



### Danger in Pasturing Rape.

As there are many who have sown would call their attention to the fact that there need be some care in pasturing the crop, especially with sheep. It is even worse than clover in causing bloat in sheep though we have never heard of any trouble with cattle in this. They are not so fond of the crop and do not eat it so greedily when first turned on it as they do clover.

Until sheep become accustomed to it, it is not safe to leave them for any length of time on rape, even after the dew has dried off. When first turning them to get a good feed of something else before turning them on the rape, then they will not eat so greedily. A half hour at a time is long enough to leave them on at first. A good way to pasture it after they have become accustomed to it is to have it in connection with a good grass pasture and allow them to run from one to the other at will. The rape is too succulent for the best results as an entire pasture plant for sheep. If at any time they are inclined to crop it until it gets a fresh start.

It should be borne in mind that no plant will produce as much feed if too closely cropped. The roots become starved for want of the support normally received from the air through the leaves. To insure a maximum amount of pasturage from the rape it is well to withhold the stock from it until it gets twelve inches high. With the roots thus established the amount of feed it will supply is enormous.—Farmers Voice.

### Deterioration of Corn Fodder.

As our readers all know from experience, corn fodder deteriorates very rapidly during the winter season if left standing in the shock, especially if the shocks are small and not properly built or tied, thus exposing a large amount of the fodder to the fall and winter rains. The reason why the cow does not take as kindly to corn fodder in the spring as in the fall is because it has deteriorated, often very rapidly, in quality.

Where our readers shred their fodder, the quicker it is done the better. They do not need to wait until the fodder is perfectly dry. Just as soon as the corn is fit to crib the fodder should be shredded and stored away. Two tons of fodder shredded as soon as the corn is safe to crib is worth three tons at least of fodder shredded in February, provided, of course, it is shredded when free from dew or rain. It is not the remaining sap that deteriorates fodder, because it does not have in it the bacteria that cause ferment and decay. It is the bacteria that come in from rain that do the damage either in clover hay or corn fodder.

One of the great advantages of shredded fodder is that it enables us, when done in time, to prevent this rapid deterioration of corn fodder which always takes place in the shock and for which there is no other remedy.—Wallace's Farmer.

### Farm Notes.

An animal must be kept in good flesh and thriving to make it develop and prove profitable.

There is no use keeping a cow on the farm unless she is a milker and butter-maker.

In applying manure, the farmer must use his own judgment as to how, when and where he applies it.

Lack of fibrous roots is one cause of the failure of so many of our forest trees, dug up in the woods and transplanted.

As time is money it will be found profitable to arrange the stables so as to lessen the amount of time in caring for them.



### The Farm and Poultry Plant.

The farmer that does not have a well-equipped poultry plant loses the opportunity of adding very materially to his income and he also misses that very important end—the providing of his family with several kinds of luxuries, poultry meat, and eggs. We might say that he misses seeing his family enjoy broilers in the late spring, old hens and roosters in the summer, spring chickens in the fall and fat cockerels and capons in the winter, as well as the eggs. One of the compensations for living in the country is to have all of these things fresh and at will without sending many miles for them. Moreover, the family of the farmer need not stint itself in these things as the family of the citizen must do out of reasons of economy. This should be the first object with the farmer in the keeping of poultry. Now and then we find a farmer who sells all his best products and keeps the poorest for his family. That is a poor way of doing. The family should have at least as good as goes off the farm.

### Provide Plenty of Nests.

What sort of nest boxes do you use? Too many poultry raisers attach too little importance to this matter. They seem to think that if a hen has a desire to lay she will do so, even if she has to drop the eggs around like a duck. This may all be so, and she may do it a time or two, but very soon you will notice a wonderful falling off in the egg supply, unless you have already made provision for plenty of nests for your flock. One nest to four or six hens will be all right; but, if possible, do even better than that. Hens do not like to stand around on one foot, waiting for their turn, any more than a busy man likes to spend his time waiting on his slow neighbor. If you wish to encourage early laying among your hens, provide plenty of nests. They cost but little, and it is money well spent.—Farm-Poultry.

### Frozen Eggs.

The Poultry World says: In the winter season quantities of eggs are frozen, and it is generally considered that such eggs are worth but little, or, to say the least, are much injured for cooking purposes. This, however, is not strictly true, for if properly treated they are but little injured. Instead of (as was the custom) putting them into cold water to take out the frost and waiting several hours for the thawing to take place, and then finding the yolks in such a solid state that they can be used with no satisfaction in cooking, try the following method: Place them in boiling water and leave them there from five to twenty minutes, according to the amount of frost in them, when, upon their being opened, the yolks will be found soft and in such a state that they can be used for almost any culinary purpose.

### Fancy Fowl Fad.

There are signs of a craze in the breeding of fancy poultry, says the Field, Farm and Fireside. The American Farmer recently recorded the sale of four chickens at Hope, Ind., for \$900, and the fact that the seller had a rooster for which he was asking \$2,500. Now comes a story that a breeder at Raceville, N. Y., has sold sixteen chickens—thirteen hens and three roosters—for \$3,400, to be shipped to Berlin. This is heralded as the record price of the world for the same number of fowls, but to a common layman it looks merely as a case of "gold brick on the part of the German buyer. Of course, no poultry, fancy or otherwise, are worth this amount of money, and it is time a halt was called lest we run into a fancy poultry craze as fatal as Hollands experience with tulips.



### News to Grape Growers.

Grape growers in the United States may derive a useful hint from a process as yet unknown on this side of the water, by which wine-growers in France are enabled to market fresh outdoor grapes all through the winter, says the American Inventor. The method, which is a recent invention, is both curious and interesting. Bunches of the finest grapes, when ripe in autumn, are cut in such a way that to each bunch a piece of the vine five or six inches long remain attached. From this piece the stem of the bunch hangs—an arrangement which, as will presently be seen, is essential to the success of the operation. A large number of wide-necked bottles, filled with water, are ranged in horizontal rows on racks in a cellar, and in the open end of each of these receptacles is placed a bunch of grapes—that is to say, the piece of vine-stem is inserted into the mouth of the bottle, and the grapes hang outside. The grapes do not touch the bottle, but are supplied with moisture through the vine-stem, which is immersed in the water. In this manner black Hamburgs and other choice table grapes are kept fresh and perfect through an entire winter.

### Eastern Trees on Western Farms.

Farmers in the west that want to plant trees either for fruit or ornament should secure them of western growers and make sure also that the western growers have not purchased them in the East. A tree grown in the eastern or middle states is not adapted to the West, as a common thing, and this has caused much discouragement in the planting of trees. The tree peddler will need to be watched. He has the reputation of hiring himself to a western nursery and then, on the sly, sending orders for eastern trees, from which he can sometimes make a better profit than from trees grown in the West. The buyer of trees, if he have not complete confidence in the tree peddler, will find it to his advantage to incidentally write to the western nursery from which his trees are reputed to come and tell them that he has a lot of trees from them. He can give them this information by asking some unimportant question, as "how deep should the trees from your nursery be planted?" He can do this without offending the tree agent or letting him know that he is getting a "check" on his movements.

### Root Rot of Apple Trees.

In some of the Western states root rot is becoming a great source of annoyance to the orchardists. It is found quite generally in orchards over five years of age and even in some younger ones. The disease is, however, of more frequent occurrence in new land than in old. The disease is most to be met with on poorly drained land, though it is found more or less on any kind of land. The disease is not a product of the apple orchards but exists in our native forests. Thence it spreads to the apple orchards. This is a very important reason for not setting apple orchards on recently cleared land. That the disease is highly contagious is shown by the fact that it will attack an apple tree and spread from it in all directions, killing every tree it touches. The best remedy is to remove and burn infected trees, not putting other trees where the old ones have been. It takes at least three years for the disease germs to die out.

### Money in Happy Cows.

Plenty to eat, fresh water a-plenty, and kind care make the cow happy; and it is the happy cow that fills the milk pail and the pocketbook.



### Sheep and Cattle Compared.

An Iowa farmer has made a comparison between the profits of sheep and cattle raising, which shows up sheep-keeping in a good light. He says in the American Cultivator:

"I think if we take a series of ten years together it will commonly be found that there is not much difference between the market price of fat sheep and fat cattle, if we compare all classes, wethers, fat ewes, yearlings and lambs, with steers, fat cows, heifers and calves. The fat cattle are now about \$1 per hundred less than a year ago, still choice fat steers are now considerably higher than fat wethers and yearlings, but fat cows are about the same as fat ewes.

"It has been proved by our experiment stations that, as a general rule, it requires about the same amount and quality of feed to grow and fatten a given number of pounds of sheep or mutton as of cattle or beef. According to this rule, ten sheep at two or two and a half years old, weighing 130 pounds each, have eaten the same amount of feed as a steer or heifer of the same age and weight, 1,300 pounds.

"While the general rule holds that it takes about the same amount of feed to produce a thousand pounds of beef as a thousand pounds of mutton, it often happens that sheep can be kept on cheaper feed. Sheep eat a larger variety of plants or weeds than cattle, and rapidly convert even noxious weeds into wool and mutton.

"Sheep can be well fattened in less time than cattle. The one hundred day fed steer is not finished, but sheep in very moderate condition can be well fattened in one hundred days.

"Another element of profit with sheep is the increased fertility which they give to the soil. No other stock equals them in this respect. Increased fertility means better crops."

### Charcoal for Hogs.

In the press of gathering corn and getting ready for winter, our readers should not forget to keep their hogs well supplied with charcoal. The source of this charcoal will differ in different localities. In the timber sections wood charcoal is easily available and is perhaps the best. In the larger portion of our territory, however, our readers must depend on charcoal from the corn cobs. This is very easily obtained and is about the best use to which you can put this annoying litter on the stable floor or in the pens and other places where hogs are fed.

The best method is to dig a circular hole, say two feet wide and as many deep. Build a fire of chips and corn cobs and when well started fill up the entire hole with corn cobs and when they are sufficiently burned, cover tightly and thus smother them out before the entire contents are reduced to ashes. Then add salt and any wood ashes you may have and put in a place where the hogs can eat it at will. It is no cure for cholera, nor is it a preventive, but it is a preventive of indigestion, which is sometimes taken for cholera.

### When Roots Are Fed.

Judgment is needed in the feeding of roots to hogs. They like the roots and will sometimes eat more than is profitable for them to eat. That is, they fill up on roots and the work of the stomach goes to digest a lot of material that has in it very little nutriment. When water is given in addition to the roots the result is even more in the direction we have indicated. If the hogs have a good quantity of roots they should not be given water; for the roots are almost nine-tenths water. But it is better to give the swine some water and reduce the amount of roots they are to receive. Roots are a great adjunct to the grain ration.