FOR FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

HINTS ON SOIL CULTURE AND SPRING OPERATIONS

FANNY'S BARN YARD SONG.

Chicky! chicky! chick! oh! come along quick!
From my little fingers a crumb you may pick.
Quake! quake! quake! says the white old drake,
And the ducks shake their tails with a short little shake.
Quack! quack! quack! says the one in black,
And they split their throats as they answer, quack!
Cock a doodle doo! here's a health to you!
And the rooster bows to the feathered crew.
Cluck! cluck! cluck! I wish you much luck,
Says a motherly hen to a sitting duck.
Pe! pe! pe! oh! pray for me!
Says the turkey brood, as plain as can be.
Gobble! gobble! gobble! my snout's in a hobble,
Says the strutting cock with an ugly bobble.
Pot rack! pot rack! I'll quit such a pack,
Sings the Guinea hen as she flies the track.
'Taint never no use, screams a sensible goose,
To mind the rude ways of fowls what is loose.
Then hissing aloud to the wondering crowd,
She waddles away, quite happy and proud.
Now the peacock tries, with his hundred eyes,
To astonish and awe; but the Shanghaies rise,
And clearing their throats, flap their short tailed coats,
While they sweep the barn yard of corn and oats.
Then the Poland duck, with his comb in a tuck,
Gives a foreign twirl to his best tail curl;
While a Bantam swell goes on tiptoe a spell,
To escort for awhile a Cochin belle.
Then they cackle and crow, hiss, gobble, and blow,
And all speak at once, both high and low.
Hush! hush! hush! cry the Muscovies, hush!
We are whispering secrets as soft as mush;
Then bowing around, almost to the ground,
They bobbing retire with a murmuring sound.
And chicky! chicky! chicky! chick! oh! come along quick,
Brings order again, while a crumb they pick.

Sorghum Sucre, Indian Corn and Broom Corn.

The Sorghum, or Chinese sugar cane has been sufficiently tested in this mountainous country, to leave no doubt as to its maturing and yielding profitable returns to the cultivator. Experience has proved that the seed should not be planted too early in the Spring, lest it should rot in the ground. In ordinary seasons, the latter part of June or from first to middle of July is soon enough; and if the seed should not ripen, the yield of syrup will be little if any, diminished. By thus deferring planting till the settled, warm days and nights come, the plants shoot quickly from the ground and attains a larger, more healthy and prolific growth than when planted too early. Besides, if the seed should not fully ripen, it will not deteriorate either the quallity or quantity of the juice.

As to the most proper time for cutting the cane, among those who have cultivated and made syrup from it here, there is some diversity of opinion; but it is safe to say, from the time the seed begins to ripen, till it is fully ripe, or, till frost comes; and we question whether there is any material difference in the condition of the stalk within this short period; tho' probably, there might be a very small per centum more of saccharine matter in the stalk when fully ripe. Yet, we would recommend the universal practice, so far as it can be adopted, of working up or crushing out the juice from the cane, directly as it is cut from the field; and we are confidently of opinion that more syrup will be realized by attention to this than by a particular observance of he sectional rule or notion that it should not be cut till it is fully ripe. We say, commence cutting—and work up your stalks as you cut them—from the time the seed begins to get hard, if necessary to carry out this plan, till frost cuts short your operation; but be sure that, when the biting frost comes, your cane is all "cut and dried"—that is to say, that your sorghum sucre field is transformed—the juice into good syrup for home use, and the leaves put where they will not waste, to be cut up and used with a little bran or shorts, for fall feed of cows or other animals.

The sorghum is highly recommended as a foraging crap for milk cows, to feed green; but, when kept for winter, it is rendered worthless by acetous fermentation. Corn stalks, when properly cured, will keep sweet and make excellent feed, especially for cows; but sorghum will not.

Corn stalks—we will here add, tho' rather prematurely, yet it will bear repeating—are generally thrown out to cattle during the winter. They eat, or nibble over the leaves and tender part, leaving the whole stalks—at least three-fourths of the fodder, and, in our opinion, the very best portion of it—to be trodden under foot; and they do not readily make even good manure. We want to suggest a much-needed improvement in this matter. Take your corn stalks, chop them up into small bits, with an ax, if you have nothing else—a chopping box would be better—then, before you feed them out, steam or soak them, so as to soften them, and sprinkle in some shorts or meal, and, if you please, some chopped straw, and you will have a palatable mess for your cow, the benefit of which she will soon manifest by an increase in the quantity and richness of her milk, which alone will pay you liberally for the little extra trouble occasioned, besides rendering available, even to the minutest particle, all your corn stalks, straw, &c.; otherwise chiefly wasted; and your manure is not thereby reduced in quantity, but rather increased; for if well taken care of and kept under cover, it will have in it more strength and be sooner converted into soil.

But to the sorghum again. The seed is said to be very rich in starch. On the island of Martinique it is grown for its seed and forage—the seed being used, by the Chinese coolies of that island, instead of rice.

As far up as Northern Wisconsin, and as far south as the equator, this cane has been successfully cultivated. It is one of the most hardy and useful varieties of the vegetable kingdom, and, to the inhabitants of these isolated mountain valleys, it has a more than ordinary value. It should be cultivated, in large or small patches, by every man who has a rod of ground and a family to support.

Too great care, however, cannot be taken to prevent its mixing with other plants of the stalk kind; broom corn, particularly; or, what is commonly called rice corn, tho' there is not much grown here. But, tho' every man should have a patch of Chinese sugar cane, it is not necessary that every man should have a patch of broom corn on his lot; on the contrary, it will generally prove a waste of labor, time and ground. The broom corn should be sown in fields and grown, to be most profitable, by those who manufacture the brooms. However, this is not always expedient, and farmers would find it a profitable crop, even at the former price of brooms; but, while a broom will bring $1 50, in cash, the growing of the corn would be extravagantly remunerative.

The best seed of the Sorghum comes from the South. The selection of the best and purest seed is a matter which cannot be too strongly urged. We are informed that a considerable quantity of good seed, grown in Washington county, will be in the market, ere long.

The most approved method of planting the cane seed is to put each seed one foot apart, in rows distant from each other three and a half or four feet.

It does not require "suckering," tho' from four to eight stalks grow up from a single seed. On this account, we would prefer to have the rows, especially in good soil, four feet apart, to give room for a thorough use of the hoe.

The soil set apart for the sorghum to produce a prize article, should be of a warm nature, rich, mellow and sandy or gravelly. In this vicinity, the bench or uplands are the most preferable, there being more of the saccharine in the juice of that grown on those lands than in that grown in the low lands, although the latter are naturally the richest. Yet we believe good cane can be grown, with proper cultivation, in any part of this Territory. To improve the growth and quality of that grown in the lower wards of this city, we recommend the judicious application of warm manures.

Seed Potatoes. — A Farmer tell us that, a few years ago, in this valley, when seed potatoes were scarce, he obtained 11 small ones, which he sprouted twice, then planting the sprouts, 2 in a hill; then cut up the potatoes in the usual way; by which means he realized from the 11 small potatoes, two and a half bushels, of good size. Another year, being short of seed, he planted the sprouts, planting at the same time, side by side, a few rows of cuts; treated them alike, and, when dug, could discern no difference in quantity or quality, between those grown from sprouts and those grown from cuts.

Bones for Trees.—There is nothing like broken up and decaying bones for all sorts of fruit trees. They are perhaps best for pear trees, next for apples, and then for quinces; but are good for any kind of fruit, unless it be cranberries, which seem to live and grow on little but air and water. They render a tree vigorous and healthy, and greatly improve its fruit. It is not a bad plan to dig them into the soil about old trees.

A Large Calf.—We are informed by Bishop Nicholls, of Brigham City, Box Elder county, that a few days since, a cow, belonging to Mr. John H. Bankhead of that county, had a calf, which at ten hours old weighed 98 lbs.

Can any stock raiser in the Territory beat that?

☞ WE AGAIN remind you that now is the time to select and secure the seeds you intend to plant; and be sure to obtain the best.

Preparing Food for Animals.

For a long time the advantage of ground over unground grain as food for horses, cattle and hogs, has been conceded. One point has been gained—yet another remains. Is there not some method of rendering even the chopped feed more nutritious and causing a given amount to go farther towards fattening hogs, by which pork could be raised at less expense?

It is suggested, to accomplish this, that, when wheat is chopped for hogs, or even mules, or other animals, that it should be ground finer than has been usually done here—perhaps as fine as if for family use, omitting the bolting process, or like what is commonly called Graham flour. Let this feed be steamed or half-boiled and we venture that the result will be highly satisfactory.

An Ohio farmer, who feeds yearly about one thousand bushels of corn, says that, when "he not only ground it with the cobs, but cooked it with an "agricultural steamer," one half of the corn fed in this way would put more flesh upon horn cattle, hogs or horses, than double the quantity fed in the ear.

The same rule will apply to other grains when used as feed.

Let those who are now fattening hogs try the experiment and report to us the results of their experience.

Flax and Hemp.

Edward Hunter, President of the "Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society:

SIR:—Having been requested by your traveling Agent (James A. Little) to write an article upon the growing of Flax and Hemp, and also upon the best method of preparing these crops for the manufacturer, I herewith present the following, for the consideration of the honorable body over which you preside.

SOWING.

FLAX should be sown in moist, level land; your land must be plowed well and pulverized very fine; if sown on high land, take care to make it rich by heavy manuring, otherwise it will lack that portion of unctuous matter, which is essentially necessary for it to possess. For making linen, or thread, 6 bushels of seed to the acre is required: for common use, from 2 to 3 bushels per acre is sufficient.

SEED.

TAKE care that your seed is genuine, and especially that it is free from the yellow seed which grows so plentifully amongst the flax in this country, and which together with weeds our farmers generally allow to grow unmolested and then complain about the poorness of their crops. Seed should be changed from high to low lands, and *vice versa;* and when practicable, from north to south, and *vice versa;* if this changing of seed be attended to, the quality of the flax will not be diminished.

TIME OF PULLING.

FLAX should be pulled when the seed is plump, and the pod is brown; do not spread upon the ground, but tie it up immediately, put about a dozen bundles in a place and stand them up like wheat; as soon as it is dry enough to thrash, let it be done, and placed to rot, otherwise the sun will extract the oil, both from seed and stalk.

ROTTING.

FLAX should be rotted in still water, in a hole prepared for the purpose; put some straw in the bottom sa as to keep the flax from the ground, or else it will not be equally rotted, avoid putting the flax to rot in springs, or in ponds of water impregnated with saleratus, as both are detrimental. In order to know when flax is sufficienty rotted (which is from 8 to 14 days, and depends upon the quality of the flax and the season of the year), you can ascertain this, by taking a little out, drying it, and rubbing it through your hands, and if the shives leave it freely, it is rotted enough; spread it to dry; as soon as dry, lose no time in tying up, stack it in a barn or shed, or if outside, in a round stack, roots outwards, and thatch it well with straw, for even now if exposed to the weather, it will be attended with loss.

HEMP.

HEMP should be treated in the same manner as flax, with this difference, the male plant should be pulled 3 weeks before the female; if only a small quantity is grown, place it under cover till the whole is ready for rotting.

IMPORTANT ITEM.

WHEN you pull your hemp or flax, be very careful to put the long by itself, as also the short, otherwise the breaking and swingling, as also the hackling, will waste a very great deal, which by attention and care can be prevented.

If attention is paid to the above directions, such complaints as "What a poor turn out," "My ropes, cords, thread, twine, etc., is rotten," will no longer be heard; the flax and hemp raiser will be compensated for his trouble; employment will be found for hundreds of men and women; the community can be furnished with a good, substantial article, grown and manufactured at home; and thousands of dollars in specie which is yearly expended for articles manufactured from these plants, can be thereby saved, to be otherwise employed.

I have had an experience in the working of flax and hemp grown in nearly all parts of the earth, and for the past 4 years I have been engaged in the manufacturing of these articles grown in this Territory; and can say of a truth that I have handled as good flax and hemp as the world can produce, grown here.

Edmund Marchant, who lives on Esq. Wells' farm, south of G. S. L. City, in the fall of 1857, brought to me to dress, some hemp, equal to the fine Polish Reine hemp of Russia, which is the best in Europe.

I would suggest the propriety of sending to the United States for a small quantity of pure flax and hemp seed, as I know it would be an advantage; as our present stock is generally of an inferior quality.

I have the honor to remain, dear sir, a friend to home manufactures,

WM. A. MCMASTER.

G. S. L. CITY, Feb. 24, 1859.

Manures for Grasses.—Nearly all the experiments which have been made with artificial manures for grasses, indicate that, like wheat, barley, oats, etc.,—the grasses proper—such as timothy, rye grass, etc.—require a large amount of ammonia. In the park at Rothamsted, which has been in grass for a great number of years, and the crop frequently made into hay and removed from the land, manures containing much ammonia were very beneficial on the grasses, while those furnishing potash, soda, and other inorganic substances, had the effect of causing clover and other leguminous plants to spring up and flourish. The effect was very marked, and the result fully sustains the deductions made from direct experiments on clover, wheat, barley, etc. We are warranted in concluding that clover and other leguminous plants require a larger amount of alkalies in the soil than wheat and the grasses generally, while the latter requires manures rich in ammonia.

Some experiments, recently made in Scotland by Thomas Ferguson, also favor this opinion.—Land recently seeded with rye-grass and clover was topdressed with various fertilizers. Those furnishing a free supply of ammonia or nitric acid increased the rye-grass to such an extent "that the clover plant was choked, and came up very thin in the aftermath."

One hundred and twelve pounds of sulphate of ammonia, costing $4 50, gave an increase of 1,524 pounds of hay per acre; 224 pounds Peruvian guano, costing $6, an increase of 1,260 pounds; 112 pounds nitrate of soda, costing $5, an increase of 1,540 pounds; 280 pounds of superphosphate of lime, costing $5, an increase of 292 pounds; while sulphate and muriate of potash gave an increase of only 30 pounds.

In another field, on a two-year old pasture, an application of five dollars' worth of guano "at least doubled the outlay in grass; so also the sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda; all of which thickened the grass plants, beside giving them a quick growth."—[Genesee Farmer, January.

Hungarian Grasses.—Believing a brief account of this grass and its merits may not be amiss, and knowing that the circulating medium of the "newspaper" extends through all the States of the Union, I will, for the benefit and interest of our farming community East and West, North and South, endeavor to say something relative to its introduction in America, of its productiveness, and also of its use, but feel certain I shall not be able to speak of its merits as it deserves. Its introduction in the United States was, as near as I can learn, in 1853, by a native of Hungary. A gentleman then residing in the State of Illinois, procured a small handful of the seed from the Hungarian exile and took it to Iowa, and sowed it first on the prairies of the Great West. The demand increasing, the little handful has fallen far short of supplying the cry for more seed.

As yet its cultivaton is chiefly limited to but two or three counties in Iowa, but such is the demand for it that its seed sells at unusual high rates.

Its productiveness both for hay and seed is such that it is supplanting oats and timothy, and even the numberless acres of corn are waning before it and giving it place.

From three to four tons of hay and from twenty-five to thirty bushels of seed is an average crop per acre, yet it has been frequently known to produce at one cutting six tons of hay and forty bushels of seed per acre.

Drouth does not appear to affect its growth; its long roots striking deep into the earth, draw up the substance from a depth that our common grasses, owing to their short roots, cannot reach, which enables it to withstand the hot, dry blasts of midsummer when other grasses fail. Horses and stock of all kinds give the hay made from this grass the preference over all others. A horse fed on it with the seed left on requires no other grain through the winter; cattle and cows fatten on it, and, as a food for young poultry, it cannot be surpassed, as the seed seems to be suited precisely in quality and size to their wants.

The above can be relied upon as no exaggeration, but falls far short of doing the subject justice. —[Valley Farmer.

Hungarian Grass.—My experience does not vary much from that of Mr. K. K. Jones in regard to growing Hungarian grass. I sowed a piece of ground the 23d of June and the first week in August. I cut at the rate of three tons per acre. The ground has since been perfectly clean of weeds. There is no second or fall crop, as supposed by some, the stubble dying the same as wheat stubble; neither does the seed germinate that is threshed off in harvesting, and from this simple fact, I think it will not be hard to eradicate from the soil.

My horses prefer it to the best timothy that can be produced, and I think there is a saving of one third the grain commonly used, in addition with all other kinds of rowen, sheaf oats not excepted.

It is my opinion that one half bushel of Hungarian seed evenly sown on good ground, well prepared, about the last of May or the first of June, will yield from five to seven tons per acre. —[Emery's Journal.