

Abraham Cole

FARM LIFE



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50 CTS. A YEAR.

FARM LIFE.

A blue cross opposite this paragraph means that your subscription has expired with this number. Keep this in mind and renew your subscription at once.

Give your name every time you write us. We receive many subscriptions and communications with no name signed to the letter. We always want to know who our friends are that send such favors. If this point is carefully looked to it will prevent our being often blamed for some other person's oversight.

The independent farmer: On the road from Skowhegan to Hartland the editor of the Pittsfield, (Mass.), *Advertiser* counted nine ladies driving two-horse mowers and seventeen young ladies driving one-horse rakes.

Plantations of roses on a large scale are to be established in the Caucasian province of Kutais, with a view to introducing there the manufacture of attar of roses, for which Russia now has to depend upon Bulgaria and Turkey.

Dispatch should be the motto of every farmer. We do not advocate haste, for as a usual thing this is employed at the expense of time. But let the farmer move with deliberation and execute as he progresses, using dexterity in everything, and he will accomplish much.

An effort is being made in Australia to restrict by law the reckless slaughter of kangaroos. The great market for kangaroo skins is in the United States, and so high a price is paid for them that the young animals are killed in such numbers as to threaten the rapid extinction of these singular creatures unless effectual measures are taken for their preservation.

Within Antarctic circles there has never a flowering plant been found. In the Arctic region there are 762 kinds of flowers; fifty of these are confined to the Arctic region. They are really polar flowers. The colors of these polar flowers are not as bright and varied as our own, most of them being white or yellow, as if borrowing these hardy hues from their snowy bergs and golden stars.

As a usual thing it is hard to find girls that will accept positions with families on farms. There is more sociability in town, more parties, balls, etc., and they are reluctant to accept a country home. But, as a rule, the place in the country is by far the most lucrative. The hired girl is just like a member of the family and has the privileges and the same respect as a member of the family, while in town they must, to a great extent, seek circles of their own. They are consigned in a country home, a girl

will find it much better than imagined, and we insist upon working girls accepting country places.

Put down in figures the year in which you were born, to this add 4; then add your age at your next birthday, provided it comes before January 1st, otherwise your age at your last birthday; multiply results by 1,000; from this deduct 677,423; substitute for the figures corresponding letters of the alphabet, as A for 1, B for 2, C for 3, D for 4, etc. The result will give the name by which you are popularly known.

Late oats are about as valuable when cut for hay as if let ripen. In fact, if one will go to the expense of getting a feed cutter, and run his oats, cut a little green, through it before feeding, his stock will eat it up clean and keep fat on it and it will go further than the some acreage if thoroughly ripened and threshed. This is exceptionally good feed for a milch cow in winter, giving surprising results in the production of milk and butter.

The value of coal ashes as a mulch is generally underestimated. In regions where drouth prevails, a mulch preserves moisture and assists the tree to perfect its fruit. A man in Southern Texas began to observe that grass and weeds around ash dumps on railroads were greener and more luxuriant than elsewhere, and, especially during the drouth, continued to grow right along, while elsewhere they were withered and brown. Acting on this, some six years ago he applied a lot of coal ashes to two hundred pear trees, with remarkable results. The trees so dressed bear twice the size, and bear much larger crops than others under the same general conditions, but without the dressing of coal ashes.

The yield of a single grain of wheat is never less than forty-fold under favorable conditions, and when sown thin it should be much greater. Every pound of wheat should produce a bushel in all sections where wheat is successfully raised. In rainy sections the portions of starch in the grain increases 3 or 4 per cent., while the gluten decreases in a similar proportion, compared with dry regions like Colorado. The three superficial coverings of wheat constitute the bran, while the next three layers are composed of gluten, the most valuable part of the grain. It comprises 10 to 16½ per cent. of the grain, and the more gluten there is in the wheat the better its quality. The middle of the wheat grain is mostly starch, comprising about 66 per cent. of its bulk.

Orange Culture in California.

The following article appeared in the columns of the *Post-Express*, of this city, a few days since, but it is so concise in its statements and so full and complete in particulars, that we reproduce it, believing it will be of general interest to the readers of FARM LIFE:

"Genuine orange land, unimproved, can be bought at from \$150 to \$500 per acre, including water right, and it costs about \$25 per acre to prepare the land for tree planting. Oranges are the most profitable crop, so we will set our ten acres to Washington Naysels. (Ten acres is as much as most men care to take care of.) You can set 108 trees to the acre. These will cost from \$50 to \$100 per acre, according to size and quality. A good six-room cottage can be built for from \$1,200 to \$1,500, a suitable barn for \$150. Put these figures all together and you have the first cost of a fine place. Does the price seem high? It may, and yet this ten acres will produce more than almost any 150 acre farm at the east. This is not a loose statement, but can be verified over and over again. Figure it out for yourself. Five years from setting the trees will produce over a box to the tree, at the present price, \$2.75 per box, this will produce \$297 per acre. Expense for care is as low as for most any crop. This yield will increase for years. Suppose the price should drop one-half, our proposition will still hold true. Orange culture is not an experiment here now, as we have groves fifteen or more years old. Still there is much fruit raising here that is experimental, as it is only five or six years since much has been done to develop this section. Lemons, figs and olives are growing in popularity as staple fruits for profit. Most of the deciduous fruits are relegated to cheaper land, that will not produce oranges, etc. It is a common sight here to see peach, pear, apple and other trees dug out by the hundred to make room for the more profitable fruit. An immense acreage will be set this season, from February to July. In this valley alone there are now about 1,800 acres already set to oranges, and about 1,000 more will be set this season. But will not this business be overdone? We think not. There is only a limited area of land suitable for this purpose. We must have good land, plenty of water and freedom from severe frosts. From the fact that the orange never sheds its leaf, blossoms for next year's crop before all of this year's crop is picked, and is growing nearly the whole year, it follows that it must have soil of the best. Bearing

orchards are not often for sale, and are held at from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per acre.

But can a man do better here than at the east? That depends. If health is good and business reasonable we should never advise a change. But who can come and do well? First—The man who is beginning to break down will find help in this climate if he don't wait too long. Second—The man with \$10,000 to \$20,000 can buy a bearing orchard that will keep him in comfort. Third—The man with \$5,000 to \$10,000 can buy an improved place with orange trees set on all or part of it. Fourth—The man with \$1,000 to \$3,000 can buy land and by economy make a living off it until his trees come into bearing. The man with little capital, will have to work as hard perhaps as at the East, but there is a better show for a competence ahead. In other words, looking ahead ten years, we believe he will be better off than to farm it at the East.

Where is the best land to be obtained? Come out here, and look around. Don't buy in a hurry. We thought this valley as good as there was around. F. K. ADAMS.

Pomona, Cal., January, 1890.

Russian Stoves.

The Russian stove is made of fire-resisting porcelain, is always ornamental, frequently a highly artistic, handsome article of furniture. Internally it is divided by thick, fire-clay walls into several upright chambers or flues, usually six in number. Some dry fire wood is lighted in a suitable fire place, and is supplied with only sufficient air to effect combustion, all of which enters below and passes through the flue. The productions of combustion, being thus undiluted with unnecessary cold air, are very highly heated, and in this state pass up and down through the different compartments. At the end of this long journey they have given up most of their heat to the twenty-four heat absorbing surfaces of the fire-clay walls. Then all communication with the chimney is cut off, the fire is put out, having done its work, and the interior of the stove has bottled up its caloric ready for emission into the room, and passing through the non-conducting walls of the stove, is radiated into the apartments.—*Foreign Exchange.*

It is found that nearly every kind of glass, especially that containing manganese, is liable to a change of color by the action of sunlight, but the glass can be restored to its original color by heat. Stained glass in windows that has changed tints through solar action can thus be restored by heat,

THE FARM.

Mistaken Use of Clover.

In wheat-growing localities the old-fashioned practice of plowing under clover every other year, and growing alternately with it a crop of wheat, was at the time thought to be the perfection of good farming. It was not considered to be an exhaustive rotation. Was there not every other year a clover growth, mainly secured from the atmosphere, to replace what the grain crop took from the soil? Further experience has shown the fallacy of this reasoning. Green manure necessarily cannot make additions to mineral fertility of the soil. If every atom is turned back to the soil without waste, it gives only the mineral elements first taken from the soil. The grain crop was always sold, and if the farmers kept work-horses and a few cows the manure from these, fed mainly on hay, corn-stalks and straw, was duly drawn upon the land. It was not rich manure, and was usually especially lacking in phosphates. Most of these wheat growers have for fifteen or twenty years been purchasing mineral manures to replace those that were exhausted.

The trouble began when even a large clover crop plowed under would not produce a large wheat crop, while without the clover good wheat could be grown with a dressing of 200 pounds of phosphate drilled in with the seed. This convincing proof of the benefit of mineral manures opened the eyes of many farmers who had not before doubted that their two-year system was not keeping up their farms to the proper standard of fertility. Yet ever since, though more stock has been kept, and clover has been fed out and thus made into manure, the buying of commercial fertilizers has continued. In fact, it is easy to see that this method restores less of plant food than did the plowing under of the clover under the old practice. Wheat and other grain is sold as before, so that the difference is that the Summer fallow gave the land the entire clover growth, while the policy of feeding it to stock saved for the soil only what was left after it had passed through animals eating it, and had contributed to growth, muscle, milk, wool, or products.

It is clear, also, that the best use of clover is to feed it at home on the farm, and with it enough of grain, oil meal or other nitrogenous food to make a rich manure pile. But if oil meal and grain are to be bought for farm use, it will require a much better class of farm stock to make it pay expenses. So that, even for securing the fullest advantages from clover growing, there must be better stock, which, in every way it can be looked at, is seen to be the basis of improved farming.

Winter Effects of Under Drainage.

Some of the minor advantages of under-drainage assume great importance in winter. It is quite apparent upon observation that ground properly under-drained heaves much the less in winter. It is the expansion of the water in the soil, at the moment of freezing, that heaves the soil. Dry earth does not expand at any temperature. Drainage protects the soil against an excess of water, and there is no excess of moisture, only capillary and hygroscopic moisture, to be expanded by freezing. The effect of the expansion of these is comparatively slight.

This partly explains why, other things being equal, winter wheat succeeds best on under-drained ground. Under-drainage often prevents damage to the wheat in yet another way. Not infrequently water stands on the surface of flat land, freezes into ice, and smothers the wheat. It is rare that an entire field is so damaged, yet sometimes large fields are altogether killed out in this way. But damage to patches, over which the water collects, is quite frequent. Under-drainage, which usually disposes of surface water, prevents smothering the wheat.

There are several material advantages in the winter spreading of stable manure and some other fertilizers. A respectable minority, if not an actual majority, of farmers would find such handling of manure the best, provided the loss from the flow of surface water could be avoided. Under-drainage at least greatly reduces this flow; it carries the water through instead of over the soil. The water, on its way to the under-drains, carries the manure into the soil, where it is filtered out, instead of carrying it away. The water does not carry away so much of the soil or form so many gullies, something the farmers will surely appreciate whenever there is a thaw during the winter, and especially during the spring.—*American Agriculturist.*

Agricultural Phenomenon.

The *N. Y. Sun* says: All last fall the farmers of Connecticut inveighed bitterly because the wet weather was ruining their potato crop. They had just begun to follow the advice of leaders in agricultural experiments, and had substituted potatoes for tobacco, which had proved an unsatisfactory crop. Jack Frost used to get along so early that the tobacco plants would get nipped before they could be harvested. But now they have abandoned tobacco. Jack Frost does not seem to come at all. On the other hand, wet weather ruined the potatoes. In September it was reported that not half the farmers were digging their tubers because they found them rotten, and it was prophesied that the price would go up out of sight. If a man could get enough to keep him through the winter he would do well.

But now along with the pansy and dandelion phenomena come reports of the farmers finding that the health of the undug potatoes is greatly improved. John Elliott, of Plainville, dug two bushels of excellent potatoes from his garden which he had abandoned as worthless in the fall. Henry Helam, of Goshen, put two or three men at work during the holidays, and recovered nearly a third of an excellent crop which had appeared to be on the verge of dissolution in September. John Gamp, of Cornwall, is now showing with delight several bushels of as fine potatoes as were ever raised in that old town. They were given up as rotten a few months ago, but the open winter has restored them. Edward Manchester, of Winchester, set his hired men to work this week, digging over the old patch, with encouraging results, until the frost came on Thursday and put an end to it. He will renew operations on the first warm day.

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These four subscriptions may, if necessary, come from as many different post-offices. Will you get up a club?

It Will Pay.

To run the farm on business principles.
To know how much everything on the farm costs.

To keep accurate records with every crop.
To know whether each cow is paying her way or eating her head off.

To know whether the steers bring as much money as they cost.

To know whether the colts from second-class sires are as profitable as those from the best ones.

To have shelter for the stock that will keep the cold winds from them.

To keep all the stock in good condition so that it will not be spring-poor next April.

To have the cows give their best flow of milk in the winter, when butter is worth twice as much as in the summer.

To feed the stock all it will eat, but not to waste food.

To keep plenty of good bedding that will absorb the liquid manure under the stock.

To put it and all other manures on the fields direct from the stable in the winter when there is plenty of time to do it.

To curry the horses well every day, not neglecting them because it is cold and they can "get along" without it.

To repair every tool that will be needed for next summer's use.

To study the seed and tree catalogues and decide on what trees and seeds you will use.

To order them as soon as possible that your order may be on the dealer's books and be filled early next spring.

To make the home as bright and cheerful as possible with good fires, good furniture, good books and good games.

To interest the boys and girls in farm life by making home the pleasantest spot in the world for them.

To look after the school in your district, and see that the teacher is fully qualified for the work.

To pay a good teacher five or ten dollars extra per month rather than have an incompetent one.

To see that all the surroundings of the school house are pleasant, and that the teacher is lady-like or gentlemanly, as the case may be.

To attend the farmers' club or other organization in your school district or

To organize one, and make it a live one, if you have not one now.

To visit your neighbors and rub the rough edges off that hard work during the summer has put on.

In short, it will pay to enjoy life to the fullest while you are trying to make money.

Horse Stables.

To have healthy and hearty horses due care must be taken to provide them with suitable stables. These should be warm, dry and well ventilated. If the roof is of straw let it be thatched so that it does not leak. No farmer can afford to have water leaking down upon his horses. Have first a roof that does not leak, next see that the sides of the stable are free from cracks, so that there will be no drafts upon the horses. Have the ventilators so that they are under your control. After you have a good roof and tight sides, properly ventilated and lighted, it is proper to consider the floor of the stable. You can get no better one than earth. This will keep the feet of the horses in good condition, and needs only to be

kept level by filling in the holes made by the stamping of the feet of the horses. If you have an earth floor be sure and keep it free from a ridge over which the horse must hang when it lies down. The next best floor is one made of short blocks of wood, such as are used in paving city streets. If the stable is not on the ground level, of course a floor will need to be made of plank. Of what ever the stable floor is made have a drain. This will facilitate keeping the horses clean and the stable clean and healthy. Have the stalls wide enough to allow the horses to lie down comfortably. It is well enough to have the partitions high enough to prevent the horses reaching each other. Be sure to have no projections in the stables, upon which the horses can hurt themselves in lying down, turning around, or raising their heads. This will necessitate having the ceiling high enough to clear their heads when jerked up suddenly. Have the feed boxes and racks just high enough to allow the head to be in a natural position while eating. Have both these so arranged that there will be no waste of grain or hay. To save time in feeding have grain bin and hay handy to stable. When the stable is made comfortable, convenient and healthy, see that the surroundings are made the same. Don't have a great pile of manure just in front of the door. Have a small drain to carry the water from the stable, so that it may be approached handily, and be at the same time more healthful, because free from stagnant water. Now is the best time of the year to put your stable in good shape.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

Prof. W. A. Henry, of the Government Experiment Station at Madison, Wis., thinks that hogs should be graded in the market according to the way they are fed and the quality of their meats. Now all hogs go to market simply as hogs and nothing more. No account is taken of the fact that a well-bred lean hog is better than a fat hog.

Onions are not of the things that like warmth in the winter; steadily frozen condition suits them better.

Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites.

Is not only very palatable, but the remedial power of these valuable specifics is greatly increased, and as a remedy for Consumption, Scrofula, emaciation, or where there is loss of flesh and nerve power, it is remarkable in its results. Take no other.

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CHAFF.

A nickel in the hand beats two in the slot.—N. O. Picayune.

When schemes are on foot the politicians are generally on hand.—Binghamton Leader.

When a man comes to time, does it not prove that time waits for some men.—Binghamton Herald.

The scissors editor of a newspaper is apt to make a great many cutting remarks.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

When a man is attacked by "la grippe" it makes him weak in his knees and strong in his 'neeze.—Kearney Enterprise.

Sometimes the office seeks the man, but generally the man knows when the office is on his track.—Rochester Post-Express.

To the novel colors invented for women's clothes of "crushed strawberry" and "whipped cream" has been added the color of "slapped baby."

Mr. Trumble—"The elevator isn't running so fast this morning as usual?" Elevator Boy—"No sir; I don't feel strong today."—Golden Days.

An exchange exclaims: "In these days of roguery a man must have lost his wits to indorse a note." At any rate he is apt to lose his balance.—Philadelphia Press.

Young man (to jeweler)—Will the watch cost anything extra if I should want a little time on it? Jeweler—No, sir, you may pay me \$6 for the watch, and I will throw the time in.

Dalkins—"I hear you are going to start a paper devoted to women. Have you decided on the policy of it?" Inksum—"Yes. It is going to be altogether about men."—Town Topics.

"I walked the floor all night with the tooth-ache!" said he, to which his unfeeling listner replied:

"You didn't expect to walk the ceiling with it, did you?"

"No thoroughly occupied man," says a great writer, "was ever yet miserable." Unless he was trying to amuse a two-year-old child while its mother went out calling.—Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

Baby was trying to dress herself. "What are you trying to do there, little one? Doesn't baby see that she's putting her stockings on wrong side out?" "Yes, that's coz there's a hole on t'other side."

"I see that a new word is called for, to describe railroad accidents," remarked Spacer; "the word 'telescope' is not considered appropriate." "Isn't it?" replied Tirman; "then how would collide—oscope do?"

She—"Before we were married you promised that my path through life should be strewn with roses, and now I have to sit up nights and mend stockings." He—"You don't want to walk on roses barefooted, do you? You'd get thorns in your feet."—Texas Siftings.

"Has the town grown much in the last ten years, Mr. Snaffles?" "Grown? My, yes. Why, this very lot we're standing on, I paid \$10,000 for in '72. I sold it in '81 for \$2,000, and had to buy it back on foreclosure for \$1,500. Stranger, you can see this town grow, but the trouble is, it's an ingrowing town."

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They are aware that many cheap publications are put upon the market with all sorts of tempting offers, which are never carried out, but over 50,000 readers of their Magazine can testify that they have always done exactly as promised. They will do it in this case. 100,000 PRESENTS. READ OUR GRAND OFFER. FIRST PRIZE. To the first person guessing the correct number of vowels used in this advertisement, we will give in cash, \$2,000. W and Y count as vowels. SECOND PRIZE. To the first person guessing the correct number of letters in this advertisement (figures not counted), we will give in cash, \$1,000. THIRD PRIZE. To the first person guessing the correct number of consonants in this advertisement, we will give in cash, \$500. FOURTH PRIZE. To the first person guessing the correct number of words in this advertisement, we will give \$100. FIFTH PRIZE. To the first 100 persons guessing the correct number of capital letters in this advertisement, we will give each a Solid Gold Watch worth \$50. SIXTH PRIZE. To the first 200 persons guessing the correct number of punctuation points used in this advertisement, we will give each \$5 in cash, \$2,000. To the next 99,696 persons who send in a guess, whether correct or not, before March 1st, 1890, we will give a Complete Set of Dickens' Works, as illustrated below, so that each and every person is sure to get a valuable and costly present, worth many times the subscription price of our Magazine. A committee of five, whose expenses we will pay, are requested to meet at our office March 1, and award the prizes. List of which will be published in March issue. No postponement. CONDITIONS: 1st.—All answers and guesses must be received on or before March 1st, 1890. 2d.—All contestants must accompany their answers with One Dollar (\$1.00), in payment for one year's subscription to the Family Magazine. 3d.—No contestant will be entitled to more than one prize. Each contestant can, however, try for all the prizes, but will be awarded only one. 4th.—Compound words count as one word. Figures not to be counted unless spelled out. PLEASE REMEMBER that the smallest prize you can get is A COMPLETE SET, 12 Volumes, of CHARLES DICKENS' WORKS AS ILLUSTRATED HERE. Charles Dickens was the greatest novelist who ever lived. No author before or since his time has won the same fame that he achieved, and his works are even more popular to-day than during his lifetime. They abound in wit, humor, pathos, masterly delineation of character, vivid descriptions of places and incidents, thrilling and skillfully wrought plots. Each book is intensely interesting. No home should be without a set of these great and remarkable works. Not to have read them is to be far behind the age in which we live. The twelve volumes in this set contain the following world-famous works, each one of which is published complete, unchanged, and absolutely unabridged. PICKWICK PAPERS. DAVID COPPERFIELD. BARNABY RUDGE. OLD CURIOUSITY SHOP. GREAT EXPECTATIONS. OLIVER TWIST. DUMBEY AND SON. MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT. OUR MUTUAL FRIEND. CHRISTMAS STORIES. UNCOMMERCIAL TRAVELER. MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. HARD TIMES. NICHOLAS NICKLEBY. BLEAK HOUSE. LITTLE DORRIT. THE PICKWICK PAPERS. THE DAVID COPPERFIELD. THE BARNABY RUDGE. THE OLD CURIOUSITY SHOP. THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS. THE OLIVER TWIST. THE DUMBEY AND SON. THE MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT. THE OUR MUTUAL FRIEND. THE CHRISTMAS STORIES. THE UNCOMMERCIAL TRAVELER. THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. THE PICKWICK PAPERS. THE DAVID COPPERFIELD. THE BARNABY RUDGE. THE OLD CURIOUSITY SHOP. THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS. THE OLIVER TWIST. THE DUMBEY AND SON. 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If the stock must be kept in filthy quarters, give it a chance to scratch. You know how it is yourself.

We cannot begin too early to teach the animal that we are its friend. Get the confidence of your young animals.

Halter break the colt early. It is a good deal less trouble to manage a little thing than it is a big one, unless the little thing is a wasp.

Ventilate the cellar. Don't be afraid of a little cool air. Everything in the cellar will keep better for having a change of air as often as possible.

Butter should be covered when in the refrigerator, and should be in an apartment by itself, and not placed near meat or vegetables, as it absorbs odors very readily.

Have a good lantern or never carry anything into the stables. A good lantern is cheaper than a big fire. The former may not give light enough, but the latter gives altogether too much.

Give more attention to the feet of your horses. If your shoer is not an intelligent man find one that is. There is much more to shoeing a horse than simply fitting and nailing a shoe to the foot.

Many a bull and ram are made vicious by bad treatment. We do not affirm that kind treatment will make a bull perfectly safe, but kindness will operate in the direction of making him so.

One great secret of the development of a heifer for the dairy consists in putting off the return of progeny for a period of not less than four months, and better six months, after the birth of the first calf.

If you grow grain you must have a grainery, and it should be your aim to make this proof against mice, as there is no telling what a vast amount of grain these little destroyers will get away with in a winter.

A good set of carpenter tools is one of the necessities of the model farm. Too often the stock is limited to a buck saw that was sharpened before the war, a hatchet without an edge and a hammer with the claws broken.

Never whip a horse for not doing what he cannot understand is wanted of him. Few horses wilfully refuse to perform a service required. But they do not understand. Spend your energy in patiently making the animal understand instead of spending it in whipping him.

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