

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



You want a quick fertilizer for potatoes.

The apple tree borer is a troublesome worm.

Get ready the lamb creep so they can get a good start.

Wood charcoal should always be kept in the hog pen.

A small threshing outfit on the average farm will not pay.

Let the grass get a good start before turning the stock on it.

The last of May is plenty early enough to turn the calf out on grass.

Working out buttermilk and working in salt is where the overworking is done.

The borer is the most common and it is the most troublesome enemy of the peach.

It is a good plan to have the horses and cows clean up their mangers after each feed.

Have grass paddock for the calves so they can graze at will and have the exercise they need.

A farm raised cow is much superior in most every respect to the one bought at the cattle yards.

Don't forget the little ducks in case of a shower, for if you do one will be apt to have dead ducks.

Belgian or yellow carrots are hardy, make large root growth and are the best roots for horses and colts.

The most inhuman measures are often employed for "breaking up" hens that nature prompts to set when their owners don't want them to.

Grading of cream is receiving more attention by the dairy press and dairymen than it possibly ever has in the history of the dairy business.

In squabs the flesh is whitish, as seen through the skin, but in a year-old bird it takes on a light purple shade and grows darker with age.

Trim the young tree in the orchard right from the start. Low-headed trees are best; therefore, prune from the top down and not from the bottom up.

It has been shown repeatedly on demonstration farms that disking before plowing is one of the most paying operations in the preparation of a seed bed.

When the calf is two weeks old mix one teaspoonful of linseed meal and one teaspoonful of flour middlings, which should be thoroughly scalded in each feed.

Seeds of cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, celery and tomatoes, sown in the cold frame about the middle of this month will furnish good, stocky plants for the principal early summer crop.

The litters of a gilt, which is the first litter of a sow, are usually smaller and slower in growth than when the dam is of more mature age, hence much profit must not be expected.

Cold frame plants are often better than plants raised in the hotbed, as they are stouter, thick stemmed and have more fine fibrous roots and are less liable to wilt when set out in the open ground.

Where prices are too low to feed young pigs for porkers, it is better to sell them for sucking pigs, although this plan is seldom resorted to owing to the better prices which are obtainable for the former.

August is none too early to decide which plants shall be taken into the window garden and their treatment from the time of the decision should be such as will fit them to make a fine display during the winter, rather than get the finest present showing.

In the newer methods adopted in some of the largest dairies the milk is not touched by the hands of the workers from the time the cows are automatically milked with a machine to the time the fluid is placed in bottles ready for delivery.

In the flower garden sow sweet peas outdoors just as early as possible. It is important to get them in early, because the more growth made in cool weather, the more flowers there will be. Those from late-planted seeds are not nearly so successful.

Hire what men you need early.

It is very difficult to tell the age of ducks.

That weed right in the hill is your worst enemy.

The farmer is not much different from anybody else.

Home-grown plants are much superior to bought plants.

Cattle will never do well in the same pasture with sheep.

Land intended for spring crops should be plowed in the fall.

Have the holes for the trees to be removed dug wide and deep.

Squab raising seems to be a favorite occupation with suburban people.

Large trees should be taken up when the earth is frozen around the roots.

A farmer can tell the value of corn stover without making any serious mistake.

Land intended for roots should be plowed as soon as the ground is dry enough to work.

Mix poultry droppings with an equal quantity of fine earth, and put one handful to the hill.

As soon as the calf learns to eat hay, place one handful of whole oats in the feed box once a day.

A beautiful hedge is made by using zinnias in the back row, then calliope with white phlox as a border.

Mangles and sugar beets are the best roots to grow for cattle, sheep and pigs, and Belgian carrots for horses.

Asters can be planted in rows of white and lavender, with very pleasing results, provided the same kind is used in each row.

Young turkeys usually have black feet, which after two years turn gray and dull, and become paler and more sickly as age advances.

Surplus suckers in blackberry or red raspberry patches should be treated just like weeds; don't let the rows get too wide nor too thick.

Hens in good health having access to the dust bath will usually keep free from lice. The house should be swept clean every morning.

In most all branches of business competition is generally recognized as a great stimulant, but in the creamery business it has been overdone.

The storekeeper who keeps eggs in his cellar from a week to a month needs to be looked after. Eggs should be shipped along as fast as possible.

Let the calf suck the cow a few days; this milk is not fit for human feed and is what the calf needs to cleanse the bowels and tone up the system.

It is said that naval oranges sprung from a single tree that was found growing on the northern shore of the Mediterranean sea, nearly 350 years ago.

In dipping pigs great care must be exercised to cover every part of his body from tail to snout. If a patch as big as a thumb nail is left untouched it may contain the nucleus of a new crop.

Look well after the water. Keep it always before the fowls, pure and clean, and renew it frequently. Do not allow them to eat snow. Do not let them drink water grown tepid in the sun.

More insects will be killed in a greenhouse if fumigating apparatus be placed near the roof so that the fumes will descend, rising vapors leaving the lower part of a house partially fumigated.

In careful tests made at the several stations it is found that there is little or no difference in the feeding value of the dry matter of roots and ensilage and the general opinion is in favor of the silage.

Honey is the purest and the least harmful of sweets. The honey crop is mostly rain, for no flowers need necessarily be raised to pasture the bees. They aid in the fertilization of fruit trees and the smaller clovers.

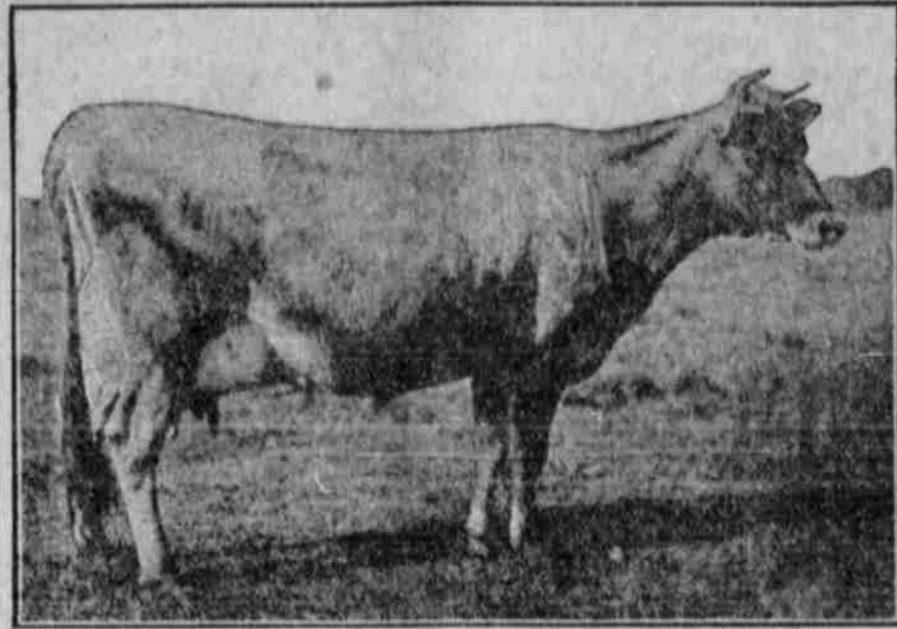
Hog cholera is estimated to have been the cause of losses of over \$2,000,000 to farmers of Illinois, but in the future this loss will be greatly lowered, it is firmly believed, now that serum is being manufactured and used extensively, says the Swine Breeder.

By far the best way to use manure for grain is to spread and mix it with the soil before drilling; the best way to top-dress the grain early in the fall, and the third best during the winter, when ground is dry enough to haul over.

Clay is called a heavy soil and sand a light soil. This does not refer to weight, however. Light and heavy as applied to soils are terms which refer to the ease or difficulty with which they can be plowed or cultivated.

MANY EXCELLENT QUALITIES OF PURE-BRED JERSEY COW

Reasons for Claim That Animal Is Superior to All Others Is Her Ability to Produce Butter and Cheese Economically and Records Made in Many Tests Gives Her Reputation That Is Indisputable.



Prize Winning Jersey Cow.

After a lifetime spent in learning the business of keeping cows I do not hesitate to say to the young man reared on a farm: "Farm; and if you farm, keep stock; and if you keep stock, keep cows; and if you keep cows, keep Jersey cows," writes H. S. Chapman in the Breeder's Gazette. Of course, I add to this, "if you keep Jersey cows, keep registered Jersey cows. My reasons for maintaining that the Jersey cow is superior to all others as a butter cow are as follows:

Her ability to produce butter and cheese economically stands undisputed. Her record in many public tests, including the Chicago, St. Louis and Portland expositions, has given her the reputation, enviable and indisputable, of being the world's greatest butter cow.

The extra size of the fat globules in Jersey milk renders the butter of superior grain and firmness and more easily separated from the cream.

The Jersey cow has the function of assimilation developed to a greater degree than any other breed. She is a high-grade specialist as a feeder. She will give profitable returns from a ration so rich (concentrated) that other cows can not assimilate it. It is this ability to stand force-feeding that has brought the Jersey out ahead in so many public tests. This is a merit of the Jersey that can profitably be taken advantage of in a working dairy herd. In the herd in which the raising of stock is the primary consideration I would keep a little closer to nature, even at the risk of surrendering to some extent the meritorious qualities that artificial conditions have produced.

Superiority in numbers makes the Jersey a more practical animal than her rivals. The animal that naturally is matched against the Jersey is the Guernsey. The Guernsey has her good points and doubtless merits the friends she has won. If you like Guernseys better than Jerseys, that may be a reason why you may succeed better with them. I am frank to admit that my personal preference for Jerseys doubtless has been a factor in my success with Jerseys. But setting aside personal likes and dislikes, it is far easier for the beginner to start with Jerseys, because so many more bulls of that breed are kept than of Guernseys. Consequently, there is far less excuse for inbreeding, and the breeder easily can find the bloodlines that he needs in his herd without the expense of frequently buying a bull.

Another point in favor of the Jersey cow is her medium-small size. Experiments have proved that it requires about 2 pounds of balanced

ration per day to sustain each 100 pounds of an animal's live weight; the dairy products and gain in live weight are made from what feed can be assimilated in excess of the sustaining ration. Then if the 900-pound cow will produce as much dairy product in 10 years as will the 1,400-pound cow, can we afford to carry this extra 500 pounds of live weight for a term of 10 years at a cost of 36,500 pounds of feed, just for the extra 500 pounds of poor beef we would have at the end of that time? Just the item of extra cost of barn room for the larger animal for the 10 years would overbalance the value of the extra amount of beef. However, if there is such a thing as a practical dual-purpose cow it is to be found in some of the families of large Jerseys.

The popular demand for large cows made it necessary for me to carry a family of large Jerseys during the last 20 years. This family of cows weighed from 1,200 to 1,300 pounds each, but in our families of smaller cows we had a far greater proportion that would make 2 pounds of butter per day, and they would do it on less feed.

Last but not least in this brief summing up of the most salient excellencies of the Jersey, I place her beauty. No other member of the whole bovine family can for a moment compare with her. She is the prettiest cow there is. Her prominent eye and expressive countenance, together with her alert, dress-parade attitude, win for her the admiration of all lovers of the beautiful. Her capabilities in point of looks are so great that it really has to be admitted that in some families beauty has been cultivated at the expense of other and more important characteristics.

The Care of Lambs.

At eight to ten days of age lambs will begin to eat. At that time a creep should be built which will give them access to a feed box containing grain and a trough with hay. Box, trough and feed should always be kept sweet and clean.

A good grain ration for lambs is made as follows: Mix one-third part of oatmeal with one part each of bran, oats and fine cornmeal. Red alfalfa hay or the second cutting of alfalfa hay are the most desirable form of roughage. Of the two alfalfa is to be much preferred.

It is a good idea to keep up the grain feed right along until the lambs are sent to market. By so doing the lambs are kept fat all the time and are ready to be turned into cash on short notice should the market take a sudden rise.

PORTABLE COLONY HOUSE IS RAPIDLY BECOMING POPULAR

Principally Used Scattered About Farm Without Yards, Chickens Being Given Free Range During Summer—During Winter Houses May Be Brought Nearer Farm Buildings—Fresh Air Is Essential.

The colony house is becoming very popular with the poultrymen of today, either exclusively or used in conjunction with the ordinary style poultry house.

The colony house, as the name implies, is principally used scattered about the farm without yards, the chickens being given free range during the summer.

In the winter and spring the houses are brought nearer the farm buildings and used with yards as brood coops or breeding pens, writes E. F. Barry in the Town and Country Journal. The portable colony house is used quite extensively by the villager, and for raising chickens or keeping a family flock on the rear of a city lot they cannot be excelled, especially when the tenant is a renter, as they may be knocked down and moved as readily as any of the house furniture.

The essential requirements of a chicken house are plenty of light, fresh air, proper ventilation, and that it should be vermin proof. Anything short of these primary requirements will result in loss. The building of makeshift coops in order to save a dollar is false economy.

As the deep litter method of feeding is very desirable, especially in stormy weather and during the winter the

often threaten chickens cooped in make shift buildings.

The accompanying drawing fully illustrates a colony house that is proof against any of the mishaps we have mentioned, providing, however, the closed yard plan is adopted instead of free range. We have had excellent success with this method, in two instances raising every chick, to the broiler age, placed in the coop, without accident. In one case there were 50 chicks in a 3x6-foot coop with a 3x6-foot yard; in the other 79 chicks in a 4x9-foot coop with a 4x6-foot yard.

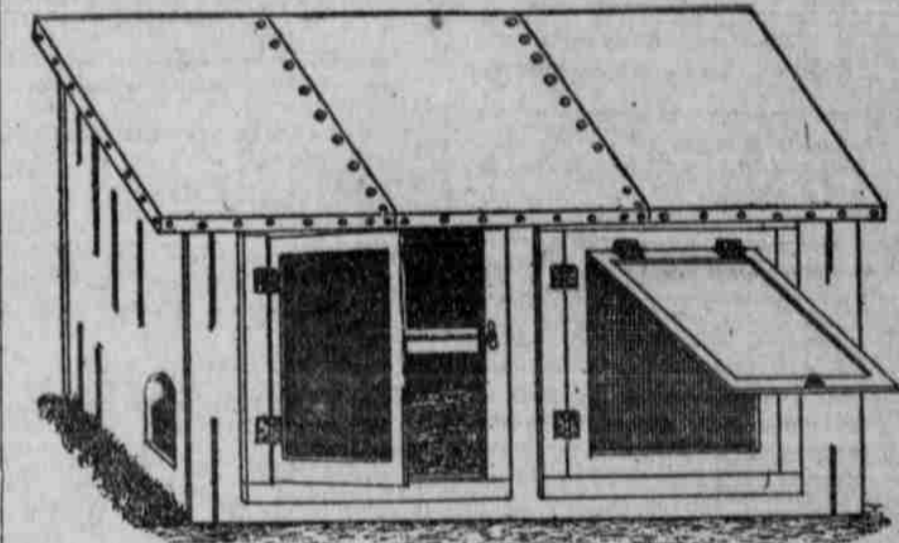
Of material and workmanship to be used in the construction of the colony house herein described:

Floor: Joist or frame to be 2x3 inches of redwood or cedar.

Floor: To be of well-seasoned tongued and grooved pine, surfaced, secret nailed.

Exterior Covering: To be of matched, tongued and grooved boards 1x4 inches, surfaced two sides and well seasoned; to be well nailed to top and bottom cleats 1x4 inches surfaced. If portable to be fastened at four corners inside with strong hooks and eyes.

Roof: To be covered with any good roofing material or tin, well painted,



An Ideal Portable Colony House.

house should be light so the chickens can easily see to scratch for grain scattered in the litter.

Fresh air chicken houses are being recognized as the best for use in any climate and the expert poultrymen of today have long since done away with artificially heated houses, no attempt being made to raise the temperature excepting in very cold climates where a curtain is sometimes used in front of the roosting room. Open front scratching shed coops are the order of the day.

Proper ventilation is practically assured with an open front house shielded, in stormy weather, by muslin curtains. The closed house with ventilating flue or cupola on the roof are ornamental death traps of the past. They did give a finished air to the building from an architectural point of view but they were the cause of bad colds which often developed into croup.

Any poultry house should be sufficiently weatherproof to keep out rain and snow and protect the fowl from bad windstorms. The building should be provided with a dry floor whether it be of boards or dirt.

Protection must be given the poultry from all kinds of enemies such as rats, skunks, coons, cats, dogs and hawks, or the loss at times is something appalling. It is not an uncommon occurrence to have a whole flock of small chickens slaughtered during one night's raid from a rat or skunk. It is very annoying to have fine plump chickens up to the broiler age picked off by a cat or hawk one at a time until the flock has dwindled to almost half its size originally.

For this reason we believe it will pay to build houses that will insure protection against troubles which so

roof to project at least four inches and if portable to be fastened at four corners inside with strong hooks and eyes.

Sash: Will be of dry sugar pine, well milled, to be double hung where shown with plaited sash cord, with iron weights and pulleys, to be not less than one inch thick. If glazed, glass to be 21 ounces. If covered with muslin and one-half inch mesh wire as shown in plan, same to be well tacked with edges covered by neat cleats counter sunk.

Doors: Will not be less than one inch thick covered with muslin and one-half inch mesh wire cloth as shown in the plan, same to be well tacked with edges covered by neat cleat countersunk same as sash, to be hung with suitable hinges and fastened with barrel bolt or iron bottom. Transom door to hinge from top and be fitted with regular transom lift. Each end of house to be furnished with a drop door where shown to be operated with a cord at a point where shown in plan and fitted with proper wheel pulleys, cord to be fastened where shown to a suitable hook.

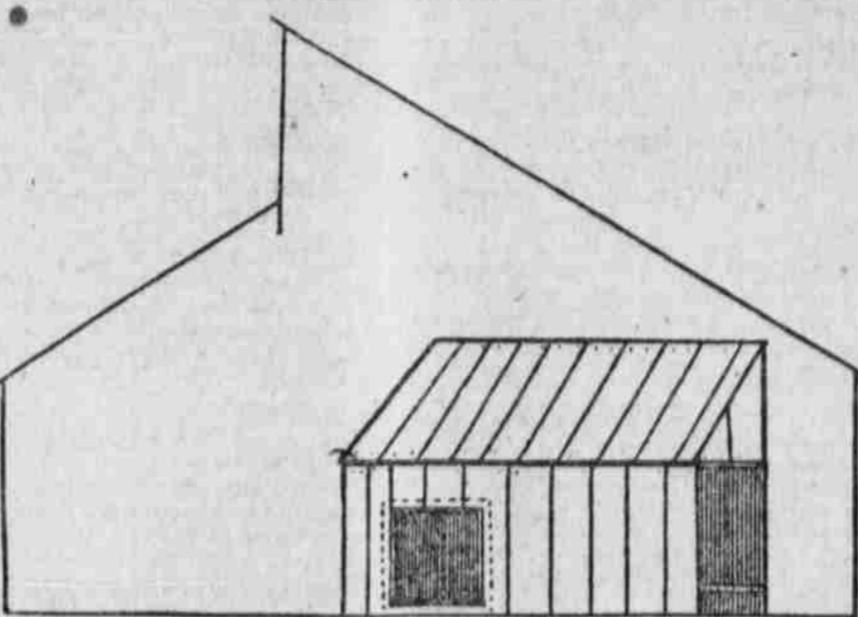
Royal Stock Show.

At the last Royal Stock show, of England, the entire 2,000 head of stock entered were judged the first day, \$50,000 was given in cash premiums and the attendance was 52,000 people in a single day. At these shows no horse races or side attractions of any kind are permitted.

Farms of United States.

It is estimated that the farms of the United States with all they contain in the way of livestock and improvements are worth about \$30,000,000.

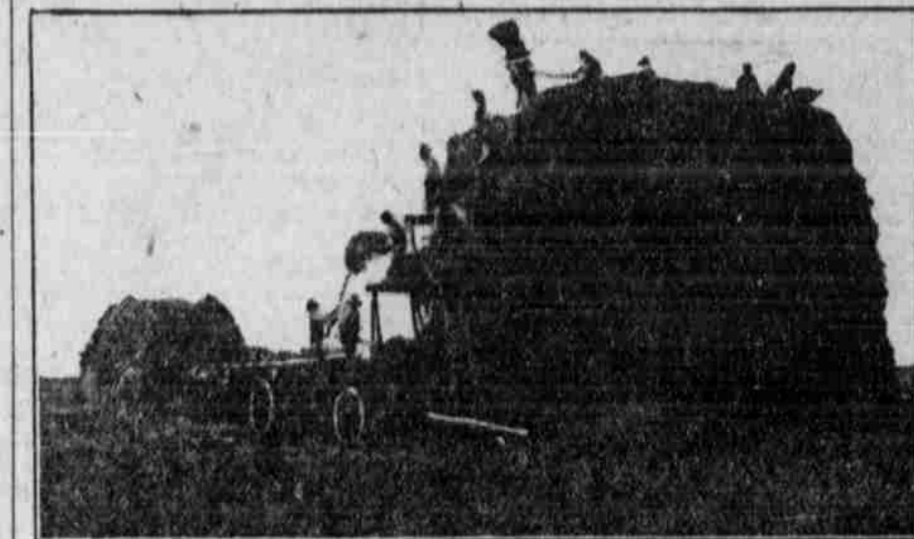
VESTIBULE IN THE HOG HOUSE



An Iowa subscriber, Mr. Horace Carter, sends the following suggestion to the Homestead, which involves the use of a vestibule in a hog house in cold weather. "Many hog houses are made very cold in winter through having a door left open for the hogs to go in and out and even in case a swing door is used the wind will blow through. All draft is shut off by means of a vestibule constructed as follows: Place a small shed 3x5 feet in front of the door to the hog house. This can easily be removed in warm

weather and used for several winters. The doors are made of old carpets or burlap or any old cloth handy with a strip of wood on the bottom to keep it straight. Hogs will very readily learn to pass through them. In teaching them pin one side of the curtain up, leaving a small hole, and after awhile the curtain can be let down entirely and they will go through just the same. The curtains may be made to serve two purposes by keeping them saturated with coal oil or some dip for lice.

GERMAN FARMERS AT LABOR



The illustration given herewith shows the laborers at work on one of the largest farms in the eastern part of Germany. These laborers "setzen eine Diete," harvest the corn, then put it in a huge pile, as shown, so that it being all tight together, the corn can't fall out, and it is secure from rain.

From the wagon one man hands the corn to the other; they form shelves on the pile, when one shelf or horizontal sheet is compact another is formed, etc., until the pile is quite high. The laborers take pride in making these compact piles, which rain nor storms can easily destroy.