

## The Farm and Dairy.

### Farm Practices.

**Eros. E. RICHARDSON.**—Seeing the merits of fall plowing discussed in your valuable paper, I send you my experience. It has been my father's custom for years to plow inadvertently in the fall, usually in the month of November, for several reasons.—First, the action of the frost on land plowed in the fall makes it easier to fit for the coming crop; and second, the situation is not so destructive to the crop as in land plowed in the spring, or earlier in the fall. Two years ago, I commenced plowing a piece of ground containing six acres. The fall rains were very late and the ground very dry, so that we did not commence plowing until about the middle of November, and consequently the ground from when the lot was about half plowed. The remainder was plowed early the next spring, the whole was sown in the same time, and the crop planted at the same time. It came in very even, and all looked well until about two or three inches high, when the cut-worms commenced eating it. That planted on the spring plowed was nearly all eaten, making it necessary to plant a second time, while on the fall plowed there was scarcely a hill eaten.

Another feature of the case.—In the fall I had marked out a land and plowed a strip about three rods wide, leaving a strip on both sides of the unplowed when the ground froze.

On the part fall plowed the corn was not eaten, while the spring plowed the result was as above stated. Whether the time of plowing had anything to do with the worms, I can not say; but if not, why was not the corn eaten as easily in the strip fall plowed as it was on both sides of it, which was plowed in the spring? My theory is that late fall plowing brings the eggs of the worms to the surface, and the roots of winter wheat (\*), as I have the experience of plowing fall and spring, and always with the result stated above.

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(\*) Those who have seen varieties of the cut-worm, differing but little in appearance and habits, most of which change into moths in the end of August. The worm generally flies by night, and are often very troublesome about lamps and candles. They lay their eggs near the surface of the earth, and with most varieties they hatched in autumn. The worms are very small when white sets in, and as the surface freezes they penetrate deeper into the earth, where they remain dormant until spring. By plowing about the time when the ground freezes tightly, they are probably thrown upon the surface, and chilled, so that they cannot burrow deep.—*Eros. E. Richardson.*

Carries as a Fortifier.

Farmers, generally, have but little faith in the value of cast iron as a fertilizer for the production of ordinary crops, but we have heard of many instances in which they have produced surprising results in certain crops. A correspondent of the "Department of Agriculture" writes as follows of its effects upon potatoe.

**FARMERS, PENNSYLVANIA.**—I have always believed that cast iron had a value for agricultural purposes, and have advocated the free use of them, particularly on limestone soil. This season I determined to get closer to the root of the matter, and took their advice. I made a plot of 12x13 feet, and then, there are the *chromes* (*etc.*)

ART DEPARTMENT, 1874.

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