The Farm.

Regular Rations For The Dairy.

Nothing rubs the old-fashioned dairyman so hard as for any one to suggest the slightest disagreement between the cow and the pasture, just as though they were not made for one another, just as the right hand was made to work in harmony with the left hand. At the same time, modern dairy knowledge has found out that while grass is theoretically a perfect food, just as milk and eggs are, yet for making milk if the cow is disposed to do her best, then grass is not all that is needed. She will milk herself to a skeleton if not fed some ground feed; moreover, we find that the whole herd does better the next winter and following spring if allowed to feed on meal while at pasture.

Again, pasture is so uncertain. The land may be rich and level, and the climate properly temperate, but there will come long droughs that burn the grass up until no amount of acres will satisfy the herd, and then comes the shrinkage that sets a low-water mark that cannot be overcome the rest of the milking season. Now we all know the absolute need for a regular supply of milk when a milk-route is to be taken care of. The drinkers of milk do not let up when the weather gets dry and hot, but rather to the contrary they drink more. What is one to do? Plant extra crops of rye, oats, clover, and corn.

That, at least, is what every one promises himself he will do, and some really do it. The wise fellow, the one that makes himself no promises, but just sits down and figures the matter out, and then does it, is the man who is going to build himself a summer silo large enough to carry the milking herd three months, and not depend on the pasture except for young stock and dry cows. The cow does not want a flood of food one week and short rations the next. Take her out of the risks of the weather, and secure her regular succulent food the year round.—Home and Farm.

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Propagating Small Fruit.

It is sometimes desirable to propagate your own plants. If so, select strong new growth of currants and grapes, as soon as the leaves fall, cut in pieces about eight inches long, each piece containing three buds. Set in long straight rows, eight or ten inches apart, leaving top bud near the surface of the ground. Cultivate and keep free from weeds. Good one year plants, are thus made the following season.

For black raspberries, bury the tips of the cane as soon as it naturally bends to the ground; leave until spring, when it is ready to detach and transplant.

Plants from the blackberry and red raspberry are usually taken from the sprouts or suckers that come up between the rows or around the hill, considerable care being necessary in digging the plants.

Root cuttings make best plants. Select strong roots in spring or fall, cut in pieces about five inches long and sow in drills about three feet apart.

The gooseberry, being more difficult to propagate, should be mounded up, covering the hill except the tips of the branches The following year many fine roots are found along the branches; these branches are removed, made into cuttings, and set out the same as currants.—Mr. A. Thayer of Sparta, Wis., in Country Gentleman.

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The Use of Lime.

It is little matter how lime may be applied to the soil. Sometimes it is most useful as a top-dressing, this especially on old grass lands on which moss and the dead rubbish of a meadow have accumulated. The lime tends to decompose this stuff and make it available as food for the grass. For this a less quantity than the standard may be used, ten or twenty bushels per acre being sufficient. It will make very little difference as to the time when lime is used for this purpose. Any time that is convenient when the land is not in use may be availed of, from the removal of the hay until the first groweth of spring begins.

Lime is most useful on a stiff clay soil. It has in such cases a very useful mechanical effect in lightening the stiff clay and reducing it to the condition of a friable loam. The common application of forty bushels to an acre may be increased considerably, even doubled; but it is best to do this by degrees—that is, to repeat the liming of the land within the ordinary interval of five or six years. When lime is used for this purpose of the mechanical effect on the land, it will be the best way to apply it in the fall, which is the common practice, and for a crop of wheat or rye to be followed by clover. With lime and the ploughing in of sod every four or five years, this heavy clay may be brought to the condition, as desired, of a friable loam, not at once, but after two or three rotations. Of course it is always to be understood that the use of lime is in no sense a substitute for manure, but it is a help to it, making it more quickly available for the crops, and thus increasing the products as one of its most valuable effects.—Country Gentleman.

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The Lima Bean.

A bulletin on vegetables just published by the West Virginia Experiment Station reports that the same quantity of field beans planted in drills will produce twice as much as if planted in hills. Where but a few plants of lima beans are grown for family use it is recommended to plant the seeds in inverted sods in a hot-bed, from April 1 to 10, as the increase will more than repay the trouble. Bush lima beans are compared favorably with the pole sorts and said to be worthy of taking their place. The saving of poles and training would, of course, be a clear gain. The bush sorts are said to require less space for development, so that a larger yield per acre may be counted upon, particularly toward the northern limit of the successful cultivation of the pole limas. The limit of the successful cultivation of bush limas is said to be much farther north than that of the pole limas.

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Forage Crops.

It has been decided at the Cornell station that the most valuable crop for the production of late forage is corn, and corn planted in hills is more valuable for feeding purposes than when drilled or sown broadcast.

Oats and peas are second in value to corn for the production of forage. For late forage barley and peas are recommended.

Millets are valuable, and when fed properly may be used without danger.

Crimson clover proved valuable for late fall pasture and as a cover crop. Its greatest value with us was from the fact of its storing up nitrogen so abundantly.

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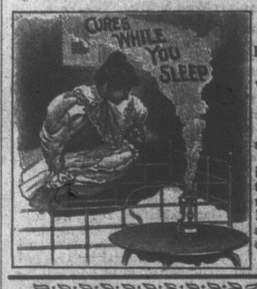
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