

THE GLEANER

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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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THE GLEANER.

Agricultural Journal.

From the Halifax Colonial Farmer, December 1.

BUTTER.

Butter it is probable will soon be an article for exportation, and the skill of making and putting it up so that it will keep good for a sufficient time should be possessed by all who have dairies. The breed of Cows affects the Butter. Some give milk whose cream may be taken off with a fork, when loosened from the sides of the pan, and nine or ten quarts of this will make a pound of butter, which is always high coloured and of the best quality, if well made. These cows are always strong and hardy, their calves grow fast, and fatten well, but this breed rarely give a large quantity of milk, and generally go dry a long time before calving. There are cows also who give milk so thin that it will require fourteen quarts to make a pound of butter, their cream is so thin that it cannot easily be separated from the milk, and when churned there is a portion of curd mixed with the butter, which is always pale, and rather insipid. Uncommon care is required to make this butter keep well: and it would be best, in general, to keep this milk, and the butter which is made from it, separate from that of a better quality, and to use it in the family. These cows often give a great quantity of milk when high fed, but will be very poor if they have nothing but good hay, they are not easily fattened, and when fat, they have a large quantity of tallow while the beef is lean. It is rarely profitable to keep cows of this kind, either for the dairy, or to breed beef cattle. It should be observed that the milk of all cows is better between the ages of five and ten years, than when they are younger or older, and that the quality of the milk is much affected by the feed. Brewers' grains increase the quantity, and lower the quality of milk, and sour krout, which also usually contains a portion of alcohol, will make cows give an extraordinary quantity of milk, but it does not contain the usual proportion of cream and curd. Potatoes and grain produces rich milk. Mangel Wurtzel and Swedish Turnip also give good milk, but the Swedish turnip rather increases the fat than the milk of the animal. Common turnips and cabbage give a flow of milk, which sometimes has a slight taste of the feed. Very early in the spring, before the grass has sprung up, the milk of the cows that run in the woods get an unpleasant taste from the buds of the Elder and Willow, which they eat at that season, and for a short time in a wet fall, it gets a worse taste from the great quantity of white mushrooms which they find in the beech woods. Although the taste of these substances is but slightly perceptible in the butter, yet it would be prudent not to mix it with that which is intended for a new market.

Every body knows that the first grass makes the best butter. The produce of the Swiss dairy has for time immemorial had the highest cha-

racter; the reason is, that their cattle feed upon the spring grass for a great part of the year. Beginning in March to feed at the foot of the Alps, they are as the season advances moved up the Mountain till they reach a region where the warm season commences in July and ends by the last of August.

Where cattle have not a good pasture, it is often profitable to cut young grass and give them a feed every night; it should not be taken from land manured the same season. The Low Dutch butter is superior to the English and Irish, and their cows are fed mostly with clover and grass which is daily cut for them; the good quality of their butter is, however, to be ascribed in a great degree to their superior attention to cleanliness. Salt which grows damp in dull weather if kept in a room where there is no fire, should never be used for butter or pork; nor should that which when dissolved lets fall some white earth like lime.

If Butter is designed for exportation, the firkins should not be made of soft wood. When water is kept in a soft wood bucket (not painted) the bucket soon acquires a disagreeable smell in the warm season, but this is never perceived in oak buckets. The Irish firkins are made of oak, and frequently considerably scorched. We have formerly seen many of them opened which had been kept some time in the store in a warmer climate than ours. All which had the inside of the staves burnt to coal, held high-coloured sweet butter. All which were very slightly or not at all scorched, contained a paler butter, glittering in the sun, and more or less rancid. The effect of the charcoal was so perceptible, that children would sometimes say, when the head was taken out, 'This will be good butter, see what thick coal there is on the staves.'

From the American Agriculturist.

Long and Short Manure.—The question of long and short manure is of too much importance to remain unsettled, as I apprehend it does, at present, each having its advocates for strength and durability in its effects upon land and crops; and we want experimental writers to determine this point. There are many questions asked, where there is one answer given founded upon experience. Questions ought to be asked it is true, and they ought also to be answered; but it frequently happens that many months elapse before they can be answered by actual experiment, during which time they are either forgotten or neglected. But to my starting point. The lot which I am now cultivating contains about three acres, to manure which, I had access to three heaps—the first the produce of ten hogs, fed under cover and littered with straw, the manure being thrown out with the straw, as this became unfit for further use; the second was from the stables and barn yards, where the manure had been thrown during the winter with the litter, as I always bed both cattle and horses; the third was from a barn yard at a distance, where the manure had been suffered to collect and rot for three or four years in a very slowly and unthrifty-like manner. The

whole was spread on the ground before planting, taking care to plow it in as soon as it was carted on and spread. I don't think there was much difference in the quantity carried on to each section, if so it was accidental, not intentional. The ground was then ploughed, leaving a dead furrow between each land, and as it was a stiff clay soil, it became necessary to roll it before anything further could be advantageously done; after rolling, it was thoroughly harrowed, and again plowed, then harrowed; by this time much loose straw and coarse manure appeared on the top. This was carefully raked off into the dead furrows and again rolled, then planted with sugar beet, twenty two inches between the rows, and during the months of July and August they were thinned out and fed to hogs, intending to leave them standing eight inches apart in the rows; but through the inexperience of the hands who sowed and thinned them, they will vary some from this distance. I should think, from my own experience, eight inches between the plants which are intended for maturity, twenty two inches between the rows, if to be cultivated with the hoe, is about right; but if with the cultivator, plow and harrow, two and a half is near enough. I make the following estimate of the crop, including what has already been fed out to hogs:—from the old manure 809 bushels per acre; from the stable manure 1000; and from the hog manure 1200, or in this proportion. Whether they yield more or less, it is the strength and efficacy of the manure to which I wish to call public attention, and more especially to the difference between green or fresh manure and that which has been fermented and left exposed to the sun, wind and rains. Upon the coarse manure and straw raked from the beet bed into the deep furrow, I planted potatoes and turned a furrow from beet bed each side upon them, breaking the lumps of earth, (clay) and levelling with the hoe; this was all the tillage they have received except pulling out the weeds by hand, they being covered deep and planted with small pieces of from one to three eyes each. Thus:—

each piece eight inches from its fellow. Larger ones I have seldom seen, and there is every appearance of a good yield. Let this question of long and short manure be settled. It is my opinion that the sooner it is spread upon the earth after it is dropped from the animal the better. I have tried it upon a piece of grass land the two past years, and from land which in 1840 bore comparatively nothing, I have this year cut 2 1/2 tons hay per acre, by manuring it highly in 1841 and 1842 with that which came fresh from the stable, and was put upon the land in the month of March. I have nothing to say against the age of manure kept under cover and from the air, I believe the longer it is kept the better, even until it turns to saltpetre; with this too I have had some experience, and know something of its great power to stimulate vegetation.

INQUIRER.

From the Groom.

THE HORSE.

The way to judge of a horse's action is to examine him in front and behind as well as from the sides; the play of the feet is seen better in front, though the action of the shoulders cannot possibly be observed except from the sides, and still less the even and proper carriage of the body.

Very high action is more objectionable in a saddle horse than in a draught horse, not only for the reason before given, that it is often attended with 'speedy cut,' but because the foot strikes the ground with more vehemence, and hence inflammatory affections of the sole are occasioned; a quick trotter is almost always found to be tender in his feet at an early age partly because more severe work is taken out of him, every body liking to put him to his speed, to show what he can do, whether in a gentleman's stanhope or in a butcher's cart but yet more, because, by the impetuosity of his pace, his feet is constantly employed in paviour's work, and are seldom without more or less of inflammatory action going on in one or the other.

There are some cases of bad action arising from disease, such as short, stumpy, or wooden action, where a horse is soundered; and this is not unfrequently perceived in those that have been nerved, or had a portion of the nerve extracted to deprive the foot of its sensibility in chronic lameness; tenderness of the sole is generally shown by hesitation in throwing out the fore feet, as if the horse was afraid of striking the ground with force, or were walking on heated iron. A sudden catching up of the hind-legs, particularly noticed at quitting the stable, or at starting, indicates 'string halt,' which is supposed to be an affection of the nerves of the back.

Faulty action of this, or any similar kind, would more properly fall under my remarks on unsoundness, but I advert to such faults here, because it often occurs that both the fore feet, and sometimes all the four, are equally affected, and then, there being no fault, or want of uniformity in the step, the examiner is at a loss to decide whether the action is diseased, or only naturally defective. It seems, therefore, expedient, while treating of action generally, to remind him of the attention that must be given to the distinction between the two kinds of faulty action; and, as a rule, it is a tolerably safe one to assume, that whenever the action is cramped, but apparently without pain or tenderness, especially in a young horse, it springs from natural defect, not from local disease. Where the latter is the cause, though the horse may appear to go uniformly, and without halting for some time, especially on the turf, the ride, or a wet and soft road, he will, on close observation, be seen to give way every now and then on one side that happens to be more tender than another and to assist the observation, he should be made to trot at a slow pace over the stones; if it is a case of purchase, and the seller objects to such a trial, or makes any excuse to