

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Plants are made of food.

Some city men make good farmers.

A pig needs something green through the winter.

Carefully kept poultry is a dependable source of profit.

Beef cattle do not require as warm winter quarters as dairy cattle do.

Earthen water-fountains in the poultry-yard are better than tin ones.

You cannot rush a hog, and as soon as you try it you will get in a mess.

Choose for wheat, wherever possible, ground not in that crop last year.

A little extra attention to the watering of fowls will increase the egg supply.

The blackberry will succeed on any soil and with an exposure, provided the soil is rich.

Egg production is not measured so much by the quantity as by the quality of the food.

What the next harvest will be depends largely upon study, thought and planning this winter.

Strain the milk through a clean flannel cloth, or through two or three thicknesses of cheese cloth.

The relish with which an animal eats its feed has much to do with the effect of that feed on the body.

The season is at hand when an evergreen windbreak is an everlasting good thing to have around.

Shoats are usually high in price as soon as grass comes in the spring and then is the time to turn them loose.

In order to get the best results in a system of drainage, the work should be laid out with a leveling instrument.

The farmer's brood mare—the rest payer—is a real feminine type, namely, neither of the gelding or the stallion appearance. She is always mated to a stallion of great masculinity, possessing good, wide, strong feet, and is naturally a free mover, with flat, sound bone, of strong constitution and as big as possible.

In the large studs the greatest care is taken over the matter of suitable stallions selected. Very few traveling stallions are to be found without a veterinary surgeon's certificate of soundness.

If anything, some of the farmers who have found breeding a rapid means of acquiring wealth, are inclined to get quality at the expense of weight and substance. Shows are the best advertisement that the English tenant-farmer has for getting rid of his wares to the landlord or the rich breeder.

Shows in an English summer are as plentiful as sparrows. They are held upon the slightest provocation, where two or three horse breeders are gathered together.

One of the most gratifying features of the Shire horse breeding in the old country, is that the rich man settles in the locality, or suddenly becomes prominent as a breeder of first-class animals. He spends no end of money on buying and maturing.

These often fall into the hands of the farmer cheaply, and very often the farmer sells back their offspring at considerable prices.

Shire service is cheap in England, when one considers the enormous outlay of some of the breeders, and the tenant farmer, or the farmer whose land is only rented, has all the benefits of his rich proprietor's patronage.

The old country may have old-fashioned ways, but the farmer knows when he is well off and he knows that to raise Shire horses successfully is to have a bank balance and to have no haunting fears from a disastrous season.

the horse in such a way that the evils arising from these defects will be lessened or overcome entirely.

Neighborhood Exchanges.

The difficulty of exchanging tools and labor with neighbors is in the personality. Some men will expect to use borrowed tools all through the favorable weather and then return them in a damaged condition too late to be of much use to the owner. In borrowing labor this kind of neighbor will work the hired man half to death and then in returning the labor spend half his time telling stories. In exchanging labor or anything else pick out a farmer who will practice the golden rule.

New Mint Region.

Peppermint growers of New York and Michigan will meet competition from the reclaimed lands of Louisiana. A distillation plant is also in operation. A party of expert agriculturists recently inspecting the region were convinced that the crop can be grown in limited quantities at a good profit. Peppermint oil was imported into the United States during the fiscal year to the extent of 1,238 pounds, worth \$6,416, while the exports of American peppermint oil amounted to 161,811 pounds, worth \$288,318.

During the past few years more attention has been given to seed selection and improvement by individual farmers.

The active laying breeds of hens must be given more liberty and they do not need as warm houses as we have supposed.

A horse should always be tied to a hitching post with a strong strap or rope which there is no possibility of its breaking.

Where there is no regular system of ventilation, the farmer must, in ventilating the dairy barn, avoid direct drafts on the dairy herd.

The average farmer who keeps two teams of horses should at least keep one team of good large mares, and stallion of the draft type, available.

In some respects a cow is much like a person; she enjoys a good, and comfortable place in which to eat and sleep, possibly as well as the best of us.

About seventy-five per cent. of all the corn produced in the country is grown in the northwestern and middle states, which are known as the corn belt.

Give ducks a place on your farm. They are not hard to raise and a few fowls are more profitable than a great many, when attention is given to their needs.

Poultry as a marketable product has become very scarce and dear the last year or two, and the importance of poultry as a revenue-producer on the farm needs to be emphasized.

Geese are among the most profitable of all fowls to invest in, for they can be kept several years for breeding purposes, and, when your foundation is once laid, there is little expense.

Nothing is gained in grinding feed for the hens. They will do their own grinding if there is plenty of grit available. The trouble is on some farms grinding material is not very plentiful.

Plant cowpeas, but put on at least 300 pounds of phosphate fertilizer per acre and in the fall sow crimson clover on every acre of your corn, also with 300 pounds of fertilizer. If you omit the fertilizer you are wasting your time and money.

Any cow that has freshened in the fall and received good treatment in the winter, can always be depended upon to produce for her owner fully twice as much butter or milk during the calendar year as the cow that is freshened in the springtime.

SHIRE HORSE ESSENTIALLY ENGLISH FARMERS' OWN

Animal Has Improved Vastly in Recent Years, in Uniformity of Type, in Feet, Action, Pasterns and Quality of Hair and Bone.



English Shire Mare and Colt.

(By G. T. BARROWS, England.)

The Shire horse is essentially the English farmer's own. Across the border the Clydesdale holds sway. It is flattering to the English breeder to know that America and Canada are now taking more Shires than they have ever done before.

England today is being constantly scoured by American buyers for the right kind of Shire horses.

The English Shire horse has improved vastly of recent years, in uniformity of type, in feet, action and has vastly better pasterns and quality of hair and bone.

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HORSE SHOEING IS SCIENCE

No Man is Fully Equipped for Task Unless He Understands Anatomy of Animal's Foot—Advance Being Made.

By WM. J. KELLY.

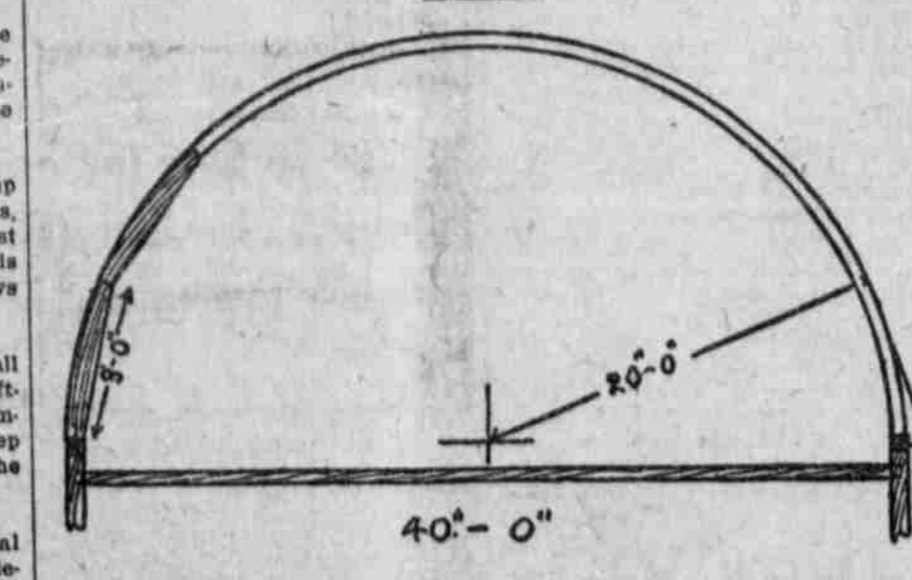
Formerly the ordinary blacksmith, who knew very little about the underlying principles that should govern horse shoeing, was called upon to shoe horses. As a result very much of the work done was inferior and such work reacted in many instances against the usefulness of the horse that was thus shod.

The advance that has been made in this branch of blacksmithing during recent years, has been very great.

The work of shoeing horses is so variable in its requirements that no small degree of skill is required on the part of those engaged in the business.

It would perhaps be correct to say that no horse shoer is fully equipped for his work who does not understand considerable about the anatomy of the horse's foot. He should also be able to detect defects in the animal's locomotion and should know how to shoe

PRACTICAL ARCHED ROOF BARN



The accompanying plan of arched roof will not need any bracing, providing it is built on a wood frame. If placed on a concrete wall it would need to be fastened to the wall in some manner. This arch could be made out of one-inch lumber, three ply thick, using eight pieces. These will be a trifle shorter than eight feet. Cut outside to circle of 20 feet radius. It will be a little stronger by leaving inside straight. These should be placed about two feet centers. Nail on outlook like shown on plan for cornice. You can make them out of two-inch by eight-inch the same length, which takes a little more lumber, and we do not consider they would be as strong.

It would be better to use a 3 by 8 inch or a 3 by 6 inch bolted on to underside of ridge to fasten track to, as this would bring the load on two or three rafters.

PRICKLY PEAR VALUABLE AS COMBINATION FEED

Possibilities for the Usefulness of This Plant When Used With Other Feeds Are Great—Experiments on Digestibility.

(By R. F. HARE.)

The increased use of the prickly pear as feed for all classes of ruminants, especially for range and dairy cattle, makes it important for the proper preparation of a ration that the feeder knows how much digestible nutrients to expect from feeding a given quantity of the plant either alone or mixed with other feeding stuffs.

Many chemical analyses have been made of a number of different members of the cactus family to determine their value as feed for animals, and while this data gives, with a fair degree of accuracy, the amount of the various nutrients contained in the different species of the cacti, no reliable record of digestion experiments has been found, so that it has been impossible to say just what proportion of the different nutrients were available to the animals.

In order to determine the digestibility of the prickly pear and thus guide the feeder in the preparation of rations from this plant, extensive investigations have recently been made in Texas, New Mexico and other southwestern states.

The principle of conducting a digestion experiment is very simple. First, the animal is fed the feeding stuff the digestibility of which is to be determined until all other feeds have been removed from the alimentary canal. The animal is then placed in a stall specially designed for feeding and for collecting refuse without waste. It is then fed a weighted amount of the feeding stuff, the composition of which is determined by analysis. All the refuse is collected, weighed, analyzed, and the amount of the several nutrients which it is found to contain is subtracted from the amount of the corresponding nutrients fed.

A good idea of the stalls used in these experiments may be obtained from the illustration. They are made of proper length and breadth, so that the animals may lie down comfortably.



Stalls Used in Making Experiments.

correct theoretical amount of nutrients.

In the prickly pear region of Texas a ration consisting of this feeding stuff with cottonseed meal is very common. It is customary and better to give the cattle either the run of a dry grass pasture or some coarse feed in connection with this ration, as it will serve the double purpose of widening the too narrow ration produced from too much cottonseed meal and tend to check the scouring which results from the use of these two feeds alone.



Prickly Pear.

Pollution of Springs.

In limestone country there is more danger of pollution of springs and wells than where any other rock formation prevails. The reason is that the limestone is the most readily dissolved and open underground channels are formed which may carry contaminating material a long distance. If, on the other hand, polluted water percolates through gravel or sandstone for instance, it becomes purified in a comparatively short distance from the point of contamination.

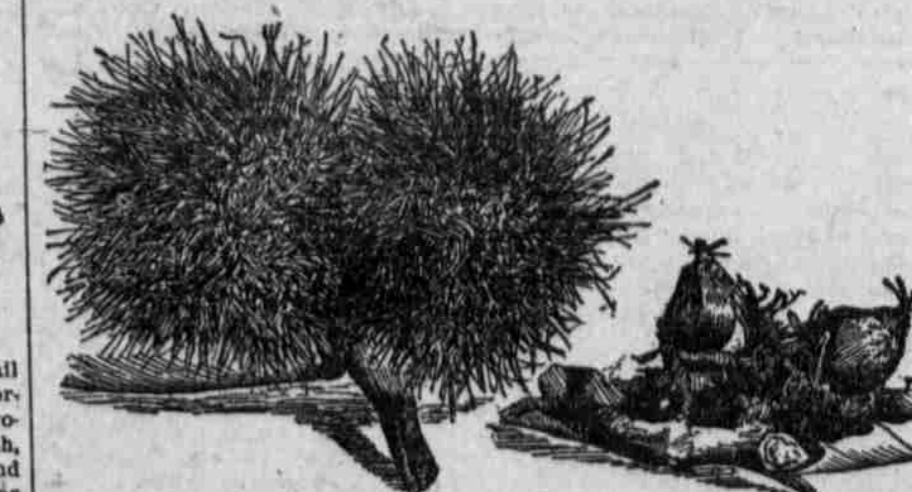
Mixed Farming.

Mixed farming is the safer plan. Keeping cows, hens and horses, raising potatoes and corn and other standard crops, as few succeed with a special crop, but there are scores of failures because of limited capital. One year's failure in pure breeding stock or potatoes, or whatever his line is, means failure. Men of ordinary ability will do better to take up general farming.

Ripe Rot of Cherries.

The self-bolled brand of lime-sulphur was used successfully in a number of places last summer to prevent the ripe rot of the cherry. The formula used is 16 pounds of quicklime, eight pounds of sulphur, slaked with four or five gallons of hot water. This is diluted to 50 gallons before application is made.

NATURAL AND FREAK CHESTNUT



This drawing shows a natural chestnut bur at the left and a freak burless chestnut at the right. The tree upon which this oddity grew is upon the farm of Hiram Phinney in Greene county, New York, says the Orange Judd Farmer. It is estimated at about 100 years old, and the fruit has apparently been the same ever since Mr. Phinney can remember.