

Farm Department

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

GIVE ATTENTION TO THE MULE.

Not so many oxen or horses are used in plowing now as formerly. The mule is the standby for both rich and poor farmers and white and colored farmers. More two horse plows have been moving the past winter and this spring than ever before and they mean heavier work for the mules. Consequently mules are now low in order. They are not in the best condition for the summer's work. They should have special attention to bring them back up to the place they held at the beginning of the plowing. A little more feed will help to do this. A little more variety of feed may be necessary. Have you been feeding corn and fodder only? Then buy a few bushels of oats and let the mule have some of them once a day. You do not like to eat the same thing at every meal yourself nor does your stock. They like a change and fare better when they have it. See to it that your mule has plenty of good cool water and be sure you carry him to it often enough. When the days are long and hot offer him some water about ten o'clock in the morning and about four o'clock in the afternoon. Let him have a good roomy stable well ventilated and kept clean. Sometimes mules like men are not in good condition for the hardest work. If the work is very heavy and the day very hot and you see the mule is jaded and sweating too freely, you should favor him by letting him rest. Better lose an hour or two occasionally than to lose a mule. Remember your mule is a dumb animal and cannot tell you how he feels. The mule is valuable property now, both on account of his cost and on account of what he can do. For this reason to say nothing of our duty to dumb animals, we should do our best for him.

NOW FOR THE CULTIVATION.

In this section most of the crops are planted. Farmers have prepared their land better than heretofore. Of course some have made better preparation than others but the fields look alike now. Soon the crops will be growing and the grass too and then the test will come. Here and there are men who excel in their knowledge of the cultivation of crops while a few seem to know nothing at all about it. Most farmers do fairly well but it should be the ambition of every one to do his very best. The work of cultivation should never drag but should be pushed along. Frequent and shallow cultivation is the kind for most crops. In working corn and cotton no high beds should be made. Only such implements as will give level cultivation should be used. Use the weeders and cultivators early and never let the grass get a start. Plan to work the crop with as little hoe work as possible. While hoes cost but little they are expensive to use. Labor is too scarce and high now to do hoe work when it can be avoided. The best farmers have learned to do the work mostly with implements drawn by horses and mules. Hand power is always slow going and that is one reason why we should avoid hoe work. In Marlboro County, S. C., many farmers let out their cotton chopping by contract. Where the land is clear of stumps they pay forty cents per acre for the first chopping and then forty cents per acre for the other hoe work, making eighty cents per acre for the year. This is doing the work on an economical basis. The crop should have all the work necessary but we should not throw away anything in its cultivation.

STOVE FLUES.

One of the most important things about a dwelling is the stove flues. It is so important to have them right. The general idea is that just about anybody can build a flue when in fact it is one of the most particular

jobs to be done in erecting a building. The material should all be first class and the inside of flues should be coated with a mortar of sand and lime or sand and cement. would be better.

One important point about the location of a flue very few people seem to have gotten onto is that it should go through the top of the roof and not on one side of the roof. A flue going through a side of a roof is much more likely to smoke or set fire to the building or cause a leak. It takes a little more time and more material to build a flue right but it pays. So many houses are burned on account of defective flues. Be sure to have the flues built straight up through the top of the roof.

Pigs and Water.

In our thirty-five years of breeding pure-bred swine, we have tried to give our herd whatever we thought was best to their rapid development, and have studied all the various rations that can be made up of the grains and grasses grown on the farm, as well as those that could be made from the various by-products of the mills. These we have fed in various ways, sometimes dry, generally mixed with water into a rather thickish slop or mush. We have at some times been able to get separator milk from the creamery, but this is generally so stale and so diluted with the washings of the factory that it is so unfit for feeding a good pig that we abandoned it some years ago. We have many times tried to convince ourselves that with a wet feed our pigs did not need special attention given to waterings, yet we have also given up this erroneous idea, and I presume that there are "others."

Great Water Drinkers.

Now, I want to assure my fellow breeders that pigs as well as older hogs will drink plenty of pure cold water even in winter, and when fed on a feed mixed with either water or milk. During the present winter we have fed wet feed in the morning about eight o'clock warmed by a steamer, and at one-thirty o'clock in the afternoon we have driven our feed wagon over the entire line of pens and find that our forty brood sows with about sixty pigs and hogs of various ages have been drinking almost two barrels of pure fresh cold water from the well, and have seemed to enjoy it as much as they did their warm feed in the morning. At night we gave them a feed of ear corn.

There is nothing that will quench thirst but water. I myself love to drink a glass of sweet milk at dinner, but I often find myself taking a drink of water almost immediately after it. The same is true of animals. The hogs may have just been fed even with warm wet mixture and yet they will turn to the other trough and take a few swallows of cold water. If this is not evidence enough that hogs need water even in winter, then I am mistaken. The question is—how to furnish fresh water at all times.

The Pig Half Water.

It is said in Dieterich's book on swine, that about one-half of a pig's weight is composed of water. A growing pig contains more in proportion, however, than does a mature fat hog in proportion to weight. To grow young pigs and get best results they must have sufficient water at all times, or at frequent intervals during the day. If possible it would be far better to have good pure fresh water where the pigs can go at will and drink as often as they wish. Pigs, like sheep, do not drink much at a time, but if water is where they can go at will they will be found drinking a little quite often.—Indiana Farmer.

J. M. Howell, a popular druggist of Greensburg, Ky., says, "We use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our own household and know it is excellent." For sale by All Dealers.

More Intelligence Needed in Hay Making.

"We don't know how to make grasses and we don't know how to make hay," is the startling, yet absolutely true statement of Dr. S. A. Knapp of the Bureau of Plant Industry, in a recent address. "Hay is baked to death. Animals eat grass because it tastes good. Your hays, your pea vines, your alfalfa, and even your wild grass, if cut at the proper time and cured so as not to be sun baked, which takes away the flavor, will give a great product and you will have to feed very little grain. A mule isn't apt to overeat with grain. We must use more intelligence in feeding a horse. Keeping stock in the future must be more of a problem of pasture and hay than of grain. Grain is too strong as a main food and too ex-

pensive. It fevers the system, and therefore we must have grasses and luscious pastures—well drained, not old sour grass, but an abundant pasturage, sweet and nutritive, so that it is a pie counter to the animal.

"It has been the experience of England, Holland and Denmark that as land advanced in value and life became more strenuous they turned toward grass and it seems that the same will follow eventually in our case. In other words, they made up their minds that they could get more out of land from grass and live stock than they could by cultivating it. They only use the cultivated crop as a means of rotation, but the main crop is the grass crop. What are they doing with their grass? In Holland and Denmark it is the dairy problem, and they have been able to develop a cow that is almost a perfect machine for manufacturing these fine hays and fine pasture grasses into high-priced butter and cheese. Take their registered stock and those animals will average to produce for the farmer, 1,000 per cent net profit more than the ordinary cow here; that is tenfold. Profit lies in the best. This is true in every way; whether in the case of a horse, or a cow, or a citizen, the profit is in the best. We must do more intelligent farming."

What Doctor Knapp says with regard to raising hay and feeding it to the horse or cow is the same old story over again that has been preached by the officials of the Department of Agriculture with respect to grain. If we are to continue as the granary of the world, let us keep our corn, wheat, oats at home and feed it on the farm and then ship our beef, our veal, our pork away. The fertility of the soil will be retained on the farm and the profit will be vastly greater.—Indiana Farmer.

The Use of the Harrow in Preparing the Soil For Planting.

We have never seen land half so well prepared as it is this spring. While it is true that the unusually seasonable weather for work has had much to do with this state of things, the fact that so many farmers are getting good tools is equally as potent a factor in this good preparation. Never was the value of the harrow so apparent. It is now getting to be the rule, and not the exception, that a farmer does not consider his land prepared for planting until it has been thoroughly harrowed. And oh! the difference. As far as the eye can see, the smoothness and fineness of soil of the harrowed land stands out in bold contrast with the rough and cloddy surface of the soil that has simply been plowed. Well, the farmers are going to make a crop this year. Now if they will only plant the variety they should, we will be all right this fall, and the South will be in better shape than ever. We are going to make the cotton, and this will be all well if we grow other things in proportion. The use of tools, harrows and all, the spirit of good farming, the greater use of commercial fertilizers, all should make our farmers grow a greater variety of crops. We rejoice in the good preparation, now for better farming as to crops and better management generally.—The Southern Cultivator.

Lack of Thrift.

Americans are far less thrifty than Europeans.

The French are the best savers in the world, and a study of their savings makes Americans appear veritable spendthrifts.

France has less than one-half as great population as the United States, yet in 1909 there were 12,828,847 depositors in French savings banks, as against 9,473,497 in American banks.

The average French deposit was \$76, while the average American deposit was \$41.75. And this disparity is even greater when it is considered that French laws do not permit savings accounts to exceed \$300, but require all sums over that amount to be invested otherwise.

Americans can learn much of economy from the frugal Frenchmen, and the increased cost of living will doubtless bring many persons to a realization of the necessity for greater care in saving and investing money.—Nashville Tennessean.

Do Ghosts Haunt Swamps?

No, never. Its foolish to fear a fancied evil, when there are real and deadly perils to guard against in swamps and marshes, bayous, and lowlands. These are the malaria germs that cause ague, chills and fever, weakness, aches in the bones and muscles and may induce deadly typhoid. But Electric Bitters destroys and casts out these vicious germs from the blood. "Three bottles drove all the malaria from my system," wrote Wm. Fretwell, of Lucama, N. C., "and I've had fine health ever since." Use this safe, sure remedy only 50c at Hood Bros.

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