

The Farmers' Column.

From the American Stock Journal.

Fattening Hogs.

There is no time in the year when hogs will fatten so fast as now. Feed them corn, stalks and all; so long as the corn is in the milk, the hog will chew every blade and the entire stalk. The weather is such that very little of the food is consumed to keep up animal heat, but all is used to produce flesh. Nearly one-half of all the food given to hogs during the fattening season is lost—utterly so. The following rules should be strictly observed in fattening hogs. First, have a pen for them sufficiently large for moderate exercise. Second, provide a good warm place for them to sleep; have it so covered that at all times the nest or bed will be dry, and, if possible, give them plenty of straw to sleep on. Third, have a good clean floor to feed upon, and never, on any account, throw their food into a muddy or filthy place. A wet, muddy bed and filthy feeding place render the meat always more or less strong and unwholesome food for man. Fourth, four bushels of corn fed now will produce more flesh than six will in December.

The fattening properties of the different grains, and the capacity of the breed to take on fat, to convert grain into the greatest amount of pork, have been experimented on sufficiently to form established facts.

We find that corn, the best grain for fattening, will yield ten to twelve pounds of pork to the bushel when fed in the ear. When it is ground, several pounds more are gained. When it is, further, steamed or scalded, there is still greater increase, running the bushel of corn up to twenty pounds—double the amount of the same corn when fed in the ear, much of which will then only be cracked and some pass whole. Grinding and steaming or scalding well will give nearly all the strength of the corn if not fed too plentifully or crowded in feeding. Fed regularly, and eaten clean, and with easy and perfect digestion, this is the way to get the strength of the corn. The manure is worth less. But where manure is so little prized as in the West, this is of little consequence. It may be expensive to steam food; to scald it can hardly be said to be so. There are also minor members of the family that can aid in this. There are few things more apt to be neglected however. We feed corn in the kernel, or ground. When ground we think we have done well; and so we have; but piggy will do better if the artificial heat is applied, preparing the food in advance for the stomach.

Whether it is cheaper and more profitable to fatten spring pigs, I believe is a point that may be considered established.

This makes the best and cheapest pork, especially the best if kept till late in the season, say December or January. While the average of published experiments show that spring pigs much oftener exceed 300 pounds in 250 days than wintered hogs 450 pounds in 15 months. True, if the hog could be made to keep up the same average gain that is often secured on a pig the profit might be the same percentage on each. But as pigs from 8 to 9 months old are often made to weigh from 300 to 400 pounds net, it is doubtful whether this average increase can be kept up as much longer. When pigs or hogs are fattened up to a certain point, it seems that they cannot be fed to good advantage any longer. They are the same as finished and may as well be killed.

A little consideration will make plain to most farmers that pigs that gain from 1 to 1½ pounds a day, and hogs that average one pound a day, are profitable, when fed to the best advantage. Still some will say it must take a great deal of grain or other feed to make such fat, heavy hogs and pigs. But it has been shown by the most careful experiments, that a bushel of good corn, when fed in the ear to good hogs, will average 10 pounds of pork, and has made from 12 to 15 pounds; when ground or cooked, has averaged 15 lbs., and when ground and cooked, or scalded, made two or three pounds more. Nathan G. Morgan of Union Springs, N. Y., who "keeps accurate accounts of all his operations," has found that "one bushel of corn thus prepared, (that is, ground and the meal scalded,) after deducting 10 per cent. toll for grinding, and having only 54 pounds for the bushel, will give 20 pounds of pork —or at the rate of 2⅔ pounds of corn for each pound of pork. When pork is 5 cts. a pound, he obtains at the rate of $1 per bushel for his corn." It is true that this is one of the most favorable results of feeding hogs ever published. But the above averages are sufficiently favorable, though it would be impossible now to find room for even a small share of the published experiments that prove or sustain them.

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WHEAT SEEDING—EARLY AND LATTER SEEDING.—We have received a letter, says the *Port Tobacco Times*, of the 17th of June, from John T. Colton, Esq., of Allen's Fresh, giving his experience with the wheat crop of the present year, from which we gather the following facts. He says:

"I commenced harvesting on Saturday last, the 11th. All my forward wheat is prime, and well made and filled. My latter seeding, I think, is much injured by the wet weather. I commenced seeding on the 14th of September, and all I seeded up to the 25th of that month is first rate wheat—perfectly made and uninjured. I seeded the Broughten white wheat. My impression is, that if the recent rains had not set in, my wheat would have been ready to cut by the 5th of June."—*Maryland Farmer.*

—:o:—

Good butter cannot be made when the milk-pail is not clean and sweet. Thoroughly scald and dry (in the sun when possible), top end up.

The cooler the temperature, the less manipulation with the hands, and the sooner the churning is done after the cream has been taken off and well stirred together, the better.

The Poor Man's Sabbath Day.

BY GERALD MASSEY.

The merry birds are singing,
And from the fragrant sod
The spirits of a thousand flowers,
Go gently up to God;
While in his holy temple
We meet to praise and pray,
With cheerful voice and grateful lay,
This Summer Sabbath day.

We thank thee, Lord, for one day
To look Heaven in the face;
The poor have only Sunday,
The sweeter is the grace;
'Tis then they make the music
That sings their week away,
Oh, there's a sweetness infinite
In the poor man's Sabbath day.

'Tis as a burst of sunshine,
A tender fall of rain,
That sets the barest life abloom,
Makes old hearts young again;
The dry and dusty road side
With smiling flowers is gay;
'Tis open Heaven one day in seven,
The poor man's Sabbath day.

'Tis here a weary pilgrim,
Doth reach his house of ease;
That blessed house called "beautiful,"
And that soft chamber, "peace,"
The river of Life runs through his dream,
And the leaves of Heaven are at play;
He sees the golden city gleam,
This shining Sabbath day,

Take heart, ye faint and fearful,
Your cross with courage bear;
So many a face now tearful
Shall shine in glory there,
Where all the sorrow is banished,
The tears are wiped away,
And all eternity shall be
An endless Sabbath day.

Ah, there are empty places,
Since last we mingled here;
There will be missing faces
When we meet another year.
But heart to heart, before we part,
Now all together pray
That we may meet in heaven, to spend
The eternal Sabbath day.

Ike after the Opera.

Since the night Ike went to the opera he has been, as Mrs. Partington said, crazy, and the kind old dame has been fearful least he should become "non-pompus mentus, through his attempts at imitating the operations." The morning after the opera, at the breakfast table, Ike handed ever his cup, and in a soft tone sang:

"Will you, will you Mrs. P.,
Help me to a cup of tea?"

The old lady looked at him with surprise, this conduct was so unusual, and for a moment she hesitated. He continued in a far more impassioned strain:

"Do not, do not, keep me waiting,
Do not, pray, be hesitating,
I am anxious to be drinking,
So pour out as quick as winking."

She gave him the tea with a sigh, as she saw the excitement in his face. He stirred in silence, and in his abstraction took three spoonfuls of sugar. At last he sang again:

"Table cloths, and cups and saucers,
Good white bread and active jaws, sirs,
Tea—gunpowder and souchong,
Sweet enough, but none too strong."

"What do you mean, my boy?" said Mrs. Partington, tenderly:

"All right, steady, never clearer,
Never loved a breakfast dearer.
I'm not bound by witch or wizard,
So don't fret your precious gizzard."

"But Isaac—" persisted the dame. Ike struck his left hand upon the table and swung his knife aloft in his right, looking at a plate upon the table, singing—

"What form is that to me appearing?
Is it mackerel or herring?
Let me dash upon it quick,
Ne'er again that fish shall kick—
Charge upon them, Isaac, charge!"

Before he had a chance to make a dash upon the fish, Mrs. Partington had dashed a tumbler of water in his face to restore him to conscientiousness." It made him catch his breath for a moment, but he didn't sing any more at the table, though the opera fever still follows him elsewhere.

A Beautiful Allegory.

Once on a time a little leaf was heard to sigh and cry as leaves often do when a gentle wind is about. And the twig said:

"What is the matter, little leaf?"

"The wind," said the leaf, "just told me that one day it would pull me off and throw me to the ground to die."

The twig told it to the branch and the branch told it to the tree.

And when the tree heard it it rustled all over, and sent word back to the leaf:

"Do not be afraid; hold on tightly, and you shall not go off till you want to."

And so the leaf stopped sighing, and went on singing and rustling. And so it grew all summer long till October. And when the bright days of autumn came the leaf saw all the leaves around becoming very beautiful. Some were yellow, and some were scarlet, and some were striped with colors. Then it asked the tree what it meant. And the tree said:

"All these leaves are getting ready to fly away, and they have put on these colors because of their joy."

Then the little leaf began to want to go, and grew very beautiful in thinking of it. And when it was very gay in colors it saw that the branches of the tree had no colors in them, and so the leaf said:

"O, branch, why are you lead-colored and we golden?"

"We must keep on our work-clothes," said the tree, "for our work is not yet done, but your clothes are for a holiday, because your task is over."

Just then a little puff of wind came, and the leaf let go without thinking of it, and the wind took it up and turned it over, and then let it fall gently down under the edge of a fence among hundreds of leaves, and it never waked up to tell what it dreamed about.—*The Nation.*

☞ The more debts are contracted the more they expand.

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15. It has the most comple attachment, the Jack-of-all-trades, hems, folls, binds, bastes, tucks, braids and ruffles.

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☞ Parties will be supplied with everything needful for refreshment tables—and Ice.

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TO PHYSICIANS.

—:o:—

NEW YORK, August 15th, 1868.

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