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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Genesee Farmer.

### IMPROVED SYSTEM OF HUSBANDRY.

BY AGRICOLA.

When shall we see improvement among all our farmers? We do not despair of seeing it general, if not universal. We see it already in many of your towns throughout the State—and what is the result? In many of these towns already, an advance of from ten to twenty bushels per acre of the various crops raised.—This is encouraging, and should induce every farmer to lend his aid. But perhaps some readers of the farmer will say, "what do you mean by improvement?" We answer generally—first of all, what is your soil; if grains are your main dependence, what grains are best adapted to it. See if draining is needed—and here let me say it is much oftener necessary than farmers who have not paid attention generally suppose. If needed, see that it is done with as little delay as practicable—and we will venture to assure you, your crop from this source alone shall be increased from one-quarter to one-half. If you doubt, try it carefully on a small piece of land, beside your land on which water stands more or less during the season, and if you do not realise at least one quarter in advance, we will admit that for once, land that needed draining has not been improved.

Select your manures judiciously and apply to the crops that need the variety you make. Would not this add much to your crops? Who does not know that when a wheat crop is ruined almost by an application of fresh manure directly to the crop, which if supplied to a preceding corn or root crop would have been of great value, and would have been sufficient for a wheat crop to succeed. Keep your land thoroughly subdued and let not the weeds master the grain. It cost no more to raise grain than weeds—and which is the most profitable to the farmer? Improvement then can be had by carefully extirpating your weeds, and giving the grain an opportunity to obtain all the nutriment.

Be careful in the choice of your seed. No man ever succeeded well who neglected this. It is a small matter perhaps you think. Is it? Let us see. Good and perfect seed will usually vegetate and produce much larger returns than poor half formed seeds. It will not fail to prove true as a general rule that like will produce like, and what a man sows that shall he also reap.

Let your implements be of the best kind, and wherever labor-saving implements can be introduced to aid you, have them; all helps to cheapen the cost of them; and increase the profit of the farmer. And don't forget to have everything on your farm needed for work in its place when not in use, so that half the time of your men may not be taken up in running after the utensils, which have been left where last used, instead of being in their proper place; would not this be improvement if properly attended to?

Keep an account with your farm—yes, with every field—and let it be carefully charged with every expense and credited with its avails, so that you can at any time know what is your condition, whether advancing as you desire, or whether the result is a loss. Change your method if the latter is the case, from year to year, and soon you will find the crop and the system of management that will pay; at all events you will know where you are, and it will be your own fault if you do not bring your books to show the balance on the right side.

Is your land suited to fruit? Then let the best kinds for your locality, adapted to market be selected. The trees will grow while you sleep. It will be but a little time before they produce, and soon your fine apples will yearly find their way to the sea-board—across the ocean, if may be—and the balance sheet will be all right and you be in the enjoyment of the good fruits of improvement. Is not this well worth trying?

Is the dairy your business? How much cheese and butter do you make per cow? Those who attend to their dairies as they should, and select cows suited to them, are realizing from 500 to 600 pounds of cheese per cow, and from 200 to 300 pounds of butter. Have you reached this standard? If not, is it not worth your while to make the inquiry and ascertain what is the difficulty? Now is not that an improvement which secures the return above given?

And now let us look at this matter personally. Improvements are needed—can be made—and shall they not be made? What say the farmers?—what say the boys? An answer such as would be worthy an American farmer would be—I will try; and if you try with all the lights which experience as well as science suggest, we venture the prediction, you will succeed—and then an answer will be found to the question which commences our article.

From the Columbia, N. Y., Farmer.

### FARMER'S CLUBS.

We are by nature calculated for sociability and society; and hence the many associations which are formed. In an agricultural community, Farmer's Clubs are believed to be the most useful and appropriate associations that can be formed. The occupation of the farmer has been too long considered by many as a dull stupid business, requiring but little learning or mental exertion; but the facts are entirely the reverse. His success depends upon the subtle and refined agencies of nature. To understand the principles which lie at the foundation, so that he can rely upon them, aided by their own exertion, to produce their natural effect, is a matter requiring great mental search and practical experience. Farmers have, by observation and practice acquired more of this knowledge, and have done more to bring about the high state of civilization which we now enjoy, than they have credit for. Farming commenced at an early age. Those who first abandoned the shepherd state, cleared, fenced and cultivated their fields; built houses, established permanent residences, and owned and possessed their property individually, were the first who were fully entitled to the name of Farmers. And as civilization cannot exist in a wilderness country, this may justly be considered the first step towards civilization, with all its attendant benefits. And just so fast as agriculture has progressed; just so fast have arts, sciences progressed, and no faster. All have been dependent on the farmer for their food, and most of the raw materials with which they are clothed.

During this long process, the farmer must have acquired a great amount of information, founded on natural principles as well as practical experience. Still they have been contented with less scholastic education than those engaged in most other pursuits; and have not, like them, profited by keeping a journal or record of their operations. The merchant and manufacturer know, from their books, the exact profits or loss, of all their operations; they know exactly the advantage of every improvement, over the former practice; while the farmer, for the want of proper records, has to guess at all this. While one thinks he has made an improvement another doubts it, and no one can determine with certainty. Important facts, it is true, have been obtained by scientific men; individuals too, have determined important facts by actual experiment; all which, have been, and are continually published, and are doing much good. But from some cause the great mass of common farmers are not profiting by these publications, as we could wish. It is believed if they would form societies, keep a journal, and try the experiments for themselves, noting profit and loss they would readily adopt the most useful improvements.

The formation of Farmer's Clubs, seems to be the most natural way, to cause the improvement made and published to be generally adopted; and to make improve-

ments themselves. They could, by a small contribution from each member, purchase the latest works; also the journals as they are published, the reading of which would naturally beget a spirit of inquiry. Each would be anxious to possess as much information as his fellow. Thus a degree of useful competition would spring up, both as to the acquisition of knowledge and its practicable application.

It is well known that farmers generally, are unwilling to put their ideas on paper. Many of us who learned to write a tolerable hand while at school, have paid so little attention to it since, as not to have acquired an easy business hand; or the ability to put our thoughts on paper intelligibly. This cannot be well done without some experience and practice.—They should at least be able to write intelligibly on matters relating to their occupation. To do this, the mind, as well as the hand, needs some training and practice. Whenever we make a tool or implement with our hand, we have the thing as it is, to look at; if it does not suit we can try a second or third time, until we get it to answer the purpose.—The same rules apply to the putting our thoughts on paper; we cannot tell how they will read until we make the trial; and we should keep trying until we succeed tolerably well. This will do much towards training the mind to correct and systematic habits of thinking.

Let each member of the club, procure a good sized blank book; commence, say in the spring; write down all matters which relate to the operations of the farm viz: Number of acres, the soil, manner of tillage, quantity and kind of manure; the time of seeding of all kinds of grain and vegetables, quantity of seed per acre; the situation of the land, as to wet or dry; making suitable entries during the season, as to the weather, the growth of crops whether doing well or not, and the probable cause; the time of harvesting, yield per acre; if good or poor, the probable cause; the time of selling the price if high or low. A memorandum somewhat similar, as to the stock; the disease with which they are attacked, if any, the remedy used; and the effect. Let an exact account be kept of the outgoes and incomes, and a balance struck at the end of each year; taking special pains through the year to ascertain causes and their effects; and be not afraid of writing too much. By this course they would soon acquire the habit of putting their thoughts on paper in a systematic way. At the end of each year, these papers could be presented to the club, and examined by a committee; and all matters worth remembering put into a condensed report, and recorded. By this course, a comparison could be made between the different systems practiced and the best could be adopted. By this it is believed every important improvement would soon become general; errors would be detected and abandoned. Committees could be appointed to make tests and examinations on all important matters, and report.—The presiding officer should make an annual address; the secretary could correspond with other societies; reports could be made to the county agricultural societies, and all this being done by the farmers in their own way, would create a spirit of inquiry, and give them confidence in themselves, and tend much to the improvement of their mind as well as their farms.

Wherever such a society is formed and well sustained, we may expect to see in a very few years visible signs of improvement in the cultivation of fields and gardens, the improvement of stock, in the planting and cultivating fruit and shade trees; in buildings, and in the general taste and neatness in all farming operations as well as increase of profits. These may be looked upon as the natural consequence. The members would stimulate each other, as honorable and profitable competition would spring up; natural causes would be looked into, and their effects ascertained. Thus the farmer and the farm would go on improving together.

From the Canada Farmer and Mechanic.

### MANAGEMENT OF HORSES.

We have no domestic animal among us that costs us so much—that will do a greater variety of work, or that is so much used as the horse. Like his master, the horse is complicated in his structure, and he is capable of being made to exert all his powers of body in the efforts of speed or severe labor.—Nine-tenths of them are cut off in the prime of life. And yet, by care and attention, by kind and humane treatment, in working and feeding he can be made to endure a great many years active and strong. Mr. Pell, of Pelham, has given some excellent rules for the management of horses, which were published in the transactions of the New York Agricultural Society. Among the good ideas which he there advanced, he observes: feed them in winter on a variety of food such as oats ground and whole, bran, ship-stuff, beans, peas, turpips, occasionally steamed, separately or together.—In summer keep them always confined in airy stables, and feed them on clover, bruised grains, green-corn stalks, cider pomice, oil cake, hay, &c. Be particular to give them three-fourths of a pound of salt per week; occasionally two ounces of sulphur, and frequently two ounces of wood ashes.

By good keeping and judicious management, a pair of horses, perfectly sound when young, will last and labor constantly 25 years, and in the end will retain their spirits. I have a pair of horses, he observes, on my farm, that are now 20 years old, during which time they have never been at pasture, and have worked daily; they have never been incapacitated for work by lameness, or disease of any kind, and have always been perfectly healthy. He also adds that he has another pair of sorrels that are 18 years old which labor daily, and will do as much as any pair of six years old. The above statement of Mr Pell are worth listening to, and his advice should be followed.—Much loss would be prevented, and much suffering to a faithful and useful animal be warded off, while the long continued powers for labors would amply reward the extra care and kindness thus bestowed, even if the virtue of mercy to those brutes entrusted to our protection were not taken into account.

From the American Agriculturist.

### REARING LAMBS.

Like all other young stock, lambs ought to be kept steadily growing, without getting too fat. Where a healthy, strong, and young ewe has a good range of pasture, the lamb may acquire so much fat as seriously to interfere with its thrift when taken away and put upon its winter's food. Experienced flock masters say they have frequently lost lambs from this cause, and that when an ewe has twins, and the milk is divided between the offspring, this loss never occurs.—This is an important fact for the practical man.

It is well to have the lambs accustomed to dry forage before they are put up for the winter. If good sweet hay, dry clover, or oats in the sheaf, or threshed, be thrown out to a few old sheep, surrounded by all the lambs, while the latter are in fine condition, brisk and lively, will at once begin to nibble at the dry food, and soon will be entirely familiar with and enjoy it. If left, however till weaned, and they have become pinched by the snows and frosts of approaching winter, and the scarcity and insipidity of autumnal forage, their stomachs are in a weak or diseased condition, they have no appetite for their new dry food, they stay away from the racks, and daily become weaker and more indisposed, and soon have become too far reduced to recover, or if they survive, it is with a constitution permanently impaired.

TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS.—Let every description of tools and implements be examined, have those requiring it repaired, and those not in use carefully put away under cover. Such attention saves both time and money.