

**COTTAGE FARMING OR, HOW TO  
CULTIVATE FROM TWO TO  
TWENTY ACRES. WITH CHAPTERS  
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF  
COWS, PIGS, AND POULTRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649329625

Cottage farming or, How to cultivate from two to twenty acres. With chapters on the management of cows, pigs, and poultry by Martin Doyle

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**MARTIN DOYLE**

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BY MARTIN DOYLE.



LONDON  
GROOMBRIDGE AND SONS,  
5, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1870.

*191. k. 58.*

F. BENTLEY AND CO., PRINTERS, 5MOE LANE, FLEET STREET.

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## LIST OF TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS

REQUIRED FOR A

### Cottage Farm Cultivated by Spade Labour.

Spades of different sorts and sizes	Cask and Wheel-frams, for conveying liquid manure
Shovel and Spud	Scythe
Yellowley's Digging Fork	Reaping Hook
Hand Hoes of sizes	Shears
Dibber, Reel, and Line	Bill Hook
Rakes, of sorts	Hand Saw
Pitch Fork	Hammer
Dung Fork	Pincers
Three-pronged Field Fork, for collecting weeds, forking up potatoes, etc.	Flail
Pickaxe and Mattock	Winnowing Machine
Sowing Basket	Riddles and Sieves, of sorts
Baskets of sizes and sorts	Chaff Cutter
Boiler	Milk Pail
Sacks	Coolers
Wheelbarrow	American Churn, or
Hand Harrow	Common Churn
Ladder	Tubs, of sorts
	Crocks, of sorts

*When a Horse is employed, there will be required, in addition—*

Plough, with moveable mould board	Horse Hoe
Harrow	Cart, with a moveable frame
	Roller



# COTTAGE FARMING.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

COTTAGE farming is field husbandry on a scale so small as not to require horse labour or costly machinery, and a cottage farm should therefore be tilled by spade labour.

A cottage farmer should possess sufficient capital: by capital, I mean money enough to buy everything that he may require in order to cultivate the land in the most profitable manner; he may also consider his live stock, the portion of his crops over what is necessary for the support of his family and the payment of rent and rates, and his labour, as capital.

A man who has not capital sufficient for his extent of ground, will not be able to buy cows, or pigs, or manure, on favourable opportunities, or to hold over his stock and crops when it would be disadvantageous to sell them. A prudent man, seeking land, should not take more than his means will allow him to cultivate in the best manner; for instance, if he have only money enough to buy cows or pigs, and everything necessary for ten acres, he will act foolishly if he take fifteen.

The best examples of cottage farming are to be seen in Belgium, and Belgian husbandry, which is

mostly on a scale of from five to twenty acres, is worthy of imitation in the great care which is taken to collect manures and economise the use of them; in the perfect cleanliness of the crops, the judicious variety of the successions, and the great number of cattle kept in constant confinement on roots and green crops principally.

Before we enter into the management of cottage farms of any size, it will be necessary to understand some general subjects connected with husbandry, such as enclosing, draining, and manuring, we therefore proceed in our next chapter to consider the subject of enclosing a farm.

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## CHAPTER II.

### ON ENCLOSING A FARM.

A COTTAGE farm, of whatever size, should in general be in one open field, without any internal fences. Fences, as boundaries even, between cottage farmers are wasteful, if the cultivators follow such a system as we are about to recommend. Besides waste of land, hedges in particular are injurious by encouraging the growth of weeds, by harbouring mischievous birds, and by shading crops when ripening; there are cases, however, in which a cottage farm may be beneficially divided into little fields by solid fences in bleak situations, where shelter is wanted, or where fuel is scarce and dear. In such cases, the loss of space caused by the fences may be more than made up by the shelter and fuel they afford. A cottage would look very ugly and uncomfortable without some pretty live hedge about its garden, if it were only to give shelter to bee-hives; but where cattle are either led out by a rope, or strictly confined to

their houses, it is clear that no fences are wanted as security against trespassing.

Where enclosures are necessary, hedges of white-thorn are probably the best, if we consider beauty as well as durability; and by being cut down at due periods and plashed, they last for a very long time, and afford much protection against sharp blasts of wind. For mere durability and economy of space, in places where stones abound, stone walls are the best fences. Dry stone walls may be put together in a rough though regular manner by any expert labourer, and topped with grassy sods or large stones, so as to have a neat and compact appearance. The clearing of stones from the land, while it provides materials on the spot for the fence, makes more way for the spade into the ground, which may be cultivated up to the very walls: as they require no railing, and are perfect fences at once, they are very economical and serviceable.

Fences of furze (whin or gorse they are also called) are the most suitable on poor clay soils, or near the sea-coast, where blighting winds destroy white-thorn. Furze fences possess some merits which white-thorn and other live hedges have not; when they arrive at full growth, besides supplying faggots, they yield in their young shoots useful winter forage for milch cows and horses. Furze fences are usually made as follows:—A bank and ditch are formed, and furze seed is sown in two drills—along the top and back of the bank. It is common in Ireland to put a row of white-thorn quicks in the front of the furze bank, where the soil is sufficiently good and the exposure to severe wind not so great as to blight the white-thorn. The thorn quicks are laid horizontally, or nearly so, on a row of stones (with their roots imbedded in rich mould), which are laid to mark out the breast of the bank. When the bank is made from the soil raised from the ditch, the stems of the quicks