

# AGRICULTURAL.

The milk of a cow, after her third or fourth calf, is thought to be richer than when younger.

Sorghum seed is relished by most all domestic animals, but its full value can only be obtained by grinding or boiling.

The roots of fruit trees are mostly near the surface, and a top dressing of manure therefore soonest reaches them.

A CUTTING of grape-vine of the previous year's growth, will readily grow if two or three eyes are on the portion under ground.

The fact that dairying is rapidly increasing in the West shows that farmers are giving more attention to restoring lost fertility. Keeping cows requires more labor for the same amount of land than growing grain, with improved labor-saving machinery to harvest the latter.

A PATCH of sowed corn to be fed green, if needed, will help to bridge over a season of scarcity. Few farms can afford to go without this protection against scarcity in summer food for animals.

An apple in perfect preservation, although 96 years old, is in possession of a gentleman in Ulster county, N. Y. As it rounded up from the blossoms of the parent stem in the early summer of 1787, a bottle was drawn over it and attached to the branch, and after the apple had ripened the stem was severed and the bottle sealed tightly. It looks as fresh as when first plucked.

BLACK raspberries may be planted either in autumn or early spring, using only tips of the fall's growth, planting no deeper than they grow; and, if set in autumn, cover well till spring. These should be planted about three feet apart, and, where plants are not too expensive, it is better to put two plants in the same "hill," or very near, so as to secure a stand. The same is true of red raspberry and blackberry plants.

EVERY flock-owner should improve his flock year by year by the use of good bucks, and keeping the best ewe lambs, and disposing of the oldest sheep in the flock. It is very poor economy, indeed, to sell off the lambs every year and keep the old sheep until they are 10 or 12 years old, because the flock by this method will not yield as much profit as by a judicious system of weeding out annually.—Chicago Journal.

If a woman is a farmer why not call her that and nothing else, just as we are dropping the word authoress for author without regard to sex? But if she does not carry on a farm herself, as few women do, and if we must have a word by which to designate the person whose business it is to play second fiddle upon the farm, the wife, mother or sister of the man who thrives by the plow, need we take one the very sound of which is so suggestive of littleness as is the word farmerine? It is enough to make a high-minded woman throw up her chicken dough and pack off to the nearest village to become an independent member of society by right of the proprietorship of a peanut-stand.

The water which can be gathered from the roofs of barns and sheds needed to shelter stock will, if carefully saved, be sufficient for the stock through the year. To accomplish this the cistern should be a large one, to hold the surplus of a wet season till a time of scarcity. With a basement barn the cistern should be in the corner, where the bank of earth against the wall is deepest, to prevent freezing. Then, with a faucet in the lower part of the cistern, a continuous small stream can be kept running, adapting the flow to the number of animals, so that the tub hall never be empty, and never, or very seldom, run over. This plan is a great convenience in winter, and more than repays the expense by saving manure, besides the greater thrift of the stock.—Chicago Journal.

EARLY POTATOES.—Beside commanding a high price, there are other considerations that come in to make the early crop of potatoes valuable. The Early Rose continues to be as good as the best, not only for the early but the late crop, and always fetches a remunerating price in the market. But there is this additional advantage in the early crop—it can be harvested and removed and the ground put in good order for all crops. The best turnips we have ever known came out of a piece of round first cleared of early potatoes. Indeed, we do not know of a more profitable arrangement of crops than to have turnips follow potatoes. The ground usually has to be pretty good for potatoes, but it is not essential that the manure be very much decayed. Some, indeed, contend that long, strawy manure is all the better for a potato crop. The turnips, on the other hand, must have the manure very well decayed, in order to give out its best results. Hence, after the potato has done with its fertilizer, there is enough left for the turnip to thrive upon. Wheat and rye also thrive very well on land which has been previously well-manured for potatoes. In all these cases the early potato has a great advantage over the late one. They allow of a much earlier preparation of the ground for the subsequent crop. There is still another advantage in an early potato. In this part of the country at least the plant is subject to the attacks of the stem-borer. They usually commence their ravages about the end of June. They bore out the whole center pith of the stems, and before the end of July the plants are all dead, being dried up before the potato is matured. In such cases there are not often fifty bushels of potatoes to the acre, and of these all of them are too small to be saleable. By getting the potato early in the ground and using varieties which mature early, the tubers are of pretty good size before the insects get to work, and thus there is a great gain. It seems to us we can almost do without any more late kinds. We say nothing here of the depredations of the beetle, as it has been so completely met and overthrown as hardly any longer to be considered as a serious injury to the crop, early or late.—German town Telegraph.

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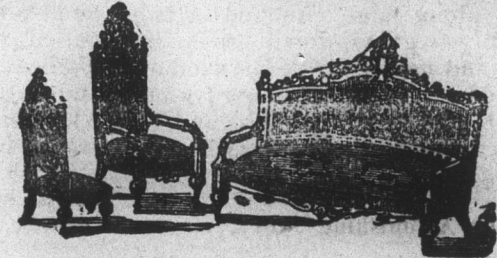
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