

Farm Department

Devoted to the Interests of Those Engaged in Agricultural Pursuits. Conducted by J. M. Beaty

It Is Luck Or It Is Pluck?

This has certainly been a year to try the farmers. It has "weighed them in the balances" as it were, and we certainly sympathize with the many that are "found wanting," that have been unable to cope with the cold spring and excessive rains of the summer. Yet sympathy does not alter facts or conditions. We all know that right alongside of those who have failed are many who have succeeded. Some crops are clean, others nearly ruined with grass, all in the same community. Those who fall will excuse themselves on account of the untoward seasons and speak of their "bad luck." Now the question is, "Is it luck" that caused the failure or is it pluck that caused the success? Of course we realize it is not given for all men to use the same skill and management in their farm work. Men are different; always have been and always will be, but we can make this difference less, or at least we can raise the efficiency of those who fail. How? you will say. By stimulating them to renewed and better effort. "Never give up; no never" is the way our schoolboy speech used to run, and this is the way. If you have failed in 1910, re-adjust yourself and come stronger for 1911. There is less luck about making a crop than many suppose. The farmer who prepares his land well, uses good seed, fertilizes well, cultivates with good tools, during all the weather that is available, will always make good yields; sometimes less than others, but dry or wet he will come out. It is given to man to conquer and subdue the vicissitudes of weather and nature to a large degree, but here skill must take the place of the untrained, and intelligence take the place of ignorance, and "pluck" the place of "luck."—Southern Cultivator.

Cheap Hog Feed.

You can't raise meat at low cost with corn-fed hogs, but if you recognize the fact that the hog is a grazing animal and will wire in some patches and sow in early rye and rape you'll have winter and spring grazing crops that will provide cheap hog feed. The hog patches can be planted to peas and soy beans in the spring. Let the hogs gather their own crops. The rye, soy beans and peas that you plant on your hog patches, are soil improving crops and besides supplying a cheap feed for the hogs these crops add to the fertility of the soil. Now is the time to sow rye, rape and clover for the hogs. You can wire in the patches later on in the winter, if you are too busy now. It will be a long time before we see any more low-priced meat, if ever. The wise farmer will begin to make preparations for growing meat at low cost, and the only way this can be done is to wire in some good land for hog patches, in lots of about an acre each, which should be seeded at different times, so as to have, as near as possible, a succession of crops.—Union Farmer.

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The Cocklebur.

The cocklebur is one of the most persistent weeds with which the farmers have to contend. Some weeds have their range of latitude; the cocklebur seems to have none. It grows from Canada to the Gulf; seeds abundantly, each pod has two seeds, one of which grows the first chance and the other the next one, for there is really a basis of fact for the farmers saying that one of these seeds grows the next year and the other the year after. Whether our farmers have trouble with the cocklebur in the years to come depends very much on how they have handled the crop this fall. There are seasons so dry that the cocklebur will not grow. But they are rare. And wherever land is infested and has been sown to wheat or spring grain, it may be reasonable to expect to look for a bountiful crop of cockleburs. Now the man who lets these grow and go to seed is inviting trouble, and it comes at the first invitation. August, however, furnishes the very best opportunity of getting rid of cockleburs in the future. A boy with a good team and mower will kill more cockleburs, present and prospective, in a day than he would by working all summer in the cornfield. There is, however, a time to do things in this as in everything else. The cockle-

burs should not be mowed until they are in blossom, and they should be mowed before the seed has sufficient time for germination. This ordinarily is a matter of a very few days. But, the reader may ask, "What shall we do?" Our fields are well stocked with cockleburs; we fear they will grow. Can anything be done now? Yes—now! Rake them up in piles; let them rot, which, if the pile is large enough, they will do. Or if not this, when they are dry, set fire to them and burn them.

You cannot afford to have your land seeded for future years with pest. Whether it is scientifically correct or not, we have always believed that it not only robs the soil of moisture, not only interferes with the growth of corn, but that it actually poisons the soil. We believe most farmers will agree with us on this, whether the scientists do or not, but at any rate, do not invite trouble by allowing a crop of cockleburs to go to seed on your farm.

But, you say, this is a rented farm; I may not be on it next year, or the year following. Why should I spend my time this hot weather mowing down cockleburs? For your own sake. They proclaim you as a careless farmer. If you are a renter, you cannot afford to have that reputation. Therefore, mow them down, rake them up and burn them, and thus advertise yourself as an up-to-date man. If your landlord is half way decent he will pay you for this work. If he does not, then by this very fact he proclaims himself a poor landlord and a miserable farmer.—Wallace's Farmer.

The Return of the Farm Cow.

Under the above heading there appeared a very thoughtful editorial in a recent issue of the "Breeder's Gazette." This was called forth by an able article from Professor Marshall, of Ohio, upon the same subject. Their contention is, that the demand is here and is going to increase rapidly for the farm cow that will give milk and make beef. They support their position with fact that the range is fast disappearing and the dairy type of cattle can not make beef, so the "dual purpose cow" is destined to come back and fulfill her true place. We contend the same conditions are true in the South. We appreciate the logic of those who make a plea for "dairy type" and "beef type," of the special purpose animal; still as our lands are taken up, as the free range in all sections become gradually lessened, then as the demand for beef increases and the farmers begin more and more to study how to maintain and increase the fertility of their soil, then the "dual purpose cow" is not only a debatable proposition, but an actual necessity. If a farmer on 200 acres of land can have three or five cows that will weigh from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds that will keep his family in milk and butter, or in other words pay for their keep in milk and butter and then when sold to the butcher or feeder will bring him from \$50 to \$60, then make him two or three tons of fine fertilizer each year. We say thousands of farmers in the South should have just this kind of cattle. They do not wish to go into the dairy business—they have not ample pasture to go into the beef cattle business but they want milk and butter to help their families to live—they want beef to eat and they want a cow that will bring a neat sum when put upon the market. The true "farm cow," or dual purpose cow will do this. The Devon, the Red Polled or the milking strain of Short Horn cattle will do this, and we want to see our farmers get them. The farmer who is, or who wants to be up-to-date is not satisfied with the average yields, or average returns from an acre of land. He must double and triple this. How is he going to do it? Live stock must be one of the principle cornerstones, or pillars of his structure. He can not depend upon fertilizers alone. He must have cattle, and for the average farmer the dual purpose cow is what he needs. Of course the price of cattle will not always stay so high as it is now; it will rise and fall, but never stay long below the cost production, and generally give any farmer a fair profit, who understands how to feed his cattle so as to have them fat, and when to market them. The Northern and Western farmers are not the only ones who need to awaken to the value and importance of the truly "farm cow." The Southern farmer needs it even more than they do; and we have confidence in our people and we believe there will be rapid strides made along this line of cattle breeding in the next few years.—Southern Cultivator.

Don't waste your money buying plasters when you can get a bottle of Chamberlain's Liniment for twenty-five cents. A piece of flannel dampened with this liniment is superior to any plaster for lame back, pains in the side and chest, and much cheaper. Sold by Hood Bros.

GOOD AND BAD FARMING.

Why Some Farmers Succeed and Others Do Not.

There are but few farms which are clearing much above expenses. Some farms are making good livings for their owners, while others are going in debt each day. Why is this difference in the two farms. It is the management in the first instance, and the way things are kept in order.

If the place is in order, the buildings are in repair, the fences are good the ditch banks and water canals are all cleaned up and in good condition. You will find the machine well oiled and put away, the stalls are in a clean condition and the stock fat and nice looking. All such things as screws, bolts, nails, wrenches, plow points and small implements are in their places. Plainly speaking, the farmer is ready to go to work. It is not the best way to farm only, but the most profitable. A farmer, seeing a nail drawn partly out, walks by and waits till the board has pulled off and some mischievous beast is playing havoc with his crop. Is he managing in a consistent way or would it have paid to have driven a new nail, as the old one was showing weakness? When a man starts out Monday morning to work, and half the tools are, he knows not where, what is the result? A good half day's work and the day is gone. The writer once started to plow one Monday morning and the plow wrench was out of place. After looking and searching for about three hours, the small tool, which could have been placed in a very small space for safe keeping, was found. Then the plow was put in order for work, and just as I started to get the horse ready for the plow I heard the dinner bell. Half my day's work was lost, due to things not being in order.

But how and when are things to be put in such good order? There are farmers who are troubled little or none by cold and rainy weather. Such weather is used in getting wood mending fences and making gates. When the dry day comes all of it can be used for a definite purpose. Little time will be lost in getting things together. If the farm isn't kept in good order, there will be need of good hands all the time. Rainy days should not be days for loafing about the store or complaining about the rain. Many farmers grumble because of the rain, and when the rain is gone many of the bright, sunny hours are lost in sharpening hoes, mower blades and other farm tools or going to town to buy oil, plow points, etc., and when they are no more than started to work a plow beam or mower tongue, weakened by exposure to the weather, breaks, and by the time this is mended perhaps it is raining again. This is not a mere idle theory, but a workable idea. If things are kept in order, not many of the cold rainy days are lost. If the farmer has things in order he may find some time for reading or calculating his expenses instead of lying up and sleeping all the day. It may seem undesirable to many to have something to do always, but this is the way that the rush can be avoided and the unbearable long hours that so many think are necessary during the busy season. May all the farmers of Columbus county open their eyes and make their home a place of success and happiness.—Whiteville News-Reporter.

Saving Labor.

It is predicted that within a century the only physical labor imposed on civilized man will be to operate a machine that will do all the work required for the world's necessities. Here is an item that goes far to justify that prognostication:

The latest wonder in machinery, that is destined to revolutionize the entire job-printing industry, is the autopress. It is a machine which works automatically, and seems to possess fingers and brains. One autopress eliminates the services of five men and saves the space occupied by five machines. Its capacity is 5,000 impressions an hour, as against 1,000 impressions ordinary printing presses. It therefore reduces labor cost 80 per cent and makes competition impossible.

Many of the labor-saving machines that have added so materially to our comfort were halled with disgust by our fathers. When a railroad was built over the farm of old Ben Hizer in Lancaster county, Pa., he was stupefied with anger that went into rage at memory of the right of "eminent domain," invoked by the corporation. After "the cars had been running" some week or so his good wife, Rosa, proposed that they go out and look at the thing as it came down the hollow. Reluctantly old Ben assented, and in a few minutes they beheld a train of 50 freight cars that swept by them with incredible swiftness. The old woman commented: "Ben, it don't seem to have hurt

anything, and mebbe it's not so dangerous after all." "No, Rose," answered her lord and master, "but that time she came end ways; what if she had come side ways? She would have swept off its roots every stalk of corn in the whole bottom."

In truth, there never was a labor-saving machine that did not prove of incalculable advantage to mankind. He that makes one pair of hands to do the work that it required 100 pairs of hands to do before is as great a benefactor as he who makes 100 blades of grass to grow where one grew before.—Washington Post.

Keeping Pears for Late Fall Use.

During the late fall in most sections of the South, where apples are not well adapted to the climate and soil, fruit becomes rather scarce on most farms. Some pears, however, if rightly managed, can be saved until late fall when there is a dearth of other fruit. Were it not for the fact that most varieties of pears suffer from the blight pears would be a very profitable crop on this account alone, if for no other reason. However, those late varieties that are comparatively resistant to the blight, can be saved for home consumption during the late fall.

Just before the pears ripen, while they are still perfectly firm and sound they should be picked, carefully, from the tree by hand and packed in boxes of wheat or oat chaff. Great care should be taken not to bruise them during the process of picking and packing. The boxes of fruit should then be stored away in a cool, dark place and the pears will keep for several weeks in a sound and perfect condition.

If wheat or oat chaff is not available, the individual pears may be wrapped in paper preferably blue paper. However, some authorities claim that paper slightly injures the flavor of the fruit after it has been around it for a month or more.—H.P. Stuckey.

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