenses and yields for several seasons and on various soils.—Germantown Telegraph.

Value of Clean Milking.

A man of my acquaintance who generally did his own milking employed a boy. The milk shrank one-third in two weeks. The farmer resumed milking, and in two weeks got the same amount as before. Afterward he set the hired man to milking, and the milk shrank 10 per cent. in two weeks, and in two weeks more, the farmer milking again was back at the standard. This man milks quickly and very clean. He closes the forefinger and thumb around the teat high up and makes a downward motion, tightening the grip and forcing out the milk. He then lets go his hold, keeping the finger and thumb in circle, carries up the hand and presses it smartly against the udder, closes and pulls down as before. The idea is to give as near as may be the same motion the calf does in sucking.—New England Homestead.

Pea Fowls.

The pea fowl is good for table use, and is as easy to raise as the turkey. Its great drawback is the loud noise made by the males. They make good pets and will become very tame. It is necessary to protect the young birds from wet and cold the same as young turkeys. They live from twenty to twenty-five years. Their habits are restless, and none should be kept if there are near neighbors. They can be restrained somewhat by compelling the male bird to wear upon his leg a coil attached to a block of wood. There is some demand for pea fowl stock from owners of fine estates and park managers. The best way is to get some eggs and hatch them under hens.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

Spraying in Winter.

At a recent annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association Professor Fletcher strongly recommended spraying fruit trees during the winter. The spores of the various fungi rest on the limbs and twigs as well as on the leaves. When the leaves are on the tree it is impossible to get spray out to the limbs and twigs. The best time to do this spraying is during the winter. It could be done any time when most convenient, but the best time is toward spring when vitality is returning. If the trees are sprayed during the winter better results will be obtained as the result of spraying after the leaves are out. Prof. Taft, of Michigan, and others also very strongly recommended winter spraying.

How to Select a Calf.

An English farmer claims to have made a discovery which is valuable if his claim is well founded. As is well known, it is difficult to select the calf at birth for its future usefulness as a milker, yet he asserts that it can be done. He states that on the inner side of the cheeks, near the corner of the mouth, may be observed the palps which have different forms according to whether the calf will be a good, medium or indifferent milker. If the palps are large, broad and flat they give a large quantity of milk. If they are only round the milking qualities will be only ordinary. If pointed, the milk yield will be small. The "palp" is not defined, but is probably a part of the mouth raised above the smooth surface that can be felt or is plainly distinguished.

Sugar Beets for Stock.

While some of the farmers in New York claim that the profits on sugar beets sold at the factory were small, it seems that they have not yet used the pulp or "bagasse" to advantage, probably not having prepared themselves with sufficient live stock. One farmer, however, who grew a large number of beets, retained some of them for use, and finds that it will pay to grow them as food for stock, provided the animals are first-class producers.

Can Not Improve on Nature. Nature's method of feeding hens is a grain at a time, and constant searching and scratching during meal time. This method we should imitate as far as possible.—Farm Journal.

G o n i n g s .

To prevent disease of potatoes add 2 ounces of corrosive sublimate to two gallons of hot water. Allow it to stand half a day; then add the solution to twelve gallons of cold water. Wash the potatoes so as to free them from dirt and immerse them in the solution, to remain two hours; then dry them and put in seed.

One having a fancy for preserving natural flowers may do so by dipping them into melted paraffine. The mixture should be only warm enough to remain fluid. Hold the flowers by the stems, which should be free from all except the natural moisture; dip them in the fluid, give them a quick turn to remove the air cells, and place in a glass until the coating becomes firm.

It is a pretty good rule that the sooner a pig can be brought to 200 pounds and the sooner he can be gotten to market after reaching this weight, the greater will be the per cent of profit in feeding him. Aside from the risk of cholera, etc., it has been shown that the gain above 200 pounds costs more, and that even with pork bringing good prices, there is often an actual loss in feeding above 250 pounds.

Sandy soils are always deficient in potash. Even if they had this mineral they have usually so little vegetable matter that the potash forms an insoluble compound by uniting with the sand. The potash in caustic ashes dissolves the silicate of potash, and also helps itself until its caustic properties are lost. But old leached ashes are often quite as beneficial to sandy soils as are unleached. They always contain some potash and some phosphate, which the water used for leaching would not dissolve.

TO GET OUT OF DEBT.

BEAUTIFUL PLAN OF "SOUND" MONEY ADVOCATES.

These Able Financiers Would Substitute Interest-Bearing Obligations for Those Now Bearing No Interest—How Many Mortgages Are Released.

How We "Get Out of Debt."

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the "sound" money theory is the proposal to "get this country out of debt." How do the able financiers of the Republican party propose to get this nation out of debt? Simply by redeeming all of its non-interest-bearing notes with interest-bearing obligations. The theory is beautiful in its ingenious simplicity. What would be thought of the business ability of a merchant who, having creditors perfectly satisfied with his notes of hand, bearing no interest, should say: "Gentlemen, it is true you are finding no fault with my notes, and are, indeed, anxious to get more of them, although they bear no interest, yet I have resolved to call all of those notes in and to give you interest-bearing paper, which I agree to redeem, or which my children or great grandchildren will redeem in gold?"

Such a course of conduct would be considered foolish, unnecessary and unbusinesslike. But it is exactly such a course as that which is advocated by the gold clique, who wish to retire government paper by refunding it in interest-bearing gold bonds. Every dollar of United States money is just as good for all purposes in this country as every other dollar, and 100 cents in gold will buy no more than 100 cents in silver, or in paper. Who is it, then, who wants gold? The man who deals in money alone, the gold speculator, the exporter and the bondholder. These are the men who have evolved the brilliant theory of paying a debt by making it larger.

Releasing Mortgages.

As I have seen in some papers denials of the statements published in other papers that many farms were being released from mortgage in the State of Kansas, I can state from my own personal knowledge that the mortgages on the farms of the farmers of the State of New York are being released quite rapidly; in fact, faster than ever before, and in that respect the farmers of this State are far ahead of the farmers in the "wild and woolly West," with all their boasted enterprise. I have released a couple of mortgages myself, and one of the mortgages on the farm I own will be released in a short time. By picking up almost any local newspaper my statements can be verified. There are usually notices published for at least six weeks before the mortgage will be released on any particular piece of property. In this country they usually commence somewhat in this form: "Supreme Court, County of Rensselaer, State of New York, John Takeall, plaintiff, against James Victim, defendant. In pursuance of a judgment of foreclosure and sale made in the above entitled action, etc. The referee duly appointed, etc. Charles Windup, referee; Skinner & Shavem, plaintiff's attorneys." Now, any one who would be dissatisfied with a monetary system which releases mortgages in such a rapid and effectual manner would be unreasonable enough to object to being hung.—E. L. Smith.

The Mortgage Bank Argument. The plutocratic press is making or trying to make the masses believe they are prosperous because the savings banks of New York show a deposit for every four of the population. That is the same old game. I have explained more than once, but will again show how it is done. When the savings bank was established at Pueblo, Colo., I put in an account for myself and each of my children. Even before it was organized and ready for business money from all over the country began coming from men of means who wanted to get the 4 per cent. interest on deposits. The limit on which interest would be paid was \$3,000 and these depositors in most instances sent the full amount and in some instances sent for more than one member of the family. So you see how easy it is for the savings banks to show up a large number of depositors and yet the masses of the people may be in abject poverty. That savings bank had then and has today its greatest deposits from the few. The accounts of the well-to-do are duplicated in all the savings banks of the country.—J. A. Wayland.

Nothing but a War.

Some of the leaders of the Republican party, especially Chandler, know that nothing can save that party from ignominious defeat in 1898 and 1899 except a foreign war. Every effort of the Republicans to restore prosperity has signally failed, and every promise they made has been repudiated. The question is, would the bondholders who hold Cuban bonds lose more by the independence of Cuba and a war with Spain than they could make in buying and selling United States bonds which a war, they think, would necessitate issuing. It is a matter of dollars with them whether or not to have war, and what they determine upon will be supplied acquiesced in and executed by the weak administration which they placed in power.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

The Greatest Obstacle.

The greatest obstacle to the business and productive industries of the country is the lack of money. Scarce money causes hoarding, hoarding produces falling prices and enforced idleness. It is in this condition that constrains our people to advocate war with Spain. If the people were profitably employed business would be brisk, everybody happy and we would have no war talk.

The people know that war costs money. The government, to maintain itself, would not hesitate to issue a large volume of money to meet current expenses, and this would increase the price of all staple products, stimulate production in all departments, and bring about the good times of 1862 to 1870 again.

Why Not in It?

The Mercury for several months past has tried to impress upon the "boys at the forks of the creek," the farmers, the non-office holding, and non-office-seeking classes, the importance of organizing clubs at the school houses in every neighborhood for the purpose of studying out a plan for relief from present oppressive conditions. We are pleased to know that in many parts of Texas such clubs have been formed and good results are growing therefrom, but there are many sections yet which have not awakened to the necessity of this work. We suggest that some live, wide-awake man in every community take it upon himself to visit the voters in his neighborhood and invite them to meet at a certain time at the community school-house for the purpose of organizing a home industry club to discuss all and any questions that may be suggested. When they shall have assembled let some one state the object of the club and proceed to the election of a chairman and secretary, and such other officers and committees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the club. A committee on program, order of business and subjects for discussion would be necessary. The young people could be induced to aid in furnishing music and other entertainments.

These clubs will tend to awaken interest in local and State affairs and furnish a relief from the monotonous conditions which envelop the industrial classes, and may develop a Patrick Henry or Joan of Arc to lead the people in their war against their oppressors. If it does not do this it will at least put the people about the schemes and methods of the official class who look upon the common people only as cattle to be herded and voted at election times.—Dallas Mercury.

No Large Standing Army.

We regret to see the scheme of military despotism, through the instrumentality of a large standing army, revived. The various bills, resolutions and proposed amendments to appropriation bills which show themselves in the two houses of Congress remind us that these are perilous times. The strained relations between the United States and Spain, and the possibility of war, have developed a spirit of military rule in this country which we had hoped was dead and buried. When after the most gigantic war that was ever fought, closed on the demand of a liberty-loving people, our standing army was reduced to 25,000.

There is no necessity to increase the army to prepare for war. The President is authorized by the Constitution and by statute to call on the militia of the various States to suppress insurrection and repel invasion. The President can put half a million troops in the field in thirty days to resist a foreign foe, and Congress would immediately authorize the enlistment of volunteers if necessary to carry on a foreign war. Such volunteers would go back to their usual avocations when the war was over, and not become a part of the standing army. Let no legislation looking to a permanent increase of the standing army be connected with the present or any other prospective war. A standing army in this country would be more dangerous to liberty than all the foreign enemies that exist on earth.—Silver Knight-Watchman.

Must Be Aggressive.

If there is any one factor in political warfare more potent than another, it is aggressiveness—an inclination and determination to press the enemy whenever and wherever he may be found. The most successful generals are those who hunt out the enemy and pounce upon him with all their force. It is not enough that we have right and reason on our side. It is not enough that we know and understand the genius of our government. We must be so thoroughly impressed with the righteousness of our principles and the importance of their success that we will herald them from the housetops—teach them at our firesides, yes, inscribe them on the bells of our houses, on our posts, and on our knuckles.

We have the records of history to establish our position, and we have only to direct attention to the condition of our fellowmen to corroborate our declarations. We have truth, justice and right as our guiding star, and with aggressiveness, intelligence, and persistence, we can not fail. Our enemies are relying for success on the ignorance of the people; on their indissipation and inability to uncover the rottenness and treachery of the old parties.—Dallas Mercury.

Discuss Economic Questions.

If you throw a stone in a pond or lake, though a small one, it will make waves that will extend all over the lake or pond. So it is with the intelligent, courageous man or woman, boy or girl, who will discuss economic questions in a school-house. It is more timidity than ignorance in the country school-houses that results in bad or corrupt county and State government. The common people are afraid to talk, or even ask questions of the official class, which eats the bread of the people and serves corporations.

Rockefeller's Wealth.

The wealth of John D. Rockefeller has now reached the sum of \$244,000,000, and furthermore is increasing at the rate of \$1,500,000 a month, or \$50,000 a day, or \$2,083 an hour, or \$34.50 a minute, or 57 cents every second of time, day and night, Sundays and holidays. No wonder the man calls on the churches and colleges to relieve him of some of his riches.—Union Press.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Runs on the Treasury.

Some of the gold standard papers are wailing over the fact that no runs are now being made upon the treasury, and they largely inform us that when there is no danger of the money standard being tampered with the people don't care for the gold.

They forget, apparently, that the heaviest runs upon the treasury took place in the very midst of Mr. Cleveland's administration, long before the Chicago platform declared for free silver, when there was no indication that it would do so, and when, in fact, it looked as if the free silver cause had received its death-blow.

They also forget that the runs in a great measure ceased in the summer and fall of 1896, when " Bryanism " was sweeping like wildfire over the country and seemed to stand at least an even chance of winning.

What do these facts prove? Simply this: That the great financiers can either loot the treasury or stop looting it, almost at will. Another bond issue in the fall of 1896 would have landed Mr. Bryan in the Presidential chair, and the Morgan-Rothschild syndicate saw to it that there was none.

Nor would it have done to have another immediately after the election, for it would have belied every campaign promise that the gold men had made. Shortly thereafter the heavy exports of grain and breadstuffs began, turning the balance of trade this way and checking the outflow of gold. Hence there was no occasion for runs upon the treasury.

Nobody wants gold for internal use. Paper is almost universally preferred. It is the foreign demand that rakes the treasury. That foreign demand must be met whether we have the gold standard or any other.

What that foreign demand may be will always depend upon commercial conditions, subject to the ability of the great money power of the two continents to interfere with the free flow of gold by manipulation of the exchange.

But this is a thing which will not and cannot be continued indefinitely. The controlling factor is primarily the condition of trade. But loans and other investments creating a condition of indebtedness separate and apart from that which arises from the mere buying and selling of goods will also have an important bearing.

Demonetization.

When the civil war broke out the bankers of the United States and Europe sought to reap a harvest from the necessities of the nation by imposing onerous conditions for loans. But President Lincoln cut the knot and saved the country by the issue of legal tender government notes.

Have You Been Sick?

Perhaps you have had the gripe or a hard cold. You may be recovering from malaria or a slow fever; or possibly some of the children are just getting over the measles or whooping cough.

Are you recovering as fast as you should? Has not your old trouble left your blood full of impurities? And isn't this the reason you keep so poorly? Don't delay recovery longer but

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