

# AGRICULTURAL.

**TILE-DRAINING** is the best method for subsoiling, for then the roots will go far beneath the surface, attracted by the elements they require, and will do their own subsoiling and deep plowing.

A MEMBER of the Western New York Farmers' Club sprayed his orchard with a solution of paris green, to exterminate the canker-worm, and reports the apple aphid, which had formerly infested his trees, had wholly disappeared.

THERE is no excuse whatever for the slovenly appearance of many yards or lawns about the farmer's home. It is not the sign of good farming, since carelessness in one place denotes very clearly carelessness in another.—*Chicago Journal.*

**TURNIPS FOR COWS.**—I have tried every way to destroy the flavor of turnips in milk, but without success. I have boiled it, fed the cows after milking, but it was all the same—turnip flavor unmistakable—and as we do not like our butter so flavored, I only feed turnips when the cow is dry.—*Mrs. G. Bourinot, Ottawa, Canada.*

**CELERY.**—Last fall when I had taken up and trenched nearly all of my celery, we had a heavy freeze and all the tops of the plants still standing froze so badly that I cut off all the leaves that had been exposed and then placed them in the trenches, and I found that the celery I cut the leaves from kept far better than that with them on.—*H. F. I., Bedford, Pa.*

**SEED CORN.**—I select medium-sized ears and shell off the tip. Then I take one grain from the butt and one from the center and one from the tip that is left; turn the ear around and serve the other side the same way. If I find the germ of a silver or light straw-color, and by mashing on the thumb-nail that there is oil in the gum, I conclude the ear is good. I have followed this plan for twelve years without a failure.—*J. A. McMasters, Miami Co., O.*

**PROFITABLE CROP OF BEANS.**—The most profitable crop of beans I ever raised was on sod land, plowed the first week in June, thoroughly harrowed and rolled and the beans drilled in rows two feet five inches apart, dropping five or six beans in a place a foot apart in the row. All the labor performed on the piece was to cultivate it two or three times between the rows and to chop out any weeds that came up between the beans in the row.—*Joseph Harris, Rochester, N. Y.*

You must not collect a large flock of sheep before you get something for them to eat, and that something must be their natural food. That food is grass—grass that is sodded and perennial. The stomach of a sheep is small, and he eats but little at a time, and wants that little often, and every three hours; hence he should be where he can gather his own food. The tendency of all kinds of grain and dry provender is to make sheep unhealthy. A little grain before sending to the shambles is useful to help fatten, but fat itself is a disease, and should be avoided so far as possible in all breeding animals. Likewise should the other extreme—viz., poverty—be avoided. I have seen sheep degenerate more from poverty in one generation than they could be improved in two or three. I have seen much in the papers about sheep loving bitter weeds, briars, sassafras and the like, and they are good scavengers for a foul farm. My sheep love the cultivated grasses best. I remember once to have killed some sassafras with sheep, but I also killed some of my sheep. It was done by confining them too long to the same territory, as well as the same food. Sheep need to have their pasture changed at least once a month. And this new pasture is as much to force them to sleep in a new place as it is to give a variety of food. No sheep can be healthy long that sleeps on the same place and over his own excrement every night.—*Farming World.*

THERE is probably no country, unless it is Ireland, that uses more potatoes than do the northern and eastern portions of the United States. Potatoes form a crop that cannot be raised by everybody, their successful culture requiring considerable intelligence and industry, and the selection of seed is of much more importance now than formerly, as years ago nearly all potato seed was good; but now at least one-half of the potatoes used for seed are unfit for that purpose. When high prices rule growers sell all that are marketable, leaving the poorest to plant. Owing to the ravages of the beetle and the use of paris green a large portion of the small potatoes are not matured and will not produce vigorous plants. A strong application of paris green will often scorch the leaves so severely as to prevent potatoes almost full grown from maturing. Potatoes of medium size, slightly green from exposure to the sun, are the best or seed. If they are planted as taken from the storeroom they will be forced into vigor by the richness of the soil, if the plant has a vigorous growth at the start it will not only insure the yield, but it will also resist injury from insects. In regard to cutting and preparing seed, important discoveries have been made during the last year. As the germ of each eye penetrates to the center of the tuber, it is not advisable to cut through this germ, or the growth will be weakened. The best results obtained have been reached by cutting potatoes to single eyes and planting one piece in each hill. One of the principal causes of poor crops is to be found in the planting of whole potatoes. Not more than three or four of the eyes will grow if the whole tuber is planted, and the crop contains a larger percentage of unmarketable potatoes. The tendency to disease is increased by anything which lowers the vitality of the plant, therefore the overcrowding of plants in the hill, resulting in insufficient nourishment for all, is an evil to be avoided. Too much care cannot be used in the selection for seed of large and vigorous tubers free from all signs of disease. A few years of such careful selection will do much to improve the general potato-crop of the country.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Hens can never be cured of eating eggs. They should be killed at once before they teach others.

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