

FARM & GARDEN

WHEN A SILO IS INDISPENSABLE.

The silo is indispensable for a winter dairy. And this makes necessary a series of crops most suitable for the purpose. As the main reliance is on corn for the ensilage, there will be little else grown, but the summer feeding of cows is a simple matter. This should be by pasturing, which is the cheapest mode of feeding cows and by far the most convenient, as there will be no time taken up in driving them back and forth, as they will remain in the pasture during the three summer months. It is thus seen that the winter dairy is most economical in every way, and more profitable than ordinary dairying as well.—New York Times.

PRUNING GRAPE VINES.

Many agricultural writers insist that grape vines should only be pruned in the fall or beginning of winter, and undoubtedly that is the best time, but we have pruned in the spring, after the leaves were half grown, without any injury to the vines. We did not cut back as closely as we should have done in the fall, and sometimes one or two of the last joints died, probably from bleeding, but there was no excessive bleeding, and the main vine did not seem to be hurt by it, or the fruit lessened in size or sweetness. It was thought better than to allow a neglected vine to grow too much wood. But we would not care to prune during the formation of the fruit buds and the ripening of the fruit, unless to nip off the ends of branches that are making too much growth.—Boston Cultivator.

MAKE BEST BUTTER.

If dairymen will bear in mind that the best butter pays a profit and the poorest incurs a loss, they will have one large foundation stone of dairy economy established. The average grade just pays the cost of production; the poorest grades fall below and the better grade rises above. The profit accrues from the better grades of butter produced from the better grades of cows. For while it is entirely practicable to always make a high grade butter from a low grade cow, it is not possible to secure a profit, because of the small quantity. Neither can a profit be obtained by making large quantities of poor butter. First we need a good cow, then give the cow and her milk good care and success is certain. There is comfort in the fact that it is just as easy to make good butter by good methods as to make poor butter by the "old granny" methods, in fact it is very much easier and ten times more satisfactory.—Orange Judd Farmer.

STEEL OR IRON NAILS.

Since the introduction of steel nails the iron nails have been slow of sale, yet the latter are often palmed off on the purchaser unless steel nails are especially ordered. The wire steel nails cost a trifle more than the square cut steel ones, but are enough better to pay, as the wire nails do not split the timber, or mutilate the fiber of the wood, as does the common nail. A wire nail, if notched, clings to the wood, and for clinching is preferable to the common form of steel nail. As to durability, both will rust away in an exposed position. Iron nails break when under heavy strain, or when bent at right angles, while those of steel hang with a most wonderful tenacity, and for fencing, and like purposes, should always be used. For shingling, wire nails are best. They do not split or tear away the underside of the shingles, as do the square cut nails of both iron and steel. When driving large steel nails into hard wood, they are liable to bend unless struck squarely.—American Agriculturist.

HOW TO GROOM A HORSE.

The few stable hands who know how to groom a horse properly are generally too indolent to do it. It is quite an art to clean a horse as he should be cleaned, and it is no easy job. For that reason he is seldom groomed as he should be. A groom must be active, strong and experienced. Every inch of the horse, beginning at the head, should be gone over thoroughly with brush, comb and rag.

A man who would not much rather take care of his own horse, provided he has the time, has not true love for the horse. No animal will repay one for care and attention like the horse. He will show it not only in appearance externally, but in health and spirits. Good grooming will do as much in improving the condition of a horse as an additional four quarts of oats per day.

In grooming a horse properly he should be tied from side to side so that he cannot throw his head around and work himself all over the floor, which he is sure to do under the comb if he is not of a disposition too phlegmatic to feel the scratching. A good brush and comb are required, as well as a broomcorn brush for mane and tail. Never use the comb on the horse's head. If he has any spirit at all he will not endure it.

Take the brush in the right hand and the headstall in the left, steady his head while brushing gently, and then with the comb in the left hand curry the neck from behind the ear and the entire right side. Go through the same process on the left side; leave no space untouched. After currying take the brush and brush the hair the wrong way, scraping the brush at intervals with the comb to clean it. Then go the right way with the brush; follow the brush with a woolen rag—rubbing the hair up and then smoothing it. Don't spare elbow grease, and the horse will show his keeping and act as he feels.—Kansas Farmer.

CRIBBING.

Cribbing, otherwise wind-sucking or swallowing air, says the English Live Stock Journal, is a vice peculiar to horses alone. It is a vice which may be checked by mechanical appliances, but is rarely entirely eradicated. The removal of the manger and placing the horse's food upon the ground will not prevent a determined cribber from swallowing air. The sides of the stall he will sometimes utilize for the same purpose, and some horses will crib on their own bodies. Others learn to crib without any support at all. It has been clearly proved that what is known as cribbing is not, as was once thought, an act of belching and expelling gas from the stomach and swallowing air into it.

Horses killed after cribbing have had the gases in their stomachs and intestines subjected to chemical analysis, with the result that pure air has been found. Moreover, other experiments have been made which lead to the same conclusion. An empty bladder inserted in the gullet in a prescribed way is found to be distended with pure air after the act of cribbing. The vice of crib-biting, in the way it is most usually performed, is destructive to the teeth of the horse, and so interferes with the proper mastication of his food. Swallowing air, however, in any way frequently results in serious intestinal troubles—indigestion, flatulency, colicky pains and other ailments. The owner of a cribbing horse is in possession of a troublesome, undesirable animal.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

If pollen is kept dry it will last for years.

Whitewash is a good purifier for the cow stable.

Keep the trees growing if you wish them to succeed.

The harrow is a grand tool to use early in the corn.

Keep the cultivator going every day possible in season.

If honey is kept in a warm, dry place it will never spoil.

In starting an orchard it is best to have only a few varieties.

It is suggested that catnip will repay cultivation for honey alone.

An application of hardwood ashes will supply the potash necessary for the berries.

Ayrshire and Holstein milk does not cream as readily when set as Jersey or Guernsey milk.

A good corn crop will produce more than twice as much food per acre as a heavy hay crop.

The quality and quantity of the milk will be improved if cows are fed and milked regularly.

Crowd the cultivation of corn now on till haying and do not let the grass get too old before cutting.

Fine manure, raked or cultivated in near the surface, will add fertility to the soil and make the plants grow.

At a late honey show in England a large manufactured hive, which could be taken apart, attracted much attention.

One German paper recommends dipping the new queen in liquid honey and then dropping her among the bees.

It is not too late in most parts of the country to get in corn and have it make a pretty fair crop for silage or fodder.

Two crops of hay from the slough will give a hay better relished by stock than one. Cut one early, the other before frost.

Every sheepman should attend the farmers' institutes. If the fair associations do not give sheep a fair show, attend the meetings of the board and tell what they want.

Many people do not like the honey gathered from buckwheat. It is neither so white nor so delicate as clover honey, which, however, it surpasses in richness. Alsike honey has a slight amber tint and is said to taste like basswood honey.

Every mutton raiser, and all are going to be who are not now, should study the local trade of his neighborhood and then go to the city stock yards, slaughter houses, and follow up the carcasses to see where they go, who buys them and who eats them.

No man can tell another how to do a thing that will certainly make as much as it did for him; but almost anybody can tell something that will suggest a new idea that may be turned to advantage. This is what sheep raisers need now a little more than any other class of live stock men.

Persian Needle-Work.

The difference between Persian and the needle work we are accustomed to see seems to lie in the thoroughness—sincerity, an artist would call it—of the former. Every stitch is taken with mathematical precision, and there is no slighting at any point. The wrong side of the work is as admirable in its way as the right side. In some specimens the stitches cover the design on both sides, the needle being carried across underneath, as it is in the embroidery of China crape shawls. On other pieces the needle is put back toward the wrong side close by the place it was drawn through thus throwing all the work up on the right side and leaving what looks like beautifully regular outline-work on the reverse. This is the method used in working sofa pillows, table covers, or anything which only exposes one side. But for curtains, handkerchiefs, shawls, etc., the double-faced embroidery is invariably used.

A favorite method of this Persian worker is the introduction of texts or sentences upon the border or centre of her pieces. The lettering is so quaint, angular, and disconnected that at the first look it seems like a geometric pattern. On one white linen table cover, heavily worked in flowers and foliage with gray silk, was a border of lettering wrought in gold thread. The characters were about four inches tall, and the sentiment they conveyed, "God is great; Good is good," took up a very short space; and the text was repeated again and again.—Harper's Bazar.

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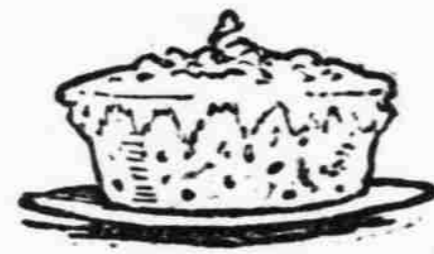
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The Brave are Superstitious. If one will take the trouble to go through the names of the bravest people in history, he will find that they nearly all suffered from some superstition or other. Napoleon Bonaparte was simply eaten by superstitions, and so was the Duke of Marlborough. Literary men have always been notoriously superstitious, from the days of Dr. Johnson, who would go back half a mile if he remembered that he had omitted to touch any one of the lamp-posts on his daily walk, to Dean Swift, who would never change a garment if he found that he had to put it on inside out, and Lord Byron who would

get up and leave a dinner party instantly if anybody spilt the salt. Statesmen have not been exempt from superstitions either. Lord Beaconsfield would always take especial care to enter the house with his right foot foremost when he was going to make a big speech. Mr. Parnell had a strong prejudice against sitting in a room with three candles. William Pitt would return home at once, however important his business, if he met a cross-eyed man in the street while Sir Robert Peel would always make the sign against the evil eye with his fingers and thumb under similar circumstances.—Chicago Herald.



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