

Renascence Editions

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A hundreth good pointes of husbandrie (1557).

Thomas Tusser.

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¶ A hundreth good pointes of husbandrie.

(.:.)

A hundreth good pointes, of good husbandry,
maintaineth good household, with huswifry.
Housekeeping and husbandry, if it be good:
must loue one another, as cousinnes in blood.
The wife to, must huband as well as the man:
or farewell thy husbandry, doe what thou can.

*A hundreth good
poyntes of
husbandry.
Concordia parvæ
rescrescunt
Discordia maximæ
dilabuntur.*

1 Where couples agree not, is rancor and
poysen:
where they two kepe house than, is neuer no
foysen.

But contrary, lightly where couples agree:
what chaunseth by wisdom, looke after to
see.

2 Good husbandes that loueth, good
householdes to keepe:
be sometime full carefull, when others do
slepe.
To spend as they may, or to stop at the furst:
For running behinde hand, or teare of the
wurst.

3 Then count with thy purse, when thy haruest
is in:
thy cardes being tolde, how to saue or to
win.
But win or els saue, or els passe not to farre:
For hoping to make, least thou happen to
marre.

4 Make money thy drudge, for to folow thy
warke:
and Wisdom thy steward, good Order thy
clarke.
Prouision thy cator, and all shall goe well:
for foysen is there, where prouision doth
dwell.

5 With some folke on sundayes, their tables
do reke:
and halfe the weke after, their diners to seke.
At no tyme to much, but haue alway ynough:
is housholdly fare, and the guyle of the
plough.

6 For what shal it profet, ynough to prouide:
and then haue it spoiled, or filched a side.
As twenty lode busshes, cut downe at a

clappe:

such hede may be taken, shall stoppe but a
gappe.

7 Good labouring threshers, are worthy to eate:
Good husbandly ploughmen, deserueth their
meate.

Good huswiuely huswiues, that let for no
rest.

should eate when they list, and should drinke
of the best.

8 Beware raskabilia, slouthfull to worke:
proloiners and filchers, that loue for to
lurke.

And chreishe well willers, that serueth thy
nede:

take time, to thy Tutor, God sende the good
spede.

¶ August.

9 When haruest is done, all thing placed and
set:
for saultfishe and herring, then laie for to
get.

The byeng of them, comming first vnto
rode:

shal pay for thy charges, thou spendest a
brode.

10 Thy saultfishe well chosen, not burnt at the
stone:

or dye them thy selfe, (hauing skill is a
lone.)

Brought saife to thy house, would be packed
vp drie:

with pease strawe between, least it rot as it
lie.

11 Or euer thou ride, with thy seruauntes
compound:

to carry thy muckhilles, on the barley
ground.

One aker wel compast, is worth akers three:
at haruest thy barne, shall declare it to thee.

12 This good shalt thou learne, with thy riding
about:

the prises of thinges, all the yeere
thoroughout.

And what time is best, for to sell that thou
haue:

And how for to bye, to be likely to saue.

13 For bying and selling, doth wonderfull well:

to him that hath wit, how to by and to sell.
But chopping and chaungeing, may make
such a breck:

that gone is thy winninges, for sauing thy
neck.

14 The riche man his bargaines, are neuer
besought:

the seller will fynde him, ne nede not take
thought.

But herein consisteth, a part of our text:
who byeth at first hand, and who at the next.

15 He byeth at first hand, that ventreth his
golde:

he byeth at second, that dare not be bolde.
He byeth at third ha[n]d, that nedes borrow
must:

who byeth of him, shall pay for his lust.

16 When euer thou bargain, for better or wurse:

let alway one bargain, remain in thy purse.
Good credit doth well but good credit to
kepe:

is pay and dispatch him, or eder thou slepe.

17 Be mindful abrode, of thy Michelmas
spring:

for theron dependeth, a maruellous thing.
Whe[n] gentiles vse walking, with hawkes
on their handes:
Good husbandes with grasing, doe purchase
their landes.

18 And as thou come homeward, bye xl. good
crones:
and fatte me the bodies, of those sely bones.
With those and thy swine, or and shrouetyde
be past:
thy folke shal fare well, where as others
shall fast.

19 Thy saffron plot pared, in saint mary daies:
for pleasure and profit, shal scrue many
waies.
With twenty foote square, knowing how for
to doo:
shall stede both thine own house, and next
neighbour too.

☪ September.

20 Threshe sede and go fanne, for the plough
may not lye:
September doth bid, to be sowing of rye.
The redges well harrowde, or euer thou
strike:
is one poynt of husbandry, rye land do like.

21 Geue winter corne leaue, for to haue full his
lust:
sowe wheate as thou mayst, but sowe rye in
the dust.
Be carefull for sede, for such sede as thou
sowe:
as true as thou liuest, loke iustly to mowe.

22 The sede being sowne, waterforow thy
ground:
that rain when it cummeth, may runne away

round.

The diches kept skowred, the hedge clad
with thorne:

doth well to drain water, and saueth thy
corne.

23 Then furth with thy slinges, and thine
arowes & bowes:

till ridges be grene, kepe the corne from the
crowes.

A good boye abrode, by the day starre
appere:

shall skare good man crowe, that he dare not
come nere.

24 At Michelmas, mast would be loked vpon:

and lay to get some, or the mast time be
gon.

It sa[u]eth thy corne well, it fatteth thy
swyne:

In frost it doth helpe them, where els they
should pine.

☾ October.

25 The rye in the ground, while September
doth last:

October, for wheate sowing, calleth as fast.
What euer it cost thee, what euer thou geue:
haue done sowing wheate before halowmas
eue.

26 The mone in the wane, gather fruit on the
tree:

The riper the better, for grasse and for thee.
But michers that loue not, to bie nor to
craue:

make some gather sooner, els fewe should
they haue.

27 Or winter doe come, while the weather is
good:

for gutting thy grounde, get the home with
thy wood.

Set bauen alone, lay the bowghes from the
blockes:

the drier, the les maidens, dablith their
dockes.

28 For rooting thy grounde, ring thy hogges
thou hast nede:

the better thou ring them, the better they
fede.

Most times with their elders, the yong ones
kepe best:

then yoke well the great knaues, and fauour
the rest.

29 But yoke not thy swine, while thine akorne
time last:

for diuers misfortunes, that happen to fast.
Or if thou loue eared, and vn mauned
hogges:

giue eie to thy neighbour, and eare to his
dogges.

☪ Nouembre.

30 Get vp with thy barley lande, dry as thou
can:

at March (as thou layest it) so loke for it
than.

Get euer before hande, drag neuer behinde:
least winter beclip thee, and breake of thy
minde.

31 At Hallowmas sla[u]ghter time, sone
commeth in:

and than doth the husbande mans, feasting
begin.

From that time to Candlemas, weekely kill
some:

their offal for household, the better shall
come.

32 All soules that be thursty, bid threshe out for mawlt:

well handled and tended, or els thou dost nawt.

Thencrease of one strike, is a peck for thy store:

the maker is bad els, or pilfreth the more.

33 For Easter, at Martilmas hange vp a biefte: for pease fed and stall fed, play pickpurse the thiefe.

With that and fat bacon, till grasse biefte come in:

thy folke shall loke chereyly, when others loke thin.

34 Set gardeine beanes, after saint Edmonde the king:

the Moone in the wane, theron hangeth a thing.

Thencrease of one gallonde, well proued of some:

shall pleasure thy householde, ere peskod time come.

35 Except thou take good hede, when first they apere:

the crowes will be halfe, grow they neuer so nere.

Thinges sowne, set or gratt, in good memory haue:

from beast, birde and weather, to cherishe and saue.

◀ Decembre

36 A hode for the raine, when thou canst do no good;

then go let thy flayles, as the threshers were wood.

Beware they threshe clene though the lesser they yarne:

and if thou wilt thriue, loke thy selfe to thy
barne.

37 If barne rome will serue, lay thy stouer vp
drye:

and eche kinde of strawe, by hit selfe let it
lie.

Thy chaffe housed sweete, kept from pullein
and dust:

shall serue well thy horses, when labour
they must.

38 When pasture is gone, and the fildes miet
and weate:

then stable the plough horse, and there geue
them meate.

The better thou vse them, in place where
they stande:

more strength shall they haue, for to breake
vp thy lande.

39 Giue cattell their fodder, the plot drie and
warne:

and count them, for miring or other like
harne.

Trust neuer to boyes, if thou trust well to
spede:

be serued with those, that may helpe at a
nede.

40 Serue first out thy rie strawe, then wheate &
then pease:

then ot strawe then barley, then hay if thou
please.

But serue thein with haye, while thy strawe
stouer last:

they loue no more strawe, they had rather to
fast.

41 Kepe neuer such seruantes, as doth thee no
good:

for making thy heare, growing thorough thy

hood.

For nestling of verlettes, of brothels and
hoores:

make many a rich man, to shet vp his
doores.

☪ Christmas.

42 Get Iuye and hull, woman deck vp thyne
house:

and take this same brawne, for to seeth and
to souse.

Prouide as good chere, for thou knowst the
old guise:

olde customes, that good be, let no man
dispise.

43 At Christmas be mery, and thanke god of
all:

and feast thy pore neighbours, the great with
the small.

yea al the yere long, haue an eie to the
poore:

and god shall sende luck, to kepe open thy
doore.

44 Good fruite and good plenty, doth well in
thy loft:

then lay for an orcharde, and cherishe it oft.

The profet is mickell, the pleasure is mutch:

at pleasure with profet, few wise men will
grutch.

45 For plantes and for stockes, lay afore hand
to cast:

but set or remoue them, while twelue tide
doe last.

Set one from another, full twenty fote
square:

the better and greater, they yerely will bare.

☪ January.

46 When Christmas is done, kepe not
Christmas time still:

 be mindefull of rering, and loth for to kill.
 For then what thou rerist, thou nede not to
dout,
 will double thy gaine, ere the yere come
about.

47 Be gredy to spende all, and careles to saue:
 And shortly be nedy, and redy to craue.
 Be wilfull to kill, and vnskilfull to store:
 and sone giue vp housekeping longe any
more.

48 Thy calues then that come, betwene new
yere and lent:
 sauē gladly for those, lest thou after repent.
 For all things at that time, that colde feleth
some:
 shall better beare colde, when the next
winter come.

49 Weane no time thy calfe, vnder .xl daies
olde:
 and lay for to saue it, as thou sauest golde.
 yet calues that doe fal, betwene change and
the prime:
 pas seldome to rere them, but kill them in
time.

50 For stores of the swine, be thou carefull
betwix:
 of one sow at a time, rere seldome past six.
 The few that she kepe, much the better
shalbee:
 of all thing one good, is worth steruelinges
three.

51 Geld vnder the dame, within fortnight at
least:
 and saue both thy money, and life of the
beast.

But gelde with the gelder, as many one doe,
and of halfe a dosen, of geld away two.

52 Thy coltes for the sadle, geld yong to be
light:

for cart doe not so, if thou iudget a right.
Nor geld not, but when they be lusty and fat:
for there is a point, to be learned in that.

53 Geld marefoles but titts, ere and nine dayes
of age:

they die els of gelding, some gelders wil
gage.
But marefoles, both likely, of bulke and of
bone:
kepr such to bring coltes, let their gelding
alone.

54 For gaining a trifle, sell neuer thy store:
for chaunsing on worse, then thine owne
were before.

More larger of body, the better for brede:
more forward of growing, the better they
spede.

55 Thy sowes great with fare, that come best
for to rere:

loke dayly thou seest them, and count them
full dere.

For that time the losse, of one fare of the
sowe:

is greater, then losse of two calues of thy
kowe.

[56] A kow good of milk, big of bulke, hayle
and sounde:

is yerely for profet, as good as a pounde.
And yet by the yeere, haue I proued ere
now:

as good to the purse, is a sow as a kow.

57 Kepe one and kepe both, so thou maist if

thou wilt:

then all shall be saued, and nothing be spilt.
Kepe two beafe and one sow, and liue at
thine ease:

and no time for nede, bye thy meat but thou
please.

58 Who both by his calues, and his lambes will
be knowne:

may well kill a neate, and a shepe of his
owne.

And he that will rere vp, a pig in his house:
shall eate sweeter bakon, and cheaper fed
sowse.

59 But eate vp thy veale, pig and lambe being
troth:

and twise in a weeke, go to bed without
broth.

As that man that pas not, but self away sell:
shall neuer kepe good house, where euer he
dwell.

60 Spende none but thyne owne, howsoeuer
thou spende:

nor hast not to god ward, for that he doth
send.

Tythe truly for al thing, let pas of the rest:
the iust man his dealinges, god prospereth
best.

61 In January husbandes, that powcheth the
grotes:

will breake vp their lay, or be sowing of
otes.

Sow Janiuer Otes, and lay them by thy
wheate:

in May bye thy hay, for thy cattel to eate.

☪ Februarij

62 In Feuerell, rest not for taking thine ease:

get into the grounde, with thy beanes and
thy pease.

Sow peason betimes, and betimes they will
come:

the sooner, the better they fill vp a rome.

63 In euery grene, where the fence is not thine:
the thornes stub out cleane, that the grasse
may be fine.

Thy neighbours wil borrow, els hack then
beliue:

so neither thy grasse, nor the bushes shall
thriue.

64 Thy seruant in walking, thy pastures aboute:
for yokes, forkes and rakes, let him loke to
finde out.

A[n]d after at leyser, let this be his hier:
to trimme them and make them, at home by
the fier.

65 When frostes will not suffer, to ditche nor to
hedge:

then get the an heate, with thy betul and
wedge.

A blocke at the harthe, cowched close for
thy life:

shall helpe to saue fier hote, and please well
thy wife.

66 Then lop for thy fewel, the powlings well
growen;

that hindreth the corne, or the grasse to be
mowen.

In lopping and cropping, saue Edder and
stake:

thyne hedges where nede is, to mende or to
make.

67 No stick nor no stone, leaue vnpicked vp
clene:

for hurting thy sieth, or for harming thy

grene.

For sa[u]ing of al thing, get home with the
rest:

the snow frozen hardest, thy cart may goe
best.

68 Spare meddowes at shroftide, spare marshes
at paske:

for feare of a droughth, neuer longer time
aske.

Then hedge them and ditche them, bestow
thereon pence:

for meddowes and corne, craueth euer good
fence.

69 And alway let this, be a part of thy care:

for shift of good pasture, lay pasture to
spare.

Then seauer thy groundes, and so keping
them still:

finde cattel at ease, and haue pasture at will.

¶ Marche.

70 In Marche sow thy barley, thy londe not too
colde:

the drier the better, a hundreth times tolde.

That tilth harrowde finely, set sede time an
ende:

and praise and pray God, a good haruest to
sende.

71 Sow wheate in a meane, sow thy Rie not to
thin:

let peason and beanes, here and there, take
therein.

Sow barley and otes, good and thicke doe not
spare:

giue lande leaue her sede, or her wede for to
bare.

72 For barley and pease, harrow after thou

sowe:

for rye harrow first, seldome after I trowe.

Let wheat haue a clodde, for to couer the

hedde:

that after a frost, it may out and goe spredde.

¶ A digression from husbandrie:
to a point or two of huswifrie.

Now heere I think nedeful, a pawse for to
make:

to treat of some paines, a good huswife
must take.

For huswifes must husbande, as wel as the
man:

or farewell thy husbandrie, do what thou can.

In Marche and in Aprill, from morning to
night:

in sowing and setting, good huswiues
delight.

To haue in their gardein or some other plot:
to trim vp their house, and to furnish their
pot.

Haue millons at Mi[c]helmas, parseps in
lent:

In June, buttred beanes, saueth fish to be
spent.

With those and good pottage, inough hauing
than:

thou winnest the heart, of thy laboring man.

¶ Aprill.

From Aprill begin, til saint Andrew be past:
so long with good huswiues their dairies doe
last.

Good milche beafe and pasture, good
hubandes prouide:

good huswiues know best, all the rest how
to guide.

But huswiues, that learne not to make their
owne cheese:

with thusting of others, haue this for their
feese.

Their milke slapt in corners, their creame all
to sost:

their milk pannes so [soltie?], that their
cheeses be lost.

Where some of a kowe, maketh yeerely a
pounde:

These huswiues crye creake, for their voice
will not sounde.

The seruantes suspecting, their dame lye in
waighte:

with one thing or other, they trudge alway
straight.

Then neighbour (for gods sake) if any such
bee:

if you know a good seruant, waine her to
mee.

Such maister suche man, and such mistres
such mayde:

such husbandes and huswi[u]es, suche
houses araide.

For flax and for hemp, for to haue of her
owne:

the wife must in May, take good hede it be
sowne.

And trimme it and kepe it, to serue at a
nede:

the semble to spin, and the karle for her
sede.

Good husbandes abrode, seketh al well to
haue:

good huswiues at home, seketh al well to
saue.

Thus hauing and sauing, in place where they
meete:

make profit with pleasure, suche couples to
greete.

¶ May

73 Both Philip and Jacob, bid put of thy
lammes:

That thinkest to haife any milke of their
dammes.

But Lammas aduiseth thee, milke not to
long:

for hardnes make pouerty, skabbed among.

74 To milke and to folde them, is much to
require:

except thou haue pasture, to fill their desire.

But nightes being short, and such hede thou
mayst take:

not hurting their bodies, much profit to
make.

75 Milke six ewes, for one kowe, well chosen
therefore:

and double thy dayrie, els trust me no more.

And yet may good huswiues, that knoweth
the skill:

haue mixt or vnmixt, at their pleasure and
will.

76 For greedy of gaine, ouerlay not thy
grownde:

and they shall thy cattell, be lusty and
sownde.

But pinche them of pasture, while sommer
time last:

and plucke at their tailes, ere & winter be
past.

77 Pinche weannels at no time, of water nor
meate:

if euer thou hope, for to haue them good
neate.

In sommer at al times, in winter in frost:
if cattel lacke drinke, they be vtterly lost.

78 In May at the furdest, twy fallow thy lande:
much droughth may cause after, thy plough
els to strande.

That tilth being done, thou hast passed the
wurste:
then after, who plougheth, plowgh thou with
the furste.

¶ June

79 In June get thy wedehoke, thy knife and thy
gloue:

and wede out such wede, as the corne doth
not loue.

Slack no time, thy weding, for darth nor for
cheape:

thy corne shall reward it, or euer thou reape.

80 The may wede doth burne, and the thistle
doth freate:

the Tine pulleth downe, both the rie and the
wheate.

The dock and the brake, noieth corne very
much:

but bodle for barley, no weede there is such.

81 In June washe thy shepe, where the water
doth runne:

and kepe them from dust, but not kepe them
from sunne.

Then share them and spare not, at two daies
anende:

the sooner the better, their bodies amende.

82 Rewarde not the shepe, when thou takest his
cote:

with two or three patches, as brode as a
grote.

The flie than and wormes, will compel it to

pine:

more paine to thy cattell, more trouble is
thine.

83 But share not thy lammes, till mid July be
worne:

the better their cotes, will be growne to be
shorne.

The pie will discharge thee, for pulling the
reste:

the lighter the shepe is, then feedeth it beste.

84 Saint Mihel byd bes, to be brent out of
strife:

saint Iohn bid take honey, with fauour of
life.

For one sely cottage, set south good and
warne:

take body and goodes, and wise yerely a
swarme.

85 At Christmas take hede, if their hiues be to
light:

take honey and water, together well dight.

That mixed with strawes, in a dish in their
hiues:

They drowne not, they fight not, thou sauest
their liues.

86 At midsommer, downe with thy brimbles
and brakes:

and after abrode, with thy forkes and thy
rakes.

Set mowers a worke, while the meddowes
be growne

the lenger they stande, so much more to be
mowne.

87 Prouide of thine owne, to haue all thing at
hande:

els worke and the workman, shall oftentimes
stande.

Loue seldome to borow, that thinkest to
saue:
who lendeth the one, will take two thinges
to haue.

88 Good husbandes that laye, to saue all thing
by right:
for Tumbrels and cartes, haue a shed redy
dight.
A store house for trinkets, kept close as a
tayle:
that nothing be wanting, the worthe of a
nayle.

89 Thy cartes would be searched, withoute and
within,
well cloughted, and greased or hay time
begin.
Thy hay being caried, though carters had
sworne:
the cartes bottome boarded, is sauing of
corne.

¶ Iulij.

90 Then muster thy folke, play the captaine thy
selfe:
prouinding them weapon, and such kinde of
pelfe.
Get bottels and bagges, kepe the field in the
heate:
the feare is not mucche, but the daunger is
great.

91 With tossing and raking, and setting on cox:
the grasse that was grene, is now hay for an
ox.
That done, leaue the tieth, lode thy cart and
awaye:
the battell is fought, thou hast gotten the
daye.

92 Then doune with thy hedlondes, thy corne
rounde about:

leau neuer a dalop, vnmoune or had out.

Though grasse be but thinne, about barley a
[n]d pease:

yet picked up clene, it shall do thee good
ease.

93 Thry fallowe betime, for destroying of
weede:

least thistle and dock, fall a blooming and
seede.

Such season may hap, it shall stande the
vpon:

to till it againe, or the somer be gone.

94 And better thou warte, so to doe for thy
hast:

then (hardnes) for slough make thy land to
lie wast.

A redy good forehorse, is dainty to finde:
be hindred at first, and come alway behinde.

95 Thy houses and barnes would be loked
vpon:

and all thing amended, or haruest come on.

Thinges thus set in ordre, at quiet and rest:
thy haruest goeth forwarde and prospereth
best.

96 Saint Iimes willeth husbandes, get reapers at
hande:

the corne being ripe, doe but shead as it
stande.

Be sauing and thankfull, for that god hath
sent:

he sendeth it thee, for the selfe same entent.

97 Reape well scatter not, gather cleane that is
shorne:

binde fast, shock apace, pay the tenth of thy
corne.

Lode saife, carry home, lose no time, being
faier:

goife iust, in the barne, it is out of dispaier.

98 This done, set the pore ouer all for to
gleane:

and after thy cattel, to eate it vp cleane.

Then spare it for pasture, till rowen be past:
to lengthen thy dayrey, no better thou hast.

99 Then welcome thy haruest folke, seruauntes
and all:

with murth and good chere, let them furnish
th[i]ne hall

The haruest lorde nightly, must geue the a
song:

fill him then the blackeboll, or els he hath
wrong.

100 Thy haruest thus ended, in myrth and
imoye:

please euery one gently, man woman and
boye.

Thus doing, with alway, such helpe as they
can:

thou winnest the name, of a right husband
man.

Finis.

Nowe thinke vpon god, let thy tonge neuer
cease:

from thanking of him, for his mighty
increase.

Accept my good wil, finde no fault tyll thou
trye:

the better thou thryuest, the gladder am I.

☛ A sonet, or brief rehersall of the
properties

of the twelue monethes afore rehersed.

As Ianeuer fryse pot, broth corne kepe hym

lowe:

And feuerell fill dyke, doth good with his
snowe:

A bushel of Marche dust, worth raunsomes
of gold:

And Aprill his stormes, be to good to be
tolde:

As May with his flowers, geue ladies their
lust:

And Iune after blooming, set carnels so iust:

As Iuly bid all thing, in order to ripe:

And August bid reapers, to take full their
gripe.

September his fruit, biddeth gather as fast:

October bid hogges: to come eat vp his
mast:

As dirtie Nouember, bid thresh at thine ease:

December bid Christmas to spende what he
please:

So wisdom bid kepe, and prouide while we
may:

For age crepeth on as the time passeth
away.

Finis.

Thinges thriftie, that teacheth the thriuing to
thriue;

teache timely to trauas, the thing that thou
triuie.

Transferring thy toyle, to the times truely
tought:

that teacheth the temperaunce, to temper thy
thought.

To temper thy trauaile, to tarrye the tide:

this teacheth the thriftines, twenty times
tride.

Thinke truely to trauaile, that thinkest to
thee:

the trade that thy teacher taught truely to
the.

Take thankfully thinges, thanking tenderly
those:

that teacheth thee thriftly, thy time to

transpose.

The trouth teachd two times, teache thou
two times ten:

this trade that thou takest, take thrift to the
then.

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within Temple barre, at the sygne of the
hand and starre, by Richard Tottel
the third day of February. An. 1557.



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