

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



It is one of the foundation principles of agriculture that no system can long be followed at a profit which does not make provision for returning to the land in some form the elements of fertility taken from it by crops. So, no system of farming has ever been successful for any great length of time in any climate which does not include the keeping of live stock as one of its important features.

The special purpose character of the Dornet Horns lies in the fact that ewes will breed at any season of the year, but they are very prolific, are decidedly heavy milkers, give birth to unusually strong and vigorous lambs, care for them well, and that their lambs are able and ready to use grass at a very young age.

No feed produces better milk or more of it than good June pasture. Next to this is good soiling crops and third in the list is ensilage. As the first and second of these are available for only short seasons, the silo is worthy of consideration as the best year round substitute.

One of the most difficult things for the beginner in poultry raising is to cull closely. A bird looks like a bird to him and the chances are that he will keep some that are not profitable merely because it does not seem right to eat them.

Keep fine grit and charcoal where the chicks can have access to it at all times. They must have the grit, and while they can get along without the charcoal, they will do a great deal better if they have it. It aids digestion and promotes health.

Pigs need some roughage for the winter. A few dry sows, put up in a pile now and thrown into the pens during the winter, will be greatly relished and will help to keep the digestion of the pigs in good shape.

Dairymen no longer rely upon the average of the herd as a basis of computing their profits, but with proper utensils and accurate records calculate the producing ability of each individual in the herd.

A statement just to hand shows that the value of frozen meats imported by Canada from Australia grew over 50 per cent. from 1908 to 1909 and that in the latter year the trade amounted to \$87,235.

No one who attempts to raise two litters of pigs in one year from a herd of brood sows should expect them to do so successfully and profitably unless they are given the very best of care.

The good cow is an industrious creature, but she is also a ruminating one and requires time and should have comfort in which to do her cud chewing.

No combination of factors is more conducive to prosperity, wealth, fertile farms and good homes than are well bred dairy cattle, capacious silos and productive alfalfa fields.

New corn from the fields is a great treat to poultry, if not overfed. Take a solid block and a corn knife and cut the corn in half-inch sections and the fowls will do the rest.

There can be but little question about the advisability of feeding the dairy cow on pasture this year. If she does not get feed in the barn she is apt to starve.

There is no big money in sheep unless the operator understands his business thoroughly and it is no sphere for the novice these days.

If the calves must be kept up during the summer be sure to protect them from the flies and give plenty of ventilation all of the time.

A great many progressive poultry men are beginning to realize the value of crushed charcoal as a conditioner for their stock.

Take care of the boards when bleaching celery. They should never be used as walks in the field.

Alfalfa ground may be pastured if not overstocked. The third crop in particular may be profitably grazed by sheep.

Green corn need not be a dangerous feed. If used right it is one of the best things that can be given the hogs.

The calf pens must be scrupulously clean if the youngsters would be kept in a healthy, thrifty condition.

April and May hatched chicks give us best results.

Requiring almost the same care and using feed almost identical, chickens and squabs should be inseparable. With a large flock of hens producing winter eggs, and a number of squabs at a time when young chickens are not obtainable, the poultryman has practically no competition. The supply, in most instances, is so limited and the demand so great that the young squabs are sold at the nest, people coming after them to be sure of getting them.

Brood sows on the average farm may be almost entirely supported by waste products. And those same waste products form the best sort of balanced ration. Skim milk, buttermilk, windfall apples, parings, a run in the orchard, with shade, and after the litters are weaned and growing nicely, a run in the stubble to clean up every kernel of grain, and in the clover fields after hay has been cut.

A hen that lays 180 eggs in a year will earn for her owner a certain net profit of one dollar and twenty-five cents, and if he is careful about marketing his profit may be increased by an additional 50 cents, so that if he wants to increase his income by \$250 or \$500 it is only necessary for him to keep 200 or 400 hens.

If you can do no better by way of making troughs for the sheep to eat their grain out of, you can nail two boards together in the shape of a V, with a couple of short pieces across the ends to keep them right side up. This will save much grain, and grain is money this year.

Salting the cows is most important, especially when they are on green grass. About an ounce per day is required by each cow and this is better given regularly and in small quantities than only occasionally and in large lots.

With hired help almost impossible to get at any price, it would seem that all farmers would hesitate about taking more land upon themselves for cultivation, for a poorly-cared-for crop is surely a failure, but they plunge in regardless of consequences.

Some breeders claim that sex can be selected from which males and females can be hatched at will. Old hens mated with cockerels produce about 75 per cent. pullets, while mating pullets with old cocks give a greater per cent. of cockerels.

Did your cows fall off in their milk while passing from summer to winter conditions? This is a trying period and the cow that tides over it all right will, with normal conditions, be safe for a good flow till spring.

Sunflowers are usually grown for the seeds, and the stalks are allowed to go to waste. They contain so large a percentage of woody fiber when mature that they would be of no value for feeding purposes.

It will pay to market old and useless hens now, rather than carry them through the molt which begins this month. Many of them will not lay again until spring and will not pay their keep.

There are two great and common mistakes in landscape gardening. One is to make a garden without any flowers in it; the other is to have a mess of plants assembled without any design.

If you wish to improve the quality of your flock without serious expense the best thing to do is to cull out a pen of the choicest birds and hatch their eggs.

Very often when the large farm has been obtained at the expense of the home, so much of it goes to waste for the want of cultivation—through cultivation—that it is really unprofitable.

Now that the hatching season is over, all the male birds should be taken away from the hens. Your chances for fresher eggs and more of them will be increased.

Manure is just what is needed to bring up the yields and to increase the water-holding capacity of our soil, for without water no amount of fertility is of any avail.

Don't forget the supply of sharp gravel or grit even in the fall; fowls can not always pick up a suitable supply even when on a range and the weather is good.

If a little rape seed is sprinkled in with the rye a variety of feed will be provided and the hogs will do even better than upon rye alone.

Pleasant surroundings and modern conveniences, easily obtainable, will go a long way in keeping the boys and girls on the farm.

A hog should have some grain every day of its life although hogs can not be raised and fattened on grain alone at a profit.

The dairy heifer is sure to be a profitable product of the farm as long as the demand for dairy cows continues.

In applying the spray to low growing trees and bushes make the application when the dew is on the plants.

All the nest boxes should be kept perfectly clean to give the little chicks an unhampered start in life.

The trouble with most of our farms is too little capital to the acre.

## SOUTH CAROLINA FLORIST EXPERIMENTS WITH DAHLIA

Tells Interesting Story of Success With Flower of Double Variety From Seed—Some Very Beautiful.

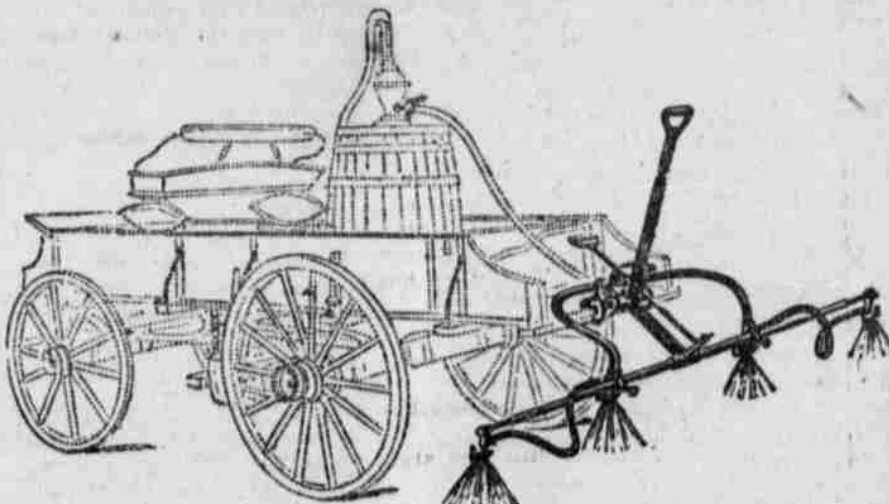


Double Dahlia.

I want the flower loving readers to know of the success I had with dahlias from seeds. I ordered one packet, and sowed it in a box, having no idea that I had such a glorious treat. In store, writes a South Carolina Florist in Park's Floral Magazine. Within five days the seedlings had pushed up in little "humps," and soon were holding their heads up, looking strong and vigorous. As soon as they were large enough to transplant, I put them in good, loamy, well-worked soil, and I could actually see them grow. Within three weeks I noticed the color of some stalks was dark red, and others light green. The buds commenced to show soon, and then swell, and oh, the pleasure in watching the different colors show! All grew faster than others, but all grew entirely to my satisfaction. There was one particular plant that grew and kept on growing and we encouraged this

growth just to see where it would go to. It finally decided to stop at the height of nine and a half feet, and then the exquisite bloom hung over in such a graceful way, showing a flower almost black with a bright, yellow center about the size of a 25-cent piece. The petals looked like heavy silk velvet, and the blooms were as large as my tubers produced. Some of the others were equally as beautiful, one being a magenta, with the back of the petals striped in white; another was a fawn shade and very odd; another was yellow outlined on each petal with red, and still another was a peculiar shade bordering on a brick dust color, the back of the petals being yellow. This combination was perfectly beautiful, and thought by myself who saw it to be the loveliest in the lot. In all, I secured 32 plants, and every one was a gem.

## MORE POTATOES BY SPRAYING



For a good many years the general farmer has contented himself with occasionally going over his potato plants with a bucket and a stick in an attempt to eradicate entirely the destructive potato beetle or "bug." In a way, this has answered the purpose, since the plants were saved from being entirely consumed by the hordes of insect pests that continually swarmed up from nowhere, but of course it was impossible to rid each plant of all the bugs that infested it. Some of the eggs were sure to remain and hatch.

Then there were the many varied plant diseases to which the tubers were subjected and a few years ago no methods were available to effectually control them, since no systematic study had been given to this branch of agriculture.

Realizing that more scientific methods should be adopted to successfully combat these different pests, the New York experiment station at Geneva made some very interesting and careful experiments in recent years, the results of which have lately been published in bulletin form.

Their research revealed that frequent sprayings during the dry seasons of the year effected much better plant conditions and a proportionately increased potato crop.

Out of eleven volunteer experiments, there was shown an average gain per acre, due to spraying, of 66 2/3 bushels. The average net cost of spraying per acre was \$1 cents and the average price of potatoes at digging time was 60 cents per bushel. A little mental arithmetic makes it self-evident that it pays to spray.

## SAVES LIVES OF CHICKENS

Kansas Poultry Raiser Has Discovered and Put Into Practice Means of Preventing Large Mortality Among Chicks.

A well-known Kansas City poultry man, Ernest Kellerstrass, has discovered and put into practice a new means of preventing the common large mortality of brooder chicks. The remedy is so simple that at first thought it appears almost ridiculous. It consists only in the use of black soil in the floor of the brooder.

Mr. Kellerstrass by accident, two or three years ago, noticed that a piece of sod placed on the floor of a brooder was quickly worked on by the chicks. They stood on it and scratched on it in preference to the wooden floor of the brooder. The entire floor of the brooder was then covered with sod,

and it was found that the chicks on the sod covered floor were stronger, freer of disease and thrived better in every way than chicks in brooders with no earth covering for the floors. From this experiment the idea was evolved that earthen floors were the proper kind for young chicks and continued experiments were made on a large scale.

The black earth floor was tried with 25,000 chicks and proved so successful that less than five per cent. of ordinary brooder raised chicks die.

The idea of Mr. Kellerstrass is that board floors are too hard and unnatural for the feet of young chicks, and that soil is a soft and natural floor for them. By standing on the board floor the chicks acquire leg weakness that results in the white bowel trouble and a general weakening of the young birds. With loose, dry soil as a floor the chicks will early learn to scratch and become active. Through scratching and exercise the birds grow strong, and hence more resistant to disease.

## FILED FIRST CLAIM

Daniel Freeman Got Homestead Number One.

As a Soldier in Nebraska in 1862 He Took Advantage of the Law Immediately After It Went Into Effect.

Lincoln, Neb.—When Daniel Freeman filed on the first free home provided for free men, at one minute past twelve o'clock on the morning of January 1, 1863, he inaugurated the history of homestead entries, which have since developed the western prairies into the heart of American agriculture. The Freeman home is at Brownville, Neb., on the quarter-section of land for which the first patent was issued. He always regarded this old patent as one of the most interesting and valuable relics of American history. Its face indicates that Freeman made entry No. 1, his proof of residence was No. 1, his patent is No. 1, recorded on page No. 1 of book No. 1, in the United States land office.

Freeman's name is linked with that of Galusha A. Grow of Pennsylvania, once speaker of the lower house of congress, and whose maiden speech in the house was on the subject of "Man's Right to the Soil." That speech was made in 1852, but it was not until ten years later that he was able to see his measure, the homestead law, recorded in the statute books.

Freeman at that time was a young soldier, detailed to perform a secret mission at Brownville, Neb., where the first United States land office was opened. The presence of many prospective settlers awaiting the opening January 1, 1863, of the land office, to take advantage of the homestead law, attracted Freeman to the idea of securing a free home. On December 30, however, he was ordered to report in St. Louis for a new assignment. To add to his troubles, January 1 was a legal holiday. The young soldier, nothing daunted, sought out James Bedford, who had charge of the government land office, and told him his troubles. Bedford agreed to sign the filing papers following the stroke of midnight the following night if Freeman could secure the consent of other



Freeman and His Home.

prospective settlers to waive their right to make entries until the following day. All day December 31 Freeman sought out the settlers and secured their consent to the scheme, in order that he might get away New Year's morning. There was a dance at the town hall in the evening and at midnight all the young Beau Brummels repaired to the land office to see Uncle Sam's soldier become the first homesteader. The papers already had been made up and were signed just after twelve o'clock. Freeman started at once for St. Louis and was able to visit the land but twice during the next three years, the law making special provision for soldiers.

In 1865 Freeman laid down his arms and took up the peaceful pursuit of agriculture on his claim. He built a log cabin as the first structure on the farm. On an adjoining claim lived a young woman with whom Freeman had become acquainted during his previous visits, and when the cabin was completed they were married and moved into the new home. Freeman was energetic, and from an open prairie homestead the quarter section was developed into the finest farm in Gage county. Additional land was purchased and Freeman became wealthy. Three fine orchards surround a comfortable brick dwelling and a forty-acre timber claim has developed into a young forest.

Daniel Freeman was a pioneer Indian fighter and carried two scars as the result of bullets from the Indians' rifles. One of his peculiarities was his free thinking doctrine. He always maintained that the Bible was made for the people who believed in it and that they had no right to force it upon persons who did not want it. Taking this stand, he brought the famous lawsuit to force the Bible out of Nebraska schools. The suit was brought against the school board of his home district and he won out. His contention was that no religion could be legally taught in the public schools and that teachers could not lawfully read the Bible in school. The supreme court sustained his contention and the Holy Writ disappeared from the Brownville school.

## RAISING GEESSE FOR PROFIT

Eastern Man Gives Interesting and Minute Details of His Method From Beginning.

I have been raising geese the last 15 years; only one breed, the Embden, says a writer in Baltimore American. I prefer this because of its hardiness, size, docility and color. The feathers sell here for five cents above the market price for others; I like to have the goslings hatch in April or earlier. This avoids the hot weather.

Hens are used for hatching. Each is given six eggs, or if she be large, perhaps seven. The old goose is made to lay again, but allowed to sit on the second clutch of eggs. I think geese better mothers than hens. They are more solicitous, can care for a greater number and the gander will also assist his mate. When time is almost up for hatching I put the eggs in lukewarm water and all containing live goslings will turn. I think the water softens the shell and causes a better hatch.

Eggs from the first year's laying are usually not so fertile as later eggs. They are also fewer in number, and produce weaker goslings. Geese do not fall in egg production like hens, but may be kept for years. If ganders are kept longer than the third year they usually become so cross they cannot be allowed to run with other fowls.

I keep the young in a small inclosure till they can walk without turning on their backs. Then let them have the run of a good pasture. They get plenty of water, but it is not neces-



A Profitable Flock.

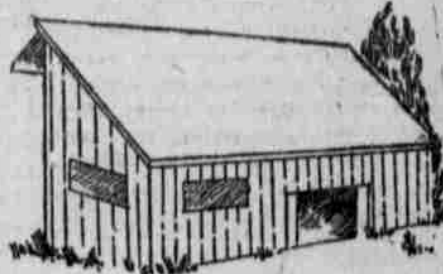
sary that they bathe; better not. I never leave them out in heavy rains, for they will open their mouths and drink enough water to drown.

As soon as fully feathered, in three or four months, they are ready to pick, and may be picked every eight weeks. After the fall picking I begin to feed grain. When fully feathered they will be ready for market. If they can have free access to a plot of corn they will not allow any of it to go to waste, and will save trouble of feeding.

## HOUSE TO PROTECT TURKEYS

One Shown in Illustration Affords Necessary Shelter From Elements and Marauders.

This turkey house is protection against the elements and marauders, which is very necessary for these birds. The whole front may be of wire netting, or enclosed part way, otherwise doors and windows are provided as in cut. A ventilator is fixed in the top at the back. This is to be



A Good Turkey House.

kept open at all times. The roosts are placed on a level well up from the ground and in the front of the building. Sliding or rolling doors—one in the rear left open during the day and only enough light for the turkeys to see their way of getting on and off the roosts.

## DOULTRY NOTES

Watch out for the head lice on little chicks. Sort out the old hens now and hustle them off to market.

An application of equal parts of lard and kerosene will kill the head lice.

Increasing the egg production of hens is accomplished by saving only the best layers for breeders.

There are five essentials in raising ducks—muscle, water, food, shade and grit—and the greatest of these is muscle.

The Pekin ducks are probably the best for market, as they command better prices and look plumper and better after they are dressed.

Never leave any food around where the ducks, either young or old, can pick at it between meals, as they in this way lose their appetites.

The first use of all food consumed by fowls is to maintain the body. In order to produce eggs there, must be a surplus left after the body is properly nourished.

In order that they may better develop, the cockerels should now be separated from the pullets, and the former given an extra allowance of food, as they will need it.