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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

RAPID GROWTH OF SWINE.

Mr. Samuel Reed, of Abingdon, who appears to possess a large share of practical knowledge on various subjects, has given us an account of a most rapid growth in pigs, which, with the food and manner of feeding, we think will be useful to our readers.

To learn the best method of managing any branch of business, it is necessary to first learn the most successful result, and then learn the way and means of producing that result.

Mr. Reed put nine pigs, averaging 150 lbs each, live weight, into a pen about the first of June. The pigs were bought at Brighton, and were supposed to have been littered the summer and fall previouus. The were killed from September to the last of October, and weighed, dead, after being carried 20 miles. The average gain in these two hogs was *two and a half* pounds each per day, besides the great difference from live to dead weight.

If we reckon by the general rule, that live weight is to dead, as 20 to 14, there would be, besides the gain of 2 1-2 lbs. of pork to each hog per day, an additional gain of 45 lbs., as the dead weight of each hog at the beginning would have been but 105 lbs. We think that few, if any cases, can be named of so rapid a growth in swine, in a lot taken together, and for so long a time, and as this may appear incredible to some of our readers, we say that the above statement is entitled to the utmost confidence, as it is from the best authority. We doubt not that from the intelligence of Mr. Reed, that his success depended much on his excellent selection.

The following is the mode of feeding: The pigs were all put into one pen, and at first, their principal food was Indian meal and scraps; sugar beets, as soon as big enough, were given raw, and when large, they were boiled. When apples were big enough, nearly equal quantities of apples potatoes and sugar beets were boiled together, with about one quarter part of scraps in measure. Making, in measure, nearly equal quantities of the four articles above. These articles were mixed with meal.

The hogs run in a pasture by a pond, which gave them a good opportunity, for exercise and bathing. They were fed about eight o'clock in the morning and again at five in the evening. They had a sufficient quantity of food for some to remain in the troughs two or three hours from the time of feeding. Mr. R. considers this the best mode of feeding. It any of the hogs are not inclined to eat when the food is, put into the trough, they are not disturbed, but can go and eat at any time for a new hours, then the troughs are empty, that they may not be cloyed by having food constantly by them.

Our readers will perceive that the food named was very cheap after the applies were big enough for this purpose. And it is evident that when particular attention is given to subject in order that swine may have the best of food and management, there ts a far greater profit than in feeding hogs so that they gain but slowly or moderately.

There is no doubt that a hog kept in such a manner as to gain only one half pound per day, would consume more than half as much food, perhaps nearly as much, as a hog of the same size that gained as above named. If this be the case, consider the vast difference in the profit on the food expended. In one case there may be a loss, or the gain of the hog may barely pay for the food, while in the other, the clear profit may be 50 per cent; and probably in feeding on the food named, the clear profit was 100 per cent.—*Yankee Farmer.*

From the National Intelligencer.

PAPER NETS FOR CLEANING AND VENTILATING SILK WORMS.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: Believing the above named admirable labor-saving and ventilating apparatus to be the most valuable invention for that purpose that has been made since this noble insect was first domesticated, I should deem myself guilty of inexcusable neglect if I failed to urge its adoption on American silk culturists. Before I describe the paper nets, the method of making them, and the manner of using them, I will quote a passage from a letter of Dr. J. S. Bell, (Journal of the American Silk Society, Volume II. page 290,) which will show the opinion entertained of their value by intelligent silk culturists in France. I am now using two hundred and fifty paper nets; and, after several weeks' close observation, I believe them to be worthy of all the praise that has been bestowed on them in France. Persons unacquainted with the habits of silk worms are incompetent judges of the value of fixtures designed for their accommodation; hence thousands of dollars have been expended by inexperienced theorists in the United States for the purchase of fixtures, that have subsequently been thrown away. The capital expended in this way, since 1835, would furnish an ample bounty for the establishment of this valuable culture in three or four States of the Union. Speculators are still at work, and there is reason to fear that larger sums will yet be thrown away for unsuitable fixtures.

"It is well known that a speedy and effectual method of clearing away the litter from the worms, during the feeding process, has long been a desideratum.—The network hurdles were recommended for this purpose; but their inefficiency is now, I believe, universally acknowledged. It appears, from the pages of the 'Propagatuer,' that the operation of cleaning of the worms is now performed, in all the principal French colonies, by means of what are termed paper nets, (papiers-filets.) It appears that nets made of twine were first used; but they are now universally superseded by these paper nets, which are much cheaper, and are said to be better adapted to the purpose. I regret that I have not been able to find any description of these nets in the 'Propagateur;' all the communications take it for granted that the reader is already acquainted with their construction. As far as I can discover, however, from the different articles on the subject, I think they are made by punching a great number of small holes in a sheet of strong paper, with an instrument constructed for the purpose. When this paper is laid upon the worms to be cleaned, mulberry leaves having been previously sprinkled over it, the worms ascend through the holes as they are said to ascend through the meshes of the network hurdles, and the paper underneath containing the litter can of course be removed. The inventor of this apparatus is M. Eugene Robert. In a letter te the editor of the 'Propagateur' he remarks: 'The use of the paper nets in the economy of Saint Tulle, and in a great number of large and small establishments in the neighborhood, has been attended with such entire success that I will hereafter confine myself to a simple presentation of the testimony of those culturists who have made use of them, in order to recommend the adoption of my *economical* net.' He then cites, among other testimony, that of a distinguished culturist of Brest in the department of Drome, M. Fame de Laforet, who, after stating that his success that year (1839) had been greater than in any former season, adds: 'I owe this result to your paper nets, which I have used continually up to the time of mounting, to the number of 1,500, 2 feet wide and 4 feet long, corresponding with the size of my shelves. I have had a great many visiters who like myself have made use of the papor nets this year. Pierced according to the pattern of yours, my nets have worn very well; for I have had but 10 or 12 of them injured. I have no doubt that by another year the paper nets will be brought Into general use throughout the country.'"

I will now furnish directions for making and using nets similar to mine, which I have found to accomplish well what is ascribed to the French nets.

These nets are made by providing a framework of light laths, 3 feet long and 2 feet wide, (this being the size most convenient,)—the two pieces of laths 3 feet long being united by three pieces 2 feet long, one at each end and one in the middle. The holes (five eights of an inch in diameter) are punched in sheets of strong brown pader, 3 feet long and 2 feet wide, to suit the frames on which they are pasted. The space between the holes may be about an inch. With an instrument called a wad-cutter, twenty sheets of paper may be punched at once. Double sets of these nets will cost but little more than shelves of rough plank; and if the frames are well put together with wrought nails, they will last more than twenty years. This paper will require renewing in every period of six or seven years. After the silkworms have accomplished the *third* moulting, the nets may may be laid over the worms daily, if the culturist desires it, up to the time of mounting, and the worms will be kept as clean as the most careful could desire, and with comparatively little labor.

The nets must not be laid over the worms when they are torpid; but, after the third and *fourth* moultings, when nearly all the worms are roused, they may be laid over them daily; and when the leaves are scattered over the paper, they will speedily extricate themselves from the litter, ascend through the holes and commence eating. The nets may be used with or without shelves under them; if without shelves, they can be supported by parallel slips of timber, about 20 inches apart; if placed on shelves, they must be raised about two inches by placing blocks of timber under each end. When these nets are used, disease cannot be produced by the accumulation of litter without gross negligence, yet no claim to *infallibility* is set up for them. Let silk culturists try them. They will be found simple, (a child can apply and use them, *economical*, and very efficient.

LAYTON Y. ATKINS.

Stafford County, Va., Sept. 1841.

FATTENING ANIMALS.

There are some rules which may be advantageously adopted in feeding animals, which however obvious they may be are too often passed over, or neglected. Some of these will be specified and

1st. *The preparation of Food.*—This should be so prepared that its nutritive properties may all be made available to the use of the animal, and not only so, but appropriated with the least possible expenditure of muscular energy. The ox that is obliged to wander over an acre to get the food he should find on two or three square rods—the horse that is two or three hours eating the coarse food he would swallow in fifteen minutes if the grain was ground, or the hay cut as it should be—the sheep that spends hours in making its way into a turnip, when if it was sliced it would eat in as many minutes—the pig that eats raw potatoes, or whole corn, when either cooked could be eaten in one quarter now used, may indeed fatten, but much less rapidly than if their food was given in a proper manner. All food should be given to a fattening animal in such a state, that as little time and labor as possible, on the part of the animal, shall be required in eating.

2d. *The food should be in abundance.* From the time the fattening process commencess, until the animal is slaughtered, he should never be without food.—Health and appetite are best promotod by change of food rather than by limiting the quantity. The animal that is stuffed and starved by turns, may have streaked meat, but it will be made too slowly for the pleasure or profit of the good farmer.

3d. *The Food should be given regularly.*—This is one of the most essentail points in feeding animals. If given irregularly, the animal indeed consumes his food, but he soon acquires a restless disposition, is disturbed at every appearance of his feeder, and is never in that quiet state so necessary to the taking on of fat. It is surprising how readily any animal acquires habits of regularity in feeding, and how soon the influence of this is felt in the improvement of his condition. When at the regular hour, the pig has had his pudding, or the sheep its turnips, they compose themselves to rest, with the consciousness that their digestion is not to be unseasonably disturbed, or their quiet broken by unwonted invitation to eat.

4th. *The animal should not be needlessly intruded upon between the hours of feeding.*—All creatures fatten much faster in the dark than in the light, a fact only to be accounted for by their greater quiet. Some of those creatures that are the most irritable and impatient of restraint while feeding, such as turkeys and geese, are found to take on fat rapidly when confined in dark rooms, and only fed at stated hours by hand. There is no surer proof that a pig is doing well, than to see him eat his meal quickly and then retire to his bed, to sleep or cogitate until rhe hour of feeding returns.—Animals while fattening should never be alarmed, never rapidly driven, never be fed at unseasonable hours, and above all things, never be allowed to want for food. *Cultivatvr.*

From the Camden Journal.

WATEREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held at Swift Creek, on Tuesday, the 9th instant.

The President being absent, William, Sanders, Esq. one of the Vice Presidents, took the Chair. The Recording Secretary read the proceedings of the former meeting.—Mr. James Cantey was proposed and unanimously elected a member.

Major J. M. DeSaussure, from the Committee appointed to prepare an essay or memoir to be submitted at this meeting, made a report, which, after being read, was approved and accepted with instructions that the same be sent up to the State Agricultural Society.

The Committee on Cotton asked further time to make their report upon the probable amount that will be made on the Wateree, which was granted.

Several Committees were then appointed to make all necessary arrangements fro celebrating the anniversary of the Society, and to make suitable preparations for the exhibition of the stock on the first Thursday in November next.

The President, in pursuance of a rule commenced calling upon the members to give their views and opinions upon the best mode of raising and attending cattle and hogs, and the cultivation of lucerne.

Col. W. J. Taylor stated that his hogs were of the Cobbett breed; that he has for several years past, paid great attention to them, and finds by proper treatment and management, can make them a first rate hog.—Pushes them when young. He thinks a cross would be advantageous—and whilst the country is not yet well supplied with the best foreign improved breed, neighbors should exchange with each other to obtain that object.

Mr. Jacob Little, a gentleman of long experience, observed that he was satisfied that crossing the breed was necessary and advantageous, inasmuch as he thought the same old stock would degenerate; was harder to keep up; took much more food, were lazy and sluggish and became unprolific. Oat fields were indispensably necessary to the raising of hogs successfully and economically. The stock hogs and those intended for slaughter should be turned upon them—it makes them industrious and thrifty. If practicable, the larger should be separated from the smaller. An intelligent and trusty servant should have the management, and his whole time devoted to their care. Mr. Little further stated that the hogs he intends to slaughter in the winter are turned into the cornfield the latter part of August, or first of September, and that it is all a mistaken notion, that the destruction of the corn will be much felt—that the hogs would first take the corn lying on the ground, which would rot before it is usually gathered for your barns. The peas and pumpkins they have, also the benefit of eating the young pea hams at the same time. Mr. Little kills from twenty to twenty five thousand pounds of pork a year, and there has been bought but one thousand pounds of bacon for the place he is living on, for the last nineteen years: he pickles 10 or 12 beeves through the winter, which, with the pork that is cured, makes a plentiful supply for the negroes.

Capt. B. Boykin observed that he agreed with both the members upon the importance of a good cross, and that his plan did not deviate much from Mr. Little's—that he also turned his hogs into oat fields in July, and in the fall upon the corn fields; that he has paid considerable attention to the raising of hogs; that they have improved in appearance and number.

Mr. J. Arthur coincided, and was prepared to say that great benefit would result from a rigorous prosecution of a systematic operation of raising stock of all kinds. Other members were called on, who gave pretty much the same statements.

Maj. A. H. Boykin was then requested to give information to the society touching the French Clover or Lucerne. He stated that it was an early grass; put forth much earlier in the spring, than other grasses that are indigenous to the climate or soil, has an acre of it planted; can be cut ten or twelve times a year. The time for cutting is when it begins to bloom; is fine for horses cattle and hogs; should be planted on a sandy soil, in rows 15 to 18 inches apart. August the proper time, as it would require less trouble to get it ahead; but the spring would answer: was tender, and like the turnip patch nice treatment was necessary to get in a good growing way: when it has got possession, roots out other grasses; is somewhat exhausting to land, therefore to be occasionally manured. It is a perennial, and need not be planted or renewed for ten or twelve years, stands drought remarkably well, as its roots penetrate nine or more feet. From his own experience and observation, thinks it superior to the common Clover, Timothy or Herds Grass, either for hay or soiling, the yield being very great; as much as thirty tons have been obtained from the various cuttings through the year, and is satisfied that the general introduction of its culture by planters and farmers would tend much to the economy of raising stock.

Col. W. J. Taylor thought that the Society should meet oftener, and on motion, made by him, an extra meeting will be held on the first Thursday in October.

Capt. B. Boykin then moved an adjournment, which was carried.

J. BOYKIN, Sec'ry.

IMPORTED BERKSHIRES.

By a letter received a few days since from Mr. A. B. Allen, now in England. I learn that he has made two shipments of select Berkshire swine to New York, where they will probably arrive before your September paper goes to press. He has travelled all over the great pork countries of England, and finds the Berkshires to excel every thing of the swine family in that country. But those of extraordinary size and perfection of form are scarce and high. A number of such, however, he has found, and regardless of expense, has secured them for exportation to America. He has a boar, "Windsor Castle," bred near that place, which will weigh in good flesh 800 lbs., now 2 years old. Another, "Hagbourn," 14 months old, will weigh 500 lbs. The last, he says, is the same figure as his famous sow, "Raven Hair; and although he does not say "these are the finest swine in all England," yet they are the finest that *he* has seen. He was going down to Sussex to find the *largest* hogs in the kingdom, and if their apparent qualities warranted, would probable select a few to gratify the cormorant propensities of some of our western gentlemen, which nothing but inordinate size can gratify.

The most extensive and scientific swine breeder he had yet found, was the Rt. Hon. Shaw Lefeyre, speaker of the House of Commons, who has an extensive estate in Berkshire; and noble dukes, earls, and right honorables, go into active competition with the humblest citizens of the empire, in the improvement of their farming stock, with as much zeal as they enter into a plan to double the produce of their acres, or increase the profits of their mines. When *mind*, in *our* country, is thus applied to the development of matter in agriculture, as unhappy for our true interests it is not, then shall we witness equal success and improvement, and then will the landholder take his true position in wealth and influence with the other professions of our country.

Mr. A. had made a few selections of Southdown sheep, and was shortly to visit the three days' fair of the Royal Agricultural Society in Liverpool, and after that, to go into the cattle regions of Yorkshire and the north of England, from which he would return through the middle counties, te Bristol, and take passage for home on the 1st of September by the Great Western, where he will probably arrive by the 20th of the same month.

Blue, Rock, N. Y. Aug. 14, 1841.

Very truly, yours, L. F. A.

OIL OF PUMPKIN SEED.—The Germans on the banks of the Wabash, in Indiana, instead of throwing away or giving to the pigs, the seeds of their pumpkins, as i usually done, collect them and make an oil from them which they use for all the purposes of lamp oil and olive oil. One gallon of seed will give about hair a gallon of lamp oil. They may be pressed like rape and flax seed. Try it.

Com. Far. Gazette.

MEAL AND MILK FOR CHICKENS.

We purchased a pair of unusually fat chickens from a country wagon a few since, and had the curiosity to inquire of the seller how he succeeded in getting them so fat. His reply was that he fed them with Indian meal and milk. Merely take uncooked meal and wet it up with cold sweet milk, and feed liberally, and your chickens will fatten as rapidly as can be desired. There is a pleasure in carrying fat poultry to market; and all our farmers may enjoy this pleasure, by following the above direction in feeding.

A Phenomenon in Grafting.—Van Mons, one of the most intelligent horticulturists that ever lived, once tried an extraordinary experiment in grafting; that of inserting an *entire tree* on the stump of another.

A neighbor having in the spring season cut down an apple-tree, about fifteen feet high, which Van Mons considered a desirable kind, a good healthy tree, he immediately selected a stock of similar dimensions, and cutting it off near the ground, placed on it, by the mode of *peg* grafting, the foster tree; supported the tree by stakes; and excluded the air from the place of junction, by plastering it with clay, and afterwards heaping earth around it. The experiment succeeding perfectly, the tree becoming in the course of the *second* season nearly as vigorous as ever. This experiment was more curious than useful, but as a fact in natural history it is deserving of notice. Few men would probably succeed in the attempt.

Yankee Farmer.

SOLVENT FOR OLD PUTTY. In removing old glass, spread over the putty, with a small brush a little nitric or muriatic acid, and the putty will become soft.

CORN SUGAR.—The subject of corn stalk sugar which we have before referred to as having been introduced by *Mr.* Webb at the Agricultural Meeting in this city, appears to be attracting considerable notice in various sections of the country. We understand that *Mr.* Ellsworth, the Commissioner of Patents at Washington, is much interested in the subject, and that further experiments are about to be made by Mr. Webb.—*Delaware Journal.*

From the New York Farmer.

SUPERIOR COMPOSITION FOR TREES

Extract of a letter from Hon. J. K. GUERNSEY. *of Pitsford, to Wm. Prince and Sons.*

I avail myself of this opportunity to send you the following statement, respecting the composition for trees.

Many inoculated trees are greatly injured, and finally lost, in consequence of the length necessary to heal over the stock, where it is cut off, when no means are used to secure it from exposure to the air and wet.

The wood dies down to some distance, and although, after a time, bark and new would may grow over, it finally rots, and destroys the tree. The same is true of large limbs cut off, and of the bark knocked off by accident. To prevent this, the following cheap and easy applied composition is the best remedy I have found.—I have used it for more than twenty years with almost uniform and perfect success.

RECIPE.—One part, say one quart, common tar. Two parts, say two qurats chalk, finely pulverized, and sifted. Put the tar into an iron kettle; heat it, and whilst hot stir in the chalk. Care should be taken not to boil it too much, either when first made or when using it, as that will make it too hard and brittle. Should it by accident become so, add tar, till sufficiently soft. When to be used, heat it over either an earthen or iron portable furnace, or fire made on the ground on or near the place where wanted, so as to boil, or to be sufficiently soft, which a little experience will show, and apply it with a small iron or wooden spatuly, covering the wood entirely with a thin coat and leaving no place for the water to get under the composition. It will remain on for years, but may be taken off whenever the bark shall have grown over the wood. It will be found upon examination that there is no dead wood under it. Any one who delights in seeing fine healthy trees, after having once fairly tried the experiment, will never abandon its use. It is particularly valuable for covering the stumps when old trees are headed down. This composition was invented, and an account of it published, by some gentleman either of England or of Scotland, I think Sir Authur St. Clair, soon after Forsyth first published the account of his composition for healing wounds in fruit trees, which is very troublesome to make, and still more so to use. It is, probably, known to many horticulturists, but ought to be known to all who cultivate fruit trees; and if you think the publication of these remarks will be useful, they are at your service.

A TRIAL OF FATTENING QUALTITIES OF WOBURN AND BERKSHIRES WHEN FED ON THE SAME ALLOWANCE.

"There was put under my care on the 14th August, by Dr. Martin and James F. Taylor, two Woburn* and one Berkshire sows, for the purpose of being fed; and I received directions to give each one five pounds of corn a day, and to increase the quantity until I should find what quantity the mallest eater of the three would consume.

On that evening, I gave to each one of them two and a half pounds of corn, and the next day five pounds each, and on the 15th, nearly six pounds each; one of the Woburns (Patience) failed to eat all of her allowance, and the next day was very lame, (I suppose slightly foundered) nd their food was again reduced to five pounds each per day, until the 20th when Patience having recovered, it was gradually increased so as to give each one fifty-two pounds of corn in the ten days, when they were weighed, and the following is the result:—

Mr. Taylor's Black Berkshire sow Belinda, gained	21 lbs.
Dr. Martin's Woburn Patience, gained	21
Dr. Martin's Woburn Courtenay, gained	30 "

Clark, County, Ky., Aug. 23, 1841.

JAMES WEATHERS, JR.

* Mr. Duncan, who first accepted the proposal, was sick at the time, and his sow had met with some accident, so she was not fed.

A single experiment like the above is not conclusive. Two pigs of the same breed, and was of the same litter may differ in their propensities to grow or to fatten. Besides, the age and weights of the pigs at the time of commencing the experiment ought to have been stated.]

NEW YORK AND ERIE RAILROAD.

We learn from the New York Commercial Advertiser that there are at this time about three thousand men at work on the line of the New York and Erie Railroad. The disbursements of the Company for labor are now between two and three hundred thousand dollars per month.

From the National Intelligencer.

OFFICIAL.

TO THE HON. S. R. HOBBIE, ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Sir: Information having been received in a form entitled to attention that the Postmasters at ******, Pennsylvania, and ******, Ohio, have so far violated the obligations which they implicitly assumed on taking office under my administration, of abstaining from any active partisanship, or in any way connecting their offices with party politics, or using them for party purposes, I have to request that inquiries shall be instantly instituted into their conduct; and if the charges against them are found to be true, they be immediately turned out of office, and citizens appointed in their places who will otherwise conduct themselves. The Post office Department, in all its operations, should be conducted for the single purpose of accomplishing the important objects for which it was established. It should in an especial manner, so far as is practicable, be disconnected from party politics. It was established for specified purposes of equal importance to every citizen. To convert it to an engine of party, to be used for party purposes, is to make it the fruitful source of the