

# THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE  
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. III.

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

No. 7.

Miramichi, Saturday Afternoon, November 23, 1844.

## Agricultural Journal.

### THE FARMER'S ODE.

Let Commerce spread her flowing sails  
And Trade her path pursue;  
Without the Farmers what avails,  
Or what without him can they do?  
Let learned Divines and Lawyers boast,  
Let physic follow in her train,  
The Farmer's skill is valued most  
In making golden sheaves of Grain.  
Let Statesmen rack their brains with care,  
Some mighty project to fulfil;  
The Farmer's wiser projects are  
His flocks to feed, his grounds to till.  
His orisons at early dawn,  
To the Almighty Powers he makes,  
Then treads the dew-bespangled lawn,  
Or pleasure in light labour takes.  
He hears the robin's early song,  
A rude note of cheerful swains,  
While heedful of his crops, along  
He travels over his own domains.  
A stranger, he's to fretful care;  
No busy scenes perplex his life,  
Contented with his homely fare,  
His children and a prudent wife.  
He labours to improve his soil,  
While Ceres shows him her regard,  
And blesses all his careful toil,  
In fruitful crops for his reward.  
No prodigal nor careless waste  
On his domain is ever found;  
With open hand he yet will haste  
To help the poor till they abound.  
And now his earthly labour's past,  
And old in virtue he has grown,  
To crown his well spent life at last  
Kind heaven shall claim him for its own.

### Fredricton Farmer's Manual.

#### ON FEEDING STOCK.

Various are the methods, and numerous the neglectful practices of feeding stock. The descriptions given by various Agricultural writers, are also doubtful, and frequently unapplicable to the farmers of this Province; but as it has been my intention in these letters, to recommend nothing beyond my own observations and experience, I shall propose some general rules for feeding, of which I have seen satisfactory proof.

And first, it should be borne in mind that all the food given to stock, which is not improving thereby, or making return either by labor or dairy, is a total loss to the owner, excepting in the article of manure which will also be light and of less value while the stock continues lean. Ground provender is preferable to grain for fattening horses and swine, but cattle being ruminating animals, do better with the corn on the cob and the oats in the sheaf. Grass being more easy in digestion than hay, is more fattening, which proves the necessity of animals feeding on dry hay, only being frequently supplied with good water. To feed altogether on good merchantable hay is very expensive, but every considerable farmer has much valuable fodder that he cannot sell, and then he may be justifiable in feeding merchantable hay to make up the deficiency. To feed cattle with a very small quantity of succulent roots, such as the turnip, beet, or potato, and then no more hay than they will eat up, and look for a little more, is the best method of keeping the stock in good health, and much the cheapest for the owner. Hay to be used alone, will extend the animal's stomach to an enormous dimension, and cattle are as liable to dyspepsia as men, and in that state less benefit may be effected. The same case applies also to swine with raw potatoes in the autumn, they extend the bulk, but make no fat; but with the potatoes boiled, and a small quantity of grain or meal, the swine thrive well. Old potatoes fed to swine

in the pasture in the months of June and July, pay better than at any other season of the year. Thus, while the pasture will not fatten them, nor the potatoes when used alone, both used together effect it. One acre of good meadow land will afford hay to feed a cow eight months in the stable, and it will afford pasture for her, if not mowed, for the three summer months. Horses fed on a small quantity of grain, and kept with a good appetite for hay, are always active and ready for any service; but too much hay makes them inactive, and too much grain ruins them.

To make stock of any kind fat, care must be taken that their food is abundant, nutritive, and easy of digestion, as many be easily discovered by their excrements, and their shelter should be quiet and comfortable. Swine, although apt to be very contentious, may always be quitted with plenty of food and plenty of room, in a warm nest.

Neat cattle should be so situated as to be in sight of, but not in fear of each other.

Beef cattle, fed with potatoes, turnips, or mangel wurtzel, will not require more than half the hay they otherwise would, and their manure will be far more valuable.

The extra feed, that would make one pound of beef per day, would, if given to milk cows, increase their mess eight quarts per day, which, with ordinary management, would make a pound of butter. A strong reason in favor of the dairy—that which feeds two cows scantily, and perhaps both dry, might keep one well, that would give a good return of milk.

A little short feed for sheep is as useful to the fleece as manure to the field.

Every farmer raising a large quantity of potatoes, will have many bushels wholly unsaleable, but equally good for feeding. The system of boiling them for the swine, now seems very properly established, and is best also to wash them before boiling—then they should be mixed with all the meal or bran that may be spared. As they generally lay quiet through the night, I have preferred giving them some dry grain for their supper. By being methodical in feeding, the animals become habituated to the method, and like the labourer, can understand by their own feelings when dinner time should arrive.

Farms so situated as to admit of a large vegetable cellar, free from water and frost, under the barn, have a decided advantage over others, and the owner will find a very great benefit derived from feeding succulent roots abundantly to the stock.

Mangel wurtzel or cow beets should be dug before the potatoes, because a part of the root growing above the ground is exposed to the frost; but the ruta baga, or indeed any kind of turnips, may remain in the ground until the snow comes, and be dug whenever the frost is out of the ground, without injuring them for the stock excepting in the tops, which should always be considered a valuable fodder, particularly for cows giving milk.

Turnips and beets fed to cattle, should always pass through a cutting box, which may be made in various ways, and with little expense.

Animals sometimes lose their appetite, and do not thrive until they regain it, in which case care should be taken to change their diet. Swine accustomed to boiled potatoes, do better frequently to have a feed of raw potatoes, and when they are kept from the ground, they should frequently be fed with charcoal or rotten wood. Horses fed in the stable, should also be fed with raw potatoes frequently.

An animal that is well fed and kept fat the first year, may easily be kept in good condition afterwards, calves particularly, if kept fat until they are weaned, and then have three months in a good pasture, require very little care and expense afterwards, and I have seldom known one that was not injured the first half year, to fail in making a fine animal. When an animal is in good order, it requires less food to keep him so than

it does to keep a lean animal of the same size from growing worse. Ill shaped animals are generally those that have been ill-fed when young, and the best young stock is generally produced from the best fed animals.

I am pleased to see the Devonshire and Durham cattle imported, and Dishley and Leicester breeds of sheep, confident that it arises from that spirit of enterprise so much needed; but I had much rather see my countrymen competing with Lord Durham and the Devonshire farmers in the improvement of our own stock, from a firm belief that we are fully able to do so. And although we have no speculating Noblemen willing to give us a thousand pounds for a bull, yet we may hope for a fair remunerating price, which is always the best for

A FARMER.

### APPLICATION OF MANURES.

The value and necessity of manures to successful farming, is now generally admitted but there is still much that is faulty in the modes of applying them; and while it is acknowledged that there is still much to learn respecting their operation, there are a few principles that experience teaches us are worthy of more notice than as yet been given them.

One of these is that in the same soil, some varieties of the cultivated plants require more manure for their growth and perfection than others. Every farmer is aware of this: he knows that corn requires more manure than peas or beans; and that some of the tap-rooted quick growing plants, will, with a small allowance of manure at the outset, give a good crop on soils where the grasses, or wheat and barley would be a failure. Few, however, have inquired into the reason of these facts, or allowed them to have their proper influence in the application of manures. The causes of this difference in the requiring of manure are several; one of them is their adaption to drawing nourishment from the air, instead of depending solely on the soil for it. Quick growing plants with broad leaves, and few roots, or those single and deep penetrating, possess this power in a remarkable degree. Only examine the root of the common pea for instance, and compare it with that of the corn or wheat, and this difference will be manifest at once. The roots of corn spreads in every direction; it clearly requires a large and rich pasture; its double sets of roots seem provided at once for support and nourishment, and it is remarkable that the last throwing forth of the roots, like those from the vines of some of the cucurbit, takes place precisely at the time when large supplies of nutriment are required for the formation of the fruit. The root of the pea on the contrary, is very much smaller in proportion to the bulk of the plant; it does not spread like those of corn and wheat, but it penetrates to a considerable depth, and seems more adapted to provide the moisture than the nutriment of the plant.

Another cause why plants do not require equal supplies of manure, is to be found in the fact of their not all consuming the same time in arriving at perfection. As a general rule, it may be said that the longer a plant is in the soil before it matures its seed, the more the soil is exhausted. Of this, winter wheat is a well known instance as compared with summer wheat; but perhaps a still better example is that to which allusion has already been made that of corn and peas. The last requires not more than two thirds the time of the former for maturity, and the exhaustion of the soil by it cannot be compared with the former. Buckwheat too, is of a remarkable rapid growth, and hence it has been selected as one of the best plants known for the process of green manuring. Used in this way, it evidently returns to the soil more than it takes from it, fertilizing, instead of impoverishing, and leaving a much larger supply of organic matter for the use of the future crop, than existed previously.

A cause not remotely allied to the one just considered, is found in the well known result, that where the seeds are to be matured on the soil, more manure

is required, or in other works the exhaustion of the soil is greater, than where such maturity or the formation of seed does not take place. Thus while a crop of turnips or beets exhaust the soil comparatively little, these same plants when transplanted for seed are of the most exhausting kind, as every grower of seed knows; and the same may be said of most of those roots that do not mature their seeds the first year. Clover is also a well known example of this. If clover is cut before it is matured, the roots seem scarcely checked in their vigour, new shoots are rapidly thrown out, and the exhaustion which has taken place is evidently of the slightest kind. On the contrary if clover is allowed to mature its seed, the effect which the process has on the exhaustion of both the soil and the plant, is of the most striking kind; so great indeed that an attempt at two crops of seed from the same plant is rarely if ever known, and a course of other crops and reseeded usually follows, where clover seed is grown.

From these considerations, which we are not able at this time to pursue farther, it would seem that the application of equal quantities of manure to all crops is a useless expenditure. That we should ascertain those upon which manure produces the best effect when applied, and not let the mere convenience of the application, determine its use. It is true there are a few cultivated soils on which manure is not advantageous, but there are some crops to which large applications strong or unfermented manures would be fatal. Thus corn will be the better for a quantity that would destroy wheat; and the pea requires less than the potatoe, as a direct application. There are some plants that require the stimulating or forcing, that characterized the action of fresh manures; while that action to others, would be an injury instead of a benefit. Of this the vigorous and a protractive corn grown in or round old yards, or deposits of manure, and the lodged rusted shrunken wheat of similar places is a conclusiv and instructive example. We are convinced that the best application of manures is a subject which has received too little attention from our farmers; and while he is to be commended who applies all the manure within his reach, more profitable results would be realized by many, were they to be applied more in consonance with the laws which govern the growth and nutrition of the several plants cultivated.—*Albany Cultivator.*

*Results of Subsoil Ploughing.*—Mr. C. N. Bement states that he a few years ago subsoiled a piece of ground which he planted to Indian Corn. The experiment was made on a light loamy or sandy piece of ground, and he subsoiled it in strips, leaving alternate ridges not subsoiled, all being manured alike. The season proved very dry, and where the subsoil plough was not used, the corn was so burnt up that it produced little or nothing; but where it was used, the corn remained green and flourishing through all the drought, and the produce was a good one. The same gentleman made a similar experiment on carrots, and the results were even more strikingly in favour of subsoiling.

*Drilling and Ribbing Wheat.*—The editor gives a description and management of the farm of Mr. Thomas Noble, an Ohio Farmer. The crops principally grown by Mr. N., wheat and roots, and with the exception of horses and a few cows, the only stock of the premises are sheep. Nearly the whole farm is in its course, alternately pastured with sheep and sown to wheat. He keeps fifteen hundred Merinoes, and sows annually two hundred acres of wheat, which he drills and ribbs, which methods of depositing the seed, he thinks, possesses many advantages over the broad cast system—particularly in the security it gives the crop from rust and mildew. The great chance for the circulation of air through the drilled crops is thought to be the cause of this difference. Previous to ribbing, the ground is prepared as in the usual manner, and the ribbing plough is then used, as in the ordinary method of making drills for turnips, with the mere dif-