

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM
By William Pitt



Extracted honey, if brought to a temperature of not over 160 degrees Fahrenheit, bottled and sealed while hot, will usually, if kept in a uniformly warm temperature, keep liquid for a year or more. But there is a great difference in honey. Some will candy much more quickly than others. Cold atmosphere is quite favorable to candying of both extracted and comb-honey. Cellars and cold rooms are poor places for honey.

As a pasture for pigs in the production of pork and for the feeding of brood sows during winter, a branch of farming which so often goes hand in hand with dairying, alfalfa cannot be too highly recommended. In fact, for all animals on the farm—horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry—alfalfa is well nigh indispensable. If corn is king, alfalfa is surely king of kings.

Where gullies have been formed by soil washing during the summer it is well to fill them as early as possible in the fall while the leaves are still on the brush with which they are filled.

Horses at pasture will need no other protection than a shed if they have enough to eat. Cold, dry weather will not injure stock as much as cold rains and damp, foggy weather.

Young cattle and dry cows should not be haltered up in close stables during the winter; give them a roomy shed with a hard dirt floor. Bed heavily with straw or leaves.

This year's sprouts may be pulled from the peach trees with the hands if it is done this fall, when it should be, which will save considerable work next spring.

The average annual honey yield per colony for the entire country should be from 25 to 30 pounds of comb honey or 40 to 50 pounds of extracted honey.

The cow that wanders over bare pastures and looks wistfully at growing crops she cannot reach, is not happy nor contented, and will not produce well.

The men who have followed diversified farming for years rarely ever are pinched with a crop failure because of a variety of products for an income.

An occasional handful of oil meal will do the horses good, especially if their main grain is corn. The pea-size oil cake is handiest for this purpose.

Wheat sown too late to come up the year it is sown. If the soil still contains some warmth, will start to sprout in the ground and take root.

Many a colt has been spoiled by indiscriminate petting and handling. Let the master pet and govern the youngsters until they know who is boss.

Like the strawberry, a little more pains should be taken when setting asparagus plants in the fall, to get them well mulched before winter.

Old raspberry-canals should be removed from the patch before the freeze-up and the new vines mulched with oat-straw or barn-yard litter.

Those old hens which have just completed a tardy molt will fatten now. Cast up their egg account and make up their deficiencies with meat.

It never pays to starve a colt. Thirty bushels of oats will cost about \$10 and be worth twice that much to any well-bred colt next winter.

The constitution and general soundness of the farm horse very much depends upon the treatment he receives during the winter.

Wheat, or any other of the grasses, will not do their best unless the seed-bed is worked down to a fine and compact condition.

After weaning the foal, the young animal should not be neglected and permitted to rough it the first winter.

Carrots, potatoes, beets and other root crops should be dug as soon as possible now, dried, and stored in the cellar.

Every farmer will admit that a good new fence on the farm is beautiful and useful.

There is nothing quite so good as fine brush to catch and hold soil wash.

After being built the fence must receive regular attention if it is intended to last and always turn stock.

The brown-tail moth is a serious pest in New England, and is likely to spread. The easiest and practically the only effective means of artificial control where established, is by cutting off the overwintering nests during the late fall, winter or early spring and destroying the larvae within. This, of course, can be supplemented by spraying with an arsenical mixture when the caterpillars appear on the foliage in spring.

Farm poultry is too often allowed to run in one large flock. The chicks cannot be fed properly and are almost sure to become infested with lice from the older fowls. Often ducks, geese, chickens and turkeys are all turned together to fight for supremacy. The more the fowls are distributed over the farm in summer, the most productive they will be.

Every flock owner of long experience in handling breeding ewes fully realizes that the condition of the ewes at mating has a decided influence upon the breeding qualities of both ewes and progeny.

Heartsease was formerly not worth considering as a honey plant, because of its scarcity; but of late years it has become plentier, and this year it is worth many dollars. Same with dandelion.

To make hens lay, put some cats in a box, pour warm water over them, and keep in a warm place. Feed a small quantity to hens each morning after the cats begin to grow and get green. Oats soaked in milk are splendid.

Prepare cultivated ground the same as for strawberries for transplanting raspberries and blackberries, but plow furrows ten feet apart for blackberries, eight for red, yellow, and purple raspberries and seven for blackcaps.

An average sample of the droppings of high-fed hens contains about thirty or thirty-two pounds of nitrogen, thirty pounds of phosphoric acid and fifteen or sixteen pounds of potash in each ton.

What furnishes more material for the white of eggs than corn does? A bushel of wheat contains about one-tenth more protein, three per cent. less fat and nearly three times as much fiber.

As a rule, transplanting should be done when the plant is dormant. This applies to all fruits, but for convenience we sometimes transplant strawberries during the growing season.

At the close of the honey season, when a part or all the bees are run for comb honey, some sections may be capped partly over, while some will be partly filled but no sealing done.

Much unnecessary energy is expended in trying to avoid labor. Those who are not willing to give honest, conscientious labor need not expect phenomenal success on the farm.

Cows feed little at night if well fed during the day, and if the stable is well ventilated they are as comfortable here as anywhere, and the gain to the manure pile is considerable.

Before starting in fruit culture for market visit the progressive, practical fruit culturists and study details; also learn the cost of bushes, method of culture and the returns.

Different farmers in different sections have stated times for sowing winter wheat. Some sow early and some sow late, each claiming equally good results.

There is no one who ought to have a better garden than the farmer who has all of the land necessary with teams and usually help to care for it.

Whatever you do, don't select seed ears from stalks on which smut has developed, for that's one of the best ways of encouraging this trouble.

When the asparagus tops have become ripe they should be cut off and burned up. In this way the spores of the rust fungus are destroyed.

Different qualities of the same kind of grain and hay enter the balanced ration of the different experiment stations for horses.

For picking apples a half bushel basket, lined with burlap and provided with a strong hook, will prove better than a bag.

Salt improves both the flavor and keeping qualities of butter, as well as increasing its weight at a small proportionate cost.

One of the most trying periods in the foal's development is weaning the youngster from the milk of its dam.

There is money in bee keeping if it is managed properly.

Fat heavy hens that spend too much time in the corn crib, eating with the hogs, are in danger of dying suddenly with apoplexy.

Study your birds and breed them so as to bring the egg record up. Quick growth, early maturity. It will pay you.

Chrysanthemums will need protection from frost and cold winds.

It takes nearly all the food the cow in a cold stable eats to sustain life.

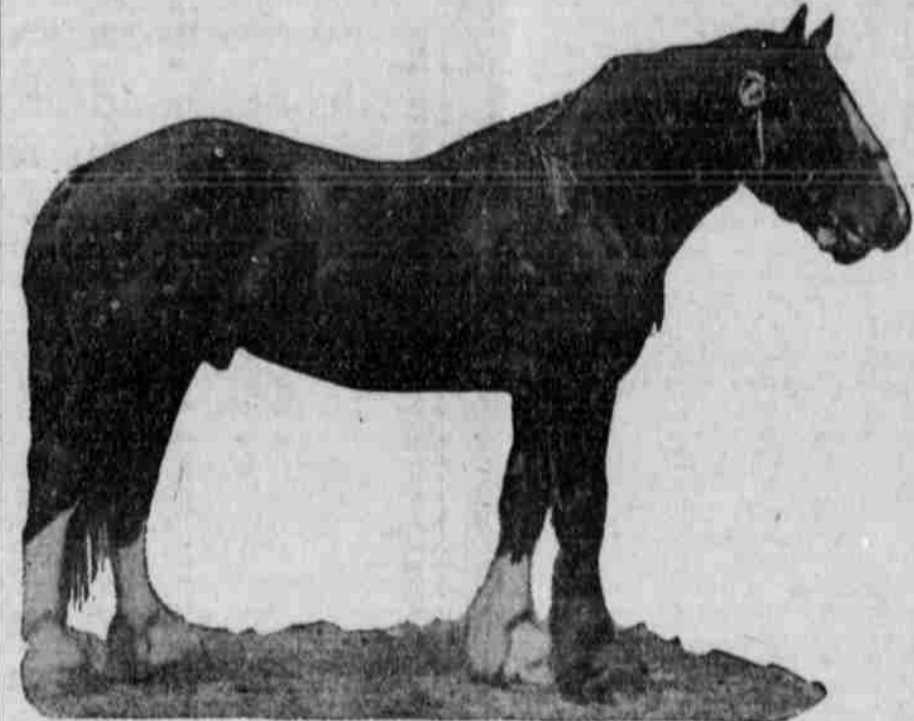
BREEDING PEDIGREE STOCK IS HIGHLY PROFITABLE

Man Must be Lover of Animals and Possess More Than Ordinary Amount of Patience if He Is to Become a Prosperous Breeder.

Perhaps of all branches of farming breeding pedigree livestock is the most interesting, and, in addition, it has the further recommendation that when properly conducted it is profitable. I know that many persons have dropped money, and some large amounts, over pedigree stock; but I could name several tenant farmers who have weathered bad times and are today in a prosperous condition, thanks mainly to this industry. A man must be a lover of animals and possess a more than ordinary amount of patience if he is to become a prominent breeder, says a writer in Country Life. Furthermore, unless he is able to place a large amount of capital in the business he must be prepared to lock his money up for some years. Those who can afford to buy the best-bred and most typical animals of any breed as foundation stock, and who are content to pay good salaries and wages to competent men to take charge of them, ought soon to get a

neighborhood where it is not the fashion. It is true that some breeds seem to flourish almost anywhere, notably shorthorn cattle and Shire horses; but an owner of Shires who brings them up on light, thin-skinned land is severely handicapped when his horses come into the show-ring. He then finds that his rivals who occupy stiffer and richer soil can produce animals with more bone and hair than he can. Large, well-shaped feet, plenty of bone and good joints are absolutely necessary nowadays on a first-class animal of this breed.

Shire horses are especially adapted for town work and for hauling heavy loads, and one can judge from the photograph of this strong, heavy and yet compact mare how suitable this breed is for that purpose. The Clydesdales are not such massive horses as are the Shires, neither are they so large in the bone, but the strength and slope of their pasterns and the activity of this breed are proverbial. A su-



Champion Clydesdale.

good return for their investment. Persons with limited means must be satisfied to start with a few animals less perfect in type and conformation or with aged individuals which can be picked up for comparatively little money, and then gradually breed up a stud herd or flock. The latter plan, unless one is a good judge of stock and a practical farmer, is the one I should advise. Clever and experienced breeders are apt to make mistakes in buying, mating and rearing their stock and a novice is sure to purchase his experience very dearly if he starts breeding on too large a scale.

The situation and soil of one's farm should govern, to a great extent, the variety of stock which it is decided to keep. Lincoln sheep, for instance, would not pay to rear on the mountains where the Scotch black-faced mountain or the Herdwick breeds exist. Or, again, the hardy Southdown thrives on the short, scanty herbage that grows on his native hills, where larger sheep would starve. Many breeds of livestock appear to be specially adapted to the locality in which they are born, and one always runs a risk when introducing a fresh variety of animals into any country.

Not only does it take some time for a breed new to the district to become acclimated, but it is always difficult to dispose of one's surplus stock in a

perabundance of hair on a Clydesdale's legs is not considered necessary, as it is on those of the Shire; this can be seen by glancing at the illustration of Royal Guest, the champion Clydesdale stallion at this year's Royal. The Suffolk horse is preferred when quite clean-legged, i. e., with no long hair on his legs. It is a very active, quick animal, with any amount of pluck and endurance, and no breed is better suited for farmwork. Suffolks, like Clydesdales, are also suitable for working in towns, where strong, quick-moving horses are needed. Suffolk horses have been known to live to a great age, and longevity is claimed to be a special feature of this breed.

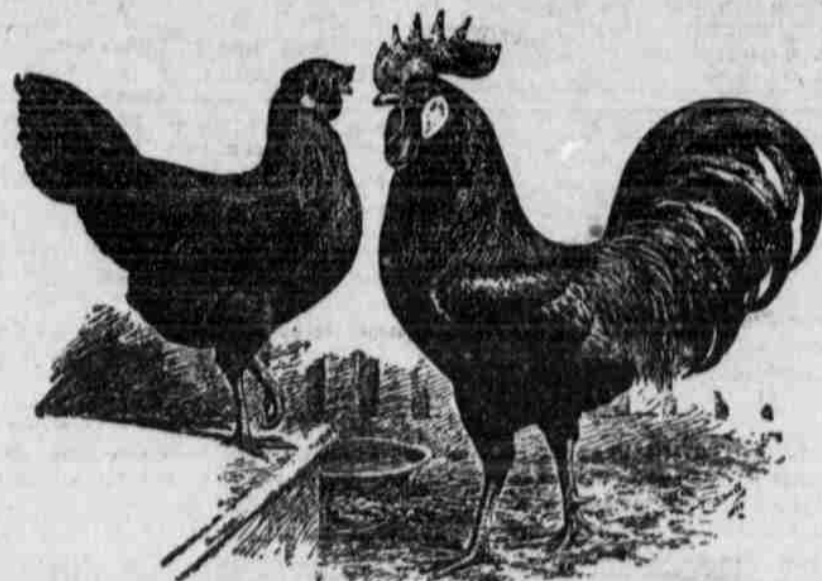
Horseflesh Consumption.

Horseflesh is very generally advertised in the German newspapers, especially in those of the large industrial centers, and most German cities have at least one market which makes it a specialty, claiming for it a higher percentage of nourishment than that of either beef, veal, mutton or pork.

Water Sprouts.

Do not neglect to cut off the water sprouts on the trunks of young apple, pear and plum trees.

SEVERAL KINDS OF LEGHORN



Of the several breeds of Leghorn, the white is the most popular and the brown next, says the Farm Poultry. The Buff Leghorns of the best strains have about all the good qualities of the white variety and are fast gaining popularity, the color being more attractive to some tastes. The Black and Dominique Leghorns also have their advocates. Each of the Leghorns, although naturally having single combs, are bred also with rose combs. The rose comb is obtained by introduction of Hamburg blood, and the result is in general a tendency to smaller bodies and smaller eggs in the rose comb varieties. The single combs vary greatly in size and weight, according to strain. Some of the larger strains are almost equal in size to the average of some of the medium

weight breeds, and it is claimed that the size is not obtained at the expense of laying powers. The Leghorns, like most of the breeds, need to be bred with care to prevent the tendency to smaller sizes. Small bodies, pinched or cramped in shape, are considered undesirable, as tending to small eggs and lack of constitution. Eight or ten years ago Leghorn cockerels were in considerable demand for crossing. The Leghorn and Brahma cross, Leghorn and Wyandotte, or Leghorn and Plymouth Rock were preferred by many poultrymen to breed crossbred chickens for broilers and roasters, and of late years the tendency of the poultry plants seems to be toward the use of one or another of the pure breeds. Cross breeding is more trouble and results less uniform than from the pure breeds.

For a Friend and One Other

By ANTOINETTE PATTERSON

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Nichols pulled his hat well down to hide the worried look his face wore.

"It's a pretty piece of business," he said to himself. "I'm convinced the woman's an adventuress, but how am I to find out, and Cyril getting every day more bewitched? If only she claimed some civilized country—but Poland, where I haven't a friend—or even an enemy!"

John Nichols and Cyril Thornton were close friends. Nichols, much the elder, and Cyril's sister were to have been married, but she died. Nichols was a lawyer from New York, and in the interest of a client was now in Los Angeles. Cyril, recovering from typhoid, had come with him for a quicker convalescence. Everything had been going on smoothly when their train met with an accident.

They had escaped injury and saved the life of a beautiful woman. The woman, whom Cyril thought the most charming he had ever seen, was very grateful, apparently very frank. Her name, she said, was Marie Laska; she had been a widow two years. Her father—and she said this with lowered voice—was deep in Polish politics. He had sent her away fearing she might come under suspicion. She never would have left him, but illness had made another northern winter dangerous, and she had taken a small house near Pasadena. She intended to live in retirement and have a complete rest before returning to Poland. But these two friends, they must come to see her whenever they could spare the time.

It was surprising how much time had been spared by both, for Nichols, unwilling that Cyril should spend days and evenings alone with the charming foreigner, found himself in



Walked Forlornly Home.

Pasadena whenever his business would permit. This had been going on for a fortnight.

As a further complication, Cyril, just of age, would shortly be in possession of \$25,000.

Nichols walked forlornly home and went to bed.

Next morning he showed Cyril a business letter requesting his presence in San Francisco on Wednesday. His friend, though decidedly adverse to any move, consented to go with him.

Cyril had promised to take Mme. Laska a song that morning, but while dressing to the whistled accompaniment of a Polish air, word came that she had a headache, so would he—and Mr. Nichols, too—come in the evening?

Mme. Laska was tying up a spray of white rose-tree when they arrived. She gave them each a hand in her pretty foreign way.

On a porch table was a half-burned cigarette. Nichols felt sure he detected the faintest aroma of a very fine cigar also.

The professional instinct was aroused. Mme. Laska had repeatedly said she knew no one in California but themselves. The cigar seemed to tell a different story.

Nichols threw his coat in a corner of the porch. In the pocket there was an important letter. If he forgot his coat he would have to come back for it—tonight—on account of leaving the next day.

Cyril pressed a guitar into Marie Laska's hands, seating himself where he could watch the singer's face. The boy was of a poetic nature, and here was everything to speak to it—the flowers, the music, that lovely face.

"Cyril," Nichols said after a time, "as we have a journey before us tomorrow we must say goodby."

"It will be lonely for a few days," he heard Marie Laska say to Cyril. After bidding Cyril good night, Nichols took the car back to Pasadena. Later he walked toward Mme. Laska's house, and then, hearing Cyril's name, stopped.

A man was talking in English, presumably that the servants might not understand.

"Twenty-five thousand dollars will see our project through and help Po-

land to her own again. Young Thornton will have the money and you must get it—somehow. You are beautiful and still young, and can make a boy like that do anything."

Nichols knew he was listening to an unscrupulous fanatic. As for Marie, if a tool, she was a willing one.

Even as a lightning flash reveals in an instant miles of country and throws into relief the most prominent features until they are seen more clearly than ever before, so things revealed themselves to Nichols at this moment. Cyril should not marry Mme. Laska, or give up his money. One word from Nichols could fix all that. But if he spoke that word just now, while the boy was still dreaming dreams, would that nature ever be the same again? A sudden rude awakening has been the making of many a man, but it was borne in upon Nichols that it would not do for Cyril.

Nichols had deliberately listened. He now as deliberately went up the steps of the porch and faced the man and the woman sitting there.

"I have heard everything," he said quietly.

Marie's companion put his hand to his hip pocket.

"Don't do that," Nichols said with a little deprecating gesture. "I am worth more to you just now alive." Then he went to the end of the porch and picked up his coat.

"I came back for this," he said. "It has papers in the pockets which I shall want in San Francisco tomorrow."

The man and woman watched him curiously. He put on his coat; then he turned to the Pole.

"I will give you \$5,000," he said, "for what in return I know you will do. My lawyer, Mr. Henry Stanton, in Los Angeles, will arrange all matters. In consideration of this money you will both leave Pasadena within two days—and the country in the shortest possible time. I will write this down," taking a pen and paper from his pocket, "so there can be no misunderstanding. If there should be I might feel bound to inform the Polish government that I have knowledge of a suspect."

Nichols stepped inside and drew up the document in legal form. The man and woman both signed. Then he turned to Marie.

"Write," he said, "what I tell you."

She obeyed silently.

He then told them that this note should be mailed the following night to Cyril at the hotel in Los Angeles.

He turned to go. "You believe that I will keep my end of the contract," he said, "and I that you will keep yours. Good-by." He raised his hat to Marie Laska.

"A little while," he said musingly on the way back to his hotel, "and the boy will have learned discrimination instead of distrust, and the fine edge which is so a part of him will still be there. Ah, Nellie, Nellie, it was something I could do for you, too, dear!"

On their return to Los Angeles they went first to Cyril's rooms. There was a note in Mme. Laska's handwriting.

Nichols walked toward the window. He was feeling keenly for the boy as he went over in memory each word he had dictated.

"When you return," it ran, "I shall have left California. I have only time to write you a few lines, for word has come which takes me immediately to Poland. My country has need of me, and still more a man of whom you have often made me think, and with whose fate it now seems best I should unite my own. For my father's sake I shall travel under an assumed name. I shall always think of you, and Mr. Nichols with the greatest kindness and gratitude. Farewell. MARIE LASKA."

Cyril read the letter twice and then, after a moment's silence, handed it to Nichols.

Nichols saw there had been no shock that would be serious.

"Jack," he said, "it's all over—my dream. She was a star too high for me to hope to reach, but I want you to see this letter, for you never rightly understood her. She was so fine and noble and would risk even her life for her country and for her love. I had thought at times she cared for me, but it was just that I reminded her of that other man."

Cyril's eyes had the trusting look of Eleanor's—his dead sister—at that moment and John Nichols turned away his head.

Dickens Read in All Countries.

Dickens' public passes beyond the bounds of our empire. There is America—with its 85,000,000 of people and its widespread, its fervent regard for Dickens. There is France, where Daudet could write: "Little Nell and Paul Dombey came to me as a revelation of purity and innocence." There is Germany, where, as Hunsdon said: "Dickens compels tears and laughter amongst Germans as amongst his own people." There is Russia, where Tolstoy relates that he found the "Christmas Carol" in the cabins of the humblest serfs, and where "Oliver Twist" and "Nicholas Nickleby" are read in seven different translations in the realms of the czar.—The Dickensian.