

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



If you allow your young cattle to barely eke out an existence this winter, they will lose in flesh and bodily vigor to such an extent that it will take two months of good pasture to bring them back to their present condition. Such management swells the farm loss account and gradually decreases the net profits that you may expect next year.

The farmer who grows clover for hay and seed and sells both may think he has done a good thing for the soil, but aside from the roscis which have been exhausted growing the crop he has done the soil more injury than with any other crop he can raise.

A good heifer with her first calf at a little past two years of age, if she is from a breed of fairly high producing cows, is worth from \$50 to \$100. A steer that will bring that much money is usually fed two to three times as much as the average heifer.

Pumpkins are one of the best winter green feeds for almost all kinds of stock, especially relished by dairy cows, and they are excellent to mix with dairy feed for the production of milk, the cows relishing them greatly.

It is not to be supposed that every heifer will make a first-class cow, but the manner in which she is fed and cared for from birth will have something to do with deciding the question.

The feeding of dairy cows for best results is more complicated, and involves more thought than most persons realize; merely throwing a cow an abundance of food is not all.

It is impossible to tell the profitable cows from the unprofitable animals unless you test your milk. The quantity of milk is not enough. The butter fat must be considered.

It is very important that when the calves are first placed in the feed lot they should be given the most palatable feed that can be obtained until they have learned to eat.

There is no known feed that is better for poultry than good clean grain, accompanied by plenty of clean, fresh water and an abundance of charcoal.

Now is the time to study up on the new "serum" method for preventing hog cholera, then you will be ready to act at once when you have to.

The only way to be sure a cow has good milking qualities which can be perpetuated in her offspring is to be sure she has good blood in her.

In improving a flock of mutton sheep, the ram is practically the whole thing until such a time as the ewes are equally well bred.

Don't pack the dairy cow away for winter into a dark corner of the stable and expect to take out a strong, healthy cow in the spring.

Generally farmers who feed stock upon their farms are successful farmers, but not all successful farmers need be stock feeders.

Producing what the consumer wants and putting it on the market in an attractive form are two of the secrets of successful dairying.

It isn't much use to keep cows that milk hard. You can find just as good ones that milk by man-power and not four horse-power.

Cattle raising presents a promising field of endeavor to those who aim alike at personal satisfaction and financial profit.

All damaged limbs should be cut out, because they are likely to injure others while swaying in the winds.

It requires skill and a liberal system of feeding to grow and develop a high-grade draft horse for market.

The sheep responds profitably to conditions of peacefulness. They need sensible treatment as to surroundings.

In the large city markets the best prices for fatted fowls are realized from about February to July.

Lousy hogs are a direct source of loss, which, with worms, prevent dividends in the hog business.

Attention to every minute detail in dairying must be observed if the best results are reached.

All weeds and dead branches should be cleaned out of the small fruit gardens and burned.

Mares do not usually give trouble by abortion if given good food and reasonable care. Of course, when pregnant, a mare should not be over-driven, nor be compelled to smell blood or offal, and should not back or hold back heavy loads. Her stall should not have much incline. Nourishing food, pure water and fresh air are essentials. If one suspect ergot or smut in hay or feed it should be discarded.

It is estimated that barn-yard manures have a value of about two-thirds that of commercial fertilizers, therefore the careful saving of farm manures and their judicious application to the soil are vital factors in farming operations, and as essential to continued success as plowing the land or planting the crop.

The price of dairy products in the winter is so much higher than in summer that only a small extra effort as to care and judicious feeding may result in a considerable increase in the profits from the entire herd at this season.

The intelligent flock-masters are fast coming to recognize the fact that the man who makes the most of his opportunities in handling a farm flock must become a breeder and feeder of high-class mutton, more especially sheep.

The farmer who is breeding a flock of improved mutton sheep and feeding them in an intelligent and painstaking manner, may plan his feeding operations so that he may have a good nearby city market every week in the year.

Farm-yard manures benefit the soil by acting as a mulch and make humus, but their benefit to the growing crops depends entirely upon the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash they contain.

It is true that the generality of farm mares are low in quality, but that is no valid excuse for farmers to persist in breeding horses that nobody wants, not even themselves.

Sheep raising numbers among its requirements quietness and contentment in a degree perhaps not so essential to success in the handling of other breeds of live stock.

In the production of strawberries the best specimens are obtained only by careful culture. The plants should be of a large fruited and firm fruited variety of the best flavor.

Begin to take the chill off the water you give the horses when the weather gets cold. You can heat it cheaper on the stove than you can in the stomach of the horse.

A thick coat of paint daubed over the severed limbs when pruning in the orchard or wood lot prevents cracking of the wood and gives the trees a better appearance.

The ordinary diversified farm with its abundant use of horsepower furnishes ideal conditions for growing, developing and training draft horses.

It will pay anyone that keeps from 25 to 100 hens to build a shed close to the henhouse in which to deposit the droppings during the winter.

It is best to separate pullets from the rest of the flock, let them have free range and feed largely of whole or cracked corn, wheat or oats.

It is impossible to create capacity. You may breed for it but you can't create it and it's a very important function in the dairy cow.

There is the most money in the long run in dairying by selling the cream or butter only and keeping the other products on the farm.

The Duroc Jersey sows are very docile; they are easily handled during the breeding and farrowing season and are very prolific breeders.

Under no circumstances should anything be added to milk to prevent its souring. Such doings violate the law of both God and man.

The problem of keeping the boys and girls on the farmstead is solving itself, for farm life is becoming more and more attractive.

While it is some trouble to strain the cream before churning, but when that is done there will be no white specks in butter.

The feeder is the only man that can tell how much food the colts require for their best growth and development.

Fresh air is all right for the hens, but not when it is sifted through knot-holes and cracks between the boards.

Ram lambs are a drug on the market, yet thousands of farmers continue to flood the markets with them.

Sheep that are kept as scavengers soon assume the appearance that their purpose would signify.

Good, bright oat straw is good roughage for idle horses, but some grain should be fed with it.

Hold on to some of the clover for spring feeding. It is great when the sheep get tired of timothy.

Hens are much better breeders than pullets, because a greater per cent. of the eggs are fertile.

## MODERATE-PRICED PIGGERY ACCOMMODATING BROOD SOWS

Excellent Pens for Shelter of Swine Both in Summer and Winter—Sanitary and Ventilating Conditions Are Superior.

In response to a query for plans for a moderate-priced house to accommodate 25 brooding sows and the usual complement of pigs, the Country Gentleman publishes the following:

For the brood sows it is best to have separate cots like those described by Professor Shaw of the Michigan



Fig. 1—Movable Cot for Brood Sow.

Station, from whose bulletin on the subject the following engravings are made. Sows and pigs should be kept away from the main or winter pen as much as possible. The sow should have plenty of exercise, plenty of green and succulent food, and access to the ground. These cots offer ideal summer conditions both to sow and litter.

Fig. 1 is a good cot for a sow that is about to farrow, since she cannot lie down close to the sides and thus overlie the young pigs. A cot like that shown in Fig. 2, however, gives better ventilation and is preferable in very hot weather. This is built 6x8, with vertical sides 3 feet high, with board roof, half pitch. The center boards on the sides are hung on hinges to open in hot weather. Note also the simple way of ventilating at

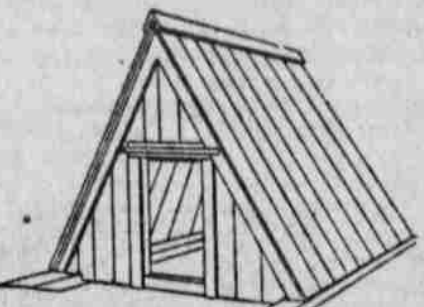


Fig. 2—A Six-by-Eight Cot.

the highest point of the roof. Cover the openings in the sides with woven wire. Such a cot contains 160 feet of stock lumber, 60 feet of matched stuff, 20 feet 4 by 6, 12 feet 4 by 4, 44 feet 2 by 4, and ought to be made by a carpenter in a couple of days. A floor can be made for it if desired for winter quarters, using two-inch stuff cut in lengths to rest on the skids, which are wider than the sills. Do not fasten the sills to the skids, as the latter are the first to rot.

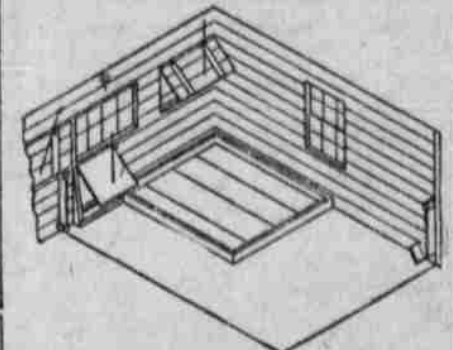
Where the pigs do not come late in the fall or too early in the spring, it is better to use such a cot as the permanent home of the sow, keeping her there during the winter and compelling plenty of exercise by putting her food at a considerable distance from the cot, and not using too much bedding, but enough to keep her warm and comfortable.

Such cots are used also for fattening pigs. A movable hog cot is better in most cases than a permanent pen, as it keeps the pigs away from any central place, which is sure to become permanently contaminated, muddy in wet weather, dusty in dry, and dirty all the time.

If a permanent hog-house is to be built, it should be located on a knoll

rather than in a moist hollow. Next, sufficient yardage, which you say you have, should be available. Large lots, where succulent food can be grown, are to be preferred to small exercise pens, which cannot be kept healthful in a warm climate. The pig should naturally be fattened in the late fall, and none carried over but the breeding stock. Experiments beyond number have shown that it is not profitable to feed either old or heavy hogs. The rule ought to be to have eight-month-old pigs weigh at least 200 pounds and fit for slaughter. Such pigs ought never to see the inside of a costly permanent pen, but ought to go to the slaughter house directly from the lots and the cots.

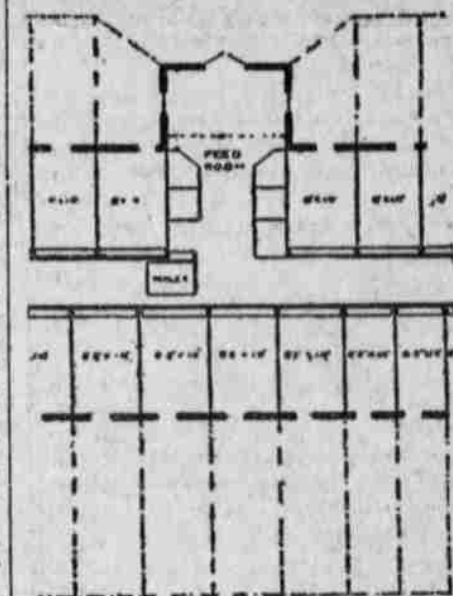
Use cement floors with overlaps for the pigs to lie on. The drawing shows this clearly; the overlap being hinged to the side of the pen, so that it may be raised up and the floor beneath properly cleaned. Note also that it is in the corner of the pen and away from the feeding trough. It is bedded with fresh bedding once a week. The



The Arrangement of the Pen.

overlay here described is made from inch lumber, with inch cleats below to hold the boards together. A 2 by 4 surrounds the affair to hold the bedding in place, nailed to the boards and reinforced by a triangular piece of scantling nailed to the 2 by 4 and to the floor.

It is not necessary to go into details in the description of the pens. The cut shows how the 10 by 14 pen is arranged, with swing door at one corner, lifted by a rope leading to the front of the pen; abundant windows and ventilation; the widening out of the door frame to prevent the pigs from getting their noses under the door when closed; the feeding trough, with swinging door over it, to keep back the hogs when feeding, and par-

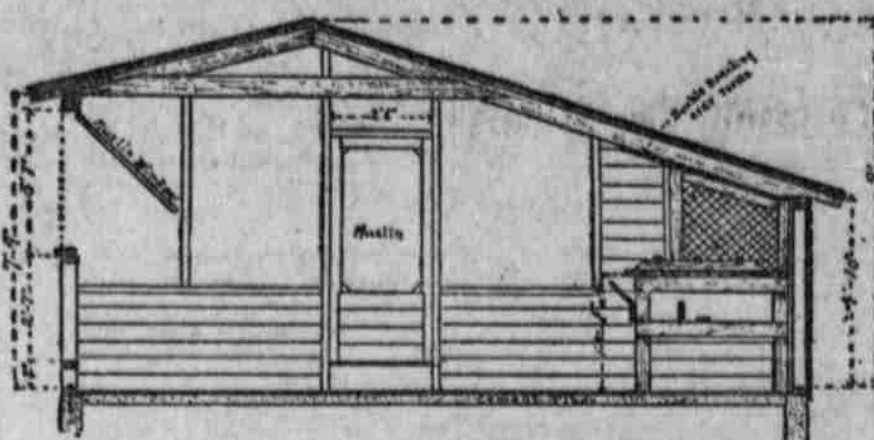


Plan of Piggery.

tion between the pens high enough to keep the hogs from quarreling over them, but not high enough to prevent free movement of the air lengthwise of the stable.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INEXPENSIVE CHICKEN HOUSE

Building Planned for Farmer or Villager of Moderate Means Who Wishes to Keep One or Two Flocks of Fair Size.



Cross Section of House, Showing Partition, Door, Windows, Etc.

This house is planned for the farmer or villager of moderate means, who wishes to keep one or two fair-sized flocks of fowls. Should a house with a large capacity be desired, the building could be made longer.

The foundation wall is of concrete, 18 inches high. It extends ten inches below the surface of the ground, where it is eight inches thick and eight inches above the ground, where it is six inches thick. In mixing the concrete, one part of cement was used to six parts of sand.

The floor is 18x40 feet, and contains 720 square feet of space, divided into two equal pens. If Leghorns are to be housed, the structure will shelter 180 birds, 90 in a pen, with an allowance of four square feet to each. Of Plymouth rocks 164 may be housed, allowing four and one-half square feet to each.

The studding is seven feet in front and one-half feet in the rear. The roof is of the combination type, rising to a height of nine feet at the peak. Its rafters are of two by six lumber, 15 feet long on the rear and seven feet long on the front slope. Each is tied by a one by four board running from the top of the plate in front to the 14-foot rafter running from peak to rear and high enough not to accommodate the attendants. With the rafters thus tied, supports are not needed in the center. Upon the rafters are laid the roof-boards and roofing, in detail the same as in the house of hollow tile described above.

All sides of the building are of No. 1 six-inch drop siding. In each end there is a door, swinging outward, and placed as near the center as possible, thus making it handy to either window, nests or roosts. For the doors, No. 1 D. & M. lumber is used.

The partition between the two pens is of matched lumber for the first three feet from the floor, and of muslin thence to the ceiling. For five feet from the north wall around the

broody coop it is tightly boarded, to protect the fowls against any possible draught while roosting.

The partition door is hung in the middle, on double-acting hinges and swings either way.

The dropping-boards, roosts and broody coops are located on the north side. They are surrounded by double walls to guard against draughts.

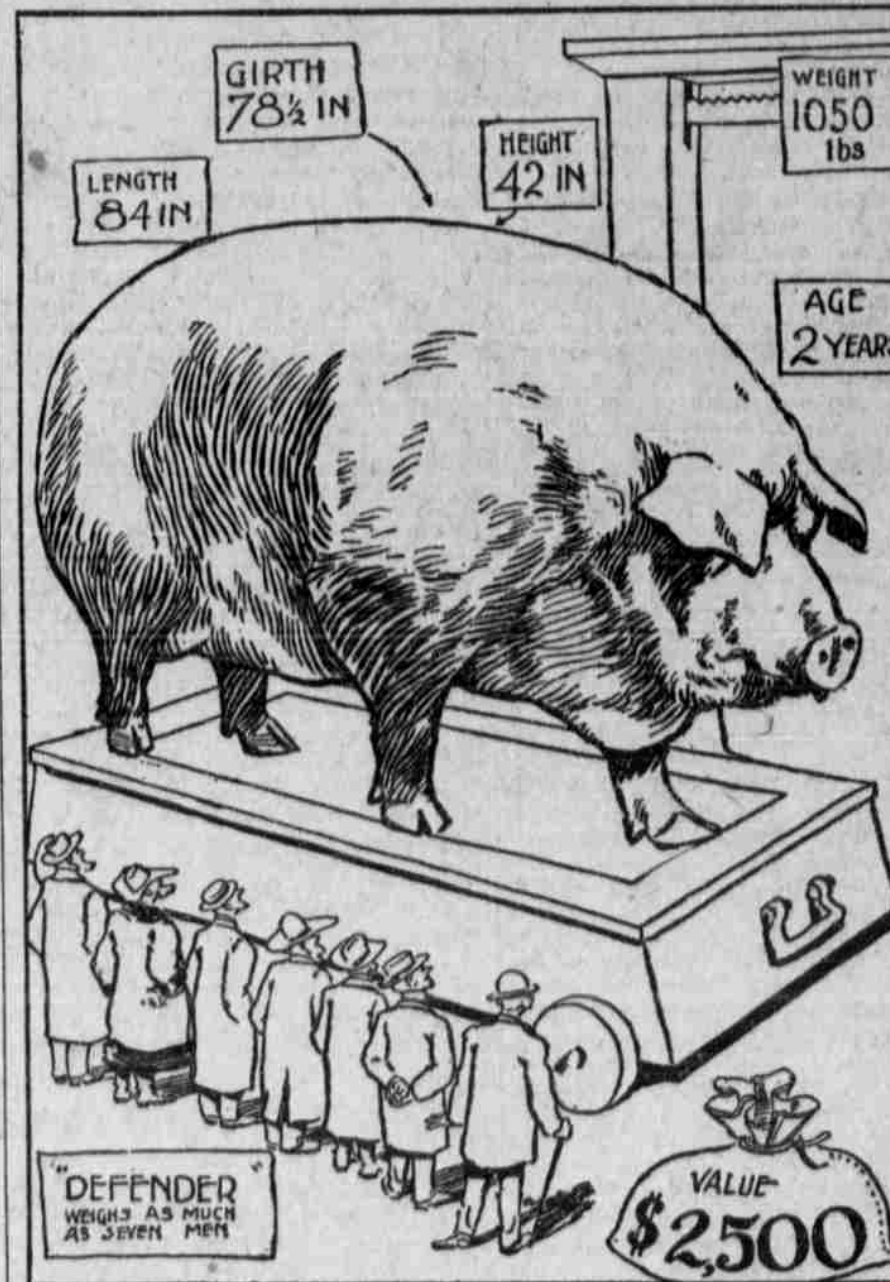
The nests are built in sections of six. The bottoms are of one-inch diamond mesh poultry fencing, and are self-cleaning. The fowls enter from the rear and the eggs are taken out from the front.

## WELL-BRED DAIRY COWS

Remarkable Herd Owned by Farmer Near Marblehead, Mass.—Beautiful, Clean, Sleek and Great Milkers.

Mr. Charles R. Adams, who has successfully conducted a farm in Marblehead, Massachusetts, for several years past, has a remarkable herd of cows, observes the Messenger of that town. They are beautiful cattle, clean and sleek, all of them, and great "milkers," and their quiet and gentle ways show in a remarkable degree what kindness is capable of accomplishing. To Mr. and Mrs. Adams each cow is an individual and has individual traits and an individual name. No stick or stone or loud word has ever vexed their tranquillity and therefore they are almost without fear. Let Mr. Adams or his wife, standing at a considerable distance, speak in moderate tones the names of "Blue Bell," "Speckle," "Daisy," "Blossom," or any other of the herd, and immediately the owner of the name will stop feeding and give quick attention, often at once approaching at the first call.

## MOST REMARKABLE PRIZE HOG



The most valuable and most remarkable hog in the country was one of the chief attractions of the recent International Live Stock show at the stock yards, Chicago.

It is worth \$2,500 and weighs 1,000 pounds. It is forty-two inches high and eighty-four inches in length, the girth measurement being seventy-eight and one-half inches and still growing.

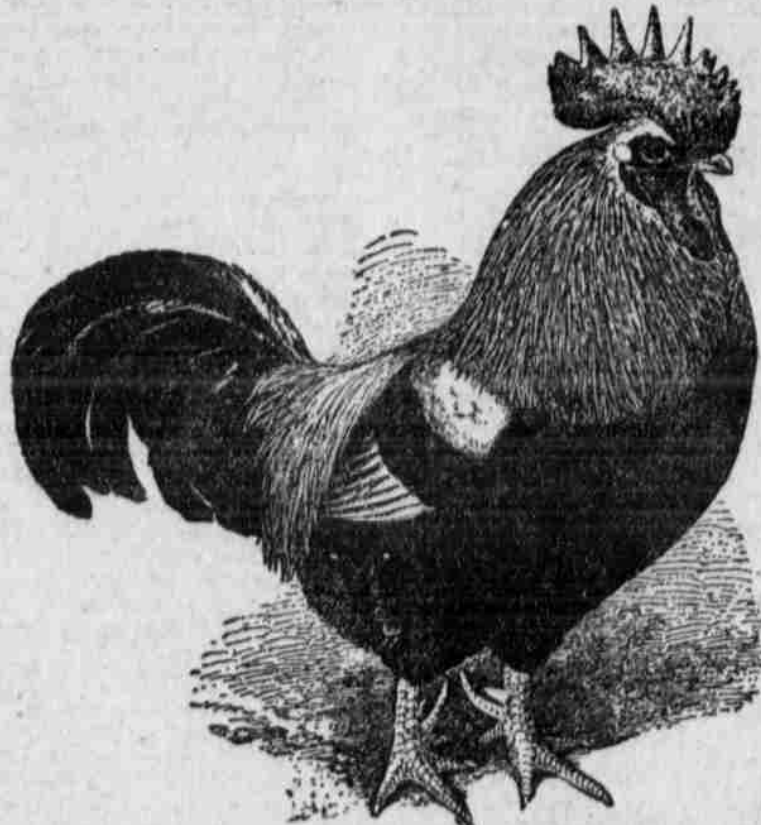
The animal is only 2 years old and has won highest honors in many prize rings, being the grand champion at the International Live Stock show last

year and senior champion as well standing first in its class at the Iowa state fair and also at the Illinois state fair and is slated for the grand championship and other honors at this year's international.

The porker was the center of attraction in the swine exhibit. It is a Duroc-Jersey and is light brown in color.

The owner, H. E. Browning of Hersman, Ill., has named the hog "Defender," because he believes that it can defend against all comers all the championship titles which have been bestowed upon it.

## ENGLISH BREED OF DORKING



Of the domesticated breeds of fowl in England the Dorking is among the oldest, ranking in this respect with the Games. There are those among poultry writers, who give it even greater historical significance, claiming to trace its ancestry back to the time of the Roman invasion of Britany. It takes its name from an English town in Surrey, where undoubtedly

it first attained economic importance. From this source it has spread pretty much over England, and occupies the same position to the poultry industry of that country that the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes do to America. Pre-eminently it belongs to the all-purpose breeds, with a slightly preponderating advantage for table uses.