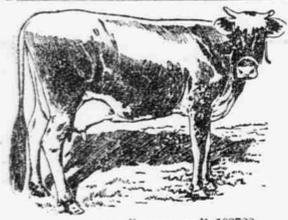


# AGRICULTURAL



**Jersey with a Good Record.**  
J. W. Hart of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Clemson College, S. C., writes to Hoard's Dairyman: Realizing that my little six-year-old 840-pound Jersey "Nitelis" needed only an opportunity to make herself famous, I decided to give her a week's test under the rules of the American Jersey Cattle Club. In addition to good grazing, consisting of orchard grass, red clover, crimson clover and green oats, she ate, during the week's test, forty-three pounds of wheat bran, forty-six pounds of cornmeal and twenty-eight pounds of rotten seed meal, given on forty-four pounds of cotton seed hulls, the last



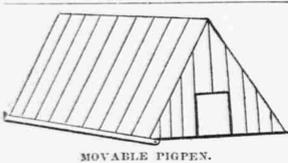
JERSEY COW "NITELIS" 102722.

being one of the best vehicles for transporting the finely ground meals to the cow's stomach that I know of. Her total yield of milk for the seven days was 2294 pounds, from which was made 16 pounds 7 1/2 ounces of unsalted butter.

Considering the breed and the size of the cow, the milk yield was very large; and had she been milked three instead of twice daily, she would have made a considerably better showing, both in milk and butter.

**Pens for Raising Pigs.**  
It is not necessary to have costly pens in which to raise pigs. There are enough loose boards lying around every farm to make at least one or two good cheap places for the sows. A correspondent tells how to make them after the style of a chicken coop. They should be built on runners so they can be moved with a horse to any place you want them. If the ground is dry, no floors are needed, but if not dry floors will be better.

**Well-Ripened Potatoes for Seed.**  
The fact that a potato is mealy when cooked shows that it is well ripened. Such a potato is much better for seed than the poor, watery potatoes that have not secured their proper amount of starch through destruction of their leaves. We are always suspicious of seed of a potato that in winter or spring appears watery and deficient in solid matter when cut into. It may have come from a hill that had not time before it was dug to ripen the crop of tubers beneath. But in nine cases out of ten it was eaten by potato bugs or its leaves blighted before the potatoes reached maturity. Such potatoes cannot make good seed.



MOVABLE PIGPEN.

**Coal Ashes for Fruit Trees.**  
That coal ashes are beneficial when spread on the surface of apple orchards in grass cannot be disputed. But they contain scarcely any mineral fertilizer, and are, of course, having passed through fire, destitute of any other. Undoubtedly they benefit by setting as a mulch, and where they cover grass causing it to die out and rot. In this way they supply considerable fertility and moisture indirectly. Wherever coal ashes have long lain under fruit trees there will be an abundance of tree roots just under the ashes where the grass has been killed.

**A Tribute to the Mule.**  
While we are carrying on about the heroes of the war let us not forget the army mule. He may not be as kissable as Hobson, but we owe him just as much recognition. Gen. Shafter says he could not have supplied his army at all if it had not been for the mule, and Gen. Blanco knew what he was about when he rushed to the cable office and telegraphed to Madrid how the Americans had killed that mule at Matanzas. —Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Cutting Fodder for Horse Power.**  
We are sorry for farmers, and especially for the farmers' sons, who are obliged to cut fodder for stock in winter by hand labor. It is a slow job and involves muscular effort that might well be put to more necessary uses. If every farmer who reads this would get a horse power, or better still a small

## NIAGARA HUSHED.

The Memorable Morning Upon Which Its Roar Was Silenced.

To awake from sleep to the consciousness of a great or unexplained noise is often appalling, but it may be no less fearful to awake to the consciousness of a sudden stillness where the ear has always been used to sound. One who from birth had been accustomed to the thunder of Niagara has lately told in a daily paper the story of the morning, now fifty years ago, when the roar of the cataract ceased, and a great stillness settled over the district. He says:

I was born twenty-five years before, with the roar of Niagara in my ears, and had lived ever since within a mile of the cataract. I awoke that morning oppressed by a strange feeling, which I found was caused by the astounding fact that the roar of Niagara was gone. My first thought was that I had become deaf in the night, but the sound of the ticking of a clock in the next room assured me that my hearing was not affected. The tumult of Niagara was stilled, and the unwanted silence was appalling.

I hastily dressed and ran from the house. Scores of people were hastening toward the falls to learn the cause of the alarming quietness. The sight was a strange one. Where the river had been was now a naked bed of jagged black and slimy rock, and the precipice over which it had hurled its waters was bare from shore to shore. Niagara was dry, or so nearly so that the sound of the water that fell over the rock was as the trickle of a brook.

People from the Canada side walked along the edge of the precipice, and made their way nearly to Goat Island on the American side without wetting their feet. A number of ancient gun-barrels were found among the rocks of the river-bed above the rapids. People swarmed to see the strange sight.

This extraordinary condition of affairs continued all day. When the people went to bed late that night Niagara was still silent, but when they awoke the next morning the thunder of the falls was shaking the earth as usual, and the cataract had returned to its old habit.

The power which had silenced Niagara was soon discovered. It was in March that the noise of the cataract ceased. The winter had been one of the coldest on record. Thick ice formed in Lake Erie. The break-up came suddenly. Toward the end of March a stiff, northeasterly wind came up and broke the ice-fields, separating them from the shore and driving the ice-floes up the lake. They were in great banks as they moved.

Toward night, on March 30, the wind changed suddenly to the opposite quarter and became a fierce gale. The surface of the lake was packed with miniature icebergs, and the storm hurled them back with such force that a great jam was formed at the head of Niagara River.

This jam held back the water, and before long the river above the falls was drained, and by the morning of the 31st Niagara was silenced. For twenty-four hours its voice of thunder was hushed, but by the morning of April 1 the ice-pack gave way under the pressure of water, and the cataract reasserted itself.

**The Famous Tulip Mania.**  
The origin of the term "tulip mania" casts a side light on a curious phase of human nature. In the years 1636 and 1637 an extraordinary flower mania occurred in Holland, chiefly in regard to tulips, in which men speculated in the same manner as is done with railroad shares and other stocks at the present day. Tulip bulbs were sold for enormous sums, the ownership of a single bulb being often divided into shares. Men sold these when not in possession of a single bulb, on condition of delivering them to the buyers at a certain time agreed upon by the contracting parties, and of some varieties far more were sold than were actually in existence. This craze died out at last, but not until many persons had become ruined financially and quite a number gone insane.

**An Enormous Theater.**  
The Paris Exhibition of 1900 will contain the largest theater in the world. According to the report of M. Raillin, the architect who has been intrusted with its construction, it will surpass any other building of the kind from the point of view of size and seating capacity. It will be erected within the well-known "Galerie des Machines," and will accommodate from 12,000 to 15,000 persons. The auditorium will consist of five circular tiers rising one above the other and sloping backwards till the topmost reaches the very roof of the "Galerie," while these circles at the rear will present the appearance of enormous arcades supported by colossal columns.

**Xerxes' Army.**  
Xerxes, the King of Persia, was the eldest son of the great Darius. In his expedition against the Greeks, Herodotus states that the whole number of his fighting force amounted to nearly 2,500,000 men, and the fleet consisted of 1,207 ships of war, besides 3,000 smaller vessels. Those numbers were considerably increased by recruits from the countries through which he passed on his way to Greece, until according to the same authority the total number amounted to more than 6,000,000. Although this is doubtless an exaggerated statement, all authorities agree that it was the largest multitude ever brought together for any purpose in the world.

**Hard Lines.**  
"Why is Edith crying so bitterly?"  
"She went to a sewing bee this afternoon and nobody noticed her engagement ring." —Cleveland Leader.

## AGRICULTURAL NEWS

### THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

**What the Farm Is Fit For—The Difference in Land—Narrow Corn-cribs the Best—How Weevil May Be Exterminated—Farm Notes.**

A word to the restless people—to the fast and feverish age:  
A perfect manhood is better than any wealth or wage.

Some are for gold—some, glitter; but, tell me, tell me, when  
Will we stand for the farm and the college that go for the making of men?

Yes, what is the old farm fit for? The word is wisely said:  
There may be stumps in the pasture, and the house may be a shed;  
But what if a Lincoln or Garfield be here in this boy of ten?

And what should the farm be fit for, if not the raising of men?

'Tis scanty soil for a seedling, but here we win our bread,

And a stout heart may grow stronger  
Where plow and harrow are sped;  
Then break up the bleak, high hillside and trench the swamp and fen—  
For what should the farm be fit for, if not for the raising of men?

The crop by the frost is blighted, a niggard the season seems;

Yet the ready hand finds duties, and the heart of the youth has dreams—  
The bar and the Senate to-morrow; to-morrow the sword or the pen;

For what should the farm be fit for, if not for the raising of men?

And what if our lot be humbler—if we on the farm abide?

There is room for noble living, and the realm of thought is wide;

A mind enriched is a fortune—and you will know it when

You see that the farm is fit for the rearing of noble men.

—President Harris, Maine State College.

**Crops Adapted to the Soil.**

No section of the country is adapted to all crops, but it may be safely claimed that all crops may be grown in this country. Each farm differs from the others, and even adjoining farms may be so unlike as to compel the owners thereof to cultivate under different methods. The climate is the most important factor to be considered in selecting crops, and next to the climate the soil is to be studied. There are hundreds of farms that do not pay, but which would give a profit every year if they were devoted mainly to those crops which thrive best thereon. What those crops should be can only be discovered on each farm by observation.

It is related that a certain farmer found his crops overrun by a peculiar grass, which he could not eradicate, and he became much discouraged, finally deciding to sell the farm or cease its cultivation. Relaxing his efforts, the grass overrun his fields, and a neighbor suggesting that there was a fine crop of hay that could be cut, it dawned on the farmer that as the grass was indigenous to the soil it could be made a paying crop, the result being that the farm began to pay because it was adapted to the crop that could best thrive upon it. There are many farmers who could do likewise instead of struggling every year to grow crops that are more difficult to produce because the soil is not suitable for them. —Philadelphia Record.

**Narrow Cribs for Corn.**

All the rules for economizing space have to be broken in cribbing damp corn. We can get more room in a square or octagon building with the same area outside than in a long, narrow one. But for drying out corn we count the space next the outside most valuable. The crib must be wider at the top than it is at the bottom, and, besides, its roof ought to project as much as is safe, and have eave troughs conducting all the water that falls on the roof to one side, where it will most likely be blown away from the building instead of towards it. Of course, a corn crib thus put up is extremely liable to be blown over unless it is propped well on each side. Where an expensive corn house can be afforded, it is well to make it wide enough so that it will hold two rows of cribs with the sides vertical on the outside, but shelving wider at the top towards the center on each side. We know such a corn crib built near forty years ago, which, except that it has had to be new roofed once or twice, is still in good condition. It was set on posts in the ground, each capped with a projection so as to keep out rats and mice. This part of the scheme proved a failure. Rats or mice bred in this corn crib just as they would if it set on a wall. It would have been better if a wall had been put under it with a five or six-foot deep cellar that could have been used as a pigpen. Probably when the oak posts rot out the corn crib will be raised and such a cellar put under it. —American Cultivator.

**Weevil in Wheat.**

The Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station says: "Weevils in wheat are easily killed by placing the wheat in a tight bin or room and turning on the top of the wheat a quantity of carbon-sulphide, then closing the door and allowing the fumes, which are heavier than the air, to settle and penetrate the grain for about two days, when the door may be opened and the fumes allowed to escape. One or two pounds of the carbon-bisulphide is sufficient for 100 bushels of grain, and will not injure it in any way. Do not go near the fumes of the above with a lantern or lighted pipe. Be careful not to breathe the fumes of the bisulphide of carbon, as the result would be disagreeable, if not fatal."

**All-the-Year-Round Harvest.**

Frequent dividends on the farm should be the object of every farmer.

It has long been a maxim that "harvest comes but once a year," which is true where certain crops are specialties, but the fact is that there is no occupation that will give as frequent dividends on the investment as farming if judicious management is used. When farming is made to include everything that can be produced on a farm there is not a week in the year that returns will fail to come in. Beginning with early spring the vegetables will be dividend-producers, to be followed by fruit and field crops. Even in winter the cows will contribute every day with milk, from which butter may be sold, while the well-filled egg basket can be marketed nearly every day in the year. The sheep send early lambs to the stalls, followed by mutton and wool, and from the swine early shoats and late pork are obtained. In fact, at the present day, with improved implements, "harvest time" is every season of the year, and the dividends are constant.

**Soft-shelled Eggs.**

Gravel as usually found in most soils has been rounded by the air, water and heat, through wear and tear, says the Farm and Fireside. Unless sharp it is valueless. As soon as the fowl rounds off a sharp substance in the gizzard it is voided; hence, hens prefer sharp shells to ground gravel. The reason they eat more shells when laying (or more sharp grit of any kind) is because (when laying) more food is required, and consequently there is better digestion and assimilation. Because an egg has specks or flakes of lime on the shell does not imply that it is due to feeding shells, as the same thing occurs when no oyster shells are given. It may be due to the food also. As a rule, such hens are fat. Some kinds of gravel are limestone and of the same composition as oyster shells. There are millions of hens that never saw an oyster shell, and they do not lay soft-shelled eggs. Soft-shelled eggs always indicate overfeeding.

**Drone Bees.**

Bees left to their own devices will build too much drone comb for the profit of the apiarist, says the New York Farmer. The aim of the bees in building extra comb is not to rear drones, but to have storage room for surplus honey. Such extra comb is found in each hive, and, if it be left, the queen will, in the spring, when the colony is strong, fill all the available drone comb with eggs, which means a too large force of drones when the hatching is completed. This state of affairs is easily prevented by the utilization of foundation comb, all made in worker size. If the frames be filled with foundation comb the drones will be kept down in number to the desirable point. The supply of drones is easily regulated by the amount of drone comb provided, and the apiarist can select his breeding stock at will by supplying the drone comb in the colonies that stand highest in his esteem.

**The Basket Worm.**

Prof. L. O. Howard, entomologist, gives the life history of the basket worm in a letter to the Indiana Farmer, its name being "Thyridopterix ephemeriformis," which is sometimes known also as the bag worm. The bag serves as a shelter and protection from birds and other enemies. The bag can be increased from time to time as occasion requires. The larva carries the bag with it wherever it goes and never leaves it. When full grown it turns to a chrysalis with the bag, the female moth never leaving it except to drop to the ground and die after depositing its eggs within the bag, from which the young escape, go out over the plants (especially evergreen hedges), construct new bags and commit depredations. The male moth emerges as a small clear-winged insect. Paris green on the plants destroys the worms. The bags should be picked off and burned when such is possible.

**Buying Fertilizers.**

In the purchase of fertilizers the farmer has more difficulty than in any other duty, as he must rely largely upon the honesty of the manufacturers, and for that reason he should buy only from reliable parties. The reliability of manufacturers may not be known to all, and mistakes may occur in the factories. There is one plan that can be pursued, however, and which will be satisfactory to the manufacturers also, which is for a number of farmers to co-operate in making comparative tests of all fertilizers procured by exchanging samples. The stations will also analyze samples for farmers, but the better plan is for each farmer to make tests and thus educate himself in the use of fertilizers and their effects upon plants by direct observation. Only \$1 expended for fertilizers for each farm, provided several farmers will work together, will be sufficient.

**Horticultural Notes.**

The English ivy does not harm a tree on which it grows.

See if a little less water on irrigated land will not be better.

Fruit when placed in cold storage should be firm and hard.

The grape vine trained to a single stake never does its best.

Sprinkling plants with water, when frost is expected, will protect them.

Pears to be put in cold storage should be picked before they begin to ripen.

Watermelons ought not to be grown on the same ground oftener than three years.

Tomatoes are so hardy that they may be transplanted even after the fruit begins to set.

If grapes have been planted too closely and become too thick, better take out every other vine.

The man who gives plants of all kinds plenty of room and heroically thins his fruit will get best results.—Real Estate and Farm.



## THE HOUSEHOLD

**Butter Pats.**

One of the daintiest ways of making up the little individual butter pats for the table is in corrugated rolls. The butter paddles are kept in ice water until thoroughly chilled. Then a piece of butter about as large as a hickory nut is taken up on one, is patted down with the other until about an eighth of an inch thick and dexterously lifted at one end and rolled over, forming the dainty crumpled roll. These are tossed in a jar of ice water as fast as made, emerging therefrom crisp and fresh. If the family is large, and it is desirable to keep a supply of the butter balls ahead, they may be kept two or three days at a time by changing the water daily and taking care that the supply of ice is not exhausted.

**Secret of Washing Woolens.**

The secret of washing well any woolen goods, says the New York Evening Post, lies chiefly in having the different waters of equal temperature, with none of them at any time too hot to put the hand in comfortably. Soap should not be rubbed on the article, but used in the form of thin suds. It should be a good white soap, too. A little borax is probably the best thing to soften the water. For washing blankets or baby flannels it is to be preferred. Woolens should not be wrung by the hand, but rinsed or dried by squeezing. Woolens of any sort should never be allowed to freeze.

**Layer Cake with Butter.**

Beat one-half of a cupful of butter to a cream; add gradually one and one-half cupfuls of sugar, and beat hard for five minutes; add one teaspoonful of flavoring. Measure two and one-half cupfuls of flour, add to it two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and sift three times; beat the whites of five eggs to a stiff, dry froth, and measure one-half of a cupful of water. Add to the creamed mixture a little water, then a little flour and some white of egg, and so on, stirring evenly until all of the ingredients have been added, then beat hard for five minutes. Bake in layers in a hot oven.

**A Handy Wood Box.**

Where wood is used all know that it is unhandy to carry wood and open doors at same time, to say nothing about extra tracks and dirt. A box may be so constructed for wood that it will save steps, dirt and noise. It should be built in the partition between kitchen and woodshed, of matched lumber and lined with inch boards to save wear to box. Covers should be tight-fitting, to keep out cold, and slanting, so nothing can be laid on them. Inside painted or stained color of woodwork of room.—Practical Farmer.

**After-Dinner Coffee.**

Put four rounded tablespoons of fine ground coffee into the top of a biggin, or into a strainer, and pour three cups of boiling water through it. When all has dripped through pour the liquid coffee out and again pour it through the grounds. Then strain it into a kettle that fits over an alcohol lamp and when ready to serve, place the kettle before the hostess, light the lamp and let the coffee just come to the boiling point. Serve with block sugar and without cream unless especially desired.

**Popcorn Candy.**

Put into granite kettle one table-spoonful of butter, three table-spoonfuls of water and one cup of white sugar; boil until ready to candy, then throw in three quarts of nicely popped corn; stir vigorously until the sugar is evenly distributed over the corn. Take the kettle from the fire and stir until it cools a little, and in this way each kernel will separate and coat with sugar. Of course it must have undivided attention from the first to prevent scorching.

**Swedish Puddings (Individual).**

Beat four whole eggs until foamy. Take a quarter of a pound of butter and the same quantity of powdered sugar and beat it to a cream in a separate bowl. Pour the beaten eggs carefully on the butter, mix well, add a quarter of a pound of twice sifted flour, flavor with grated vanilla. Steam in the individual shapes, and serve a wine sauce or a fruit sauce with them.

**Useful Hints.**

Onions should be preserved strung or, if small, in nets, in a cool, dry place.

The color of pickled cabbage is greatly improved by putting slices of uncooked beet into it, or a few drops of cochineal.

To clean all kinds of lacquer work first rub with fresh lemon juice, then with clean cloths till quite dry and polished.

Zinc pails, baths, etc., may be kept free from grease by first well washing them with soap and water, then rubbing over with a rag dipped in kerosene oil.

If sheets or tablecloths are wrung by putting the selvage through the wringer the edges will not curl up, and they will iron much easier.

Perspiration stains may be removed from the sleeves of white woolen or silk dresses by sponging with warm water, into which ammonia has been poured, and then with clear water. Press in place before it becomes quite dry.

A small grape basket is a most admirable work box.

It may be made of any material, and then lined with cloth, paper, or cushions.

Material used being M. Walters, Prop.

of lightweight st.

JUKMAN.

JRD - - NEBRASKA.