

FARMERS' GAZETTE,

AND CHERAW ADVERTISER.

VOLUME VIII.

CHERAW, SOUTH-CAROLINA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1842.

NUMBER 5.

By M. MACLEAN.

TERMS:—Published weekly at three dollars a year; with an addition, when not paid within three months, of twenty per cent per annum.

Two new subscribers may take the paper at five dollars in advance; and ten at twenty.

Four subscribers, not receiving their papers in town, may pay a year's subscription with ten dollars, in advance.

A year's subscription always due in advance. Papers not discontinued to solvent subscribers in arrears.

Advertisements not exceeding 16 lines inserted for one dollar the first time, and fifty cents each subsequent time. For insertions at intervals of two weeks 75 cents after the first, and a dollar if the intervals are longer. Payment due in advance for advertisements. When the number of insertions is not marked on the copy, the advertisement will be inserted, and charged till ordered out.

The postage must be paid on letters to the editor on the business of the office.

AGRICULTURE

From the American Agriculturist.

RAISING CALVES.

Black-Rock, May, 1842.

We have frequently heard the question mooted, What is the best manner of raising calves?

To this, several answers may be given, according to the use and purpose for which they are destined. But to make the subject familiar and illustrate it fully, we will answer *seriatim*.

1st. For veal. Fatted calves, if the circumstances of the farmer, and the price of the article will warrant, should be kept till five or six weeks old. From their birth they should draw all the milk fresh from the cow that they require; or at any rate all she will yield, if it be not more than the calf will drink. To the milk, if not enough is yielded by the cow, a light boiled gruel of any sort of meal may be added, with a trifle of salt. This gives a fine flavor to the veal, and assists in the fattening. It is a very simple operation, and attended with little trouble. If the dam be a great milker, it may suck twice a day. Many people give their veal calves only a part of the milk when they require more. This practice may make veal after the fashion, but it will not be good veal. The best can only be made by giving the calf all he will eat.

2d. For making fine blood stock, and acquiring early maturity. Let the calf have all the milk the cow yields, if he will take it. As soon as he will eat roots, meal, hay, or grass, let it be fed all it wants of these, or either of them. The animal will pay in price and appearance for extra attention, and its early development will amply recompense the cost. No first rate animals can be produced without full and regular feed. In this practice, the calf may either run with the dam or be enclosed by itself in a stable, pasture or yard. All such, however, should be early broke into control by the halter, and made entirely manageable. They are, besides, least troublesome, reared in this method.

3d. Those intended for store cattle, and for working oxen, heaves, and milch cows for common purposes.

For such uses, calves may be reared in different ways. Milk is always the first and indispensable food for young animals, and of this the calf in its early days should not be deprived. It is absolutely necessary for its existence, however, but a few weeks after birth. In those sections of the country where cows are kept for the sole purpose of breeding and raising their progeny, and the dairy or milk forms no part of their profit, no better plan than to let them run with the calf, can be adopted care being taken that the surplus milk, if any, be daily drawn from the udder, to keep it in a healthy condition. But where the milk is required for dairy purposes, the calf should, after the second day, be entirely taken from the cow, and learned to drink by the finger. This need only be continued for a day or two in most cases. After a fortnight, skimmed milk, or whey, or a light porridge, or gruel of boiled meal (raw meal at first is injurious to the calf, causing them to scour,) may be added according to circumstances. The condition of the calf should be watched, and the food regulated, enriched, or reduced, as its appearance may require, and in a short time it will eat grass, meal, roots, or hay. The animal, however, requires continual attention, and a woman after all is the best nurse for a young calf. We have indeed often known fine stocks of calves raised with very little milk, the principal early food being hay tea, and the docile, petting care of the faithful nurse. Good nursing is almost every thing, for without it calves, with a scarcity of milk, will not thrive. Salt should be used freely and placed where they can get it when they like, and if at all inclined to scour, a lump of chalk should be placed within their reach, or a small quantity pulverized with their food. Young stock, to be sure, raised in this way, will not so readily attain their growth to two years, as if raised at the foot of the cow; but ultimately, will reach their full size and good quali-

ties. Such need a little more care, and keep better the first winter than the latter, but after that, are equally hardy and thrifty. They require good shelter, to be kept clean, and free from vermin; and may then go on their way rejoicing.

We can only repeat, that no one can be successful in raising any kind of stock without care and good attendance.—These are indispensable, and the females, and young, and old folks, on the farm, can always attend to this department.—The time of the farmer and out-door laborers should never be abstracted in the busy seasons for small choring of this kind. We have known many farmers' wives, and quite genteel folks too, who have raised their score, or half score of calves annually, and they hardly knew that they had eaten any thing from the material of their dairy.

L. F. A.

From the Southern Planter.

MAKING, PRESERVING, AND APPLYING MANURE.

1. Making. The making of manure is like the making of other things; every one has his own way, and thinks it best. A great deal may be made by using the proper means, collecting every thing that would otherwise be lost, and depositing it in a particular place. For instance, have a pen made near the kitchen—put into it from time to time all the ashes, trash, weeds growing on places where they are in the way. In this way I have seen a considerable quantity of manure made. My own opinion is that more leaves may be put into a farm-pen than is advisable. I would keep all these places well littered, and if more leaves were collected than was required for that purpose—pile them up in the woods, apply lime or plaster, and in the spring spread and plough them in. By that means, one hauling is saved, and I think equal benefit secured.

In cleaning out stables, cattle-sheds, and hog-sties, I would spread the manure over the farm-yard—by which means the whole is more readily decomposed, and is of equal strength besides that it prevents what is called fire-fang in the horse manure. By so arranging the farm-pen that no water can get into it but what falls from the clouds, and none can pass out—all the liquid portion of the manure is absorbed by the litter, and the whole mass made rich.

In my travels, last year, I observed at a gentleman's house a plan that pleased me much. A pit was dug near to his stable, and when that required cleaning out, the manure was thrown into the pit with alternate layers of sand until filled, a covering of sand being the last, and a small trench connecting the pit with several smaller ones filled with litter, to absorb the liquid which escaped from the larger pit, by which means all was saved.

2. Preserving. The great secret of preserving is to prevent the escape of the liquid portion of the manure. It will not do to rely upon its being absorbed by litter—if it can pass off it will go.

Under the first head, "making," I have included necessarily the other means of preserving. After it is made, if it cannot be immediately applied, put it into a situation to prevent its heating, and cover it to prevent evaporation.

3. Applying. Manure is like money; any body can make it, but few take care of it, and apply it properly. I consider the last of most importance. In the application of manure we all have some leading object in view; one to make a large crop of corn, another a large crop of tobacco, and another a large crop of something else. It should be so applied, that whilst it secures us good crops, it also secures the permanent improvement of our lands. This cannot be effected by those who have to rely upon their own resources, without giving back to the land, in some form, a portion of its product. As the most effective means of rapid and extensive improvement, I would so apply manure as to produce good crops of clover, using for that purpose the finest, and applying the coarse manure to the corn crop. When a good crop of clover is once secured, I should rely only upon that for keeping up the improvement of the land which produced it. Corn is an exhausting crop—I have known one crop of it to consume the fruits of six years' improvement. But as we cannot do without it, the cultivator should be careful not to tax his land, either by too much crowding or by a careless or injudicious mode of culture. Land may be kept in a state of improvement, and even be benefited by a corn crop once in four or five years, if not grazed, or badly cultivated.

To return to manure. My opinion is that land, like the stomach, may be overloaded with food—and as it is best to err on the safe side, I prefer to apply my manure in "broken doses," so that none shall be wasted. I have known persons to fail in making a good crop by applying too much manure—and with the loss of half that, and half the crop, few persons can afford to improve under such circumstances. It is, I think, bad policy to use any thing for the purpose of increasing the quantity of manure, that can of itself be applied as a top-dressing or otherwise—which takes off the produce of the land to add to the stock of manure. I contend that it is best to let it return to the land which produced it by the natural course of decay.

As already stated, manure should not be applied in larger quantities than may be necessary to secure a good crop, and leave the land improved—otherwise if the season be a pushing one, the extra crop will take too much from the land—if it be a dry one, there will be a loss of crop and manure. It is, therefore, my opinion that it is best to apply so much manure only as may be necessary to secure a good crop and leave the land in a condition to produce a good crop of clover, by the aid of which the improvement may be continued and perpetuated. This appears to me to be the cheapest, and the surest, as it is the only way of effecting a general system of improvement, where the farmer has to rely upon the resources of the farm alone. I have tried it, and my own experience has satisfied me that by these means a rapid and effective system of improvement can be kept up.

WILLIAM MILLER.

From the Southern Planter.

It is astonishing how much may be made by applying odds and ends of time to collecting and spreading manure. Whenever a spare hour can be gained, independent of stated seasons, resort should be had to the woods; leaves and trash should be raked into piles, and a little earth thrown on the top. As soon as it is partially decomposed, or rendered fit to answer as a covering to the land, that is, as soon as it is in a state not liable to be carried off by the wind, it should be hauled, at any time or season, upon land designed for the next year's crop. This deposit will operate as a cover to the land, shielding it from the summer suns and the winter frosts, afford food for the growing plants, and greatly improve the land.

From the time that horses are stabled and the cows pouched or stalled in the stall, they should be provided with a plentiful supply of litter. The stalls should be cleaned out twice a week, loading your cart from the stable-door, and carrying it out at once upon the field designed for corn in the spring. Thus, the manure can be spread in half the time, and more equally than it could be if suffered to lie to a pile all the winter. Besides, it will be twice as effective. The product of the stable and barn yard during the spring and summer months should be deposited in a convenient reservoir, properly prepared, and intermixed with straw and trash. In the month of August, haul it out upon the field intended for wheat, and spread it before the plough, turning it under to a moderate depth. This process is to be preferred to surface manuring, after the plough; because, when the land is stirred in seeding, the manure will be incorporated with the soil, will preserve the moisture, and greatly invigorate the plant. Whereas, the surface dressing, at such a season, exposes the manure to great loss by evaporation.

To prepare land for wheat, if the soil is deep and loamy, where you have no manure to plough in, plough very deep, mixing a portion of clay, if possible, with the surface mould; narrow level, then, with a single shovel score or furrow it off, at distances of ten inches from centre to centre. The wheat when sown will fall, principally, into the furrows; narrow in the wheat the same way, that is, with the furrows. The narrow, if the soil is light, should be light also, that the teeth may not reach the grain, and throw it out of the furrows. The wheat will, of course, come up in drills, it will be better protected in winter, will grow off better in the spring, and will make a more productive crop.

Yours, respectfully,

S. DAVIS.

Frederick, Virginia.

BONE DUST.

An agriculturist, rendered attentive to the vast importance of bones for manure, instituted privately some comparative experiments; the results of which prove, that bone dust acts in the cultivation of ground, as compared to the best stable manure, 1st. In respect to the quality of the grain, as 7 to 5. 2d. In respect to quantity of grain, as 5 to 4. 3d. In respect to the durability of the energy of soils, as 3 to 2. It produces several collateral advantages. 1st. It destroys weeds. 2d. It diminishes the necessity of fallow-crops. 3d. This concentrated manure, or substitute for manure, is more easy of conveyance, less laborious to spread, and can with facility be applied to the steepest lands, in very hilly countries, or in wet meadow lands. 4th. It renders agriculture practicable without cattle breeding, grazing, &c.

Mark Lane Express.

BUTTER.

We have frequently urged the necessity of keeping milk or cream at a moderate temperature for churning. By artificial means, it must be kept cool in summer, and warm in winter. The following is an extract from a letter of Mr. C. N. Bement to the "Northern Light,"—*So. Planter*.

"The process of extracting cream from milk, adopted in the county of Devonshire, England, by which a superior richness is produced in the cream had long been known by the name of 'clotted' or 'clouded cream.' They use a four-sided vessel formed of zinc plates twelve inches long, eight inches wide, and six inches deep, with a false bottom one half the depth. The only communication to the lower part is by a lip, through which it may be filled or emptied. A plate of perforated zinc, placed in the bottom, which is equal in size to that of the false bottom, with ringed handles, by which means the whole of the cream can be lifted off in a sheet without remixing with the milk.—The milk, fresh drawn from the cow, is strained into the pan, and remains at rest for twelve hours, when an equal quantity of boiling water is poured into the lower compartment, through the lip; it is then permitted to stand twelve hours more, when the cream will be found perfect, and of such consistence that it may be lifted off with the finger and thumb. In a trial of twelve successive experiments with the above apparatus, the following results were obtained: From four gallons of milk treated as above, produced in twenty-four hours, four and a half pints of cream, which after churning only fifteen minutes, gave forty ounces butter. The same quantity of milk treated in the common mode, in earthen ware pans, and standing forty-eight hours, produced four pints of cream, which after churning ninety minutes gave thirty-six ounces butter. The increase of cream was twelve and a half per cent, and of butter eleven per cent.

From the above suggestions, I caused a pan to be made six inches deep, to receive one of one-half the depth, which was set into the other, resting on the edge of the lower one, and carefully soldered together; near the top of the outer pan, a tube one inch in diameter was inserted, to admit the hot water, and on the opposite side a small hole was made to let the air escape when pouring in the water.—With this double pan I tried several experiments, and the results, though varied, were very satisfactory.

In one instance, eleven pounds milk, fresh drawn from the cow, and after standing twelve hours boiling water was introduced into the lower pan, and stood thirty-six hours more, when it was skimmed, and twelve hours after the cream was converted into butter, with a spoon and bowl, in seven minutes, and produced five ounces.

In another trial, eleven and a half pounds of milk, subject to the same process, except it stood only twelve hours after the hot water was put in; skimmed and churned immediately, which it took only one minute to convert into butter, produced seven ounces.

In the next case eleven pounds of milk was conducted in the same manner as before, except standing twenty-four hours after the hot water was put in; skimmed and churned in eleven minutes, and produced six ounces of butter.

Several other trials were made, with a view of ascertaining the best time to let it stand after the introduction of the hot water and the result was that in some cases it took four, seven, ten and a half, eleven and fourteen minutes to churn, and the quantity varied from eight to twelve ounces, and in no instance did the quantity of milk exceed twelve and a half pounds, which was the most successful as to quantity, giving one ounce of butter for every pound of milk, which rates at one pound of butter from six quarts of milk, which is equal to the celebrated "Haskin's cow," the reputed mother of Colonel Jaques' "Cream Pot" breed as noticed in Mr. Colman's Fourth Report. The milk with which the above experiments were made, was taken from a two year old heifer, a cross of the Durham and Ayrshire, seventeen days after calving, and a heifer's milk is never considered as rich as when more advanced in years.

Allowing that we got, as we did in the last trial, one ounce of butter for every pound of milk, which will average twenty-three pounds daily, would be over ten pounds of butter per week.

From the foregoing experiments I have arrived at the following conclusions: that the most profitable method is to let the milk stand twelve hours—then add the boiling water, then stand twelve hours more, then skim, and churn the cream from the evening and morning's milk at the same time.

An improvement may be made in having the pans separate, but fitted tight where they come together, by which means they can be much easier cleaned and dried; as in the above method it would be more difficult to dry them when together.

I am inclined to think too, that the same pans may be made useful in the summer when the weather is very hot, and the quantity and quality of the cream much increased by filling the under pan

with cold well or spring water, previous to putting in the milk."

The Editor adds, that Mr. Bement had sent him a sample of butter, made in thirty seconds, equal in quality to any he ever saw.

BREEDING.

The duration of life in the swine, is said by naturalists, to extend to twenty or thirty years, who report that the boar continues to grow to the end of the term. Swine are ready for procreation at the age of seven months, but the male is unprofitable for that purpose until twelve months old, and is in his prime at two years. In other respects, the age of swine is a matter of small concern, since they are never kept until they are old; and it is the custom of many breeders to slaughter even their most prolific sows in the second year. The young sows to be preserved for breeding, should be chosen with deep and capacious bellies, the full number of teats, and of the most extensive or widest general form. The term of gestation in swine is four months, or one hundred and fifteen days, with a very few days variation, producing three litters of from five to twelve pigs each, in about eighteen months, supposing the pigs to be weaned; but in two or three months less time, the pigs being suckled for roasters. I have, however, found, and more especially in the large breeds, that a litter of a moderate number is most profitable, since in the most numerous litters there are generally several undersized and weak individuals.

Thus a litter of nine or ten good pigs may bring more profit than a litter of thirteen or fourteen.—*Western Farmer*.

CORN.

In the May number of the Cultivator, we find the following remarks, on the old question of late ploughing and hilling corn, from Mr. L. Physick, of Maryland, a name familiar to agricultural readers:

So. Planter.

"I have noticed an error in the culture of plants and trees, wherever I have been, and I know no better plan to illustrate it than in showing the effect of the error on corn. In the culture of corn, it is usual to work the crop till the tassel is about to make its appearance; this is an error.—Whenever the lateral roots of a plant are injured, moved or disturbed, when the stalk that it produces the seed is matured or about maturing, or whenever those roots are covered to a greater depth at this stage of growth than nature intended, it will produce early maturity and decay; and the yield will be just in the proportion to the extent of the error. If you will take the pains to destroy the lateral roots of a stalk of corn after its having made the last joint on the stock, you will find that it will produce no corn; and if you will displace their situation at this time by hilling, you will get a less quantity of seed than if left alone. If the lateral roots of a stalk of clover are cut off when the seed stock is forming, there will be no seed; and just so with other plants and trees; and the working of them at this stage cannot be attempted without injury. Yet, strange to say, it is almost invariably done. I have never suffered from corn to be worked after one-third of the height of the stalk was attained. I plant close enough to have the corn to shade the ground at this height, so as to prevent the growth of weeds after this last working. I plant two and a half feet square, and leave two stalks in the hill, and I have never missed having as much corn per acre and as large ears as my neighbors; and much more than some of them. I never planted a crop of corn that I had not some kind neighbor or friend to tell me that I would neither have corn nor fodder. Last spring a cropper upon my neighbor's farm planted thirty-five or forty acres in corn, and I about ten acres; our fields adjoining.—He planted his corn four feet square, and left three or four stalks in the hill, and worked his crop till it was ready to shoot into tassels. I quit working mine when about two feet and a half high. His field was full of weeds and grass. Mine remained clear of both weeds and grass.—When our corn was husked and housed, he told me that I had from my ten acres nearly fifty bushels of corn more than he had from his thirty-five or forty acres, notwithstanding he told me in its early growth, that I would have no corn. Part of his ground was quite as good as mine.

"A similar and worse effect is produced in the hilling or working of plants in the latter stage of their growth, than takes place in plants and trees when deep planted. A disease is produced that hurries the plant on to early maturity by impeding the proper nourishment, by disturbing or placing the roots below where nature intended they should range for food, as well as depriving the vessels of the stalks thus covered from performing their functions. The stalks being established, it is folly for man to attempt to do that which God alone can do. Deep planting and ploughing the peach orchard after the trees have attained sufficient maturity to produce fruit, is, if not wholly, the principal cause of the disease called the yellows. By ploughing, the lateral roots are either cut, disturbed, or forced to seek food apart from where nature intended, and thus operates as a hill placed around plants, and brings the tree to early decay.

"To conclude this subject for the present, I will say, work your plants and trees while young, so as to form good stalks, and then trust to that all-wise Disposer of events to perfect them.

"I think I noticed a remark in your paper, of the roots of the watermelon being attacked by small animals. Some salt added to the hills before planting will remedy that evil and give you better fruit; and salt and saltpetre sown in the peach orchard, particularly where the orchard is worked with the plough, will assist in preventing like depredations to the roots of the peach tree.

"If you think that this hasty notice will be of any service, you are at liberty to dispose of it as you think best, and be assured that I seek neither money nor thanks for performing duties we owe one to another.

LITTLETON PHYSICK."

CORN FODDER.

The Editor of the Connecticut Farmers' Gazette strongly recommends the sowing of corn for hay. He says it has long been practised by the dairyman in his neighborhood, and that it is not only preferred by the cow to any other hay, but is more productive of milk than any food that can be given them. It is much used for soiling, and for this purpose is sowed at successive periods, that a cutting may always be had during the summer months. Where it is to be cured, however, he recommends that it should be permitted to mature, because, in that state, it is more nutritious, and much more easily cured and preserved than when it is cut green. If imperfect ears are formed, so much the better; by this process, the stalk may be injured, but the grain will more than make up for the difference. On the mode of cultivation and curing he gives the following advice:

So. Planter.

"Many persons advise to sow it broadcast, in which case it admits of no after-cultivation, and the weeds, if the land is rich, will check its growth and fill the ground with their seeds. It is best to sow it in drills two feet apart, and quite thickly in the drills, scattering the seed over a space in the row, six inches or a foot in width. It may then be ploughed or passed through a cultivator once at least; and in a measure kept clean from weeds. It is believed that as much fodder may in this way be obtained from an acre, as if sown broadcast.

"In putting away corn-fodder, we have found it advantageous to insert occasionally, layers of wheat-straw. The sweet flavor of the corn-fodder is communicated in some measure to the straw; and the straw serves to keep the corn-fodder from being injured by heating. No fodder suffers more or sooner from wet or rain than corn fodder. Every possible pains should, therefore, be taken to avoid this; and it is a good way to hang as much of our corn-fodder, as we have room for, on the beams and on poles extended over the barn-floors, and in sheds where it will be out of the reach of the cattle.

"As to the kind of corn to be sown, the Southern ground-seed or Western corn, will undoubtedly give the largest weight; but much of it will be in the butt, no part of which will the cattle eat. Our common Northern small flint corn will yield a large amount to the acre, as it will bear thick sowing; and the main stalk is not so large but that a good deal of it will be eaten, especially if cut up."

BREEDING AND RAISING SWINE.

To the Editor of the Southern Planter:

DEAR SIR,—As the time seems at length to have arrived, when the attention of our honest farmers is awakened, and inquiry is afloat as to the best method of breeding and raising swine, I hope you will not deny me a place in one of your columns for the little knowledge I may possess, gleaned from agricultural papers and my own observation and experience. For the better treatment of the subject, I shall divide my remarks into six different parts.

1st. The choice of a breed. For my own part, I prefer the Berkshires; they certainly cannot be surpassed for mildness of disposition and easiness of keep, and no other breed marks their progeny as distinctly as they do. Next to them, Mac-kays breed is the best.

2dly. Having chosen your breed, select your breeders. I will give you now a description of what I consider a perfect hog. Small head, small ears, thin neck, broad shoulders, long and round in the body, deep in the carcass, short legs, and hams rather square than round.

3dly. The age at which they should breed. Many breeders say they should not go to the boar until twelve months old. I think it would be better for them to run until they are twelve months old, but they are plenty old at ten months.—The sow should go to the boar more than once, when he has not been used for some time before, or she will have nearly all boar pigs.

4thly. To preserve them in good health and appetite, mix with their food a little pounded charcoal, once or twice a week, or throw it to them in lumps.

5thly. The management and weaning of pigs. For the purpose of feeding little pigs, I have my pens so constructed as to