

AGRICULTURAL

R. W. FURNAS, EDITOR, To whom all Communications on Agriculture should be addressed.

Who will Help Fence the Fair Ground?

Our County Fair Ground ought to be fenced by the time the next Fair is held. It can be done by a little effort. Lumber and labor will do it.

BUCKWHEAT.

We think the value of buckwheat as a farm crop is not generally appreciated in this part of the country.

Many object to it because they say it spreads over the farm and becomes a nuisance. But the farmer who does his work promptly and thoroughly will have no trouble on this score.

Some adopt the plan of thrashing it on the ground where it grows, carrying only the grain away, but burning the straw. This is not a safe precaution, for if the thrashing is done in the barn, and some of the grains scattered, the hens will find most of them.

One advantage of this crop is, that it may be sown after most other crops are put in. In this latitude it may be sown any time between the first and twentieth of July.

There is probably no crop that leaves the soil so light and mellow as buckwheat, and hence one of the benefits of sowing it on stiff clay soil as preparation for corn.

After taking off a crop of hay the ground may be plowed and sown to buckwheat; or old pasture ground may be treated in the same way, and it will be in better condition for corn the next year, than it would have been if it had been plowed and laid idle during the summer and fall.

If the ground is in good condition, so that all the seeds will be covered, about twenty bushels is enough to seed an acre; but if the ground is cloddy and rough, a bushel may be none too much.

Women as Farmers.

At the annual meeting of the Northwestern Dairywomen's Association, held in Elgin, Ill., on the 9th and 10th of February, the Hon. K. A. Willard, of Herkimer county, N. Y., made an address of marked ability, from which we extract the following:

Mr. Willard said he did not mean to advocate female field labor, or to let it be known among the lower classes in Europe, nor would he abridge one iota any female accomplishment; but he could see no objection to any man's daughter or sister taking to the plow occasionally on the mowing machine, the hay tedder, the wheel-rake, or the sulky plow, or cultivator, or in the direction of some light farm machinery, where she can gain strength and health in the open air.

As for fruit trees, we have known quite a number of instances—indeed, so often as to make it quite a rule—that old orchards apparently dying out have been brought back again to fruitfulness by the use of ashes, and stirring the soil. Potash is the most important element in the successful growth of all kinds of fruit-trees.

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Apple Worms.

We will follow the following facts concerning these intolerable pests, from the American Entomologist. It has long been known that, by placing an old cloth, or any thing of that nature, in the crotch of an apple tree, the apple worms may be decoyed into building their cocoons underneath it, and thus be destroyed wholesale.

All authors are agreed, as to the practical importance of picking up and destroying the wormy apples as fast as they fall, either by hand power, or when that is inconvenient and impracticable, by means of a rake.

PLANTS FOR A SHADY SITUATION.—There are in city gardens or in the corners of the woods, a number of many shady situations which the sun can not reach, and where very few plants will grow.

There are numerous others which, when carefully cultivated, are very pretty and add much to the floral appearance of the premises; but each one will find out for himself as he progresses in his investigations, and his knowledge becomes more expanded in horticulture, what to add to the collection, as his taste may dictate.

If a mulching is employed at the time of planting trees, they will never need watering. Uniform temperature and a constant supply of moisture are the prime elements of success in fruit culture.

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