

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Notwithstanding the large number of students being graduated each year from the agricultural colleges all over this continent, there seems to be a continuous shortage of qualified men for the work of agricultural teaching. One high school in the search for a teacher of agriculture, has gone the length of sending out mimeographed letters to the various agricultural colleges in the hopes of securing such a man.

One of the most encouraging developments in the growing of garden vegetables is the increasing recognition of the practical importance of using pure and uniform stocks of seed whose varietal characteristics adapt them to distinct local conditions and market requirements.

The abnormally high prices demanded for oil meal during the past winter, owing to the extremely high price of flaxseed, has led many farmers to inquire into the feasibility of raising a small amount of flax to be fed, instead of depending upon the market for their oil meal.

Care must be exercised with plantings of asparagus to see that the summer's growth is mowed and burned before the seeds ripen and fall, otherwise the parent plants will soon be very much dwarfed with a mass of seedlings growing amongst them.

If coops are not well ventilated the growing chicks will be too warm during the night and will sweat out more strength during the hours in which they ought to rest than they will gain under the most favorable conditions during the day.

When we understand that it requires twenty tons of moisture to produce a bushel of corn we will study to make its evaporation as slow as possible, as crops suffer more from lack of moisture than from any other single thing.

If cows come fresh in the fall, they produce a good flow of milk during the winter months and in the spring when they are turned on grass this acts as a second freshening and thus lengthens the period of milk production.

It takes some extra care to have nest boxes all clean this time of the year, but it pays. If you can't afford to give your hens clean boxes, they can't afford to lay good eggs worth two or three cents apiece.

Those who have young beef steers on hand or can get them at a reasonable price can do no better than give the matter of cattle feeding during the winter very full and complete consideration.

A green bone cutter will pay for itself in one season. Besides being a very healthy food and a great egg-producer, cut bone is a cheap food compared to present high prices for grain.

You can start in the poultry business with a dozen fowls at a cost of about five dollars for house and yards. A piano box will cost a dollar and the wire fencing about four dollars more.

An important feature of profitable mutton feeding lies in the breeding of feeders, and all experienced feeders of sheep recognize the value of the sire in building up the mutton flock.

One breeder says that he can wean his pigs in six or seven weeks if they have good care and keep them growing as fine as any litter and still have the next litter six weeks sooner.

Don't keep your horse in an overheated stable, and then stand him for hours in a freezing atmosphere and wonder how he became paralyzed.

Some men start for the doctor when they have a sick horse. Others feed well, care well and drive well, so they never have to go to the doctor.

To groom the horse well after hard work does not only clean the skin, but it prevents various parasitic diseases of the skin.

It is of supreme importance that the dairy stock should be handled gently. Wild and intractable animals are usually the result of hard handling.

Fresh green bone is of itself almost a complete feed, and may be used as a special material for egg production.

Success in pork production is largely affected by the attention given to the health and comfort of the brood sow.

At the Minnesota experiment station it is believed that greater care must be had in preparing silage for sheep than for cattle. Sheep require a sweet and dry silage. Thickly planted corn cut before it is well matured, does not make ideal silage for sheep. Corn planted about like field corn, harvested and put into the silo when it begins to dent, has proven very healthful to sheep, and they have done well upon it. If clover hay is fed in conjunction with this silage, cheap and satisfactory gains may be made in sheep fattening.

Investigations which have been carried on for several years in Rhode Island show that the disease known as "black head" in turkeys is spreading to all parts of the country and that chickens as well as turkeys may become victims. No certain cure has yet been discovered for this disease which has so ravaged the turkey-producing states of the East.

Much has been said and written about the importance of keeping dairy utensils perfectly clean, but not so much about the churn, and if proper care is not exercised in keeping the churn sweet and clean, the butter will be tainted, no matter how well the milk has been cared for before being ready for the churn.

It is well to remember that the pigs must be kept growing from the start if results are to be satisfactory, and if the sows and pigs are fed an insufficient or unsuitable ration until the work is out of the way so there will be time to devote more attention to them, a valuable opportunity will be lost to the owner.

A distinct flavor of the soil has been noticed in butter by French experts. Normandy cows taken to a new locality yielded butter perceptibly changed, but not wholly like that of the native cows. In winter, with concentrated food, the characteristic soil flavor disappears.

With the sheep on the farm the problem of fresh meat for family use is partly solved. Mutton butchered on the farm can nearly always be used to advantage and then you will know whether you are eating spring lamb or something else.

Sheep and other nervous animals which are being fattened for market should be kept as quiet as possible or their feed will not do them the most good. The more you handle all the live stock in a gentle and confiding way the better they will do.

We need no longer go to foreign countries for new and better blood, for the great number and high quality of American breeding establishments give ample scope for the avoidance of the pernicious influence of inbreeding.

In the past, and even at the present time, most of the domestic onions that supply the markets of the large cities of this country, are grown on what is known as muck soil, in most cases land reclaimed by draining swamps.

It is not always the best plan to dispose of beef cattle as yearlings, but in many instances in the corn belt area it has come to be a common practice, and is followed by a considerable number of cattle raisers.

The orchard is unquestionably the ideal place for hog pasture. The needed shade is provided, the hogs will take care of the waste fruit and if properly managed there need be no damage to the trees.

If the cream is churned while sweet, considerable quantities of butter will be lost in the buttermilk, and the finished product will be void of the proper flavor, regardless of the ration fed to the cows.

After the pigs have been put into the fattening pen in the fall they should be fed all that they will eat with a relish for as a rule the shorter the fattening period the larger the profits.

The average annual cost of maintaining a farm work horse is approximately \$80, and for this cost of maintenance gives a return in work about three hours per day throughout the year.

There should not be a wide discrepancy between the value of the hog house and its occupant. It is as wrong to put a \$100 sow in a \$10 house as it is to put a \$10 sow in a \$100 house.

A pullet that has had all the bone it will eat will mature a month quicker than one that has had none. It may be fresh bone or burnt bone—any kind of bone—just so it is bone.

In purchasing new male birds, secure those that have something back of them in the line of good ancestors. The males are worth considering, for they are half the flock.

The droppings from the lambs are rich in fertilizing value, and it has been found that spring wheat does better after lambs have run in the corn.

Sorghum, kafir corn and Johnson grass are often poisonous, when grown without sufficient water and fed green.

Good, fresh, pure water is a profitable addition to milk, as milk is largely water, but the cow should do the mixing.

The Midnight Carnival



At midnight, when the house is dark,
The dictionary has a lark.
It turns on the library shelf
And slowly opens by itself—
Then all the words in all the world come
Romping from its pages,
Sequipedalian words that oft have puzzled
Solemn sages,
And obsolete expressions that are never
Heard of now—
Their rusty joints give rusty creaks as
stately they bow;
The little airy, fairy words go dancing
here and there,
While wicker words one must not know
just stand about and swear.
But O, it does them lots of good to leave
their strained positions
And have an hour of exercise without
their definitions.

One night I chanced to take a nap,
The dictionary in my lap,
And just at midnight by the clock
I had a most impressive shock,
For silently and stealthily the words, by
twos and single,
Came popping from the bulky book and
all began to mingle.
The funny words were frolicking, the
weepy words were sad,
The gentle words were very good, the
slangy words were bad;
But it was very odd to see them all just
fairly pour
Out of the dictionary and go racing round
the floor.
Such bobtattled words as they appeared—
nouns, verbs and prepositions,
And all the other parts of speech, without
their definitions.

And now when I go by the shelf
I never let on to myself
That I know how when midnight comes
The dictionary haws and haws
And yawns with drowsiness, until A
down to Zyxonma
The words all scamper for each page
without a dash or comma,
And clatter over all the chairs and turn
like from the shelves,
And sometimes, just to have a change
they will misspell themselves!
The dictionary looks at me, and often
times I think
That knowingly it lifts its top as though
about to wink,
But on that night I made a vow and I'll
keep its conditions—
I will not tell upon the words that leave
their definitions.

Laws and Locks.

There was once a man who was afraid burglars might enter his home by way of the front door.
So he had double locks put on it.
Then he had bolts at the top and bottom.
Later he had a complicated night latch and a spring lock attached. Then he affixed a heavy bar across the center of the door. And as a last adornment he equipped the door with a strong steel chain.
Now, all this was all right, but the odd part of it is that he never turned on the night latch, the spring lock was always left open, none of the bolts was ever shot, the bar was always off its place and the chain was never in use.
But it isn't so odd when we reflect that he was a legislator who was always helping to pass laws that were never enforced.

Supporting the Theory.

"Yes, I am a twin," says the mat with the mole on his ear.
"Well, pardon me if my question is personal," says the man with the un-decided eyebrows, "but I have read that twins always experienced the same sensations of pleasure or pain. Is that true?"
"My experience is that it is practically true, in youth," says the twin.
"In youth? Then as you grow older this characteristic leaves?"
"One might say so. I remember that when my brother and I were small boys the pleasure of stealing jam was simultaneous with us, but the pain of mother's slipper was not—it depended on which one she caught first."

Disappointing.

"My husband didn't get home until two o'clock this morning," remarks the lady with the weary eyes.
"Indeed!" exclaims the other lady, delightedly anticipating the narration of a family tiff. "And what did he say in explanation?"
"Nothing. I came home with him. We had been to the theater and to a late supper afterward."

Too Expensive.

"Five dollars a minute?" said the youth who had asked the long distance telephone rate between him and the town where resided the lady fair.
"Yes, sir," asserted the telephone clerk.
"I guess I am not on speaking terms with her," sighed the youth, sadly counting out \$4.50 which was in his purse.

MANY ADVANTAGES WITH CONCRETE FEEDING FLOOR

Prevents Feed From Being Trampled Into Mud and Contributes to Health of Animals by Lessening Chances of Infection.

Since the advent of high-priced corn and hogs, feeding floors of a more permanent nature than those made of wood are receiving a good deal of attention, writes L. E. Troeger of Iowa in Orange Judd Farmer. The advantages of a floor of some kind of material like brick or cement over plank need not be argued. There are a good many feeding floors made of the first named material to be found throughout the corn belt, and without exception they are proving a good investment.
In short, the main points in favor of a feeding floor of permanent nature is that it is a feed-saver, as it prevents feed from being trampled into the mud; it provides a solid foundation for troughs, prevents mudholes around troughs, and undoubtedly contributes to the health of the pigs by lessening the chances of infection by

for the brick. If considerable dirt has to be removed to secure a solid surface it may be necessary to fill in with ashes before the sand is spread. In this case the ashes should be rolled if possible, at least, made as solid as can be with the means at hand. In the meantime the retaining wall should be put in. This should be made of concrete six inches wide and ten or twelve inches high, so that the base will rest on firm soil. The corners may be reinforced with old iron rods or wire if such material is at hand.
The bricks should now be laid, breaking joints, and when all down a half inch of fine sand should be spread over the surface of the same to fill the crevices. If a firm foundation is provided for the brick there will be no danger of the brick heaving or working out. The troughs



infestinal parasites. It is a practice with some men to clean off the floor with a shovel every day when the floor is used for growing pigs, which removes thousands of worm eggs when the herd is wormy, and there are few that are not to a certain extent.
The accompanying illustration shows the main points in a feeding floor that combines all the best features with cheapness. This is constructed as follows: Select a well-drained spot in the hog lot, remove all rubbish and litter till a solid earth surface is secured. Level the surface, and if there are any soft spots fill with clay if obtainable, and tramp firm. On this surface spread an inch of sand and smooth the same should not be set in the floor, as slop will sour under them in warm weather and rats may burrow beneath.
If it is desired to feed pigs away from the sows the floor can be fenced in and doors made in the fence that will keep all but the pigs out. A floor that is 16 feet wide and 30 feet long will furnish space for about 100 pigs or a car load of fattening hogs, and will cost for materials only around \$35 to \$40. Feeding can be made very convenient by building a combination corn crib and granary adjoining the floor. In the granary part a variety of feeds can be kept, also a feed cooker and other adjuncts. This is a very good arrangement for a small farm.

FARMERS CURE THEIR MEATS

This May Be Done Rather Easily and Flavor of Product Much Finer—Delicious at Certain Times.

(By S. C. MILLER.)
In these days of salt-peter, benzoate of soda, formate and other dope used by the big manufacturers in the curing of nearly everything we eat, I wonder why more of our farmers do not preserve their own foods, particularly meats. It seems to me there is more danger in the use of preservatives in the use of meats than anything else, and pickling of meats on the farm is such a simple matter that every man who kills his own pigs should in addition to hams and bacon put down a barrel of meat pickled. Properly cared for, it is delicious at certain seasons of the year. On the old farm in Virginia the following method was always used. No better meats were ever put on the farmer's table:
For each 100 pounds of meat take two pounds of sugar and four pounds of salt. Mix well and when the meat is first cut rub it well with pure salt on the flesh side. Let it lie a day or two and then drain out any blood that may be left. Divide the sugar and salt mixture in three equal parts. Use one part on the meat and pack in

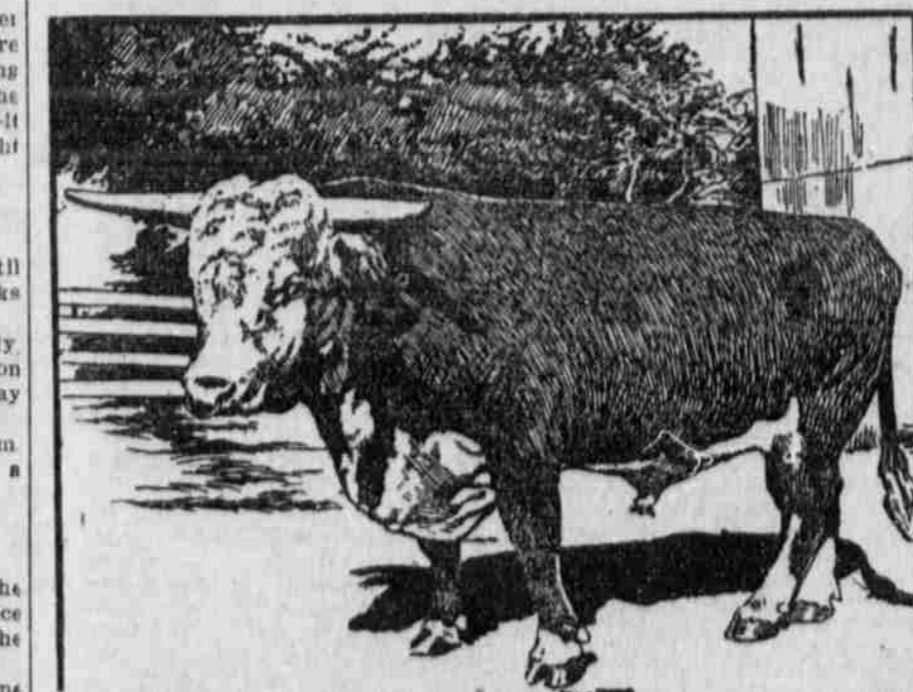
a barrel. It should then be allowed to lie three or four days when it should be rubbed with another portion of the mixture and three or four days later repeat the operation with the remainder. It should then be packed tightly in a barrel. After lying three or four days it is ready to hang up. It must be kept in a cellar or some place where it will not freeze while the curing process is going on. When applying the salt and sugar mixture it is more convenient if one has two barrels to use at the same time.

A great many people do not seem to understand that smoking meat does not cure it except as the warmth from the fire causes the moisture to evaporate. There is no particular virtue in the smoke itself and meat could be as well cured by any kind of slow gentle heat even if no smoke came from it. However, the heat from clean, fresh hickory chips can never be improved upon and if people believe that the quality of the meat is improved by the sweet odor from this form certainly no harm will be done. The main thing is to keep the heat regular and at a low point in order that the moisture may be drawn out from the meat evenly.

Plant of Wheat.

A single plant of wheat grown on the ranch of J. C. Yeager, near the Delta, Ore., contained over 100 heads all of which were fairly well filled. The plant had 135 branches.

NOTED WHITE-FACED HEREFORD



Columbus Busybody, a white-faced Hereford, was imported from England by Mr. Rockefeller. Its mother, Busybody, was purchased from Queen Vic-

POULTRY

PRACTICAL HOUSE FOR HENS

Should Be Warm, Well Lighted and Free From All Draught—Ventilation is Necessary.

(By H. M. COTTRELL, Colorado Agricultural College.)

A house for poultry should be warm, well lighted, dry and well ventilated without draughts. Good dimensions are four and one-half feet high at the back, seven feet high in front, and fourteen to sixteen feet wide, with a shed roof. It is not best to keep over fifty hens in a house, and thirty to forty hens will give better returns.

The length of the house will vary with the number of hens kept in it. If two roosts are used, allow five inches in length of house for each hen. If three roosts are used, allow three and one-half inches in length of house per hen. Under this rule a house for forty hens should be about 16 feet in length if two roosts are used, and 12 feet when there are three roosts.

All roosts should be on the same level and should not be over thirty inches from the floor. The roosts should be about two inches wide and flat on top with rounded edges. Eight inches below the roosts should be a tight dropping board to catch the droppings and they should be raked off each day into a basket and taken away from the house. The dropping board can be made cheaply from dry goods boxes.

The important thing is to secure thorough ventilation in the poultry house without draughts.

A draught on a hen is sure to cut down the egg yield, and usually brings disease. To prevent draught, have the house face the south. Make the north side, roof, and east and west ends without openings or cracks of any



Practical Hen House.

kinds. Use heavy muslin in place of glass for windows. The air will circulate through the cloth without any draught and light will pass through as well. Arrange the nests so that when the hens are on them, they will be in the dark. Keep the eggs in a cool, dry, dark place.

A description of a house to accommodate forty hens follows:

Fourteen feet wide, 16 feet long, 4 1/2 feet high at the back and 7 feet high in front. No window openings, except in front. Window frames covered with cloth and hinged at top so that they may be pushed out at the bottom, on warm days. A small slide door at the bottom and center of the large door permits the hens to pass in and out.

Roosts and dropping board with nests underneath. The hens enter the nests at the back and when on the nests are in darkness. The top over the nests is sloping so that the hens cannot roost on it and is hinged so that the eggs may be easily reached.

FEEDING HOPPER IS HANDY

One Made Out of Discarded Sugar or Dried Apple Barrel—Simple and Easily Constructed.

On more than one occasion in the past we have given sketches and plans for cheap and serviceable feed hoppers, says Los Angeles Times. Usually these have been from designs on the "square" order, the basic material being a cracker or soap box. To give variety, we herewith give an illustration of one made out of a discarded sugar or dried apple barrel, by



A Handy Feeding Hopper.

simply sawing out every other stave, and using the head for the lid or cover. It is so simple that every one having a few hens can come into possession of one for the small sum of 25 cents and an hour's labor.

Change of Temperature Bad.

Turning the hens out of a warm house of a bitter cold day checks egg production about as quick as any blunder a poultry keeper can make. Don't be such a stickler for outdoor exercise but give your fowls something to scratch at indoors where they will be subjected to no sudden changes of temperature and you will gather more eggs.