

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Keep the eggs dry.

Gather and burn the rubbish.

Why don't farmers raise more ducks?

A nervous cow is not necessarily an undesirable cow.

There is no better grain feed for young calves than whole oats.

The market poultryman was never in such a strong position as he is today.

It is said that the cow, of all animals, should have good and pure food.

It is a mistake to let another winter begin without installing a litter carrier.

Severe drouth has thoroughly tested the profitability of spraying potatoes.

The most money is made upon the farms where the best methods are followed.

A small box or jar of lime should be kept in the cellar to keep the air pure and dry.

A balanced ration is a good thing, but a balanced judgment is needed just as much.

One should so plan that all the hay and straw will be used on the farm, and keep stock enough to consume it all.

Eggs may be preserved fairly well for a few months by packing dry in a mixture of equal parts salt and sawdust.

Hog raising, like everything else, in the stock line, has its many little details that must be met as they come up.

All shrubs that have done blooming should be pruned at once. This induces blooming buds and branches for next year's crop.

Give the apple orchard plenty of fertilizer, particularly potash and phosphoric acid. A starved orchard is not a money maker.

Constipation in hogs, the forerunner of other troubles and diseases, is generally caused by too excessive use of one kind of feed.

Anything that prevents the fat globules from coming in contact with each other delays the churning and decreases the yield.

The honey bee annually produces a crop of honey valued at around \$20,000,000, and there are vast opportunities for increasing this output.

Until ready to ripen, the fresh cream from each skimming should be immediately cooled down to 50 degrees or less, and held in cold storage.

If you expect to ship any cocks this winter to poultry shows or to customers, take the precaution of applying glycerine liberally to the combs and wattles.

Well dressed fowls are more attractive to the hungry than well dressed people. If you don't believe it leave it to the hired man or the growing boy.

To overcome the habit of cows holding up their milk it is necessary to refrain from exciting the natural obstinacy of the animal by any disturbing influence.

Nut-bearing trees, owing to their peculiar system of roots, are much more difficult to transplant than are fruit-bearing trees, or even those known as seed-bearing.

The experienced cattle feeder will say that there is no ironclad rule for feeding. He watches his animals and feeds them according to what they seem to be able to stand.

The trouble with the dairy business today, beyond a question of doubt, is that it is being carried on by farmers, not dairymen, who know little or nothing about the profit or loss of the animals they are keeping.

Now is the time to secure leaves or straw, for the fowls to scratch in, when the weather is so bad they are confined to the house, for it is as natural for a chick to scratch as to breathe, and in order to be kept in good health and spirits they must be kept busy.

Treat the cow kindly.

Keep the vigorous chickens.

The tide is setting toward the farm again.

Burnt lime is harmful unless it is very carefully used.

Lime is not a fertilizer, and should be used only to correct acidity in a soil.

Hogs often fail to get a sufficient amount of water during the winter time.

The cost of high living does not worry the farmer; he makes his own living.

With present real estate prices the expression "dirt cheap" loses much of its force.

The value of the manure from the hay and straw used on the farm is no small item.

The right way to water cows in winter is to keep the water before them in the stable.

Hogs may be badly diseased with tuberculosis and not show it in the least before slaughter.

A well-defined system of management for the growing of cattle needs to be put into operation.

Instead of experimenting with a large planting of a new variety of tree fruit, top-graft a few trees.

The farmer who is too far from town to deliver milk at a profit will find buttermaking his salvation.

It pays to maintain a heavy flow of milk, even if expensive feeds must be given the cows at certain seasons.

In apple culture the first great essential in the successful growing of the apple is the improvement of the soil.

If it is winter eggs you want better, let the oldest hens go. They sometimes lay a few eggs but very few as a rule.

When buying bran for the cows get enough to divide with the hens. As a hen food bran is just as valuable as a cow food.

It does not pay to plant crops in the peach orchard. Some people do it, but it is generally believed to be a bad practise.

A balky horse is made so by a cranky or cruel driver, and can rarely be cared. So be very careful in breaking the colts.

Convenient coops for marketing the chickens will pay not only in the satisfaction that they afford but in the greater convenience.

Bordeaux mixture is likely to cause russeting of apples on young trees, as it produces excessive development of cork cells in the skin.

It has been suggested that the packer who puts rotten eggs on the market should be sentenced to serve time as a target for the eggs.

Have the floor of the hen house warm and dry. The time is near when the hens to do well must have warmth and dryness under foot.

It is quite true that hogs have not such dainty appetites as sheep, yet they will respond surprisingly to any increased attention in this respect.

Yorkshire breeders will declare that to the best breed because it has given them the best results; so with the Berkshire men and also the Tanworth advocates.

Sugar beets make very good feed for cattle, but some grain and clover and alfalfa should go along with them, as they contain too much water to be fed alone.

On the average farm the sheep are the most neglected animals, and it is really astonishing to note the waste of opportunities in conditioning and marketing lambs.

When the nests are put in order for the winter, sprinkle ashes into the material and put a couple of moth balls in as well. These tend to discourage mites and lice.

Carefully scrape away the dirt around the base of one or two of your trees, and you will be able to discover whether the roots are growing too closely to the surface or not.

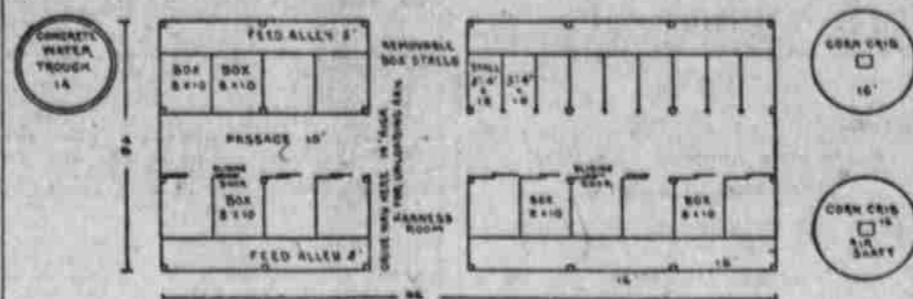
Many fall with sheep because they fail to keep the breeds that are best adapted to their farms and do not raise the kind the market demands and is ready to pay the highest price for.

One of the great satisfactions of keeping a daily record of the performance of your cows is that of watching the improved returns from the herd and in showing what improved methods will do.

It is a very good winter's training for the young farmer to spend a few months in the village blacksmith shop or as helper to some capable carpenter. There is just as truly an education of the hands as of the head, but some people seem to forget this fact.

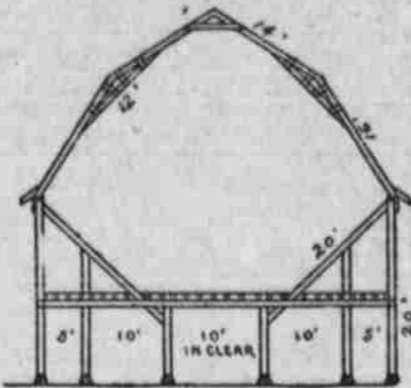
EXCELLENT BARN FOR WORKING FARM ANIMALS

Practical Plans and Illustrations of Stable for Horses and Mules—Built Without Undue Expense and Is Comfortable.



Floor Plan of Barn for Horses.

Recently I had occasion to design for a large farm a stable to hold work horses and mules. The owner wished true economy, yet to give the animals all the comfort possible without undue expense, and to have the manure saved well, and to have the stable so arranged that feeding, caring for the horses and removing the manure



Elevation of Bent 40-Foot Barn.

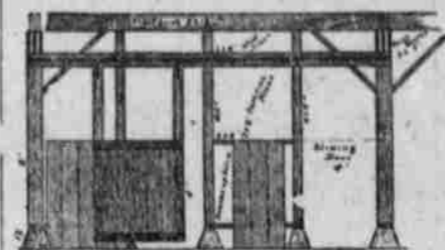
would be as inexpensive as possible, writes Joseph E. Wing, in *Breeders' Gazette*. After considerable thought and getting some first-rate ideas from his manager and himself, the following plan has been evolved. Frankly, I think it a better stable than any that I have yet seen published anywhere.

The general plan is simple. A driveway ten feet wide gives access to the stalls and permits the spreader to take out the manure. The stalls are mostly box-stalls, 8x10 feet (really the two-inch thickness of the partitions off of this), and in each stall one horse or mule is kept. The single stalls go three to each 16-foot space. The posts are 16 feet between centers; floor joist 16 feet long; lower rafters, 16 feet; upper rafters, 15 feet. The feed alleys are five feet wide. There may be bins above for oats; hay chutes throw hay directly into the feed alley, and several chutes ought to be provided. All of the frame is of the familiar joist frame pattern with self-supporting roof. Hay comes in at the end, although one could easily arrange to take it in at the middle, making a harness room there and temporary box-stalls.

On the whole, I like that idea best, as the barn is too long to run hay in all from one end and doors in gables are troublesome. The details of frame are not changed from what one can find carefully described in "Farm Buildings," a book that every intending builder should own. If a transverse driveway is put in it ought to have at least 14 feet headroom. The box-stalls are provided with

heavy, durable sliding doors, made of plank two inches thick. I should put them together with small bolts. If good tracks are used they will move at a touch and last forever. Some might prefer to board up the box-stalls higher than five feet. I see no need for that, but six feet will do no harm. It will be objected by some that box-stalls 8x10 feet are too small. I cannot agree with this. If one urges big box-stalls it is as though he urged the use of no box-stalls at all. No one can afford very large box-stalls for work horses. In stalls 8x10 feet the horse has freedom to turn around easily and all the comfort it needs. If perchance some of the stalls are desired on occasion to be used for brood mares the partitions may some of them or all of them be made removable, throwing two stalls together, making one stall 10x16 feet.

The best way to manage harness is to have a big hook made of three-quarter-inch round steel attached to a rope and pulley right beside the stall door so that the harness may be hung on the hook and swung up to the ceiling or out of the way. The harness room is meant for extra harness, for repair work and so on. With these box-stalls one will use bedding liber-



Frame Work of Box-Stall Front.

ally and clean them out only once a month or even at longer intervals. With a trifle of care the stall will always be level, the manure trodden so hard as to be air tight and with no fermentation. There will be no odor in the stable and the horses will be kept cleaner and more comfortable than where stalls are cleaned every day.

As I do not like corners in stables I design to place a pair of round cribs, such as are described in "Farm Buildings," at one end of the building, and these admirable little rat-proof cribs will prove far cheaper than putting the corn in the stable and better in every way. As to the problem of straw, it is seen that there is large provision made for hay storage. Room may be left at each end for straw, which may be blown in place by the thrasher, or shredded corn stover may be blown up there.

quality of timber the very best.

The seeds of either may be had of the nurserymen. They can be sown in drills in the garden and cultivated two seasons by which time they are from four to six feet tall and ready to transplant to the permanent rows.

This planting of trees should be given earnest consideration by all who own land, as there is no more profitable investment to be made than the planting of trees either for timber or fruit.

MUCH SUCCESS WITH POTATOES

Prince Edward Island Produces Annual Yield of 6,000,000 Bushels—Newly Cleared Lands Prove Best.

Prince Edward Island is one of the most successful producers of the potato. Its total area under cultivation is less than 1,800 square miles; the annual yield of the potato crop averages 6,000,000 bushels.

The most favorable results have been obtained in fields that have not been manured for many years. The opinion prevails that manure pollutes the potato and disposes it to rot before and after digging. Newly-cleared woodlands yield large crops for many successive years without the addition of any fertilizing. To aid exhausted soil commercial fertilizer is used. It has been found that lime, clinkers, and coal ashes thrown on a field will set up scab. It would thus appear that this disease may be due to mechanical irritation in the soil. To prevent rot, great attention is given to the time of digging. The best time has been found to be when the tops begin to grow a dark green, not when they have turned black. When the latter happens, the potato has already begun to rot. By observing these methods, a white, smooth, rounded root of medium size is secured. The best potatoes are shipped in boxes, carefully selected, and marketed as No. 1 and No. 2.

Beautiful Miss Howard

By ANTOINETTE PATTERSON

Langdon Drew was of a frivolous nature and had already figured in two broken engagements. And now a girl had come into his life determined to teach him a lesson. Katherine Howard and the ex-fiancee had been friends at boarding school. This was unknown to Mr. Drew who had moved from Pittsburg, the home of one of his former loves—the other was a Bostonian—to New York, where he had just met the beautiful Miss Howard.

Katherine Howard was a beauty. In her hair was the glint of the sun itself, and in her face the flush of the wild rose. Her eyes were big and clear and blue.

There were six men supposed to be in love with Katherine; soon, Mr. Drew made the seventh. Also, he felt he was the most favored.

Among the first six was a young clergyman, Rev. Mr. Henry Strong of Boston, who had met Miss Howard the previous summer while visiting friends on the Massachusetts coast. He saw as much of her as his meagre vacation would allow, and in the fall came to New York and asked her to marry him.

Katherine told him she liked him very much, but she wished to see something of the world first; that probably it would prove so charming she would prefer to live in its midst the rest of her life. To her surprise, Mr. Strong agreed at once. It was a natural wish, and it was far from his desire that any woman should be his wife unless she realized the many things she would have to give up; there would be so much else for her to do. He was indeed an unusual lover, for he had added that he would be so busy all winter it would be impossible to leave Boston, but he would find time to see her just before Lent, when perhaps she could tell him whether she felt she could become the wife of a rather hard-working clergyman—not a poor one, as he had an independent income of his own. And then he had quietly said good-by.

Katherine had thought often of that afternoon. Strong was the one man who seemed not to have noticed her

February 28, 190—

Katherine was alone when the note came. She had not been feeling too well pleased with herself. She had refused Langdon Drew and Mary Browning and Bessie Wetherill had been avenged. But, since the reading of this note, Katherine felt sorry for Drew.

The main thing concerning the letter was its incomprehensibility. Had Henry Strong become too absorbed in other things—the Boston papers were constantly quoting him as a man worth listening to—to have the time to think of love?

The season wore away and many persons wondered why the beautiful Miss Howard had not become engaged.

And then an odd thing happened! Mr. and Mrs. Wetherill, whose daughter was once engaged to Mr. Drew and who had just returned from abroad, moved into a house adjoining Mr. Strong's church. Within a few weeks the rumor called.

Mr. and Mrs. Wetherill were out, but Miss Wetherill would be down in a few minutes. Mr. Strong's eyes fastened themselves upon a large photograph of Katherine Howard. He did not know Miss Wetherill had come into the room until he heard her say: "I'm glad to see you, Mr. Strong. You are admiring, I am sure, the picture of one of my old school friends, Katherine Howard."

Mr. Strong turned the conversation to other things. When he rose to go Miss Wetherill noticed that his eyes again sought the picture. But this photograph had always attracted attention.

"She is one of the most loyal-hearted as well as beautiful girls," Bessie Wetherill said, "and would do anything in the world for a friend. I hope soon to have her visit me, though I have just heard she has become engaged to a distinguished southerner whose name I can't remember."

Mr. Long took his leave feeling much confused. Langdon Drew could never in the world be taken for a southerner, and he was not distinguished. Strong bought a New York paper. On the front page was a picture of "The Beautiful Miss Howard." It headed a column reporting her engagement to a royal personage, Prince von Schamburg.

Mr. Strong read no more. He stuffed the paper into his pocket, for once in his life forgot an engagement, and took the first train to New York.

Miss Howard entered the drawing room. Her greeting was distant. But Henry Strong noticed nothing. Something was going to be definitely settled then and there.

"Miss Howard, are you engaged to be married, or going to be, to Mr. Drew—a distinguished southerner—or Prince von Schamburg?"

There was something so compelling in the tone that Strong did not have to repeat his question.

"No," Katherine said, "I am not."

A look came into Strong's face which rendered it at the moment beautiful.

"Katherine, will you marry me?"

"Yes."

Explanations awaited their own good time. Even the need of them was forgotten for the moment.



It Headed a Column Reporting Her Engagement.