



SAVING AND TAKING CARE OF MANURE.

One of the most important items in farming consists in the saving and proper application of manures. There are more ways of saving manure than may be imagined—and in no branch of agricultural economy is there so much loss as in this. It is a matter of pride and congratulation to the thinking farmer to see the increased care which is now spreading among enlightened farmers in this respect; but there is yet much room for care. If farmers were to be classed by the amount of care which they take of their manure, we might divide them into three classes:

1st. Those who take care of their manure by keeping it under shelter during the summer.

2d. Those who admit that there is an advantage to be derived from sheltering manure, but do not do it, because they have not time.

3d. Those who take no care of their manure, but allow it to remain wherever it is made until ready to haul it out in the fall.

To the first class I have not much to say, for they have received their reward, and will not go back to the old plan. Of the second class I a few months since met with an amusing specimen. While conversing on the propriety of allowing manure to remain spread out for a time before plowing it in, he opposed the plan, because he thought the strength of the manure passed off into the air, and was lost. I then asked him why he did not apply this theory to his manure while it was in the yard, or in other words, place it under shelter so that its strength could not be evaporated by the hot sun or washed out by rain water? His answer was characteristic of his class: "He had not time to spare to do it;" or, in plain English, he is one of those from whom "a dime will hide a dollar." Admitting that he had not time (which for good reasons I very much doubt) sooner than hire a man for three days he would lose the benefit of sheltering his manure.

Admit, for the sake of what follows, that sheltered manure has an advantage over unsheltered manure of one-half bushel of wheat per acre. The above-mentioned farmer puts in ten acres, bringing a gain of five bushels, worth at least six dollars, at an actual outlay of one dollar and a half, showing a gain of only four hundred per cent. But a half bushel per acre is too low. But, aside from all this gain, even if it did not increase the crop one grain, I would still heap up my manure under shelter, for I consider that the additional ease of loading will more than repay the cost of the additional work.

Many of our practical farmers will and do say that one load of well-sheltered manure is worth two of that which has not been so taken care of. This may seem pretty high, but I should much prefer two loads of sheltered manure to three of that not sheltered.

Now, a word or two to the third class, who, I am sorry to say, are far more numerous than you have any idea of. The first thing necessary to convert a man is to make him understand the principles of the new faith. It is a fact known to all that all plants remove from the soil certain substances which are necessary to their growth, and without which they will do no good. Of these plants, all except the seed or grain does or should ultimately find its way into the barnyard. The hay we feed to our stock; but if the stock is not laying on fat (and even if it is) the hay is sooner or later placed in the yard as manure. The manure now consists of various substances, the most important as well as the most volatile of which is ammonia. All have noticed the white fringe which surrounds an exposed manure heap on a cold morning; this is the ammonia or strength of the manure, which, often being heated by fermentation to the evaporating point, is suddenly crystallized by the cold of the atmosphere. It is impossible to prevent this evaporation entirely, but we may cover the manure with some substance which will absorb and retain the ammonia.

Place the manure under shelter, and cover it with eight or ten inches of road scrapings, sand, dry soil or sawdust, and I will guarantee that there will not be much lost. This throwing under shelter should be done in the spring, before the cattle leave the yard, that they may tramp the hill and make it as solid as possible, for in this state it is less liable to burn and lose its power.

But I would not have you to suppose that the care of manure always begins with placing it under shelter; for if I did, the stench of various black ponds and gutters along the roads in the neighborhood of barnyards, would contradict me. It is an undoubted fact that manure which has never been wet by rain is the strongest, but all our barnyards are not roofed over, and perhaps it is as well that they are not; therefore we must make the best we can out of a necessary evil.

The most valuable portions of all manures are soluble, to various extents, in water; the rain water in its passage through the manure takes up more or less of these soluble parts, and takes them with it wherever it goes, whether it be into a public road, creek, or into the lowest part of the yard. This water, holding in solution the most valuable part of the manure, should never be allowed to run out of the yard, (unless your horses or oxen

run away from you.) The yard should fall towards the middle if possible, and the lowest parts be well supplied with straw, corn stalks, sods, etc., etc., to keep it dry.

Another good plan where litter is scarce, is to have a cistern at the lowest point, into which the liquid may empty, and then be carried to the grass (meadow or pasture land which cannot be broken up by plowing,) in the liquid state. Another very good plan is to haul road scrapings, wood mould or sand into the yard, or into the lowest portion of it; this will by fall form an excellent dressing for heavy clay lands. It should be done before the cattle go into the yard in the fall.

So much for preserving the quality of the manure;—now for increasing the quantity, which is quite as important.

I will suppose that the straw, corn fodder, etc., etc., are all to be or have been worked in. Let us now look abroad for more absorbents; for these articles are very important by absorbing and retaining (if taken care of) the liquids of the yard. Those unsightly hassocks (sometimes called tussocks) in the meadow, if cut off even with the surface, will absorb and hold a large amount of liquid manure. The long grass in that swamp (which should be drained) will serve a like purpose. The leaves in the fence corners along the woods might also be used with great benefit; they can readily be collected after a shower.

Remember, the more absorbents you apply, the less loss by evaporation there will be.

Inasmuch as manure made under a roof is so much better than that made of the same materials, but in the open air, that made in the stables should be kept under shelter.

We all know how readily horse manure ferments and heats, thereby losing a portion of its power; this loss may be in a great measure prevented, by mixing it with manure taken from the unsheltered portion of the yard. If after this it shows signs of heating, it may be kept damp by water. I have found it a very good plan to have a hole two or three feet deep at the lowest portion of the yard. After the manure is placed under shelter, the rain which falls on the yard will take up in solution a portion of the manure which is unavoidably left on the ground; this, together with the water, is conveyed to the hole, and from thence it is carried to the manure heap by troughs or buckets.

The farmer's test for anything new is whether it will pay; and I for one can say that this will pay, and that well, too. If on trial it does not, then blame your friend,

AGRICOLA.

—[Germantown Telegraph.]

RECIPES FOR HARD AND SOFT SOAP.

A correspondent in the Germantown Telegraph offers the following recipe as one to be perfectly relied on:

Take ten pounds of soda ash, and dissolve it in twenty gallons of soft water, with twelve pounds of fresh lime and three-fourths of a pound of rosin, by boiling them all half an hour, stirring the while to keep them from setting or burning; then pour all the contents into a tub to settle, washing your kettle clean. After these contents have settled, take the clear water that comes on the top and put it in the kettle; now hunt up all your fat and skins till you get about twenty-three pounds—if clear fat not quite so much—put over the fire to boil till all the fat is eaten up; perhaps it will take two hours, or not nearly so long; then take fine salt to divide, and add salt till the hard soap comes on the top. It will at first look like froth, and the waste will look very dark in the bottom of the kettle. Pour all out in a tub.

I forgot to say, fill up your tub with cold water after taking off the first clear lye, ready to boil your soap-froth with the second time; put two good bucketsfull of this clear lye in the kettle, then with an iron ladle take all this soap froth off the top of the tub and put it in with these two buckets of lye-water to boil again a few minutes, to make your hard soap clear and nice, adding salt till it separates well. Then pour all out in a tub, to remain undisturbed over night. In the morning you will have thirty pounds of as nice white soap as you will wish, for either washing or toilet use, which will not chafe the hands at any time.

Again, if you would wish a half barrel of nice white soft soap, fill up this said lime tub again with cold water till it settles, then take the hard soap that sticks to the kettle and the pitcher that you dip out with, and three or four ladles full of your hard soap, with two pitchers full of this lye-water, and let it boil a few minutes till it looks like soap, and then fill up your kettle nearly full of the lye-water, and let it boil a few minutes, then pour it out into a vessel, and you will be much pleased with the result of your labor. This soft soap will be thick and solid, and it is very nice for boiling clothes or washing, as it makes a very nice froth.

In order to have plenty of soap fat, you must begin at the beginning to save all the skins of meat, and all the fat scraps that come from your table, which, in warm weather, should be put in some of this clear lye until you get enough to make some soap. By this course, in an ordinary family, you will always have enough soap without buying.

FLAX.—This crop occupies the ground but a short time. It follows corn or the small grain in a rotation, and may be followed by turnips the same season. Any soil finely worked, in good heart, free from weeds, not so rich as to produce a rank, uneven growth,

and not liable to suffer from drouth, will answer for flax. Two or three bushels of seed are sowed to the acre, according to the quality of the land; never more than two bushels when raised for seed. Sow early in spring, harrow and roll. When a hand-breadth high, it is well to go through and pull all the tall-growing weeds. About the last of July the bottom of the stalks turn yellow and lose their leaves, the seed capsules also become plump and full. If the crop is raised for seed, let it stand until fully ripe, but gather before there is danger of shelling; if for the fibre, pull when the ripest seeds have assumed a light brown color. Flax is pulled by the roots, bound in small sheaves, and stooked until dry enough to stack. Or, the seed may be stripped off in the rippling combs at once and the straw stacked. When raised on a small scale, it is usually spread out in gables as pulled and left to undergo the rotting process. Twelve to sixteen bushels of seed, and a ton and a half of straw, is a common yield. When the cleaned fiber and the oil are alone sold, this otherwise exhausting crop does not exhaust the farm at all.

AMELIORATING CROPS.

There is a class of crops which deserves the attention of the farmer, but which, unfortunately are too often neglected in this country. They are termed ameliorating crops, from the fact that they are supposed to improve the land upon which they are grown. It is well known that the generality of crops exhaust the soil, or, at least, leave it no better than before they were grown upon it. Among the crops to which the term amelioration may be applied, are carrots, turnips and artificial grasses, etc. The manner in which beneficial effects are produced by these different crops, is as various as the crops themselves. Some effect it by altering the chemical condition of the soil, others by killing off or choking out the weeds. Dr. Wilson says: An ameliorating crop either destroys weeds by taking entire possession, or occasions weeds to be destroyed, oxygen to be absorbed, and inert matter to be decomposed by frequent workings of the soil; exhausts mischievous excrementitious deposits of crops; or makes such excrementitious deposits of its own, as are useful to succeeding cereal crops; or occasions a thorough preparation of the soil by means of previous manuring and series of plowing, for subsequent cereal crops; or brings large contributions of manure, and a great amount of useful mechanical pressure by being fed off, or contributes the whole of its own substance to the soil, by being plowed in as manure; by contribution of its substance to the manure heap.—[Farmer and Gardener.]

BUDDED VS. SEEDLING PEACHES.—A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, in referring to the relative value of budded and seedling peach trees, says:—

The present season pretty clearly shows the relative value of the budded and seedling peaches. One of the best localities I know of, and one of the best cultivated peach orchards in this county, is mostly of the budded varieties. Last year this orchard had but few peaches, and this year but few, showing that these are not paying trees. In conversing with an extensive peach-grower of New Jersey last summer, he stated that the budded kinds were not in good repute there from the same cause, but seedlings from good selected fruit were preferred. It is not the budding that makes them tender, but as a general rule, the better the variety of fruit the more delicate it is, although there are exceptions to the rule. But few trees seem to be capable of bearing heavy crops every year, and of these the pear appears to furnish the most instances. Indeed, it is now most decidedly the hardest fruit we have.

SUMMER PRUNING.—Those who desire fruit next year, should forthwith—that is without a day's delay—pinch off the ends of growing branches, or cut back their fruit trees, especially dwarf pears. Summer pruning has a tendency to produce fruit spurs, while it also assists in forming handsome trees. We pinch the cherry tree, which inclines to a straggling form; also the mulberry, after sharp excisions in the spring, as well as young standard pears of the same inclination; and find that it has an excellent effect.

Pear trees, dwarf and standard, where there is a thick growth of inner branches, should be thinned out carefully. It has the effect of bringing them into early bearing, as well as upon the amount and quality of the fruit. Let all the trees be as low-branched as possible. The branches will protect the trunk against the hot suns of summer, and are the best preventive we know for "fire-blight."—[Germantown Telegraph, July 30th.]

TO CURE A FILM ON THE EYE OF A HORSE.—Take of white vitriol and rock alum one part, pulverize finely, and add clear spring water. With a finely pointed camel's hair pencil or soft feather, insert a single drop of this solution into the diseased eye every night and morning, and in a week the film usually disappears, and the eye becomes bright, sound and healthy. In some cases, pulverized loaf sugar blown into the eye through a quill will prove a remedy. Powdered glass should never be used in such cases, although recommended by some, as it is much more likely to produce injurious effects than to cure them.—[N. E. Farmer.]

How to PRESERVE GREEN CORN.—A Practical farmer gives the following:—

Those who are fond of green corn during the winter do not all know that it may be preserved by packing it tightly in casks or barrels and covering it with brine strong enough to keep cucumbers. The corn should be taken with the husks on. Corn thus prepared, if kept covered with brine, will keep in good order for a year or more, and will be sufficiently fresh for the table when boiled.

TIMELY ASSISTANCE.

Jenks—good, kind-hearted, timid Jenks—met his first quarter day like a hero—but when the second quarter came round it found him embarrassed in mind and pocket. The fact is, he had gone beyond his means in furnishing his house, and his wife's extravagance, together with the one hundred and twenty dollar party, added to an unaccountable dullness of business, completely unnerved him. On rent-day morning his landlord stepped in on his store and handing him a receipted bill for one hundred dollars, remarked facetiously—

"Pleasant weather, we have now Mr. Jenks?"

"Yes," responded our friend, "that is to say it is pretty pleasant," and he looked carefully at the bill.

"I called early," remarked the landlord; "I have a heavy note to pay, and I thought may be you could help me out?"

"That's precisely my case," replied Jenks "and I'm afraid I can do nothing for you to day."

The smile vanished from the landlord's face, as he rejoined, "when could you promise friend Jenks? Rent you know, is rent—and—"

"In a day or so, sir. I expect money every hour—but cash is slow in coming in."

"Well, I will try and get along without it until to-morrow, if you return the bill. Ah, thank you. Look for me in the morning. Good day, Mr. Jenks," and he walked out of the store. Meeting a friend on the corner, he stopped him to ask how Jenks was getting along.

"Oh, pretty well, I guess," said the friend. "He appears to be very short this morning."

"Short; you don't say! Why we sold him a bill of eight hundred on eight months, last week. I'll see what can be done with his paper, and they separated, each to throw out doubt of the solvency of poor Jenks. Bad news find willing retailers, and various reports injuriously affecting the credit of our friend were set afloat throughout the city. However, he managed to borrow the money, and when his landlord came in the next day, a check was ready for him. Yet it was not without concern that the landlord saw the paying teller look carefully over Jenks' account before he counted the money."

Somehow or other Jenks' tailor had learned that he was hard up, and with the usual benevolence of humanity he sent over to know whether he could not let him have fifty or a hundred, as he had a very heavy bill to pay.

"In a week or two," said Jenks, "I will do something for you."

"Fifty would be a great help," continued the persevering clerk.

"No doubt of it," replied Jenks, "but money is scarce, and I have a couple of notes that fall due this week."

"Well, when shall I call?"

"You needn't give yourself any trouble I'll call on you," and he muttered to himself, "what in the name of common sense has got in the people?"

While he was yet speaking, a man from whom he had bought a pair of bureaus, came in to ask if he would like to discount the paper, which had one month yet to run.

"If you will discount it, sir," remarked the man, "I will take off one per cent."

"When do you want the money?"

"To-day."

"I haven't it."

"Say one and a half per cent," said the alarmed cabinet maker.

"I have not the money, I tell you."

"Two per cent, then; three—four—give me goods—give me anything—I'm a poor man, sir, with a growing family. Think of these things, and secure me. Give me the bureaus back again!"

"Why, look you, sir," said Jenks in amazement, "I don't understand this strange conduct."

"You don't? Haven't you stopped?"

"Not to my knowledge."

"Haven't smashed?"

"No, sir."

"Why don't you pay your debts, then?"

"I do as far as I am able."

"Then you ain't able to meet 'em all?"

"Not to day."

"Well won't you—come now, that's a good fellow, and I'll sell you more bureaus when you get started again—won't you; I've got over eleven children—won't you pay me what you owe me. Just think of eleven mouths screaming all night for bread and nothing but stones to give them."

"My dear sir, your note is not due. I will pay it at maturity. At present I am greatly in want of money myself, to meet other pressing claims."

"Get some one to endorse your paper then."

"No, sir."

At this moment three or four others came in to ask money, and poor Jenks was compelled, in self-preservation, to leave the store, and take his way homeward. He found his wife quite sick, and it became necessary to send for a physician. Thus deprived of her consoling sympathy, he was the most wretched of men, for what, after the blessed influence