

# THE GLEANER

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the American Agriculturist's Almanac for 1844.

DECEMBER.

Settle all your accounts, collect what is due you, and pay what you owe. "Short settlements make long friends." Examine your farm statistics, and see what have been the result of your long experiments with the different kinds of manures, seeds, modes of tillage, &c. &c.; and note them well for future use. No farmer ought to be without such a book, in which all experiments should be carefully recorded at the time, and the result carried into a separate book for his own use hereafter; and if new and valuable discoveries are obtained, communicate them to some agricultural periodical for the benefit of the world. Recollect, you have the experience of thousands to guide your operations, and, by contributing to the general stock whatever may be useful, you are but returning to mankind a part of the benefits you have derived from them. But avoid twaddle and humbuggery, and oft published statements, and give all the circumstances materially of the subjects, in the briefest, plainest, simplest language possible. Above all things send in your subscription to one or more valuable agricultural papers, and get as many of your neighbours to subscribe as possible, and consider in so doing, you are benefiting yourself by it ten times as much as you are the publisher. Summer is peculiarly the time for making observations and experiments, and winter the time for communicating them. Remember the poor, not only in this month but every month through the year, and especially during the inclemency of winter. You need not give so much to them outright, but endeavor to put them in a way of making themselves comfortable, by affording them employment, by which, you may be benefitted while doing them good. You thus confer on them a triple benefit, by furnishing them the means of comfortable subsistence, teaching them to help themselves, and avoiding the habit of receiving charity, which insensibly weakens their sense of self independence.

Stocks now require increased attention. They must be well housed, or at least protected against the wind, with a shelter to which they can resort in storms, well supplied with salt, and abundance of water if possible in the yard, where they can get it when they want, and without wearying themselves in looking for it, and wasting their manure by dropping it in the road, or by a running stream or pond, where it will all be lost. Their feed should be regular, and given to them as near stated times as possible. They look for their food then at certain hours, and are not uneasy and fretful till the customary period arrives, when they again fill themselves, and rest quietly, digesting their food till it is time to look for another supply. If brought up in regular habits, brutes are much better time keepers than many are disposed to consider them, who have not observed closely their

intelligence. Now is a good time to break steers and colts, while the roads are smooth and hard. They ought to be early accustomed to handling and the halter, and be gently treated, by which they are more disposed to yield to the wishes of their master. If they have been always used to good treatment, they will acquire a confidence in their keepers, and the more readily submit to their guidance. 'Tis always better to train them with strong, well broken animals. Sympathy has more to do with the brute creation, than they have credit for generally, and the good habits and orderly behaviour of the older animals, the have been accustomed to treat with deference, will not be without its wholesome effect on them.

This is the best month for spreading out hemp for dew-rotting, on the latitudes below 40S, as it gets a whiter and better rot than if spread earlier.

Kitchen garden.—Every fine day uncover the frames in which are lettuce and cauliflower plants, otherwise they will become spindling from want of air. Hot beds can now be made for forcing asparagus for the table in January. If the ground is open, continue trenching for spring crops. When the ground is frozen, cart manure, repair fences, clean seeds, prepare tools for spring. Provide pea sticks, bean poles, &c., and finish all that will be required in the spring, and which can be done when the ground is frozen.

### JANUARY.

This is the season, when, throughout all the northern States, the outdoor work connected with the soil is totally suspended. But luckily for the pleasure of the farmer, as well as his profit, there are many things requiring his attention equally with the duties of every season, and some of which may be much better done than at any other time. The first and most important thing that demands his attention is the care of the stock. All his cattle, horses, and swine should be housed at night and during storms, and the sheep, though usually considered a more hardy animal and better adapted to exposure and inclemency, will yield more wool, and consume less hay, and be less subject to disease, if furnished with snug shelter at night, and during the coldest weather. They require a free ventilation of their sheds, which all stables should also have. But this does not imply that that they should be so open to the rude winds that a good sized calf can jump through the sides of the building anywhere. They can be close and warm, but not filthy, damp and unwholesome; on the reverse, should be kept clean and at all times well aired. If fodder is short, be the more economical with it, not starving your cattle, but taking care that none of it be wasted. There is great saving in cutting fodder, which should always be done, when the price of labor is not too high in proportion to its value. Where this is practised, cattle eat all the fodder clean; and straw and corn stalks when cut up fine, with the addition of some light grain or roots,

will keep stock well through the winter if properly housed. Sheep ought never be suffered to run under the hay mow or stack, as the seeds sift into the wool and diminish its value. Water should, if possible, be supplied in the farm yard, and wherever practicable, from a living spring or running stream. This gives fresh, sweet water, and by having a supply at hand, animals never drink to excess or overload their stomachs with cold water, which often produces cramp or cholera. If the sledding is good, or the ground well frozen, all the transportation for the year that can be done, should be attended to. All the wood required for the year can now be drawn. This ought to have been cut in the preceding autumn or summer, as it is more solid and durable cut at that time, and it has moreover an opportunity to get well dried. The logs should be drawn to the saw mill, by which a supply of boards and timber can be in readiness for future use. All the products remaining on hand, should be taken to market if the prices are favorable. Heaps of manure may be removed to the fields where wanted. Peat and swamp muck, if before thrown into heaps and drained, can be sledded home, or into the fields where they are to be used. If manure can be had of any one unwise enough to part with it, let it now be drawn and stored, and not allowed to ferment unless well covered with earth and gypsum, to absorb the gases that would otherwise escape. During the winter months, all the tools should be put in order, and old difficulties remedied, and new improvements added to them. The children should all be at school, and their studies well looked after. Their head-work in winter is of more consequence than their hand-work in summer; and you cannot expect to make good or efficient men and women out of ignoramuses. Let the grown folks look well to the manner of spending their own long winter evenings. Especially, see to it, that you carefully look over your agricultural books and periodicals, read attentively all they contain relative to your own business, and note carefully how far your own experience corresponds with, or differs from the information there detailed. If you have any valuable facts to add to the general stock of knowledge, prepare and send them for publication, as a partial return for the advantage you have received from others on similar subjects.

Tann Bark and Saw Dust as Manure.—Large masses of refuse tann and saw dust are frequently accumulated and thrown away as worthless. This should never be done, as it can be made of much use to the farmer. They are good bedding for stock, and being also excellent non-conductors of heat when dry, are useful to place between the ceilings of the ice house, cellars, or other apartments, where it is desirable to preserve a uniformity of temperature. But they are especially valuable as contributing to increase the stock of manure, when used in the place of straw or other vegetable matter, to absorb the drop-

pings from animals. They take up the best parts of the manure, and retain them till demanded for the growth of plants.

They possess moreover, an intrinsic value, in the large amount of potash they contain, the tan bark from which it is made containing a much greater proportion of this material than wood. If no other mode of using them be presented, they can be burnt, and the ashes contribute to the nourishing of the land where they are applied. They should never be spread on land without preparing as above, as they have a tendency to sour the land, and promote the growth of sorrel and other noxious weeds.

Swiney in the Horse.—I will give you such information or experience as I possess, concerning the swiney. I had a mare that became swineyed in the hip, occasioned by fighting with another horse. I was told the part effected never would fill up, unless by the operation of some medicine. I therefore bathed the part affected with saltpeter dissolved in water, and effected a complete cure.

From the American Agriculturist. Receipt for Curing Hams.—We have been handed the following receipt for curing hams by one of the most eminent practitioners in this city; the saleratus is at least new to us, and we therefore publish it although it may not be a new ingredient in the receipt to others. In Cincinnati, where large quantities of hams are annually cured, pepper, allspice, cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and other little ingredients are usually added, but to the receipt.

Cover the bottom of the cask with coarse salt, lay on the hams with the smooth or skin side down, sprinkle over fine salt, then another layer of hams, and so continue until the cask is full. This ought to be of the large kind. A cask holding 46 gallons is small enough, and it would be better if held 120 gallons. Make a brine in the following proportions: 6 gallons water, 9 lbs. salt, 4 lbs. brown sugar, 3 oz. saltpetre, 1 oz. saleratus. Scald and scum, and when cold pour the brine into the cask until the hams are completely covered. The hams should remain in at least three months, and a little longer time would do no harm.

### Southwestern Farmer.

Cure for a Foundered Horse.—I send you the following prescription, to which you may give a place in your useful paper, if you think it will be of any advantage to farmers and travellers:—

As soon as your horse is foundered, bleed him in the neck in proportion to the greatness of the founder. In extreme cases you may bleed him as long as he can stand up. Then draw his head up, as common in drenching, and with a spoon put far back on his tongue strong salt until you get him to swallow one pint. Be careful not to let him drink too much. Then anoint round the edges of his hoofs with spirits of turpentine, and your horse will be well in one hour. A founder prevades every