

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Keep your fowls hungry.

Pork is too high not to feed right.

Concrete is an excellent material for sto building.

Examine the eggs with the egg-tester before setting them.

Whatever breed is chosen, a pure-bred ram should be used.

In raising onions for commercial purposes a large bulb is desirable.

In caring for pigeons one should go about quietly and never frighten them.

One of the easiest ways of making money on the farm is by rearing sheep.

In planting a young orchard see that the trees are properly pruned before set.

Hot mashes on cold days are on the feeding program of many successful poultry raisers.

This is a good time to figure up accounts for the year and see what the chicken business has done for us.

Sheep farming is a profitable branch to follow where land can be had for about fifteen to twenty-five dollars per acre.

Do not dispose of too many early pullets for fattening purposes—they are your principal assets for another season.

A hen is a good thing, but too much of a good thing is a bad thing. Two hundred hens are enough for the average farm.

The sow should be given warm milfeed slop, made fresh for each meal, whole oats and a little sound corn twice a day.

Cows approaching calving should be placed in roomy box stalls, given a good dry bed of leaves or straw and not interfered with.

If the breeders are in poor condition you will get many eggs that do not hatch well or that produce puny or weakling chicks.

The right time to castrate pigs is a week or so before they are weaned, if healthy; if delicate, wait a week or so until they are stronger.

Raw potatoes are greatly relished by chicks and may be fed freely. Cut them in good-sized chunks and let the chicks have them to pick at.

It is very well to sow a piece of rye early in the fall for the ewes that have lambs to pasture off in the spring before grass is ready for them.

The squab of the best breed is ready for market when about four weeks old. At this age it is in prime condition. It does not gain much afterward.

Forage or salad crops for poultry greens should preferably be grown with stable manure. This applies to clover, cabbage, lettuce, salad turnips, mangels, etc.

Infertile eggs from the incubators tested out on the fifth to seventh days can often be sold to bakers if sold for just what they are. They are good for cooking purposes.

This is the time to give the boy a few acres to farm with a team, and seeds, and see what he will make of it. It will make him feel like a man and bind him to the farm.

It will not be long now till the first haying. Get all of the haying machinery and tools ready for the work, so that there will be no delay when the hay is ready to harvest.

Many farmers say there is no money in raising ducks and geese, but F. S. Jacoby, assistant in poultry husbandry at the Kansas State Agricultural College, says this is a mistake.

Mr. C. O. Carrett, of Iowa, says: "Lime-sulphur is the best stock-dip I have ever used. It is very much superior to many dips now on the market, being more effective and more durable, and it is absolutely not injurious."

Breeding birds which begin the work of egg production near the time the eggs are required for incubation will ordinarily give stronger germs and better chicks than can be obtained from hens which have been laying for months.

Sheep increase the value of a farm.

Ducks and geese are easier to raise than chickens.

Breeding young ewes leads to a weakening of the flock.

The lack of protein is a direct cause of mature pullets not laying.

Dairying is one of the profitable lines in which a farmer can engage.

Assorting market eggs according to size and color is a good business move.

Sheep will eat many kinds of wild grasses. They thrive in dry, mild climates.

If protein is supplied freely there will be abundance of eggs from the same flock.

Use a good lice paint on the roosts in the morning and repeat every two or three weeks.

Make up your mind to grow at least a part of the poultry food on the home farm this season.

If the hens do not lay well it may be solely because they are not intelligently managed or fed.

A bull tied in the stall will get lazy and useless, besides making extra work in his care and feed.

A few ears of corn laid in the oven and allowed to parch gives a good occasional variety to the feed.

No matter what kind of floor there is in the poultry house, the main thing is not to let it get damp.

In the production of eggs, as in that of milk, proper feeding is essential to attaining the best results.

A flimsy fence will not restrain a bull—and will cause no end of annoyance especially in a busy season.

Oats will do better on sod land than barley, but neither of them do as well on a tough sod as after corn or potatoes.

Don't sell eggs for hatching until you have tried out eggs from the same pens at home and know they hatch well.

Select out only good, trustworthy hens that can be relied upon as being good sitters. They should be well feathered.

Misshapen eggs will sometimes hatch good chicks, but it is better to choose well-formed eggs with clean, smooth shells.

Handle eggs carefully and avoid rough handling. A bad shaking up of eggs during handling or shipment has spoiled many a hatch.

If you must feed soft food provide a small trough in which to feed it. It becomes a starter of disease when thrown on the ground.

A good way to test a chick food is to place a small quantity on a dish before some husky chicks and note what they leave of it.

Strongly fertile eggs from good, healthy stock will often hatch well and produce good chicks under apparently unfavorable conditions.

The mixture of poultry manure with such materials as sand plaster and kalmite or acid phosphate is almost imperative for satisfactory preservation.

The young chicks which are to make our winter layers should be hatched from the middle of March to the middle of May, depending on the breed.

Other things being equal, the breeds belonging to the Mediterranean class of fowls, namely the Leghorns, Minorcas and Hamburgs, are the greatest egg producers.

Hen nests should be cleaned and whitewashed after each hatch before starting another and the old nesting material should be burned. Fight lice now and all the time.

It is all right enough to rear turkeys with the chicken hen if the fool hen wouldn't wean them so early. Then lice are always more troublesome than with turkey hens.

Undoubtedly one of the most remunerative branches of the poultry business for the average poultryman is the production of eggs, combined with the sale of market broilers as a side line.

Land plowed last fall may be sown to oats without again plowing. If sown broadcast sow two bushels to the acre over the plowed ground and harrow them in both ways, then roll to level the land.

When the sow is given a warm, rich slop, or other milk producing feeds just after her pigs are born, a strong milk flow is forced. The new born pigs get too much and have diarrhoea, which often kills them.

It is only through the legumes, and through certain lower orders of plant life with which farmers are not familiar and which we will not discuss now, that the soil has been filled with the nitrogen, which is of the utmost importance in any system of agriculture.

STRAWBERRIES MAKE GOOD ADDITION TO VEGETABLES

Up-to-Date Methods of Growing This Luscious Fruit Insures Sure and Large Returns—Grocers and Housekeepers Want Choice Berries.

(By F. E. BEATTY.)
The grower of strawberries is more sure of a good annual profit from strawberries than from almost any other crop, because strawberries are the hardest, as well as the best, of all fruits; and it does not require any more labor to grow strawberries of high quality than it does to grow vegetables of the same class.

In the growing of strawberries, you have practically no plant enemies—insects or fungi—to combat, providing you follow up-to-date methods. Rotation of crops, fall plowing, thorough and repeated cultivation, strong, healthy plants, mowing off the foliage and burning immediately after the last picking, are the things which may make spraying unnecessary.

Crop rotation is a necessity with any kind of farming. It encourages a healthy and productive condition of the soil.

Fall plowing discourages all kinds of underground insect, such as the white grub, root-maggot and wire-worm.

Thorough cultivation keeps down weeds and all obnoxious growths, which if allowed to grow, would afford a breeding and hibernating place for insects.

Strong, healthy plants insure you against such enemies as the crown-miner, crown-borer, root-borer and aphid, as well as fungous diseases.

Mowing off the foliage and burning

of fruit or vegetables, and like the doctor, the more patience we have the more money we make.

Soil which has grown vegetables is generally sufficiently fertile to produce a large yield of strawberries. Soil in which potatoes have been grown is ideal.

Strawberries and vegetables can be sold from the same wagon at the same time, and if you have berries of high quality it will aid you in selling your vegetables, because fancy grocers always are on the lookout for fruit of the choicest quality. The same is true of the commission merchant, and if you sell to private families you will find the housekeeper wants the best.

To the gardener who has never grown strawberries, but would like to combine them with his vegetable business, let me suggest that you begin in a small way, and increase your acreage as experience and local conditions may justify you in doing.

Many commercial gardeners know from experience that strawberries make a profitable addition to their vegetable business. No other crop with which I have ever had any experience will yield as many dollars per acre, and do it in so short a time, as strawberries. It is not an uncommon thing to get reports from growers who are realizing anywhere from \$500, \$800, \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre each year from their strawberries. Reports of the larger quantities generally come from strawberry growers who have the advantage of a long fruiting season. Last winter, while studying the conditions and possibilities of strawberry growing in the south, I met men in southern Texas who told me that their strawberries made them from \$600 to \$1,000 per acre each year. On the Pacific coast and in the inter-mountain states, I met men who were doing even better than this.

In Michigan, my own state, many growers are realizing from \$500 to \$800; in Minnesota some growers report equal results, and the same is true in the east. In fact, in all states, the growers who are following intensive methods are making splendid showings and all seem to be more than satisfied.

Such trees afford cavities in which mice harbor, and complete girdling usually results fatally if below the point where root and stem join. Throwing a few shovelfuls of dirt about the trees has given satisfactory results.

Trees which have been more than half girdled should be cut off an inch above the root collar and sprouts allowed to grow from the stumps. In the case of trees over three or four years of age all sprouts may be permitted to stand the first season, and all but the most thrifty may be removed the following fall. In some cases all but the most thrifty may be removed when a foot high. The one remaining must be staked in order to prevent its breaking off or becoming distorted.

Avoid Barking Trees.
In cultivating the orchard care should be taken to cover the ends of the wiffle-trees with leather or rubber, and high hames or other projections on the harness should be discarded to avoid barking the trunks and limbs of the trees.

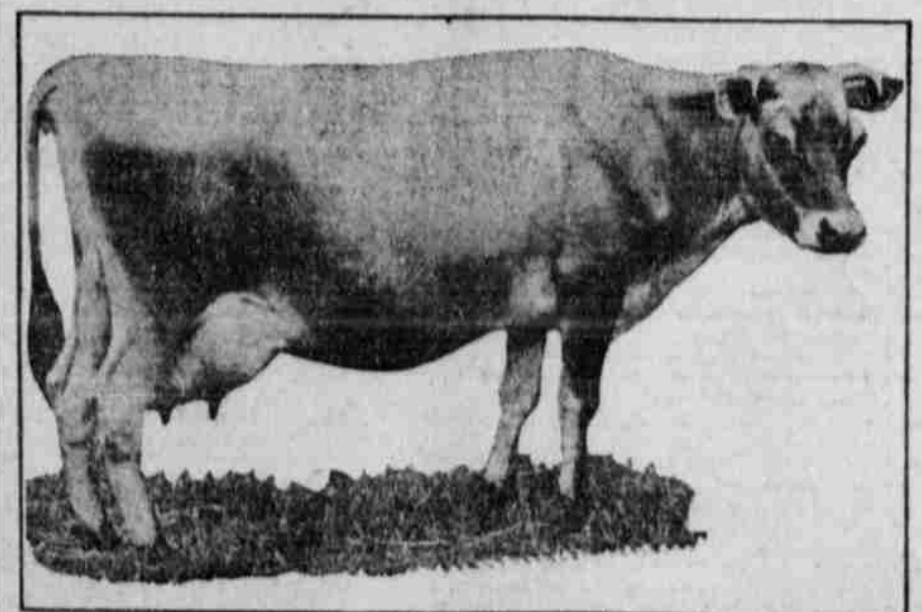
Get a Spray Calendar.
Every one who intends to spray fruits or vegetables should send to their state experiment station for their spray calendar, which gives the proportions and methods for the various sprays, also the best methods of applying the same.

Little Rodents Gnaw Bark of Catalpa and Mulberry Which Frequently Results in a Complete Girdle.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)
For some years catalpa, mulberry and other trees commonly grown have suffered considerable injury by the attacks of field mice. These rodents gnaw the bark about the base of the trees to a greater or less degree, which frequently results in a complete girdle. When girdling occurs below the root crowns the trees usually die.

There are no practical means of exterminating field mice, although certain operations are helpful in preventing their attacks on trees. It has been observed that injury is greater and more general when dead grass, mulch or debris of any kind lies close to the trees. Material of this nature affords a harboring place, from under which cover mice prefer to operate. All grass or mulch material of any kind should be raked away from the trees for a radius of at least two feet, leaving the ground as bare as possible. Where mulch culture is used a foot or two above each tree should be left bare. Injury is more severe on those trees whose root systems set forth on

"SELECTION" IS THE KEY-NOTE



"Selection" is the keynote of progress the world over. It is by the process of "natural selection" that, in all her kingdoms, nature continually improves upon the quality of her gifts to men. It is by selection that the speed of the race horse has been developed; that, in the place of the inferior cattle of our sires, we have the superb Jerseys, Guernseys and Herefords of today. Selection has given us the Berkshire, the Poland China and the Chester White hog in the place of the razor-back of old. Equally, selection is capable of giving us better crops on our fields, if only its methods are intelligently and persistently pursued. The illustration shows Cute II, a prize-winning Jersey.

Discourage Mice and Rabbits.
Care should be taken to remove all weeds, grass or other litter which might harbor mice. It is frequently advantageous to wrap the tree trunks with wire netting, tar paper, or thin boards to protect them from mice or rabbits.

CORNER FOR THE JUNIORS

GIRLS.

"One boy is better than three girls." So runs a German adage old—Old, and as false as old, I deem. Like many things in proverbs told.

For sex has naught to do with worth; The world needs both the boy and girl. The strength of one like rugged rock. The other's grace like peerless pearl.

Oh, dark the world if all the girls. With rosy cheeks and eyes aglow, Were to be banished from its bounds. Full dark and drear, indeed, I trow!

God bless you for your sunny smiles. Your presence pure, and winsome ways! Bless you for what today you are And will be in the coming days.

And may your lives so fruitful be In things that girls alone can do. That all who read the German gibe May own it (as it is) untrue.

LIVELY TOY QUITE AMUSING

Horse and Mannikins Move as Platform is Drawn About Room—Driver Imitates Man.

A toy that will afford lots of amusement for the little people is that designed by a Kentucky man. When the platform is drawn about the room the figures on it move in lifelike fashion. All four legs of the horse are pivoted to his body. The arms and legs of the driver are jointed and the man in the back of the vehicle is not only jointed wherever he can be, but is suspended from the roof on an elastic band. The turning of the rear wheels actuates mechanism which in



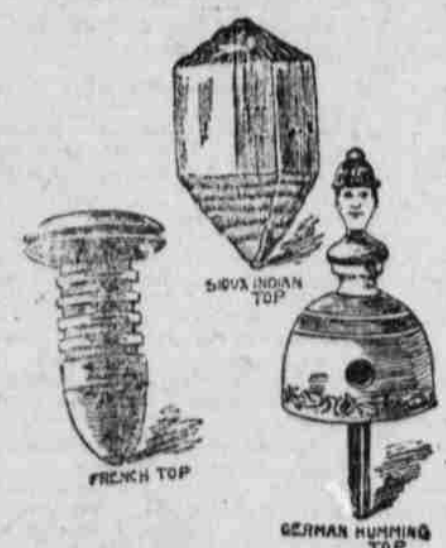
Lively, Amusing Toy.

turn moves the horse's legs backward and forward and instills life into the mannikins. The driver leans forward and pulls backward, giving a good imitation of a man urging his horse to greater speed, while his legs kick about in lively fashion. The man in the back jumps up and down with great agility.

THREE NOVEL EUROPEAN TOPS

Top-Spinning is One of Oldest Games—None Will Stand as Much Battering as American.

Top-spinning is one of the oldest games in the world. It has been played for thousands of years, and there are few even of the savage nations of Asia and Africa who don't play the game with some sort of top. Long before Columbus sailed for America the Indians knew a good deal about tops and top-spinning. The Sioux whittled them out of bits of wood, something like the one shown in the picture. In Ceylon, Siam and China nearly all the tops are so fixed that they whistle or sing when they spin. The ordinary top used by the American boy is probably the most popular in the world. It is extensively used in England and in all of her colonies.



Three Queer Tops.

The German top is largest and more expensive, and the French top is quite different in shape. None of them will stand the pegging and battering of the stubby little American top.

Nelson Was Mystified.
Little Nelson, who was two and a half years old when his little baby brother came into the world, was awakened one night by the baby's crying. He was very much mystified, and calling to his father said: "Papa, I fink sumpfn is 'keyen' in the other room."

His Habit!



My Mama told me I must not touch—Jam or Pie. or any such—But I'm always forgetting. Indeed I am. Yes, I'm always forgetting—especially Jam!

WONDERFUL FEAT OF RIGGER

Man Holds Companion Safely on Top of High Steeple While Molten Metal Burns Hands.

Two riggers in a western city performed a feat that for daring and steadiness of nerve equals anything on record. Some repairs were necessary at the very top of a high church steeple, one of those slender steeples that taper to a point 200 feet or so above the ground. There was no way to reach the spot from the inside, and the riggers got a number of light ladders and lashed them, one above the other, to the outside of the steeple, nearly to the top. The topmost ladder, however, was not high enough to enable them to reach the spot where the repairing was to be done, and, as that part of the steeple was too small to permit them to lash a ladder to it conveniently, they adopted a plan that it makes one shudder to think about, says the Philadelphia Times.

One of them, carrying a pot of melted solder, climbed from one ladder to another until he had reached the last one, and then, bracing himself, he raised an extra ladder that the other rigger had brought up in his hand and leaned it against the upper part of the steeple. Then the man below grasped this ladder and held it steady while the man above climbed it to the point where his work was to be done. He began the work at once, but suddenly, by an unaccountable accident, he jostled the solder pot and the fiery stuff ran out and fell over the hands and wrists of the man who was holding the ladder.

But the brave fellow did not move. With a presence of mind and a courage that deserves a monument of brass or marble, he maintained a firm hold of the ladder until his companion could come down from his perilous perch.

ENVOIUS OF GIRAFFE.



Mollie—What a job his nurse must have washing his neck.
Lydia—Yes, but what a treat to be able to reach the jam out of the cupboard without having to get a chair.

A Lazy Boy's Invention.

The long-handled shovel has made over \$300,000 for its inventor, and the inventor was a lazy, shiftless boy of 17, named Reuben Davis, whose father lived in Vermont at the time. He set Reuben to digging dirt and loading it on a wagon, and the short-handled shovel made the boy's back ache. One afternoon when his father was away, he took out the short handle and substituted a long one and found the work much easier.

When the father reached home Reuben got a licking, but after the old man had used the shovel himself he saw that it was a good thing and got it patented. They are now manufactured almost by the million. That boy's backache turned out to be a good thing for the Davis family.

Satisfied With Raw Water.

"Mamma," said little Edith as they were passing a drug store, "can I have a glass of soda water?"
"Not now, dear," was the reply.
"Then can I have some lemonade?" queried the little miss.
"No," answered her mother; "I forgot my purse and haven't any money to pay for it."
"Oh, dear!" exclaimed the disappointed Edith, "then I suppose I'll just have to be satisfied with raw water."