Horticulture.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE STRAWBERRY IN THE SPRING.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. This is by long odds the most important period in strawberry culture. Whether you shall have this deliupon what you do right now to earn it. Beds or fields that went hopeseason, will now respond marvel. ously to good treatment. There is nothing that forgives neglect like the strawberry.

The strawberry needs no oultivation the spring that it fruits. The all-important thing is to keep it clear of weeds. If the weeds are very thick a light scraping with a hoe will be necessary. If there are not too many pull them out by hand as they grow up long enough to get hold of. A field or bed if much given to weeds will, even after being scraped out, need more or less hard weeding.

The richer the soil the more apt it is to be infested with weeds, the faster and larger they grow, and the more harm they will do. And it must be remembered that when the plants have been suffered to mat very thickly every surplus plant acts as a weed, robbing and being robbed of moisture, nourishment and sun light.

Therefore if too thick they should be thinned out to stand not less than six inches apart. It may look like murder now, but it will be mercy in the long run to the plants left. This will be found tedious work if there is much of it to do, but it had better be done even hurriedly and clumsily can be used to thin a small bed. Where it has to be done on a large scale a hoe will have to be called in. And the man who has to do much of it will repent of not having avoided last summer.

If the field or bed should be cor ered with dead grass it will be a good plan to leave the grass as a mulch, pulling up the weeds as fast as they peep through.

As early in spring as possible sow over the plants 300 to 500 pounds per acre of good, soluble fertilizer, rich in potash and phosphoric acic, with not too much ammonia unless the soil is very poor. Wood ashes and stable manure make a perfect fertilizer for strawberries. No kind of fertilizer should be sown on plants when wet with rain, frost or dew; nor after growth starts. If it has been neglected till that late sow around and between plants.

Some kind of mulch should be applied to keep the berries clean When it is to be had, pine straw is the ideal mulch. Nothing is as easy nor as readily settles down among boiled eggs, as the food most natural the leaves. It is better to apply the mulch before growth begins. Then the plants will grow up through it and all berries form with a layer of straw between them and the grit But it takes more straw when applied thus early, for the spring rains beat much of it down in the dirt.

If pine straw is not to be had any other kind of grass or straw can be used. While it should never be ap plied thick enough to smother the plants, this is not at all likely provided it is evenly distributed. Ten large loads can safely be used to the acre, though most growers use hardly half that quantity.

If weeds come up through the mulch they should be pulled out.

By the above means can amende he largely made for last summer's neglect, and a good crop of fine ber ries insured.

O. W. BLACKNALL. Vance Co., N. C.

Times are rather hard on farmers in this section Very little farm work has been done yet, owing to in clement weather. Wheat is about all winter-killed. We are just be ginning to sow oats. No winter oats sown here -A. J. L., Sr., Jackson Co., N. C.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, | 88. Frank J. Chenky makes eath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Chenky & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aloresaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure. FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1886.

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The Poultry Yard.

MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG CHICKENS.

While the young chickens are emerging from the eggs, the hens should not be disturbed unnecessarily. If the hens are quiet-and no others should be allowed to set, clous berry at its best, and in large it is well to examine the nest once quantities or not, depends largely or twice, after some of the young are out of the eggs, and remove the empty egg shells, as they some times lessly, it then seemed, to grass last slip over eggs that contain young Sinte then we have pursued the same ones, which will inevitably cause them to perish in the eggs unless the shells are removed. They should be allowed to remain in the nest until they are from 36 to 48 hours old, when they should be removed to a coop. The coop should be open on one side only; the other sides and top should be boarded tight. They should be placed in a dry situation, on the south side of some building, or close fence, or some other shelter from the cold winds. The coop must also have a bottom or be placed on loose boards. The chicks should not be allowed to step on the cold, damp ground, or they will become feeble and die. Bottoms of boards in the coop are indispensable to success in raising early young chickens, hatched between the beginning of March and April. If they have a dry, sheltered situation, where the sun shines nearly the whole day, and the bottom boards of the coops are cleaned occasionally, young chickens hatched in any month will do very well, and comparatively few will die. Later in the season, when the ground has become dry and warm, the bottom boards are not necessary. Then the coops must be frequently moved, as the bottom becomes filthy and unhealthy, causing than not at all. A garden trowel feebleness and the gapes. But the sunshine is always necessary. If desirable, after the young ones are a few weeks old, the hens may be allowed the run of the place during the middle of the warm days after it all by keeping the runners chopped the beginning of May, but not be fore, and they must be always cooped at night. The manner of feeding and the kind of food are also of importance.

Besides plenty of food, they should always have pure water in clean, earthen vessels. This is of more importance than many suppose. We frequently see the water put into vessels half full of mud and the excrements of the chickens. This will invariably produce disease. Young chickens should be fed at least three times a day; five times is better for quite young ones. Their capacity for receiving food is very small when quite young, and as they grow rapidly, they require a considerable quantity of food, hence they must be fed frequently. The kind of food must also be considered. We are recommended by fowl fanciers, and in poultry books, to feed during the to apply, and sure not to blow off, first few days, the yolks of hard This is too expensive, except for young chickens that sell for fancy prices; besides we tried it when breeding high-priced fowls some years ago, and could not see any superiority in either hardiness or rapidity of growth, over those not fed so. We feed nothing but corn from the time they are placed in the coop until fit for the table. We claim that this is a preventive of the gapes. We have been feeding nothing but corn for the last four years to young chickens and have not lost a single one from the gapes in that time. We claim this discovery to be original with us, having never seen it in print. A great deal has of late years been said in our agricultural journals and newspapers upon this subject and it is generally asserted that the removal of the lit tle red worms which are found in the wind pipe, and which cause the gaping, is an effective cure; but our experience is that, although it always gives temporary, and some times, but not always, permanent relief, it is an operation that is attended by considerable difficulty, and must be performed with great care, back and forth, and which now, at otherwise more chickens will be killed than cured. A great deal has been said on the cure of the gapes, it has been only about a m nth since but very little on the prevention, but it attracted my attention. Would we believe in the adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." A few years ago, on ac count of not having a sufficient supply of wheat screenings-our usual feed for young chickens-we commenced feeding whole corn to the larger ones, and were surprised to

see those not more than a week old

pick out the small grains and swal-

low them. We continued feeding

corn, except to the quite small ones,

and we had the pleasure of noticing that our young chickens were free from gapes during the entire spring, while other years this disease has been a source of great annoyance to us. The following spring we fed nothing but corn to our young chickens the first few days after being hatched, corn chops moistened with water, then coarse cracked corn, until they were a few weeks old, and after that whole corn, and not one showed any symptoms of gapes. plan with the same result, not one of our chickens being affected with the gapes during the last four years We pick out ears with small grains for them when quite young, and before they can swallow large grains. We attribute this freedom from gapes entirely to the feeding of corn, as we pursue the same plan of management as before when our raising early young chickens was attended with much difficulty and poor success in consequence of the gapes. If feeding corn in this manner has been the cause of preventing the gapes, we can give no reason why it is so, but we simply give our experience and hope others may be induced to try the same experiment, and let the public know with what success. We feel confident that if the preceding directions are fully adhered to, early young chickens can be raised suc-

Farm Miscellany.

cessfully.-American Rural Home.

No amount of harrowing or after work can entirely overcome the effects of bad plowing to begin with. Plowing is the foundation of the crop to follow. A man who can draw a straight furrow is one who keeps pretty close watch of his plow. He may hold his handles loosely and ap pear to be plowing very easily and perhaps carelessly, but he is watching every movement of his plow and shifting the handles slightly one way or the other that the plow may take more or less land. The plow, of course, should do the plowing itself, without necessity for the plowman to bear down on it with all his weight, nor to raise it up on its point constantly; but nevertheless, plowing needs close attention. Intelligent selection should be made of the team which is to plow together. The horses' gaits should be even, and they should work well in span. It is impossible to do good work with one horse walking rapidly and the other lagging behind constantly, or walking some times in and some times out of the furrow. The plow itself is another thing to consider. No one plow is best suited to all kinds of land. A sharply curved, short, high mold-board will throw the furrow very high and hard and break it up; this is suitable for a stiff clay soil. For smooth, mellow soil, or for plowing sod in the spring, when it is desired to turn the furrow squarely over, a plow with a long, slightly curved mold-board is best, as it turns the furrow smoothly upside down and breaks the furrow the least. The harrowing can be done without draging out the grass. The Scotch farmers want a plow which will turn their forrows on edge, and not entirely over, and they plow a narrower furrow than American farmers. If the beam of the plow is short, bringing the horses near the point of resistance, the draft will be least; but there should be several links between the beam and the whiffletree, to allow the horses some leeway when stepping on a mound or into a depression, so that the point of the plow may not be jerked up or down -Guy E

Mitchell, in Farm and Fiteside. TROUBLE WITH A COW'S EYE.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer, I have a very good milch cow that is becoming blind in a very curious way. From the inside corner of each eye is growing over the eyeball a thin skin or film, which moves times, about covers the sight. It seems to be growing pretty fast, as be pleased to know the disease and also the remedy. Answer through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

C. H. B. Nash Co., N. C.

(Answer by Dr. Tait Butler, State Veterinarian)

In the inner corner of each eye of the cow, horse and other domesticated animals, is a membrance com-

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monly called the washer, but technically known as the membrana nicttitaus or nictitating membrane. This is a provision of nature which enables all animals that are not able to protect their eyes with their fore extremities to easily clear those sensitive organs of all dust particles or other ordinary foreign bodies.

It will be seen from the foregoing that to remove this washer, except when diseased beyond repair, is an unpardonable cruelty. It is fre quently done by ignorant people under the impression that the membrane is an unnatural growth, which they call "hooks"; but it is seldom that the membrane becomes sufficiently diseased to necessitate its complete removal. While C. H. B. is not sufficiently definite in his statements to enable me to deter mine positively. I suspect that his cow is suffering from some irritation or disease of her eyes which has caused the membrane to become swollen or enlarged sufficiently to attract his attention. In the absence of more definite information regarding the case, I am only able to recommend general treatment as follows:

Sulphate of zinc, 15 grains. Sulphate of atropia, 2 grains. Distilled water, 2 ounces.

Mix and inject a few drops into each eye once or twice a day.

Newton Enterprise: Several farmers with whom we have talked are of the opinion that there will not be so much cotton, and more corn, planted in this county this year than last.

Salisbury Sun: The largest consignment of eggs that ever passed through Salisbury was recorded at Spencer, Sunday, when 13 cars loaded with hen fruit passed through en route to New York. The train load of eggs was valued at \$47,000. There is no record of the number of dozens aboard. Most of the eggs were shipped from Tennessee.

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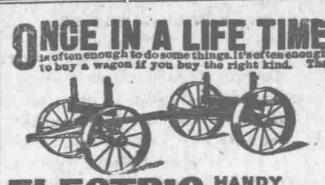
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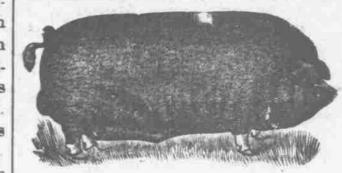


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