# FARM, FIELD, GARDEN.

## SUBJECTS OF WIDESPREAD IMPORTANCE TO AGRICULTURISTS.

**A Kansas Stock Grower's Views on the Importance of Exercising Caution Some in Naming Animals—Injurious to Sowing the Broiler After Patrons of Farm—**

This article is not on the culture of sheep, cattle or hogs, but on a subject that, judging from my own observation, writes a correspondent in The Western Rural, causes about as much study. Many, many years ago Shakespeare wrote, "What's in a name?" It may be that some of my brother swine breeders will differ with me on this subject, but here goes. Next to "raising our babies" raising our stock seems to be of importance. Especially is this of much importance if the animal happens to have been purchased from a prominent breeder at a fancy price. In this case he takes, or should take, in some degree, portraits of his ancestors birth and position. Look at any of our stock records and behold the "Kings," "Queens," "Dukes," "Duchesses," "Lords," "Ladys," "Sirs" and "Madams." Still we do not object to that; it is merely a matter of taste. But our constitution does not allow us to indulge in titles of nobility, yet lay no embargo upon their use in naming our swine.

What we do oppose is the naming of horses, bulls, stallions, etc., after persons of fame and worth, and for whom we all have the highest degree of respect. To be sure, it is intended as a compliment and to show our appreciation of the original. Like every other question, it has two sides. Not many of our great men "were born great" or "had great men thrust upon them," but rather achieved it by years of hard work and study. What a beautiful compliment is it to them to have their names considered worth bestowing upon some boar, bull or stallion! While the persons thus honored live it may not seem so very objectionable, but when they have laid off this mortal coil, and we speak of them with reverential sadness, does it not seem rather a burlesque to have a great, grunting boar or a bellowing bull called familiarly by the same name?

There is still another view of the question which appeals directly to our pockets, and, like good Americans, who worship the almighty dollar, which we cannot afford to overlook. Favorite politicians and statesmen have in the last few years been the bank from which hog men have drawn largely for names. Fortunately, our country, though united in name is not in politics, and while a pig with a "Roscoe Conkling" for a sire would sell you, your neighbor would swear up and down that anything connected with that name could not come on his farm. So with a bull named "Grover Cleveland," "John Ingalls," "James G. Blaine," "Benj. Harrison," etc. I know whereof I speak when I say many sales are lost by giving partisan names to the head of herds. There are multitudes of names that do not mean any one in particular that can be used without hurting the feelings of anybody or causing loss to their pockets.

Hogs should always be butchered on cool frosty days, and the carcasses hung where they will cool through before being cut up. In very cold weather it is possible for heavy pork to freeze on the outside before all the animal heat has been expelled, and meat is sometimes lost by being salted in a frozen condition. The best way to cure side meat is to pack it on a platform made for the purpose or a section of the meat house floor. First spread a layer of dry salt an inch or more deep, then rub each piece of meat thoroughly on the sides and edges with salt and lay the skin side down on the salt. When the first layer is completed sprinkle salt over it plentifully, and so continue until you have all stacked up in this manner, and finish with a good coating of salt on top. The meat must be overhauled, rubbed and repacked as before three or four times before it is well cured, which will require from five to eight weeks, according to the thickness of the sides and the temperature of the weather. If possible, pack in a room where the temperature will be above freezing, as extreme cold greatly hinders the meat from taking salt. The smoking is best done with hickory wood and should occupy about ten days.

**Sheep on Small Areas.**

That the sheep can be made to pay a fair profit when the area is restricted to a flock has been demonstrated in England for a century, and on lands that are in many respects no better than lands devoted to sheep raising in this country, and for which high rents are paid annually, the sheep being daily handled and the hurdles changed, so as to give fresh grazing daily. In other words, the English sheep are allowed only as much space in grass as they can eat off clean, being given a new patch by advancing the hurdles daily. In this manner the land behind them is manured, and nothing is wasted. The breed most favored by those that produce large carcasses, whole flocks averaging 300 pounds each live weight, and a superior quality of mutton is thus produced. The Philadelphia Record, commenting on the above, says: In this country the sheep have unlimited area, the amount of land occupied being much greater than is necessary, while the amount of mutton produced is not one-third the proportion that it should be, even the wool when washed being below the amount required to give a profit in proportion to the capital invested in the land and stock.

**Poultry Notes.**

Land plaster, carbolic oil and kerosene are all good for the chicken house.

Remember that sand, gravel and like substances are essential to fowls.

Even in winter it will be found best to change the materials in the nests occasionally, in order to keep them from becoming foul.

See that each fowl gets its share of food.

Do not forget that hens learn to eat eggs by having the broken ones left in the nest.

Do not neglect to place clean, pure water every day in accessible places for your fowls.

In no place will it pay better to feed sod onions, cabbage heads and other green stuff than in the poultry yard.

Carefully save all the meat scraps for your fowls.

**VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL SOIL.**

**The Difference Between a Soil Fertile by Nature and One Artificially Rich.**

Between a soil fertile by nature and one made equally so by artificial treatment, such as the application of manure, bone dust and commercial fertilizers of kinds, selecting one or another from an intelligent farmer may desire for increasing its fertility, the former should be considered for agricultural uses for the most valuable, are for sale, from the fact that its fertility is of a more permanent character. It is true that soils of great virgin fertility are after years of exhaustive cultivation without manure, made comparatively valueless, except such as are largely classed in their composition and subject to frequent overflows. Soils of that character are, however, much more fertile by nature and improved by artificial means than a naturally poor one that has had all its acquired fertility cultivated out of it.

In buying a farm, therefore, there can be no question that ordinarily it will be better for a man to locate on one of lower area of naturally rich land than to choose one much larger in area but of poorer quality, the fertility of which must be given at great expense and at yearly by artificial applications. Of course such lands are not valueless by any means, and their value for cultivation will be a great resource by gauging by the lab-Hunter and profitable farming methods adopted and put into practice by the owner. Cases can often be found where farms on easily soils of light general fertility, but better adapted to profitable special crops, may, with judicious management, be made to yield larger money returns than the same number of acres on a richer soil of a different texture.

Again, it has been discovered that orchards can be successfully carried on upon soils where the rough character of the location renders them of little or no value for the plow. In such cases abrupt ridges or expanses in the influence of large bodies of water seem to furnish the governing conditions of success with but little regard for the general texture and composition of the soil. It is no easy matter to greatly change the texture of a soil, whether light or heavy, and usually it will be found better for the owner to adapt his husbandry to its peculiarities than to make the attempt to change them, except in the most gradual and inexpensive way.

**Potato on Wintering Bees.**

"Will a colony live and thrive without sealed honey?" was one of many questions answered at the annual International Beekeepers convention. While it was conceded that a colony could be wintered without sealed honey, doubts were expressed as to the efficacy of this method, there being more or less risk about it, especially in damp seasons. Dr Miller called attention to the fact that uncapped honey sours much sooner than sealed honey. A. J. Root, who does not take away sealed honey to feed sugar syrup, cautioned against the use of cheap honey for feeding bees, as there is danger of its being tainted with foul brood.

The president of the association, R. L. Taylor, of Lapeer, Mich., expressed the belief that when the above consists of "Will a colony live and thrive without sealed honey?" the conception is upon the time when it was made. At the time he said, "Honey is stimulative and more is used." In reply to the question whether less fed with honey did not come out stronger, President Taylor replied that he had better success on colonies wintered with sugar stores. He had found sugar syrup best for winter, affording a good food for keeping the bees quiet.

At this stage in the discussion attention was called by several members to the necessity of using pure sugar. Drs. Miller and Mason agreed that granulated sugar must be fed when one has to feed at all, and that it makes no difference whether the sugar comes from cane or beets.

Another question with a bearing on wintering bees was the one, "In doubling up colonies would you save both queens?" One member answered decidedly. He had no use for the extra queen after doubling up two weak colonies. He had wintered two weak colonies by using a queen excluding honey board, a plan he preferred to uniting them. An Iowa beekeeper told that he uses a seven-eighth inch division board, and crowds the bees on what combs they can cover.

**Potash for Fruit Trees.**

Of all single fertilizers potash has uniformly shown itself the best when applied to fruit trees. Some experiments are said to have demonstrated that potash fertilizers have decidedly improved the quality of fruit by increasing the saccharine and decreasing the acid. However this may be, it is once well established that the products of the orchard can be favorably modified in their quality and character by a special fertilizer. It will be a field of very considerable portance, and open a wide field for experimentation by progressive orchardists. Instances are not wanting where judicious pruning and the liberal use of wood ashes have surprisingly improved the condition of trees that were apparently in a failing condition.

**Nights' or Mornings' Milkings.**

Mr. F. D. Curtis said in reply to a query asked at the New York Dairy school that the milk that has been in the udder the longer at the time is the best milk. He said that morning and evening milk can be got by milking cows of ordinary three times a day. We stimulate the flowing of the milk toward the udder. Rapid and extra milking will also stimulate the secretion.

**Effect of Grain on Cows at Pasture.**

For two seasons there have been experiments carried on at the station of the Cornell university to determine the question of the profit of a grain ration fed to cows while in pasture. Messrs. Roberts and Wing report on said experiments as follows: "In two trials in two seasons we have received no return in milk and butter from feeding a grain ration to cows on good pasture. In one trial with cows called on fresh grass we have received in increased milk and butter production and in saving of grass consumed barely enough to pay for the cost of the grain ration added. In neither case has any allowance been made for increased value of manure when grain is fed, which would be considerable in amount, but difficult to estimate with exactness." The opinion is further expressed that several questions of this experiment will be needed before the matter can be considered conclusively settled.

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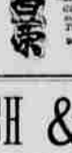

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