

THE KANSAS FARMER

ESTABLISHED, 1863.

TOPEKA, KANSAS: APRIL 14, 1880.

VOL. XVIII, NO. 15

THE KANSAS FARMER.

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Topeka, Kansas.

Winter Butter-Making.

BY HENRY STEWART.

WASHING THE BUTTER.

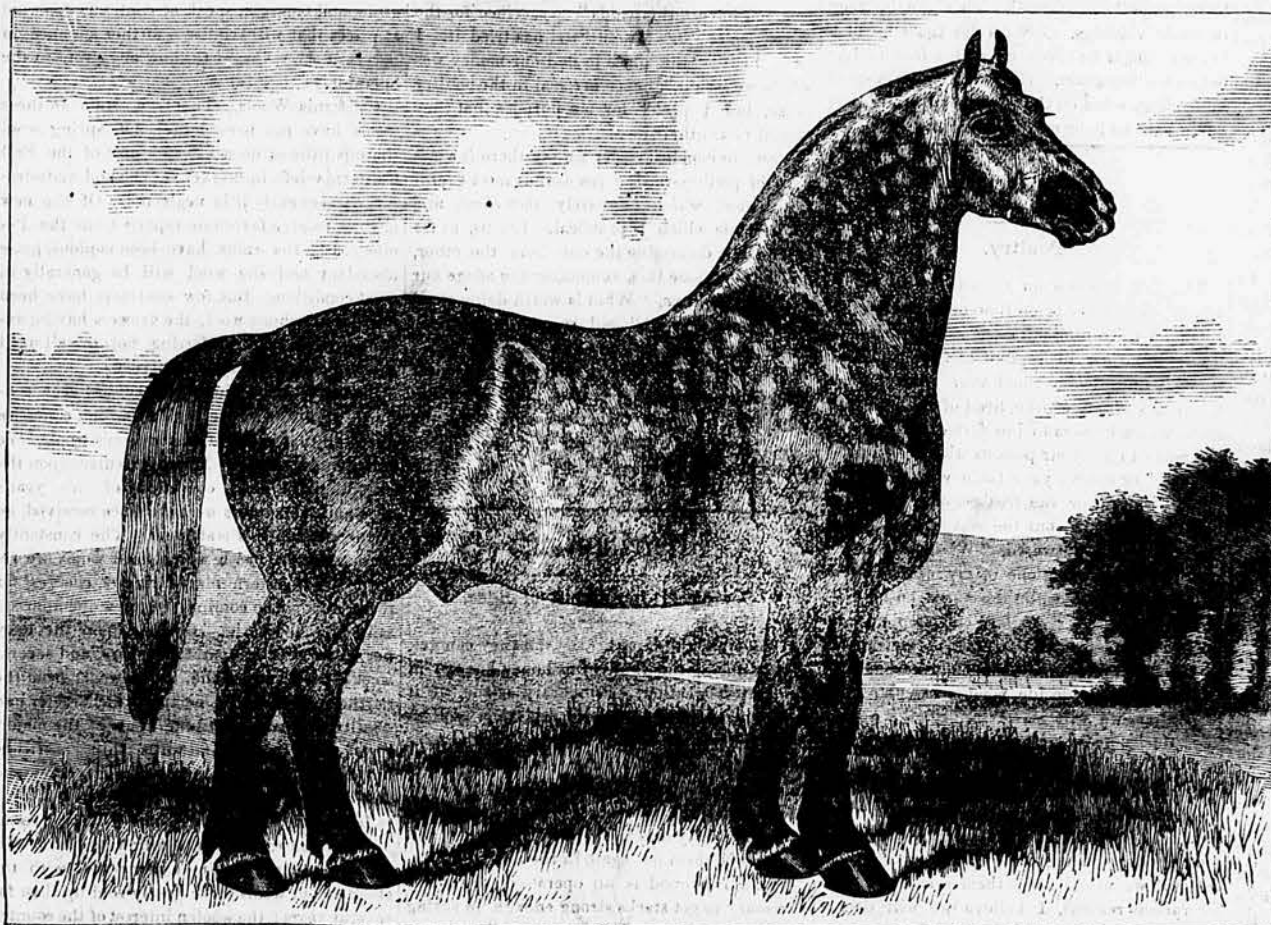
After the churning comes the final working and packing for sale. Butter that has been well churned is easily cleansed and freed from the butter-milk. There is a point in the churning at which the butter is in the best condition for washing. That is when it is in the state known as small butter. This may be produced in any churn, but it comes best in those which are without dashers, and in these over-churning is not so easy as in the dash churns. The point when churning should be stopped is when the butter is in small lumps about the size of a small pea. Then the buttermilk should be drawn off through a strainer which catches the small particles, and these, if amounting to but half an ounce, are worth saving, as one cent even will not come into one's pocket without working for it, and this saving will pay for the salt and for pails in a very short time. The buttermilk having been drawn off, I turn in pure cold water, and give two or three turns to the churn and then draw off the milky water. This is repeated until the water comes away clear. Some excellent butter makers wash the butter in cold brine and work and pack it directly from the churn. I would rather take the trouble to salt the butter in the butter worker, and put it away for 24 hours, during which time I think the butter ripens and improves in flavor. The color certainly deepens, and the texture is made more solid by the subsequent working. By adding three-fourths of an ounce of salt to the butter as it comes from the churn, and working this in, and setting it away for one day, some water is drawn from it, which is an advantage to the consumer at any rate; at the final working an additional quarter of an ounce of salt to the pound is added. It is very important to use the first quality of salt. So much has been said about salt of late in dairy conventions and elsewhere that the subject has lost its savor, and one is tired of hearing of this or that salt being indispensable. Every butter maker should get the best, irrespective of cost; for one cent's worth will sell one 16 pounds of butter, and the saving of a dollar on a bag is hardly to be considered in comparison with five cents a pound difference in the value of the butter. Each may try and choose for himself. But in choosing salt, that should be avoided which has small, thin, hard white scales in it. The salt should be finely ground, white, of even fineness and free from specks of any kind.

As a rule, when one is doing well in making butter, especially in the winter season, it is best "to leave well alone," for changes often seriously upset things. Some salt has particles of lime in it. If there is but one per cent. of lime in the salt, there will be one lime particle to every 99 of salt. A hundred particles of salt are spread through a very small piece of butter, and as each lime particle will make a white speck, it is very easy for the appearance of good butter to be changed for the worse. In making microscopic examinations of samples of butter recently, the presence of lime in some of them was quite plainly shown by a whitish, mottled character from which others were quite free. And touching on microscopes, I might say that a dairyman would find a 25 dollar instrument a source of much interest and instruction in his business as regards milk, cream, salt and butter. The modern butter workers are labor-savers. To work up 20 pounds of butter with the old-fashioned dish and ladle, is a tiresome job and wears many a conscientious woman's hands and arms; and it does not seem a fitting business for a man to potter with a butter ladle. Twenty or fifty pounds of butter may be worked in a butter worker with ease, and in a tenth part of the time required with the ladle. And in using the worker, it is necessary to use the same cutting and gashing manner of working the butter as with the ladle, and to avoid drawing or sliding the worker over the mass. The right action is to cut off slices from the mass and press them together to form a new mass.

PACKING THE BUTTER.

Good butter should be put into good packages. I have seen excellent butter sacrificed because it was put up in an unattractive shape. The old-fashioned oval rolls, or round lumps do not sell well.

Fancy prints and cakes are popular for retailing from grocery stores, but these are apt to be



PERCHERON STALLION "ARCOLA."

(850 Percheron-Norman Stud Book). Imported by M. W. DUNHAM, Wayne, DuPage Co., Illinois. Sold to J. H. BOWMAN, Waverly, Iowa.

Breeding Horses.

In the application of the general laws which govern the transmission of hereditary qualities to the business of breeding horses, the first step is, for the breeder to decide, in his own mind, what sort of horse he wishes to produce. If his fancy or interest leads him to breed horses for the race-course, his path will be a comparatively easy one, for he finds already created to his hand a breed that for two hundred years has been bred especially with that point in view. But even here, within the limits of this, the purest and best established of all our breeds of horses, he will find ample room for the exercise of a discriminating judgment in the choice of sires and dams. Here, as everywhere else, the motto must be, *breed from the best*. Select winners on the turf—great performers descended from great performers—such has ever been the practice of the most successful breeders of race-horses, both in England and America.

If the breeder's fancy leads him to attempt the breeding of trotting horses, his road, while not so plainly marked, is indicated by the same guide-boards. The records of the trotting course constitute the only guide that he can safely follow. But here, from the causes that we have heretofore alluded to, the probabilities of failure are, at present, much greater than those of success. Our breed of trotting horses is yet only in a formative state; and while we may couple fast trotters together, and even secure the longest possible lines of trotters that are yet to be found distinguished for speed at the trotting gait, the line of descent, unmixed with other elements, is not long enough to make the breeding of fast trotters any-

missed in the carriage and handling, unless packed in a costly manner. After trying many methods of packing, I found the five or six, and ten or twelve pound pails, made neatly of white oak, with close covers and handles, the most convenient and popular. The butter is not exposed to air or dust; it will keep good for months if required, being protected from air by a covering of salt and paraffine paper; the butter can be cut from the pail as it is needed; the pails may be packed in a cheap box, and may be carried 1,000 miles with perfect safety and can be returned to the dairy, or sold if desired, for what they cost the dairyman. When shipped to a near market, they can be returned as "empties" at low rates, and the total cost for carriage need not be more than one cent per pound. Pails of this size are convenient for families, as they last two or three weeks. Larger pails may be chosen, but they should be made of white oak, or of spruce, such as the Welsh pails, and should be neatly made and varnished.

The best market for winter made butter is that which supplies private families who are ready to pay five or ten cents per pound above the highest market rates for such butter as may suit their tastes, and is packed in convenient form for use and to avoid waste. The average dairyman need waste no time in pursuing the *ignis fatuus* of "a dollar a pound" for his butter. There may be a large discount taken from that value. This may be the retail price in some instances, but in regard to one noted and much puffed dairy, it has been stated that a discount of 40 per cent. was made from the "dollar a pound," and this sort of business savors of "ways that are dark," and has misled and troubled and dissatisfied many persons whose product has been equally gilt-edged with that of the most favored dairies. A dairyman should be content to sell his product at first for what it will bring; let him, however, put his name on every package, and if the butter is sufficiently good, those who eat it will find it indispensable and "cry for more." Then comes the tide in the affairs of dairymen "which taken at the flood leads on to fortune." Then he can say, when pressed with orders, "I want more money for my butter" or "I cannot supply you; or, as happens now and then with me, those who get the butter will order direct from the dairy, and the dairyman may make his own terms. Butter is an article of prime necessity. It flavors the staff of life. There is no other such educator of taste.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Sheep and Wool.

The article headed "Sheep Husbandry" in the FARMER of March 24, contains sentiments that are sound. Good sheep are the bread winner for any man who will feed well, shed well,

and handle carefully. Although the writer neglected to insert his name or place of residence, (intentional or otherwise). I should be pleased to make his acquaintance. The real profit and success in sheep husbandry is not in large numbers, but a good quality well cared for; the more shelter and feed, the more profit and greater satisfaction. Only one objection I see to his remarks, he asks the editor to advise him, or them, as to early or late shearing, and when to sell their wool. Why should he suppose the editor knew more about it than himself or any other sheep raiser? only because he reads more. Then if my sheep men friends would supply themselves with good agricultural papers and other works by practical sheepmen, they would keep themselves posted in advance and save enough in the sale of one clip of wool to pay for a year's subscription of all the agricultural papers in the United States, in many instances.

Sheep husbandry can not be learned by books, papers or advice from those who are ever so well posted. The knowledge must be gained by actual experience with the help of such papers, books, and the advice of practical men. Sheep and wool associations are of the greatest benefit to all sheep growers, shearing festivals, sheep shows, &c. Give your views and experience to the publisher of your own state agricultural paper, and if they are good they will be accepted, if not they will be rejected. Ask for information from the same source, that will assist many and instruct the publisher as well, who generally has all he can attend to without going out to hunt his knowledge or to take a hand in any branch of husbandry, in order to post himself properly so as to make his paper desirable and useful.

I would say without being asked, that my experience in thirty years sheep and wool raising, that the proper time for shearing depends very much on the general climate of the state you may be living in. In Michigan from the first to the 15th of June; in Missouri from the 20th of May to the 15th of June, and I should say about the same in this state; in Colorado, two weeks earlier, and in New Mexico, still earlier, or about the same time. The danger of hail storms in Colorado and New Mexico has taught the sheep men to their cost, to defer shearing until late in May or first of June, if the sheep are free from scab. In Nevada and California we shear in April, and often in September. But if the sheep are healthy and sound, I have always found it to my advantage to omit the September shearing. As to early sales of wool, I could never see any advantage, except one year when manufacturers and speculators entered the market against each other. There are some risks by fire and waste as in grain, if carelessly stored; but if properly handled,

there is a gain of 5 to 10 per cent. in the actual weight instead of shrinkage, and almost certain rise in the price, of wools of all grades. It is sometimes late in the season, as late as February or first of March, but it is sure to come. Wool should be stored on a ground floor if possible, and in a tight, dark room, well packed together, and covered with a clean, thick sheet or sail cloth, and where mice or vermin cannot get to it, or packed in large close boxes with close fitting covers, and kept in some building out of the storms and winds, or be shipped (consigned) to some reliable commission merchant, who will advance on the wool at a reasonable rate of interest. When I am raising wool in the west, I ship to Kinse, Jones & Co., Chicago, with entire satisfaction, and when I am east, to Bateman, Philadelphia, with equally good results, or pack and store in a wool bin or boxes until fall or winter.

Larned, Kas.

H. J. COLVIN.

The above letter contains some very valuable information for sheep and wool growers. That part relating to the care and putting up of wool will prove especially valuable. The condition, or state of the season is the best guide for the proper time to shear. When the trees are pretty well leaved out, and the weather is mild, and seems to have passed the stormy spring period, will prove to be the best time to shear.—[Ed.]

Some Thoughts.

ED. FARMER: I am very glad to see so many giving their experience in farm matters through your valuable paper, every number of which seems to show improvement. How blind are men who try to farm, raise or keep stock, grow trees, fruits, &c., without reading books and papers devoted to their occupations; especially for men in Kansas to do without the KANSAS FARMER, when it is full of advice and experience of the farmers of the state. By reading and learning their *hits and misses*, many dollars may be saved to the inexperienced man. Then let every man who has experience out of the usual routine of farm life, give your readers such experience, being careful to give every cause or condition which operated in producing the stated facts. Facts and experience are what we need; then let us have the benefit of each other's knowledge through the FARMER.

I am much interested by the articles of Lorenzo Allard, Lawndale, Kansas, on forest trees; Samuel Stoner's letters; "Farm Experience," by B., and by the letters of J. Wilkin, son of Brooklyn, N. Y., and others too numerous to name. But I should be glad if every person who writes facts would give his true name and post office address, and also date where time has anything to do with the facts; also distance and course from Topeka. I have no objection to anonymous articles or fictitious names to stories and fiction, but when we give facts let us lay aside modesty and give our true name to the public. B. P. HANAN. Langdon, Reno Co., Kansas.

Artichokes.

A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer*, speaking of artichokes, says: "We tried artichokes again last year, and I am quite convinced they are quite profitable as a hog feed. They take the place of grass. The hogs do their own digging, and are very industrious. We have tried sugar beets and rutabagas for two years, but consider them unprofitable. The beets were badly damaged, both years, by the cantharide beetle. Both crops require too much labor. Last summer we tried a little pearl millet; the result was favorable."

Another correspondent of the same journal says of his beef cattle, (and we will say, in parenthesis, that these men are both graduates of agricultural colleges. Agricultural education evidently pays):

"We sold a car load of cattle on the first of January, delivering them January 12th. Their average weight was 1,480 pounds, weighed here. On December 17th they averaged 1,405 pounds, thus showing they gained 75 pounds in twenty-five days, or three pounds per day, notwithstanding the mud and wintry weather. They were a mixed lot of three and four-year-olds, the culls from about fifty head. I am strongly of the opinion that had they been high grades, started in good shape, they would have shown a much better gain than they did. We have several high grade steers that show a gain of from 500 to 600 pounds during the past year, while there are a few very plain cattle with them that cannot show more than 200 pounds gain, although they have probably eaten and wasted nearly as much food as the others."

Farm Letters.

WAKEFIELD, Clay Co.—This place is 81 miles west by north from Topeka. We are looking anxiously for rain. Wheat is looking well, notwithstanding the dry weather, but some fields of late sown are suffering. Kansas winds have been blowing for a couple of weeks with now and then a days' cessation and occasionally a lull for an hour—and what winds!

OASIS, Saline Co.—Farmers are all very busy in this part of the Smoky Hill Valley. Some are putting in oats, some plowing for corn, and will soon be ready to plant. Wheat is damaged to a considerable extent; that sown latest the winter the best. Several fields that were thought killed out are taking a new start. We had a good shower on the 23d ult., the first I think since last November, followed by a severe "blizzard" on the 26th and 27th.

The people here are waking up in the cause of Prohibition and getting ready for the fall election. God speed the time when the whisky shops of Kansas will be wiped out of existence and Prohibition resound throughout our land.

Work I understand is soon to commence on the Metherson Branch railroad; when it is finished, it will give us a direct route from Salina to Texas.

We think the FARMER the best agricultural paper in the west. LAFAYETTE WELLS.

ABILENE, Dickinson Co.—I resolved sometime ago to write for the FARMER again, just as soon as we had another rain; and after a long and rather impatient waiting the rain came. It commenced on the morning of March 23rd and fell in little showers during the whole day. No need of a "dam" to retain the precious drops, for they came down so gently that every one sank where it fell.

We are not a stock-raising people, although many are engaged in that business. It would be well if other farmers here kept more stock than they do instead of depending so much on grain. This is a herd law county and wheat is the great staple. It has had a serious struggle for existence since the Arctic wave of February 27th. Previous to that date the prospect was fine. The fields were beautifully green. Winter planted spring wheat was coming up nicely and spring seemed at hand.

Under the severe cold of that time the wheat lost its pretty color, and the dry weather and high winds seemed bound to complete the work of destruction. We had a snow in March but it was too light and dry to help much. There was no lack of moisture in the ground for we had heavy rains in the fall and at least a sufficient quantity during the winter, and the wheat that was deep rooted enough to reach the under strata of moist soil, fared well in spite of wind and frost.

It seems to me that the use of a roller under such circumstances, or rather before the ground becomes so dry, would be a great help. I see that one of the FARMER's correspondents reports favorably of it. In speaking of our present prospects, I must say that my observations are confined to my own neighborhood.

Broadcast wheat has suffered much worse than drilled, and in the latter there is quite a difference in different fields. It is plain to see that the best fields are those where the ground was early and well prepared last summer, and the wheat planted quite early so that it made a good root in the fall. It is to be hoped that early planting will be made the rule. A farmer here advises that the stubble should be broken up just as soon as the crop is out of the road. Plant as early as the latter part of August if favorable or the first week in September at furthest.

Does any one know how wheat planted among corn stalks would do here? People are going right along with their spring plowing. Some have finished. Spring wheat, oats, and potatoes are planted, and young chickens have been standing the storm for some weeks past. Tree planting is not neglected; cottonwood of course takes the lead, the catalpa "craze" is just beginning here. It is reported that the peaches are killed. We are getting a goodly share of the heavy immigration that is pouring into Kansas this spring. I judge from the amount of lumber of all kinds, which I see hauled out into the country that farm improvements will be extensively made this season.

A number of the FARMER's correspondents claim that corn stalks should be cut with a stalk cutter instead of burning them, giving as their reason that the burning impoverishes the land. Haven't these broad prairies been burnt off year after year ever since grass first grew upon them? Their present richness after such a long course of that treatment seems to indicate that ashes are a good fertilizer. I have seen the stalk cutter come into favor years ago, where I lived then, and I saw it go out completely. People concluded that the dry rot left on the land, would only harbor chinch and other insects. Burning is the mode here both for field and prairie. But I feel rather certain that these extensive fires have much to do with raising the wind—literally of course. That item belongs to the other side of the question, but I thought I'd mention however. Your Wamego correspondent wants the fragments of stalks left to ventilate the land. That idea seems especially amusing to me at this time. Brothers, if you want land that is sufficiently ventilated, come to Dickinson. We have a grand old unpatented contrivance here of Mother Nature's own invention. It is in motion now, and has been off and on all spring, but for the last few days has been working at a high pressure as a send-off to stormy March. Saturday (27th) was the most remarkable of the season; rather a "natural phenomenon," indeed, all the movable soil went so with and since then has been traveling back again.

Our neighbor's houses are blurred out of sight in a whirling fog of yellow dust. The very cream of the land, so to speak, is aloft in the air around and above us. Real estate changes hands without any troublesome preliminaries of bargain and sale or making of deeds. You do not know neighbor, where the top-dressing of your lands will light when this "rearranging and shifting" is finally finished, or whether you will get the worth of it back again. Possibly this ventilated soil is fertilizing; but I know its effects on housekeepers is quite depressing.

This is not intended by way of sarcasm at all. Everything in Kansas knows how to "get up and dust," and it is this same quality which wins so much admiration from all the rest of the world besides ourselves. E. M.

BUTTERFLY, Kingman Co.—Wheat is looking splendidly here; oats all sown and most of the corn ground plowed. We had a heavy rain here the 20th of March just in time to encourage and gladden the despondent and homesick ones. Grass is starting nicely. Stock of all kinds has wintered well. Tree planting is the order of the day. Success to the "Old Reliable." Long may it live and continue its good work; I am a full believer in its principles, and am doing all I can to widen its circulation. JACOB CLEMMER.

NEOSHO FALLS, Woodson Co.—Everything is now (April 5) beginning to look lovely. We had a wind and hailstorm on Thursday and heavy rain all night; Friday we saw a waterspout east of us. Plowing is the order of the day. Oats are up; wheat is looking splendidly especially that which had been rolled. Lots of gardens made. Every one appears in for work. We have several new comers this spring. Some are sowing alfalfa. We have a patch of clover and timothy sown two years ago this spring, from which we cut three crops last year, and is looking beautifully green now. We spread fine manure on it every year.

We have a lively farmers' club in Everett township which meets at the members' houses once a month. It consists of farmers, their wives, sons and daughters. We have select reading, lectures, essays and discuss questions on farm topics. A good dinner is discussed, and the youngsters indulge in games, and altogether have a very enjoyable time, with none the less farm work done on account of these monthly holidays.

We have a lovely and romantic county, with numerous little streams whose banks are lined with trees which add much to the beauty of the scenery. Peach trees are very full of bloom. C. H. NICHOLS.

BOYLE STATION, Jefferson Co., April 2.—This place is 25 miles northeast of Topeka. Can any of the readers of the KANSAS FARMER tell me whether it will pay to burn lime as a fertilizer for an orchard and field crops, the price of coal at \$3 to \$4 a ton and wood at \$1 a cord. I have read in several papers that air slacked lime scattered on growing wheat would stop the ravages of the chinch bug. Can any Kansas farmer vouch for the correctness of the same? In this locality the corn crop last year was damaged by the bugs. There has more land changed hands around here, in the last year, than in the three or four previous years, and to the new comers who have come to make their homes among us we extend a cordial welcome. Knowing that energetic men will succeed anywhere, why it is that those with means to buy land will go to the western part of the state, when good unimproved land can be bought for \$5 to \$12 per acre, and good improved land, in this county, for \$15 to \$25 per acre, I cannot account for. It is undeniable that the eastern part of the state has many advantages. The wheat that farmers thought was so badly winter killed, seems to rejoice, as the rains are bringing it along nicely. G. W. F.

FT. LARNED, Pawnee Co.—Fort Larned is 250 miles southwest from Topeka. Pawnee county is very dry, and it is barely possible we will have a half crop of winter wheat. Some parts of the county will have fair wheat if we have rain soon, but here along the Pawnee Valley we can't have much if it rains "ever so much." Some fields are dead now. Some of the earliest and the latest is the best. That which is not through the ground seems to have more life in it than that which got a little start last fall. Stock is looking well. The most of our cattle have gone through the winter without feeding. A little feed would have been no disadvantage to them, especially during the March snow. Some farmers are sowing oats, while others are waiting to see if it is going to rain. There will be a large amount of rice corn planted this spring, and a considerable amount of millet sown if it rains before seeding time. A. J. B.

BELLE PLAIN, Sumner Co., April 4.—150 miles from Topeka, SW. on state line. Since my last our part of the country has been visited by a rain, hail and wind storm. The rain did much good, the hail and wind did some damage in this vicinity. Our wheat never looked better, every stool contains from 8 to 20 stalks. Peaches in full bloom. Apples, pears and small fruit bid fair for a good crop. Farmers all busy planting; ground in No. 1 order. I saw in one of the issues of the FARMER that there was but one kind of catnip, I thought there was two, and have corresponded with a number of nurserymen and they all say there is two distinct species.

Since our county has had railroad communication immigration has been pouring into the county. Our town represents almost all kinds of industries and trades. We need a furniture house, an elevator or two and a bank. From the present prospect there will be an immense amount of wheat shipped from here next fall, and any person coming here and going into any kind of business would stand a fair chance of succeeding. H. C. STCLAIR.

SALINE COUNTY, March 30.—Our wheat prospect is pretty good so far. It has suffered from cold and drouth, but on the 21th of March we had three-quarters of an inch of rainfall, the first drop for fifty-four days, which came just in season to save the crop. Probably about one-tenth of the seeding has perished, and it is about equally divided between the earliest and the latest sowing. It is worse injured on the bottom lands than on the uplands. The August-sown wheat that would hide a rabbit last fall, is the most injured. We have thought that we could not sow too early, but last fall many did.

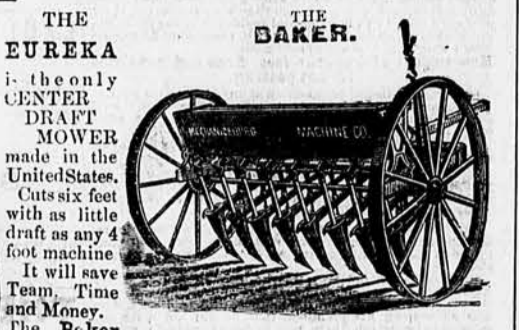
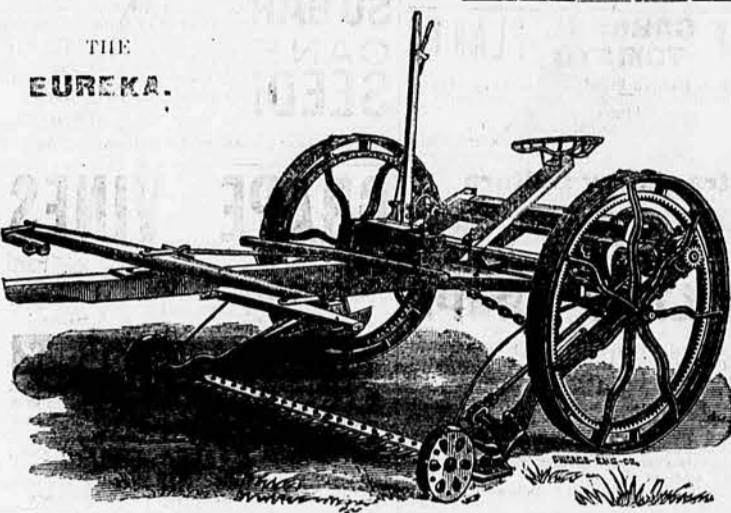
I think that this county has reached its maximum production of wheat. Corn, cattle and hogs are rapidly coming to the front. I do not know what we should have done this winter but for the money brought into the county by the cattle and hogs, as our crop of wheat was largely a failure.

The cattle men that have sold have done well, and no doubt those who are still feeding will also do well. They have bought corn from fifteen to twenty cents, thus making a market for those forced to sell it, and will make a good profit in putting it into beef. The hogs are more largely distributed among farmers in lots of five to one hundred head, and all are striving to increase their stock and preparing to plant much more corn than heretofore. The stock of hogs is generally good—Berkshires, Poland Chinas and their crosses, and at the present price, \$3.50 per hundred, under good management will net 30c to 40c per bushel for the corn fed, and at these figures corn is a much better paying crop than wheat at 80c to 90c.

We had our plows running nearly all the month of January, and so would afford to sit in the house during the March blizzards, and we would like to have taken our wheat and fruit trees inside too, which both suffered badly. Peaches on the high lands are killed. Most of the oat crop is sown. Corn land is rapidly being got ready for planting. Last year we commenced to plant April 1st, but this season is more backward. WM. PETERS.

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