## The Farmer's Column.

[*Written for The American Union.*]

### Manures.

At present, there is no interest which presents itself with more force to the farmer and the people of this county than the manufacturing and gathering of material which will enrich the soil permanently. The busy season of the farmer is fast approaching. Not only will he be busy with his crops, but he should also take pains to gather up everything that will increase his manure heap.—Home-made manures enrich the soil permanently, whilst commercial fertilizers only stimulate the ground for the production of a single crops and leaves the land in a worse condition than at the commencement of its use.

It is evident, from the different analyses of the cerials, that they contain certain matter which the earth and the air must supply so that the plant can mature them into nourishment for itself and the grain which it is to produce.

The grain of Indian Corn contains gluten, dextrine, caseine and albumen, starch, cellulose, &c. For its nourishment it must have potash, soda, magnesia, lime, phosporic acid, sulphuric acid, &c. The intelligent farmer will inquire how he can furnish his soil with the necessary power to grow this crop and save his money, and at the same time increase the productive powers of the soil.

The answer should find a ready response in the mind of every farmer: never grow a crop without manuring heavily.

The most available manufactory to fertilize the soil is the *barn-yard*. It should be the principal factory which should supply the home demand. It contains all the elements of plant food, and will assist nature to do its work far better than almost any other manure the farmer can use.

Ground bones are also a prolific source from which the farmer can draw a supply of food for his crops, and at a less cost than he now pays for it.

Then their is, or should be, a compost heap on every farmer's premises. There you can throw the odds and ends of the refuse of the farm, and, if judiciously managed, you can make enough compost in one year to manure five acres of ground. Then there are the liquids which should be carefully collected and applied to your compost heap; the dry matter of the pile will greedily absorb all the fertilizing properties and hold them fast till the plants can make use of their virtues.

No doubt the making of home-made manures will take up time, but it will also save money and be of more value than commercial fertilizers, as we will endeavor to show in a future paper.

HOME-MADE MANURES.

### Notes at the American Institute Farmer's Club, New York.

DISEASED SHEEP.—John T. Waddell, of Henry County, Mo., wrote to say that he has three hundred fine-wool sheep that are losing their wool, biting and scratching themselves. Some have small scabs and little pimples, and some have no such signs where the wool comes off, but the skin looks smooth and healthy. Would like to know the best remedy. Mr. Curtis—"sheep exposed to the storms of autumn and winter will often have sore skin, and if fed too heavily on grain when first put up for the winter they will lose their wool, owing to the fever created by the high feed. The appearance of 'scabs' and 'pimples,' as Mr. Waddell calls them, lead me to think his sheep have that infectious disease called 'the scab,' and the 'pimples' are the pustules made by the *acarus*, an insect which causes the disease by burrowing in the skin. These parasites increase rapidly and cause the poor sheep great torment, under which they will soon pine and die unless cured. This can readily be done by a thorough washing with a strong decoction of tobacco. It would be best to rub off the scabs with a good stiff brush before applying the tobacco-water.—As soon as the sheep shows any signs of the disease, it ought to be removed from the flock and immediately treated. There is no difficulty in effecting cures, and generally from one application."

FARMING IN NEW-JERSEY.—Clarkson Taber submitted the report of R. A. Leonard to the Field Crop Committee of Monmouth County, giving the gross amount of sales from his farm of one hundred acres in 1869:

| | |
|---|---|
| Asparagus, | $2,859 71 |
| Early potatoes, | 2,367 13 |
| Watermelons, | 1,864 15 |
| Grapes, | 907 73 |
| Sixty tons of hay, $20 per ton, | 1,200 00 |
| Appies, | 422 00 |
| Pears, | 42 50 |
| Sweet potatoes and pumpkins, | 202 91 |
| Poultry, | 83 59 |
| Stock, | 61 00 |
| Total, | $10,010 72 |
| Deduct freight and commissions, | 1,764 18 |
| Net receipts, | $8,246 54 |

Mr. Lyman—"I see that Mr. Conover is here, who has been Richard Leonard's market-man for many years, and knows how his farm is managed and its expenses. We would like to know about his annual outlay for manures and labor, and his net proceeds on other years." Mr. Conover—"Mr. Leonard usually pays about a thousand dollars for his manures. He keeps but few animals, and buys horse-stable manure and street-scrapings from New York. It costs him about four dollars a two-horse load by the time he gets it on the land. He has found that manure wastes by being left on the top of the ground, and he ploughs it in with a shallow furrow just as soon as it is spread. His farm help consists of one man and two boys besides himself. He is to be counted a full hand at all times of the year. The labor bill is not over that of three men from April to October at $30, say $540. By subtracting this and 1000 from the $8000, given as gross proceeds, you get at his profit. Last year his sales were over $12,000. Yet his crops were bigger this year than last."

### Value of Liquid Manure.

The best use of liquid manure is undoubtedly that of *absorption by muck*. Many farmers, who would not like to be called careless or wasteful, have their barnyards or stables so unfortunately located that the urine of the cattle escapes; or, if a good heavy rain comes, the soakings of the manure lie in pools scattered here and there through the yard It ought to be their first duty to *cover all their manure*, and not permit it to soak; but, failing in that, the next best plan is to draw into the yard large quantities of muck from the swamp, let it be trodden over by the cattle, and let it absorb the liquid oozing of the entire yard. At least once every three months, the entire yard should be cleaned out, the manure piled in heaps, and replaced with muck again. If the farmer can afford the expense, it would be well to have the yard slightly sloping, with a cistern at the lowest end, to collect the liquid manure; this can be pumped out as fast as filled, on to a pile of muck close at hand, which will require very little time, and yet add many loads of valuable manure to the farmer's manure heap. We can not urge farmers too much to save all their manure, and make as much more as they can.—Next to labor, the farmer's most important problem is manure. Prices may fluctuate, but a well-manured field will never fail to yield a good profit.

A correspondent of the Germantown *Telegraph* gives a short account of experiments which he made, and which prove the superior value of liquid manure;

"The first experiment was on pasture—the soil sandy, sub-soil sandy gravel, and perfectly dry; and four acres of the field were well-manured with first quality barnyard manure, at the rate of twelve two-horse loads per acre. This manure was applied in February. The remainder of the field, about an acre, was manured with liquid from the barnyard.

"In the spring the appearance of the grass, both in color, height, and thickness of the sward, was in favor of the liquid manure; during the summer the field was pastured with cows, and that portion manured with the liquid was eaten close, while the other portion was neglected until the manure from the liquid of the barnyard was close cropped.

"In the second experiment one portion of the field, a small one, was manured with a compost of night-soil and wood-mould, and the remainder with liquid manure; when the lot was mowed, the line between them could be easily traced, and the difference was strongly in favor of the liquid manure.

"On many farms a hundred dollars a year might be saved if proper attention were paid to the home production of manure.

"It is sickening to see on many farms, whose propietors have been farmers all their lives, so much material going to waste from which the best manure could be made.

"Weeds cut before ripening their seeds, sods from the fence-corners, mold from the woods, muck from the ditches, and a few loads of pure clay, when it can be had, all unite, if thrown into the hog-pens or manure-yards, in producing excellent manure.—*Ex.*

### The Tomato and its Culture.

At a late meeting of the American Institute Farmers' Club, Mr. J. Payne Lowe, of Little Falls, N. Y., gave a paper on this plant. Other fruits of the garden, he said, have been long in reaching their present perfection; whereas the tomato has been a comparatively short time under culture. Experience has satisfied him that it is most susceptible of improvement. Then why grow coarse, unsighlty, spongy, ill-flavored tomatoes when, by attending to a few simple but important things, the finest qualities may be had? Seed from fruit which ripens *earliest* will produce the earliest next season, and if properly grown, and from the best variety, will give the desirable qualities of earliness, productiveness, size, solidity, fewness of seeds, beauty of form, thinness of skin, delicacy of flavor, and richness of color. For germinating seeds in a little box, all that is wanted is a few inches of rather light, rich soil; the box in the sunshine in a warm, well ventilaroom, the box covered with glass to counteract the dryness of the atmosphere; and plants once growing must receive no check from want of care. A few plants well grown will be worth far more than any number of those crowded to suffocation in dealers' hot beds. In the neighborhood of New York the seed may be germinated (in small boxes) about the middle of February or the beginning of March. Frequent transplanting is very desirable. Begin to do so when the plants are two or three inches high. Let them not be put in the open ground till all danger of frost is passed, unless they are protected. In transplanting, let the soil be well watered, so that a ball of earth may go with each plant, thus preventing the growth of the plant from being checked. A uniform warm temperature is desirable, but the plants must not be kept so hot as to grow sickly. They need all the light they can get, and as much fresh air as they can stand. Let them have light, rather than heavy, and a rich, but not over-rich soil; and, if on the south-eastern exposure of a hillside, all the better. They should not stand less than four feet apart. Keep the soil friable; let no weeds grow; hoe early and often. For a late crop, sow in spring. The plants in place will grow till frost comes, and longer, if protected. Cut out suckers; shorten the vines, and nutrition will flow to fruit instead of making fiber; nor will there be loss of fruit, for most of it grows near the ground, and vines thus pruned will produce larger fruit.


*MERCANTILE.*

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mar17-3w. [J.]

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