

Keeping Winter Apples.

A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* writes that the results of twenty years' experience in keeping apples may all be summed up in a few words, viz.: Keep them dry, cool, and entirely shielded from the external air. After trying numerous experiments, he has, therefore, adopted the following method as being the cheapest and most efficacious:

Commence gathering winter fruit about the first of October, and finish, if possible, by the 20th of the same; leaving those kinds least affected by the frost and which are most tenacious of the parent stem till the last. Hard frosts are injurious to apples for late keeping. After the dew is off, and the apples become dry in the morning, I commence picking with the hand, and put them immediately and carefully into well-sealed flour barrels, made especially for the purpose—they should be air-tight—head them up, lay them down on their sides, and when done gathering, wheel them to a cool, dry place, and there, where I let them remain until severe weather sets in, when they are taken in to the cellar, and remain undisturbed till wanted for the market.

It would be better to have a cellar shelter each day as they are picked, to prevent the sun from shining on the barrels; for, as I said before, the whole secret of preserving apples is in keeping them as dry and cool as possible without freezing. Apples should be picked only in dry weather. I have a cellar expressly fitted up for keeping apples, as it will not do for the cellar to be warm enough to keep other vegetables. I must keep well ventilated. I have my cellar windows open through the winter, unless in very severe weather, and when warm weather approaches I close them through the day and open them at night. When the air is warmer on the outside than in the cellar I keep all closed up tight, and vice versa.

I never repack or open my apples, for in so doing I lose a new supply of decomposition; the air that is fixed in the barrels becomes in a great measure deprived of its decomposing properties. Having a scanty supply of barrels last fall at gathering time, I had a lot of old salt barrels recovered, making them nearly air-tight. Into a part of these I put washes. On opening them in the spring, I found they had kept one hundred per cent better than the same variety that were put in other barrels, which I attribute to saline influences.

A very great error of many apple growers is to be, and still is, practiced by many fruit-growers; that is, putting apples in bins or on garret floors to go through the "breathing process," leaving them until they become shriveled before putting them away in their winter quarters. Thus the apple loses its flavor as well as its vitality; for the aroma that escapes from the apple by being thus exposed to the warm atmosphere is nothing less than minute particles of the apple itself.

I have observed that late-keeping apples, as a general thing, have thicker rinds than those that mature earlier. This is peculiarly the case with the Roxbury russet. If I am correct in this observation, the following suggestion is in favor of close keeping for the rind serves as a protection against the escape of the aroma of the apple, and consequently against the effects of the atmosphere. I am acquainted with an apple with which I am acquainted that emits a greater odor than the Summer Queen, and none more fragrant.

Breeding Fast-Walking Horses.

It is often said, in defence of the heavy premiums on fast walking horses, that speed is a legitimate part of agricultural improvement. Granting that this is so, we ought to encourage fast walking horses, and not to encourage the slow, heavy, or plodding horse. Of the two, a horse which will get over the ground rapidly on a walk is a much more valuable animal on a farm than the one which will go its mile in 2:40. There is no greater proof of a horse's soundness than his ability to walk fast. The excuse given for the encouragement of fast horses receive at fairs than the utter ignoring of premiums for good walking horses. As one of the holiday adjourns to a fair, we have never had the objections to speed trial that some have; but beyond this we like to see the true interests of agriculture served as well as to have a few days of frolic, and the encouragement of fast-walking horseflesh will do this.

In connection with this oversight on the part of agricultural fair committees, the following remarks of a contemporary on the breeding of good walkers will not be inappropriate:

"The best gait a horse has is the fast walk. A slow walking horse is an abomination. Who has patience with such a horse? If you ride him or drive him he exhausts your patience. If he is used to plough, or harrow, or go on the road, he moves along at a snail's pace. He does only about half the work of the rapid walker. If time is money, you make money because you save time by having a horse that walks fast. Breeders should pay attention to this matter. In selecting a stallion to breed from, by all means select one that can walk fast. A slow walking stallion will generally like to get slow walking colts, while the stallion that has a long, rapid, spirited stride will be likely to breed colts with a similar action. When there is a great deal in breeding to horse with spirit and ambition. These cold-blooded horses will beget cold-blooded colts. The power you can approach the thoroughbred, or even obtain a horse with the walk, the better. There is game there, and spirit, and endurance, and stamina, and style. There are the neat, bony heads, and prominent eyes, the small ears, the capacious nostrils, the large lungs and chests, the well-developed muscles, the bones as dense as ivory. Even for walkers, then, get the nearest to thoroughbred possible, and the same for trotters and canterers. Breed large, fine horses, and you will get colts that you will not be ashamed to have your friends see."

Prof's of Selling.

Mr. H. Sedgwick, of Cornwall, Conn., stated at the farmers' meeting, at Lowell, Massachusetts, in September, that farmers in his neighborhood were engaged in producing milk for the New York market. Referring to the short feed of the fall of 1921, he added:

"Our farmers all declare they will not go back to the old way of feeding stock. We cut up our straw and everything available. Many of us have adopted the plan of steaming the food for our cattle, and we are satisfied from the experience we have had that we have a third of our provender by steaming it. As a sample of what this method of feeding stock will do, I will relate an instance of a young man who, a year ago this fall, bought a team of 30 acres of land for \$10,000. The farm there kept 11 cows, 2 or 3 yearlings, and a horse or two. The young man took hold of that farm and immediately increased the stock to twenty-five cows, and kept them on 12 acres, feeding them the steamed corn, also cutting his own green feed. His receipts for the year were over \$8,000. This year he had summered on that same farm, and he told me the other day that his 27 cows would average him \$100 each from the profit on the milk."

Two good farmers who, after the immediately to the farm, and who were

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