

## NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Ducks eat many bugs.

Goslings must have free range.

The quickest returns are from baby beef.

Exercise is essential to the best growth of the foal.

You have some things to learn after you get an incubator.

The best time to cut the lamb's tail and castrate is at one week old.

Calves make more gain with a given amount of food than does older stock.

Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon the use of cover crops in our orchards.

Giving water at irregular times is injurious not only to chicks, but to old fowls.

It is seldom that the very early varieties of potatoes yield so well as those a little later.

Man's object in fruit growing is the production and improvement of the edible portion of the fruit.

Good ventilation is essential; but it should be so arranged that the cows shall not be exposed to a draught.

Everybody knows that in July weather cows give a larger amount of milk than in cold and wintry weather.

Build a good shed to shelter the tools; it is doubtful if you can make 33-1-3 per cent. profit in any other way.

There is a best temperature for each individual lot of cream, but this can be determined only by experience.

Are there any old apple trees in your orchard bearing undesirable fruit? Easy to graft good varieties upon them.

Keep on good terms with the ewes so that you can catch and handle them without causing undue disturbance in the pens.

There is no phase of the dairy business that needs more study or more careful management than does the breeding of the cow.

As the time draws near for calving, the cow should be put into a comfortable box stall, having plenty of bedding to keep her dry.

The open swill barrel standing by the kitchen door is a direct invitation to typhoid, diphtheria and like diseases to enter the home.

When live stock prices drop it is always the man who knows how to make meat at the least cost per pound who realizes the largest profit.

When the fruit buds come very thick most people take it as a sign of a big yield, but when fruit grows too thickly it must necessarily be very small.

If the udder becomes hard or shows a tendency to garget, apply unsalted lard and give it a vigorous rubbing; after which give the ewe a good dose of salts.

Skim milk, which is whole milk, minus part of its fat, and which costs only half as much as whole milk, furnishes protein about four times as cheaply as beef.

When the cow is comfortable and contented, she responds with a flow of milk far in excess of that which she gives when she has been uncomfortable and irritated.

Cherry rot or brown rot affects all stone fruits, including peach, apricots, etc. It is by far the most serious and baffling of cherry diseases to the commercial cherry grower.

Never feed hay, or sweep or in any way stir up dust just previous to milking time, for this will contribute to the introduction of bacteria, which contaminates and injures the quality of the milk.

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.

At the time of mating, if the ewes are put on an aftermath or flush pasture, they are more apt to come in heat and take the ram quicker, and this brings your lambs in a shorter time and the lambing is over with more quickly than if they come along in say two or three months.

Keep the land busy.

Examine the ewe's udder.

Turkeys are quickly destroyed by insects.

The first crop of alsike clover is the one to save for seed.

Mules are especially annoying and frequently kill young colts.

Alfalfa cannot stand pasturing the first season, and never closely.

A dairy cow should be allowed to rest from six to eight weeks before freshening.

Where dairying is not practiced the calf will have also to pay for keeping the cow a year.

Twenty tons of stable manure on a half acre is about the right proportion for the garden.

The best broom corn is grown in Illinois and Indiana. It requires a deep, rich mellow soil.

The way to get a good milk flow and he'd it through the year is to give good cows good care.

It is estimated that more than a million fruit trees will be set out in Montana the present season.

American farmers buy more than one hundred million dollars' worth of farm machinery every year.

The way he carries his head and tail more than anything else contributes to style in the horse.

A capon will sell on the market for about double the price per pound that is paid for uncaponized cockerels.

Examine the ewe's udder and teats carefully; see that both teats are open or you may get a caked udder.

It is not enough that the sire be full-bred; there must be individual merit as well as blue-blooded ancestry.

Where small runs are used, scrape and sweep them before heavy rains. Then turn the ground over and sow oats.

Keep a lookout for colds; it means roup, if you let it run. Use a little kerosene and vaseline and check the cold.

Of course, the fruit must have more or less shade, but nature will take care of that after intelligent pruning has been done.

The milker should be clean in all respects. He should not use tobacco; he should wash and dry his hands just before milking.

The shropshire sheep have been placed rank one, the Hampshire rank two, the Southdown three. The Dorset ranks fourth.

Location and demand govern to a large extent the particular phase of dairying practiced in the various sections of the country.

Every orchardist must use his own judgment as to how his spraying operations for the control of the codling moth shall be carried on.

Where cows are kept in the stalls much of the time, it is not unreasonable to say that the barn should be light enough for one to read in.

Don't neglect to grease the wagons that do the regular work about the farm. Hard oil is cheaper than horseflesh, and a lot more humane.

Cantaloupes should not be grown near squash, pumpkin or cucumber vines, as the pollen will mix, giving the cantaloupes a flavor of the squash or cucumber.

Feed that is left in the manger over night after being mused over becomes sour and should be removed and the manger thoroughly cleaned before putting in fresh feed.

Let the new-born calf stay in the stall or pasture with its mother for several days, and she will let it feed at times and in amounts best suited to its needs in life.

During the hot, dry summer, and if fly time, it is desirable to make dairy cows more comfortable than can be done while they are running about and gathering their own food.

Just how deeply the corn and other spring crops should be cultivated and just how long the cultivation should be continued is a matter upon which farmers differ widely in opinion.

Barley meal, low grade flour and white middlings added to the mash are useful in preventing summer diarrhoea. Keep granulated charcoal before the birds for the same purpose.

Undoubtedly one of the most remunerative branches of the poultry business for the average poultryman is the production of eggs, combined with the sale of market broilers as a side line.

An open-front house with sloping board roof and triangular board sides makes a good place for the pigs or brood sow in summer. Another good hoghouse for summer use is one with the roof only sloping two ways and both ends left out. This is protecting and cool.

## MULES ARE MOST NEGLECTED AND ABUSED OF FARM ANIMALS

In First Place It Should be of Good Stock, Not From Scrubby Mare, but Dam of Blood Breeding Qualities—by Proper Treatment and Attention It Can be Made in First Year—Good Feeding Essential.



Prize Winning Jack.

Mules, much abused and neglected animals, are not generally understood by farmers. A mule in the first place must be of good stock, not an offspring of some scrubby mare, but a mare with good breeding qualities, writes Ed McLaughlin in the Rural New Yorker. A mule of the mammoth stock is supposed to be the best mule under all conditions. Mules are cheaper than colts, for the service fee is not generally as high. Many people make a mistake in working the mare too soon after foaling. Never work a mare under ten days, then she can do light work, but the mule must be left in the barn.

When the mare is brought in from work never allow the mule to suck as long as the mare is warm. After a mule is two or three weeks old turn it out in a lot away from the mare, especially at night, for a mule is very hard on a mare, much more than colts. When the mule is about two months old he may be allowed to eat a few oats, about a pint in the beginning. Increase as he grows older, or the same amount of bran along with a little hay, alfalfa is preferred. At the age of nine months a mule should be weaned, not gradually, but all at once. Take it away from the mare and never let it suck afterwards. He should be put by himself or tied up. At this time you can give an ear of corn at a meal and a small amount of hay. The mule should be turned out in fair weather and not left to stand in the stable.

A mule should be made before he is a year old. This can be done by good breeding and the proper care. It is not necessary to give a great quantity of food to him during the winter, but it must be of the kind to keep him growing, such as alfalfa

hay, silage, some corn fodder, some corn and chopped food occasionally. Oats are very good, but very expensive food. In spring he may be turned out on pasture during the day and fed some hay at night and morning, because grass at this time is very washy. As the grass gets older leave on pasture, but be sure to have plenty of shade and water. A mule should not be broken until he is three years old, although many are broken before they are near that age.

With the proper handling he will be found to be easier to manage than horse colts. I always work them beside a good steady horse. Do not work mules together until thoroughly broken, or you may have some trouble. After this time he may be found to do more and better work than a horse colt at the same age, that is you can work him harder. When at this time you may say that a mule is easier raised and at less cost than horse colts, in that they do not require as much care and less food to keep them in good condition. Mule colts will bring more money than an average horse colt, even though he may be blemished in some way. He will sell when a blemished horse colt would not sell.

**Feed for Hens.**  
In the laying pens we give warm mash in the morning, feeding very carefully, just enough to warm the birds; then we give greens, roots like turnips and sugar beets and alfalfa hay. For the main meal, at four in the afternoon, we give a good supply of mixed grain, chiefly wheat in the litter, and then we always give them more than they can eat so they will have some left over for the next morning.

## DIRT THAT POISONS THE MILK



The difference between a clean cow and a dirty one is strikingly shown in the picture. The cow on the right had been running on pasture ten days, sleeping out at night, when the photograph was taken. Naturally a great deal of the filth she had accumulated in a vile stable had been rubbed off and washed off by the rains, but enough remains to show that her milk would carry poison to hundreds of gallons when added to that of other cows in the dairy. At the Illinois station it was found that the milk from the average, unwashed, unbrushed cow contained many times as much dirt as that from a perfectly

clean cow. This is not guess work, as a glazed dish equal in size to a pail was held under a cow's udder 4 1/2 minutes, the average time consumed in milking, while motions similar to milking were made. The dirt caught in the dish was then carefully weighed. It was then found that milk from soiled and muddy udders similar to that shown by the cow on the right contained from 20 to 24 times as much dirt as from that from a clean cow.

**Short Pasture.**  
The man who turns to pasture too early usually has much to say about short pasture all summer.

## SPRAYING FOR CONTROL OF INSECT AND FUNGUS ENEMIES

Marked Increase Has Been Noted Within Past Decade—Works Largely Due to Work of Experiment Stations in Demonstrating Effectiveness of Operation and Profit Attending it—Some Injury.

(By W. W. BONNE, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.)

The spraying of economic plants for the control of insect and fungous enemies has markedly increased within the past decade. This is largely due to the work of experiment stations in demonstrating the effectiveness of the operation and the profit attending it. Great improvements in spray machinery and materials have helped much towards the adoption of spraying as an annual farm operation, and especially is this true of the fruit growing industry. The progressive orchardist today recognizes the necessity of timely, thorough and intelligent application of insecticides and fungicides in order to sell his fruit in the best and most profitable markets.

The increase of spraying operations has, however, been accompanied by serious problems for the solution of which the grower turns to the experimenter. The use of bordeaux mixture, for many years the standard orchard spray, and even today recognized as the best all-around fungicide known, has been accompanied by injury to fruit and foliage.

Complaints of such injury have been increasing with each season and are not confined to any section of the country. The severity of the injury varies in degree and in different seasons. It has long been known that bordeaux mixture cannot be used with safety on the peach and Japanese

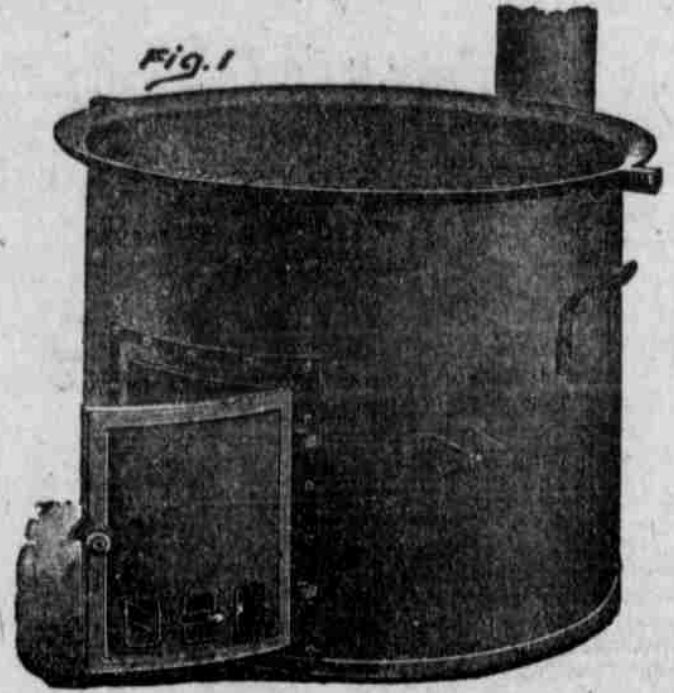
reled and kept from freezing can be stored indefinitely. Home made lime-sulphur can also at present be made cheaper than the home-prepared bordeaux mixture, so far as cost of ingredients are concerned. The choice on grounds of economy is, therefore, merely between the expenditure of money or time and labor.

Home made boiled concentrated lime-sulphur may be made as follows: Sulphur ..... 100 pounds  
Lime, best grade ..... 55 pounds  
Water sufficient to make 60 gallons.

Slake the lime, mix the sulphur into a thin paste with a little water, add it to the lime, add sufficient water to make 60 gallons, bring to a boil and boil vigorously for 30 to 45 minutes. The sediment is then allowed to settle, after which the clear dark amber-colored liquid is drawn off and may be stored in casks for future use.

In making this solution a large iron kettle or cooker of some sort is necessary. A stock feed cooker of large capacity will answer. Fig. 1 shows a satisfactory form. The solution can also be made with the use of direct steam, and this means has been frequently employed when large quantities of the material are made.

With our present knowledge, the strength of lime-sulphur to use depends upon its density. This may be determined by a cheap and simple instrument called the hydrometer. This consists of a hollow glass tube,



Lime Sulphur Cooker.

rior to concentrated home made stock solutions when these are properly made and stored. The former are, moreover, considerably more expensive when the tree is in leaf, although Cordley and Cate report the use of 5-6-60 and 3-6-50 formulae on peach foliage without injurious results.

Commercial lime-sulphur preparations now on the market are not su-

its lower end terminating in a weighted bulb (Fig. 2). Placing this in a liquid, it sinks until the liquid displaced equals its weight. In light solutions, therefore, it will sink deeper than in heavy or dense ones. The graduations to be read are marked on the scale on the neck of the instrument and are in degrees Beaume, or in terms of specific gravity. Some instruments give both scales. The Beaume is the one most generally used.

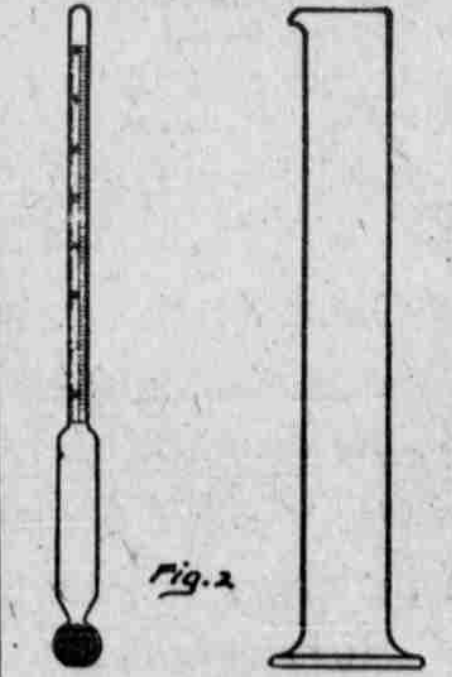
These instruments are absolutely necessary for the proper use of lime-sulphur solutions.

### Kohlrabi.

The kohlrabi is one of the most popular vegetables in European countries. In America this vegetable has never been popular because very few people have tried it, and, therefore, are not familiar with its merits. When produced under proper conditions it is more delicate in flavor than turnips. This vegetable should be planted in moist soil and the plants thinned in the row so that they will not stand more than six or seven inches. The rows should be about 15 inches apart. If to be cultivated with a wheel hoe, while they should be 28 to 30 inches apart if a horse cultivator is to be used.

### Making Clover Hay.

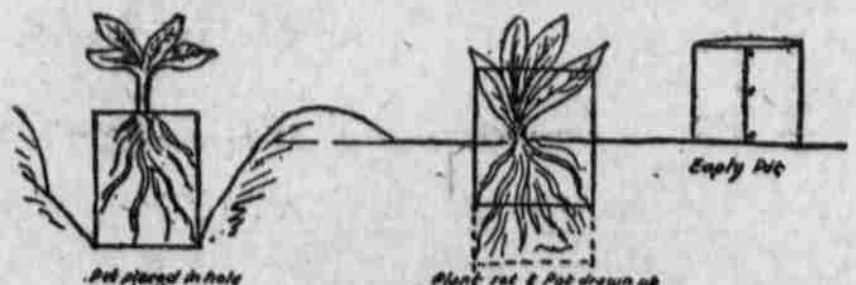
My method is to cut it down after the dew is off in the morning or late in the afternoon. Before it gets very dry I start the tedder and run over it three or four times with this machine. Late in the evening I put it up in tall, slender shocks, which stand there until next morning, when it is hauled into the barn and a large quantity of it put together—the more the better, but it is not tramped in. If the weather is fair I often allow it to stand in the shock for two or three days and it dries out in the shock.



Hydrometer and Cylinder.

At present prices of material the home made concentrate can be made at a cost of one-third to one-fourth that of an equal volume of a commercial solution if the materials are bought in quantity. This does not include the original outlay for a cooker and barrels for storage. The commercial preparation is a convenience, requiring nothing but a knowledge of its density before diluting. The home made concentrate can be made at any time and if properly bar-

## PROTECTION FROM CUTWORM



To protect tomato and other plants from the cutworm, take stiff paper and mould it around a 3-inch shaft fastening the edges with small tacks making tubes 4 inches long. These

can be placed around the plants as shown in illustration.

Pigeon manure is imported into England from Egypt.