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### FARMING NOTES.

Preparations for the Opening of Spring Campaign.

Stock Yard, Garden and Field.

#### PLANT TREES.

Franklin (Neb.) Guard.

The pleasant winter is very favorable to orchards and small fruits. It is in this respect much like that of '77-'8, following which was the remarkable fruit crop of 1878, when thousands of bushels of fruit were raised in Nebraska, and such a fine peach crop in the middle countries as is usual after mild winters. The spring was very favorable to planting. Orchards and vineyards started that year did remarkably well. The leisure days of winter should be improved by planning for the busy days of spring and summer. The high price of corn emphasizes the importance of having large pastures for hogs. Those who planted hedges years ago find at the age of five to six years, osage hedge can readily be made by plashing, to turn pigs as well as cattle, and that by sowing rye and clover, and planting artichokes in suitable lots, one-half the corn usually fed can be saved. The expense and difficulty of growing osage hedge has been greatly over-estimated. Acres of forest trees should be planted each year by every farmer for protection and fuel. Five acres judiciously planted and cared for will, in ten years, supply all the fuel needed. Unless plans are laid and these improvements determined upon, farmers are apt, in the hurry of spring, to overlook such work until too late for the best results. Early planting is always more successful than late.

#### The Care of Horses.

Dunlap (Iowa) Reporter.

Horses should be provided with warm stabling. No other farm animal is so sensitive to cold. The coat of the hog is no warmer than the horse's, but it has a greater comparative amount of fat and its organs are more closely aggregated; while the mine are provided with a much thicker hide and heavier coat than the horses. Much of the blindness of horses is due to exposure to excessive cold. In the eastern states much better stabling is provided than in the west, and in this connection it is a significant fact that the proportion of blind horses is considerably less in the east than in the west.

#### Blooded Stock in Nance County.

Genoa Leader.

J. N. Reynolds, who has been east in the states of Illinois and Indiana, returned last Saturday evening. While east, Mr. Reynolds purchased a carload of fine brood mares, and one full blood stallion, of Norman stock. The brood mares, Mr. R. informs us, are all fine grade. He proposes to sell them to Nance county, and desires to get some good, careful horseman to take a half interest with him in the stallion, with a view to improving Nance county horses. This is indeed enterprise in the right direction, and Mr. Reynolds should be justly commended for the active interest he takes in this direction. On last Tuesday, Mr. Reynolds purchased 1,500 acres of Nance county land, south of the Loup; will fence the whole with barb wire this spring, and stock it with five or six hundred head of young cattle.

#### Experience in Feeding Hogs.

Dunlap (Iowa) Reporter.

An Iowa farmer put up thirty, one-year-old hogs for fattening, and for the first twenty days fed them on shelled corn, of which they ate eighty-three bushels. During this period they gained 827 pounds, or upwards of ten pounds to the bushel of corn. He then fed the same hogs for fourteen days on dry corn meal, during which time they consumed forty-seven bushels and gained 535 pounds, or 11 1/2 pounds to the bushel. The same hogs next fed 14 days on corn meal and water mixed, consumed 55 1/2 bushels of corn, and gained 731 pounds, or 13 1/2 pounds of pork to the bushel. He then fed them 14 days on corn meal cooked, and after consuming 45 bushels of the cooked meal the hogs gained 790 pounds, or a very nearly 15 pounds of pork to a bushel of meal.

#### Patronize Home Nurseries.

A correspondent of the Johnson county (Neb.) Journal writes.

"This is no fruit country. I've tried it, and can't get trees and vines to live, so I have just quit." No doubt we have, as farmers, heard the above words quoted frequently, or something similar. I believe two words will be a sufficient text to explain why we have such failures. The words are "tree peddlers." It has been a custom among farmers in this county to give their orders to these peddlers, and in due time receive their trees with very few roots, and those few badly dried out. Consequently their trees and vines would not grow, and the fault was immediately charged to the country. Now we have plenty of men in our own county that are known to be honorable and honest, who will furnish us with anything in the nursery stock line that we may want, true to name and with good roots, that will grow and do well with reasonable care. Why not order through them?

#### Experiments with Oil Cake.

Pawnee City Enterprise.

In conversation with County Commissioner Scott, a few days ago, we gathered some very interesting facts as to stock feeding and particularly as to feeding oil cake. Mr. S. is probably the heaviest feeder of stock of all kinds, in the county. He is now feeding for the market 450 sheep-wethers - a carload of cattle and about 250 head of hogs. In addition to these, which are being fattened, he has a number of other sheep and cattle and 55 head of horses. Mr. Scott was the first feeder of oil cake, to any extent, in the county. He bought a carload early in the winter and has it about all used. He is pleased with it, and is of the opinion that his stock never did better, or were fattened more cheaply than this winter. His method of feeding is to make one-third the feed oil cake. To his fattening cattle he feeds two quarts to a feed or about five or six pounds a day, and they fatten with remarkable rapidity. His horses get six cars of corn at a feed and about a pound of oil cake,

and are in fine condition. He finds it a splendid appetizer, and is altogether well pleased with it. He feeds 400 pounds a day to his large lot of stock.

#### Profitable Stock.

Genoa (Neb.) Gazette.

That sheep-raising in Nebraska is highly profitable has been proven so often that a repetition of the statement seems almost ridiculous. Nevertheless it is a thought that should be impressed more forcibly upon the minds of the farmers in this state, and anything that will turn their thoughts to an investigation of the subject is a blessing to them. Every producer should have a few head of sheep on his farm, for they are of invaluable assistance in destroying obnoxious weeds, and turning poor land into good tillable soil, besides the yearly revenue to be derived from them, which in proportion to other investments, is very large. The ready demand for wool keeps the price at such a figure as to make the clippings alone pay a handsome return upon the money invested, and when we add to this the increase in the flock and the increasing value of the sheep each year, the figures presented show so large a profit that it is a matter of surprise that the farmers do not invest a spare dollar in their purchase. It is true, sheep-raising is sometimes unprofitable. They become diseased and die at a rapid rate. But in nearly every instance such losses are traceable to the grossest carelessness, and shameful ignorance of the wants of the flock. With proper attention given them, there is little danger of the sheep becoming diseased, and in such cases they return to the owner a big per cent. on the investment.

#### The Profits of Onions.

Alma (Neb.) Herald.

John Everson, of Alma precinct, last spring purchased one pound of onion seed paying \$4.50 for the same. He sowed the seed, gave the crop careful cultivation, and gathered forty-five bushels of onions, which he sold at \$2.00 per bushel, amounting to \$90. Besides this he has three pecks of sets which he proposes to plant early the coming season for early onions, which at five cents per bunch, will yield him \$20.00 more. He will also sow three pounds of onion seed the coming spring.

#### Cultivating Tobacco.

Fremont Herald.

The amount of tobacco used in this county every year for sheep dip makes it advisable for some one acquainted with tobacco culture to undertake tobacco raising to supply this demand. Tobacco has been successfully raised here almost every year since 1873, and we are convinced that it would pay to raise it in larger quantities.

#### Nebraska Fruit.

The Alma Herald has been shown

samples of grapes, cherries, raspberries, gooseberries and other fruit grown during the past season by Harlan county farmers, which demonstrates that the climate and soil of the section is admirably adapted to fruit growing.

The first shown were excellent specimens of gooseberries, cherries and raspberries grown by P. W. Fennessey, of Albany precinct. Mr. Fennessey had an abundance of small fruit grown on trees and bushes planted in the spring of 1880, not quite two years ago.

Louis Cramer, near Orleans, had a fine large orchard of growing trees, and 1,500 grape vines - some of the latter bearing a few bunches of fine flavored fruit, although it was their first season. Mr. C. has 200 more trees "heeled in" to plant in the spring.

Mr. J. W. Carrothers, also near Orleans, has a fine orchard growing nicely and surrounded by a fine osage hedge fence.

B. F. Thrasher, of Spring Creek precinct, planted a large number of apple trees last season, and all but two are growing fine; also Capt. Baker, of the same precinct, has a fine lot of fruit trees growing.

Theodore Schrack, of Lewisburg precinct, is growing a nice lot of fruit trees and shrubs.

Many other farmers are successfully growing fruit trees in the county, which will come into bearing next season.

#### General Notes.

Some of the Kansas farmers raise sunflowers for fuel. When ripe and thoroughly dry these weeds make excellent fuel, and in localities where prairie land is plentiful and timber scarce it pays to raise sunflowers.

Bare pastures and poor cattle are a sure consequence of overstocking land. The grass should gain on the animals during the growing season. Cattle that are obliged to eat night and day to satisfy their appetites cannot mature properly. Give both the grass and the cows a chance and do not crowd your pastures. -Dunlap (Ia.) Reporter.

The United States court for the western district of Michigan has decided that the patent on drive wells is a fraud and no more royalty can be extorted.

There is no reason why a Butler county farmer, or a Nebraska farmer, for that matter, should pay freight and profit percentage on beans that are shipped here from Vermont. But many of our people do. More potatoes and less flour would have been thousands of dollars in our pockets this year, had we only raised them. -David City Republican.

A reader of The Indiana Farmer, speaking of the vitality of blue grass seed, said that he knew of an instance in which this seed, after being buried under the embankment of a mill race for sixteen years, started to grow when a flood washed the dyke away.

The money received by the dairy-men of the Elgin (Ill.) district for butter, cheese and milk during the past year is estimated at a total of \$4,000,000.

In some parts of the country sheep raisers are putting goats with their sheep to protect them from dogs. It is said that an old bill dog is afraid of no dog, and will butt the sheep-worrying propensities out of a canine at his first effort. Two or three goats to a flock of a hundred or two hundred sheep, it is said, insures protection. It is also suggested that the same means should be used against wolves. It is worth trying.



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