

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Look out for mites.  
Select seed corn early.  
The cow never tires of silage.

Don't put a sick fowl in a coop with healthy ones.

Scraps from the table will help to reduce the feed bills.

Old corn is the best feed until the new gets well cured out.

Every corn grower should test every ear of seed corn this year.

In buying a cow the first thing to do is to look well into the breed.

Green-cut bone must not be confounded with ground bone or bone meal.

A great deal of interest is being manifested these days in the small farm.

Horses, hogs, pigs and calves eat silage and thrive on it as well as does the dairy cow.

The milk from a cow in a poor run-down condition is certain to be correspondingly poor.

Every orchard ought to be planted in checks to admit of clean cultivation with the smallest amount of hoeing.

On the average farm, fifty hens bring as big returns as the best cow in the herd with less feed and care.

Many times, one hill will produce six eight-ounce potatoes; which is at the rate of \$20 bushels per acre.

Chicken-eating sows are said to be cured by a tablespoonful of baking soda in slop three times a day for a week.

The cream separator, the silo and the manure spreader should find a place in the equipment of every dairy farm.

The feeding of clover hay to poultry is a very simple matter and can be successfully done by any farmer or poultryman.

Scales are a good thing for a man to have. They enable him to know just what he has to sell and also what he buys.

Ewes that go into their winter quarters in an unthrifty and low flesh condition cannot bring good vigorous lambs in the spring.

There is often a tendency on the part of beginners to increase their herds too rapidly. Better go slowly and breed only the best.

A variety of crops certainly adds to the pleasure of living, if he can have on his table the early strawberries and the late blackberries.

Go carefully over your farming scheme as you worked it last season, try to discover the weak spots and set to work to remedy them.

If you have plenty of pasture and milk, that veal calf will make nice baby beef this fall late, either for market or for the home meat supply.

It is estimated that 90 per cent of the poultry product of the country come from the farm, and that the value of these is close to \$300,000,000 yearly.

A few drops of tincture of iron in the drinking water makes an excellent spring tonic for the poultry. It tones up the system and makes rich, red blood.

While there is more or less prejudice against the use of rye as food for farm animals, it forms a valuable addition to oats and barley for live stock in Germany.

The matter of keeping records is important. The farmer should be able to take account of stock at the beginning of every year, the same as any merchant does.

If we neglect the hen houses this spring till they are alive with lice and mites, we deserve the consequences. It will take but a few minutes to clean it out thoroughly and not much longer to soak roosts, boxes and everything else with kerosene. A coat of whitewash can be put on almost as quickly, and good dry clean earth shoveled in when the filthy floor has been cleaned out. Follow this kerosene business up every ten days or so for a time and it will be a pretty tough louse or mite that stays around such a place.

Spray for soft scale.  
Buy only the best seeds.  
Plant some strawberries this spring.  
If a hen is very sick, it scarcely pays to doctor her.  
Strawberries work in well with vegetable growing.

The first week is the critical time in the life of the little pig.

Don't try to feed ten hogs in a trough big enough for only six.

Under domestication the hog has become an animal of wide distribution.

Now is the time to produce lots of milk. Plenty of time and prices are high.

A weak point in dairying is the lack of cleanliness at all times and in all things.

Treating small grains with formalin is too important to be overlooked by farmers.

To give profitable returns dairy cows must be well bred, well fed and well managed.

The most profitable nut trees for the middle states are the chestnuts, walnuts and shellbarks.

The first great requisite in the care of stock is perfect cleanliness, pure air and abundant sunshine.

A hen that does not lay usually does not bother the trap nest unless she is after eggs for food.

Flax has been found a profitable crop in the West and seems well suited to the prairie soils.

In buying a barrel churn don't get one too small; if you do you will find it takes a long time to churn.

Raising of broilers is a business by itself. Start on a small scale and then with success increase the capacity.

Scrub poultry may serve a good purpose in the pot, but they should not be permitted to propagate their kind.

Stables should be well lighted and so arranged that the light will not strike the animals directly in the eyes.

Few farmers and poultrymen know about the feeding value of bright, well-cured clover hay for laying hens.

You can not make a greater mistake than to confine your breeding ducks, especially if they are Indian Runners.

One of the very important things to do this month is to make your selection of seeds and plants and order them now.

Pruning apple trees involves so many principles that only the most general survey can be given in a short discussion.

The dairy cow is one of the best money makers on the farm; but, like hens, she pays only according to "value received."

The Holstein, the Ayrshire and the milking shorthorn are the best breeds for the milk farmer to raise. For cream select the Guernsey.

Good comfortable housing and judicious feeding are the two cardinal principles of successfully wintering the breeding ewes.

The value of skim milk on the farm when fed in conjunction with grain is greater than it is usually given credit for being.

It is a good time now to take an inventory of your farm and plan to keep records of all transactions connected with your farming operations.

Don't be in a hurry to get rid of the old bull. Remember that he has proven himself and the calf that you buy will be more or less of a lottery.

A chilled egg will bring forth a weak chick if it hatches at all and a weak chick that has hard work to live is sometimes worse than no chick at all.

During the breeding season mate one drake with four ducks until the last of April, then diminish the number of drakes to one drake to five or six ducks.

The lack of success which so many farmers have with chickens is largely due to a lack of planning, and they neglect to give the fowls the attention these plans call for.

Anyone can easily see that bone is one of the best feeds for producing eggs, as the fat assists in forming the yolk of the egg and also in sustaining the fowl in winter.

Butter is a good price. Feed is comparatively cheap, especially so if you have saved all of your roughage, such as cornstalks, the best of our straw, and things of that sort which frequently go to waste.

In making good butter and wrapping the prints with paper printed with your name and the name of the farm, the goods will advertise themselves and by making up your milk at home you are sure to get all there is in it if you go at the work properly.

## ANGORA GOATS VALUABLE AS PASTURE SCAVENGERS

One Animal to Acre Will Keep Briars, Weeds and Bushes Completely Subdued on Land That Is Inclined to Grow Up in Wood.



Angora Goat and Does.

My experience with the Angora goat for the past five years has proved that one goat to the acre will keep the briars, weeds and bushes completely subdued in land that is inclined to grow up in blackberry briars and hickory, oak, red bud, dogwood, sumac and similar growths, writes Rufus Lester of Wayne county, W. Va., in the Orange Journal Farmer. At the same time, the land will yield as much pasture for horses, cattle, hogs or sheep as it would if the goats were not on it. All kinds of stock seem to do well in the same pasture with the goats.

For the goat to be of best service the underbrush should be cut out or fire should run through the woods, so as to kill the small timber. The large timber should be girdled so as to kill it, and the goats will then keep the sprouts down until the roots of the timber die out and blue grass will sod the land. This will require about

three years. The Angora goat is not afraid of dogs and can protect itself well against their attacks. They are fond of butting each other in play, but I never saw one attempt to fight other stock.

It requires some kind of fence to keep the goat in which he cannot stand on the top of or climb up. The best fence for Angora goats is the woven wire fence. This fence need not be over 40 or 42 inches high. The fence must be close to the ground, so they cannot crawl under. When their hair is long enough to protect their goats will often crawl through a barbed wire fence, if the wires are not very close or the posts close together with the wires well stretched. Goats will not jump over any fence, they want to climb up, and then they will jump down, or they will jump up on top of the fence and then down; but they never jump over a fence like a mule or steer.

## FRUIT TREE PLANTING POINTS

Should be Placed in Ground While Dormant in Well Drained Soil With Hole Large Enough to Spread Roots.

(By PROF. JOHN W. LLOYD, Illinois Farmers' Institute.)

1. When to plant fruit trees: While they are dormant; while the ground is in a workable condition; late in the fall after growth has stopped, or early in the spring before it has begun.
2. Where? In well-drained soil.
3. How? Dig an ample hole; spread the roots out in their natural position and pack fine earth around them. It is handy to separate the clods from the fine soil in digging.

There is always a balance between the roots and branches of a tree, so if many roots have been cut off in digging the tree from the nursery, a corresponding amount of the top must come off. If trees are planted in the fall some precaution should be made against their being heaved out of the ground by alternate freezing and thawing. This can be done by spreading a thick layer of straw or manure around the tree.

There are four essential points in the care of fruit trees. They are: 1. Tillage. 2. Fertilization. 3. Pruning. 4. Protection from enemies.

Tillage is just as necessary in tree raising as in corn raising, and for the same reasons: To avoid the competition of other plants, to conserve moisture and to render plant food available. Intelligent pruning is also very necessary to raising fruit. Each bud on a tree is capable of giving rise to a branch, and if every branch is allowed to grow the tree will become too dense. We must thin out the branches in the tree tops or we will have little fruit. It takes moisture to develop an apple and sunlight to color it; so the foliage must not be too thick. Pruning is also employed to make the tree assume the desired shape. It should also distribute the large branches equidistantly, as nearly as possible. It is

always best to grow a good strong branch on the southwest side of the tree, where the hot suns and strong winds come from.

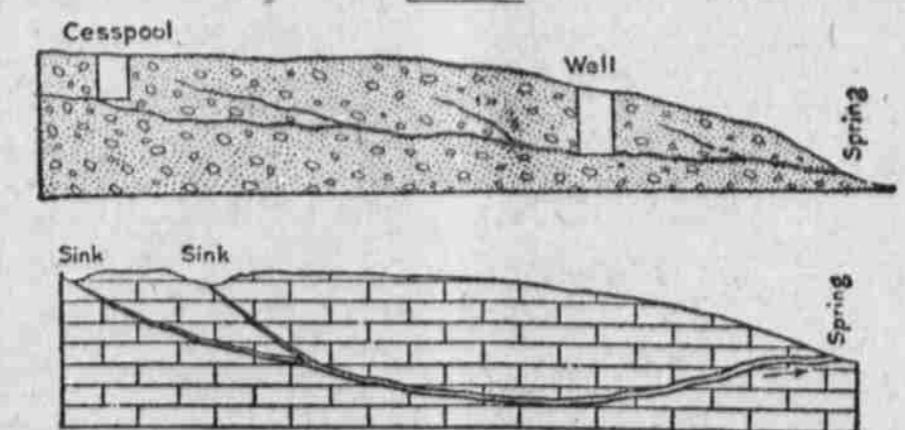
In pruning, we should cut the limb in such a way that it will heal quickly. To do this the limb should always be cut as close to the body as possible, and parallel with it. A saw should be used, and the wound must be coated over with white paint or something similar, to prevent weathering and infection from bacteria or fungus growths. Another important thing is to keep trimming off the ends of the limbs on young trees.

There are three kinds of enemies that trees must be protected from. The first of these includes rabbits, mice, etc. A tall piece of heavy paper tied around the base of the young tree, or a piece of wire screening will settle this matter. The second class of enemies contains the insects, of which the scale insects are the most dangerous. The scale insect can be controlled by spraying with a lime-sulphur wash and the chewing insects by spraying with paris green. The third class of enemies consists of fungus diseases. These can be controlled by spraying with Bordeaux mixture, which is composed as follows: Four pounds copper sulphate, four pounds lime, 50 pounds water.

**Best Lubricant for Machinery.**  
Where the pressure is heavy the lubricant should be thick in order to resist being squeezed out under the load. For light pressures oil should be used. Thus for a wagon heavy grease is best, while for a cream separator of high speed a thin oil is necessary in order that its viscosity will not add to the friction. Solid substances in a finely divided state, such as graphite, are often used effectively to reduce friction. This is regarded as a good practice in handling the bearings of a windmill, which can only be looked after occasionally.

**Peaches on Grape Vines.**  
It is reported that near Greensburg, Ind., a large grape vine in some manner became inoculated with a seedling or shoot from a peach tree and last season grew a half dozen well-formed small peaches.

## UNSUSPECTED WATER DANGERS



The diagrams show the possibility of wells and springs being polluted by material conducted through tubular water passages in clay soils or even through limestone rocks.

## PROFITABLE PIGEON RAISING REQUIRES INEXPENSIVE PENS

Buildings Should be Comfortable and Convenient but Need Not be Elaborate—It Is of Vital Importance That Drinking Fountains be Clean.

(By F. A. SOTTER.)

Pigeons do not need a fancy house; an old barn or building of any description can be fitted up to serve their needs. If the building is to house 25 pairs of homers, it should be seven feet wide by ten feet long, and if more than one house is to be built under the same roof, leave an alley way from three to four feet wide separating it from the pen by a wire netting.

The front of the building should be eight feet high, with six light windows.

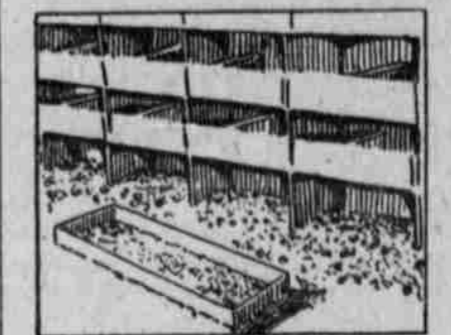
Directly above the windows two holes seven by eight inches should be placed, through which the pigeons can come and go. They should be provided with a slide to be closed when the weather is very cold. These can be opened and closed from the alley-way by pieces of rope and pulleys.

The fly pen should be as high and wide as the front of the pen proper and about 18 feet long. It should be enclosed with wire netting small enough to keep sparrows out.

Six feet from the ground a six-inch wide board should be placed from front of house to end of run on either side as an alighting board.

The bathing-pan should be placed in the fly, and there should be a door in the front of the fly through which a person can pass in and out. These doors are simply a frame covered with wire.

In the pens, nest-boxes in tiers are built on either side, preferably on the east and west walls. These boxes are 4 feet high, 10 feet long, arranged in



Position of Feeding Trough.

pairs 1 foot deep, 1 foot high and 2 feet long, divided by a capital T front, thus making two nests of each box.

Each side now has 20 pairs of boxes, ample for 25 pairs of breeders or more, up to 35 pairs, but this is rather overcrowding the birds.

When the building just described has been furnished with receptacles for feed, water, oyster shell, salt, grit

and charcoal, and thoroughly white-washed inside, it is ready to have the birds placed in it.

On a well conducted pigeon plant the routine should be as follows:

In summer at five o'clock in the morning, all birds are watered; 7:30, fed; 12:30, watered; 4, fed. In winter, 6:30 in the morning, watered; 8, fed; 12:30, watered; 3, fed. At five in the afternoon all the fountains are emptied of their water to prevent freezing.

It is of vital importance that the drinking-fountains should be kept perfectly clean by frequent washing and scouring. They should be washed with water containing 1/4 cupful of crude carbolic acid to a bucketful of water. A pigeon will not bathe in deep water. It always measures the depth of the water with its head and bill,



Position of Water Can.

and if it is so deep that another bird by sitting on its back can push it under and drown it, the bird will not bathe in that water. Make your pans not over four inches deep. Twice a week in summer is often enough to bathe the birds, and once a week in winter.

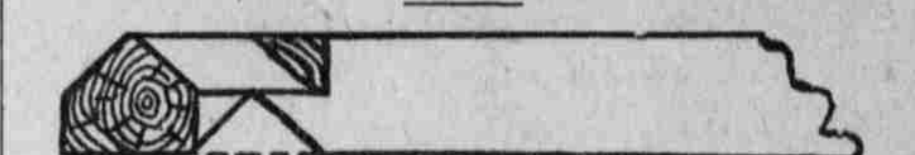
A good rain is equivalent to a bath, as the birds will sit on the running-board and hold up their wings to catch the drops. If the weather should turn cold soon after bathing, they should be driven into the house and the windows should be closed.

Use a two-gallon drinking-fount for 50 birds. The cut shows exactly how this fount should be placed in the loft. The fount must be kept perfectly clean always.

Feeding troughs should be 4 feet long, 4 inches wide, 1 1/4 inches deep, placed in the center of the loft, so the feed can be thrown into the trough from the alleyway. Keep it always clean and dry.

Keep plenty of grit, oyster shell and charcoal, together with a sack of baked salt, before the birds all the time.

## DUAL PURPOSE LOG STABLE



An excellent plan for constructing a log stable, about 40 by 20 feet, with concrete floor, to accommodate horses on one side and cows on the other, is given below:

Make a foundation for stable a few inches above floor line. To build wall 1/2 inches wide and 2 feet 6 inches deep will take ten yards gravel, or if you use stone filler, eight yards gravel and two yards stone. If you use fillers, five barrels cement; if all gravel, six barrels cement, mixed eight to one. First three inches of floor will take eight yards gravel, five barrels cement, eight to one; second coat, one inch

thick, will require 2-3 yards sand, four barrels cement, mixed three to one. Ram first coat down hard.

Flatten logs on two sides, bottom and top sides. Cut end of log to "V" shape lengthwise of log on top side then cut "V" across end of log on under side. These will fit one on top of other. The illustration shows how to cut logs to place them in position. Use two poles and roll them up to place, or you can do this with team of horses, by using rope. Tie rope to end of each pole, then bring them down around log, bringing the other ends back over building. Hook on the team, and they will roll up very easily.

## CHARCOAL FED YOUNG DUCKS

Experiments in Ireland Indicate That Burnt Wood in Some Form Is Important in Fattening Poultry.

In a recent issue of the Journal of Agriculture for Ireland was given an account of experiments conducted for the purpose of deciding the exact value of charcoal as a means of keeping birds that are closely confined in good health during the period of fattening. Eighteen large, healthy Aylesbury ducklings were selected from a large flock, and divided into three pens, each pen containing 6 ducklings. The ducklings were fed upon foods which previous experiment had shown to be profitable and economical, namely, boiled potatoes, barley meal, ground oats, skim milk and tallow greaves. The method of preparing the food was to boil, strain and pound up the potatoes, which before boiling would constitute about one-third by weight of the mash. Barley meal and ground oats were then in equal parts mixed with the potatoes. Skim milk was added to form a rather wet mash. This was fed to the ducklings from the end of the fifth to the beginning of the ninth week. During the last two weeks of fattening, animal food in the form of rough fat or tallow cracklings was added to the mash, the allowance being about two ounces per day to each duck. Grit and water for drinking were liberally supplied. Apart from the charcoal, the

food received by all the ducklings was the same.

Tables were given as to the results of the trials, which seem to indicate that charcoal in one form or another is important in the profitable fattening of ducks. It appeared to keep the ducklings healthy, and enabled fattening to be continued with profit for a much longer period than when charcoal was not allowed. Experiments with geese were conducted on similar lines, and gave almost identical results. The foods fed to the geese were the same as those fed to the ducks, except that they got steeped oats instead of mash for the evening meal, mash being fed in the morning. The charcoal fed to both ducks and geese was burnt wood, broken fine.

**Lettuce on Benches.**  
Good lettuce can be grown upon benches, but those who make a specialty of it plant out in thoroughly prepared soil at the usual ground level of the house. In the latter case more of the space can be given the crop, as the walks are reduced to 10 or 12-inch boards laid on the beds. The best soil for lettuce is a good, rotted sod, liberally enriched with well-rotted manure. Avoid fresh manure for this crop. Give water moderately when first planted, increasing the supply as the plants develop in size.

**Farms in Holy Land.**  
According to Mr. Frank G. Carpenter, the noted traveler, "farms" in the Holy Land are often not bigger than bed quilts and seldom contain more than three or four acres. There are but few farms of large size in the country.