

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

Seven Points in Managing Milk.

1. To make the finest-flavored and longest keeping butter the cream must undergo a ripening process by exposure to the oxygen of the air while it is rising. The ripening is very tardy when the temperature is low.
2. After the cream becomes sour, the more ripening the more it depreciates. The sooner it is then skimmed and churned the better, but it should not be churned while too new. The best time for skimming and churning is just before acidity becomes apparent.
3. Cream makes better butter to rise in cold air than to rise in cold water, but it will rise sooner in cold water, and the milk will keep sweet longer.
4. The deeper the milk is set the less airing the cream gets while rising.
5. The depth of setting should vary with the temperature; the lower it is the deeper milk may be set; the higher, the shallower it should be.
6. While milk is standing for cream to rise, the purity of the cream, and consequently the fine flavor and keeping of the butter, will be injured if the surface of the cream is exposed freely to air much warmer than the cream.
7. When cream is colder than the surrounding air, it takes up moisture and impurities from the air. When the air is colder than the cream, it takes up moisture and whatever escapes from the cream. In the former case the cream purifies the surrounding air; in the latter case the air helps to purify the cream. The selection of a creamer should hinge on what is most desired—highest quality or greatest convenience and economy in time, space and labor.—*Professor Arnold.*

Farm and Garden Notes.

A good animal should be a heavy feeder.

If you want to raise "stunts" keep the calves in the patch with the pigs.

Many farmers trust too much to luck and the moon and do too little close figuring.

Never drive a horse fast on a full stomach. Hurry by going slow the first few miles.

A blockhead armed with a saw and pruning shears is as destructive in an orchard as a bull in a china store.

If the manger or feed box be so foul as to omit a sour smell from any cause, it should be carefully cleansed and washed with a solution of soda or potash until perfectly sweet again.

A man lately cured thoroughly a balky horse by simply hitching him in the field and letting him stay where the load was till he got hungry enough to pull it home. The horse held out thirty-six hours.

The bee does not deface your fields by clipping the growing grasses, like the domestic animals; it does not mar the garden plants or levy taxes on your grain. Bees differ from the whole insect world. No tree, shrub, plant or flower is injured by their presence.

Green smartweed rubbed briskly on neck, sides, and other exposed parts of cows or horses will keep flies from attacking them. To be effectual the rubbing should be given twice a day, but it will repay this trouble. Smartweed can be found on most farms, and is valuable enough for this purpose to claim the room it occupies.

J. N. Peed, of Jasper, Mo., had 120 acres of corn adjoining a wheat field which had been devastated by chinch bugs. He plowed a trench around the corn field, and for fourteen days hauled a log through the trench, and thus saved the corn. The bugs thronged into the trench by millions, but they never got out. The log did the business.

Keeping down the weeds will not be the only gain to come from thorough weeding. By having a layer of finely pulverized soil at the surface, evaporation of moisture will be prevented during the day, while absorption will go on through the night. After every heavy rain the soil of the garden should be gone over with hoe or rake to prevent crusting.

The *Scientific American* is right when it says: "Nothing will purify and keep a stable so free from odors as the free use of dry earth, and every one keeping horses or cattle will find that it pays to keep it on hand, to be used daily. A few shovelfuls of earth scattered over the floor after cleaning will render the air of the apartment pure and wholesome."

It is the greediest cows, and these are always the best, which are most apt to choke with fallen fruit. Even they are not liable to injury if not fed whenravenously hungry and given plenty of time. It is mainly the haste with which fruit surreptitiously obtained is swallowed that induces danger. If a cow is choking distend her mouth with some solid substance, and then with the hand remove the obstruction.

The rakings of wheat, oats and rye are not often worth threshing, at least to mix with the good grain. As good a plan as any is to put these by themselves and feed in the straw to fowls. Feed it in a clean place, and the exercise of scratching among the straw for scattering grain will keep the fowls healthy. In whole grain hens gorge themselves by eating too rapidly. This may be a good way to fatten them, but is not the best for egg production.

Small unripe potatoes and potato parings are often a nuisance to the housewife. They are often given to the cows, but are poor feed for milk. In fact, a raw potato, and especially if unripe, is poor food for anything. If cooked they make very fair summer food for pigs, and with the addition of a little meal will fatten them rapidly. The potato parings are much better than the small potatoes. There is more of the nutriment of the potato in and near the skin than in the centre.

It is impossible to give cucumber vines too much water, provided it is warmed and given at evening, so that it will soak into the soil during the night. Early next morning cover the surface as far as wet with dry earth to retain evaporation. The greatest point in keeping cucumber vines productive is to keep the fruit picked very closely. One over-grown cucumber will exhaust the vine more than a dozen pickle. Cut the fruit off rather than pull it off. This prevents breaking the fruit around the stem, which will inevitably cause rot.

It is desirable in keeping pigs in orchards to have them in as many lots as possible. This is especially true when sows with litters of pigs constitute the stock. Movable pig pens, made so as to be taken apart and put together again, not only accomplish this object, but enable the owner to thoroughly fertilize different parts. After the pigs have been kept under one tree a week or so, remove them and their pen to another. In this way the thrift of both trees and pigs is made certain. Only the sows need be confined. The small pigs may be given free range to pick up fallen fruit until they gradually wean themselves.

In hot weather the droppings of animals confined in stables ferment very quickly, and therefore absorbents are necessary, not only to save waste of fertilizers, but for the comfort and health of animals. Something is wanted, not merely to hold liquid excrement from waste, but to absorb its odors. Straw makes good bedding, but it is next to worthless for this purpose. Dry earth is the best absorbent, and it may be got anywhere on much-traveled roads, and in the country from fields. When returned to the field, as it should be, the dry earth will be found an excellent fertilizer. A very thin covering of earth is enough, and the manure may be scraped in heaps so as to leave a smaller surface to cover. Coal ashes will answer the same purpose, but are not so good as dry earth.

Children in Mexico.

A correspondent, writing from Mexico, says the land is flooded with children, and a small family is a thing unknown. They greet you, he says, at every window, at every corner, on every woman's back. They fill the carriages on the plaza, they are like a swarm of bees around a honeysuckle—one on every tiny flower and hundreds waiting for their chance. A man died the other day who was followed to the grave by eighty-seven sons and daughters, and had buried thirteen, so that he was the father to the grand total of 100 children. There is another man living in Mexico who has had two wives, and who has living forty-five children. Allowing the small average of five to the family, one can see how numerous the grandchildren would be. I am acquainted, he adds, with a gentleman whose mother is but thirteen and a half years older than he and she had eighteen more of a family. It is a blessed thing that the natives are able to live in a cane hut and exist on beans and rice, else the list of deaths by starvation would be something dreadful.

In a museum in an Arizona town are the heads of seventeen Apaches.

NO LADY



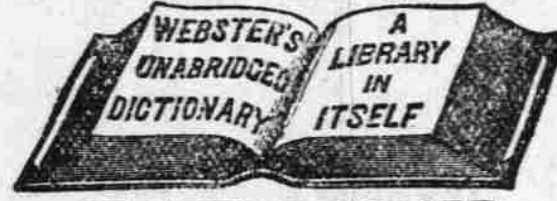
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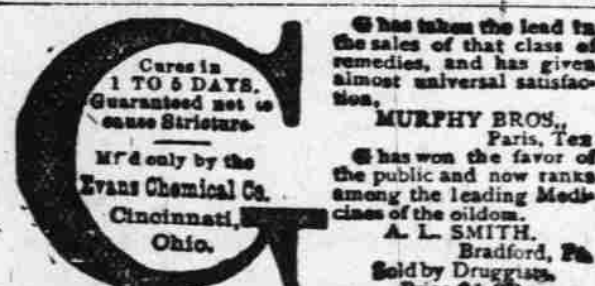


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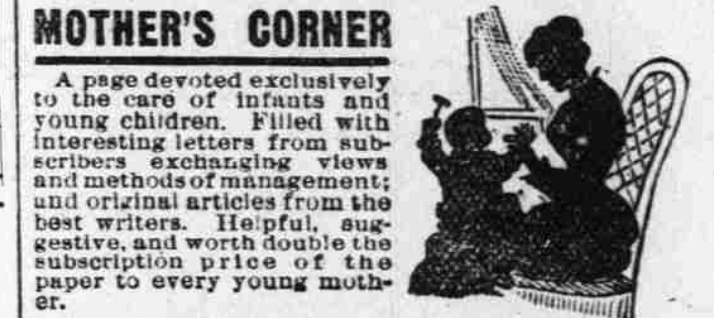


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