

## NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Give the hen wide range.

Tomatoes should be started early.

Potatoes are a highly specialized crop.

Cows should be kept comfortable at all times.

Provide some succulent feed for ewes in winter.

Weeds rob the soil of food elements required by other plants.

Farm philosophers say this is going to be a very dry year.

The milch cow needs a shelter from the summer storms and heat.

A pig that is fed grain all his life usually fails to pay expenses.

Potatoes require considerable nitrogen and a large amount of potash.

The pigs should have a clean, dry yard to exercise in during the day.

A cheap and effective way of dehorning calves is with potash caustic.

By judicious choice of varieties carrots may be enjoyed for a long season.

A daily record of work done will cut out many of the wastes of the farm.

The oat crop as a money maker on the farm is liable not to receive the attention it deserves.

The soil on cultivated fields on hilly or rolling land will wash less if plowed well and extra deep.

The gardener should try to grow the carrot quickly in order to secure tender, sweet, uniform specimens.

One of the chief reasons for butter becoming rancid at an early age is the fact that it is not washed thoroughly.

One ton of average fresh manure contains ten pounds of nitrogen; one ton of clover hay, 40 pounds of nitrogen.

Prune the trees in the early spring if possible, any month of the year if necessary, but be sure to prune the trees.

Clover and grass seed may be sown, and a good stand secured, on out ground during the last of April and the first of May.

If the buttermilk is not washed out it will furnish abundant food for the bacteria, since they thrive on the casein in the milk.

With a quiet, steady team a half-grown boy, with a sulky plow, can do as good work as a man with the old-fashioned walking plow.

There is no professional study that requires closer work than does the development of the corn plant—a combination of brain toil and nature.

Pigs in the pasture require some sort of crude shelter to protect them from the sun and keep them from blistering and scalding on hot days.

Growing geese require large quantities of grass, which they will obtain if allowed their range, and which will cut down the feed bill at least one-half.

The picking of live geese for the live geese feathers, so called, is practiced less and less. It is a cruel practice, and ought to be entirely abolished.

The amount of feed that the pigs should get cannot be definitely advised. That must be determined by the feeder from the appetites of the assimilate food.

It has been found that the seeds of many weeds will retain their vitality for 15 to 25 years, possibly longer, and not all of the given year's seed grows in any one year.

It is surprising how few farmers have cement floors in their stables, and as a rule they do not realize the loss they sustain by having the earth floor or a leaky, filthy plank floor.

Poorly-hatched and poorly-brooded chicks furnished good grounds in the past for believing that artificially-hatched chicks were not as strong and vigorous as those hatched by the hen, and they were not. But matters have greatly changed of late years. There are now incubators and brooders that are reliable and safe.

Clover is rich in protein.

Feed young turkeys bread crumbs.

Poultry is quite a large factor with many.

The brooder must be kept free from droppings.

The use of summer silos is growing more common.

Beet molasses contains over 66 degrees of potash per ton.

The sows and pigs should be put on pasture as soon as possible.

The seed well treated will treat the farmer to a disease free crop.

Some horses have learned to balk by being overloaded and abused.

Potatoes will do their best on a well-manured, well-prepared clover sod.

There are over 170,000,000 acres under wheat cultivation in the world.

Peas, beans and onions were first known in Egypt many centuries ago.

The intelligent care of trees is a great aid in our battle with the insects.

Let the patch of mangel-wurzels be included in the farm plan for this summer.

Old grass and clover pastures are much benefited by a dressing of plaster and ashes.

One of the "unfalling" signs of an ignorant or careless feeder is a bunch of scouring pigs.

Weeds sometimes injure by killing farm stock, or by rendering their product unsalable.

The brood mare in foal should be handled by a firm, steady hand, not an excitable, rash hand.

Better to put up new fence or mend the old than to spend the rest of the summer chasing pigs.

With the high cost of feed, a little tankage added to the ration of hogs every day will pay big.

When the cream runs off the spoon like oil and has a slight acid taste it is usually ripe for churning.

It has been found that denatured sugar forms a valuable and economical addition to skim milk for calves.

Some dairymen are finding it quite convenient to have the milking room hold four cows only at one time.

Stimulate the soil to a vigorous production by means of thorough cultivation and liberal use of fertilizer.

In deep setting, with plenty of ice, the cream is all up in 12 hours in any of the good family creameries now in use.

The age of seed has much to do with the vitality or germinating power. Young, bright, shiny seeds are best.

Hogs have often been tided over a season of shortage and kept in a thrifty, growing condition, for weeks on mangels alone.

Young geese do not lay as many fertile eggs or produce as many goslings in the first breeding season as they do in the second.

Milk readily absorbs bad odors such as arise from onions, garlic or decaying vegetables; hence don't set the milk pan near them.

Grading of cream is receiving more attention by the dairy press and dairymen than it possibly ever has in the history of the dairy business.

A good stand of clover cannot be had when sown on fall or spring grain where only a few hundred pounds of cheap fertilizer is drilled to the acre.

The worst feature of cucumber culture is the insect pests, but these may be controlled by dusting with dry insecticides or even with bone dust.

The same laws that have sent the prices of beef and pork products almost out of reach of the workingman will also hold the prices of poultry products.

Where one has plenty of land, or land that is too hilly or rocky for regular field cultivation, the pasture affords the cheapest feed that can be grown on the farm.

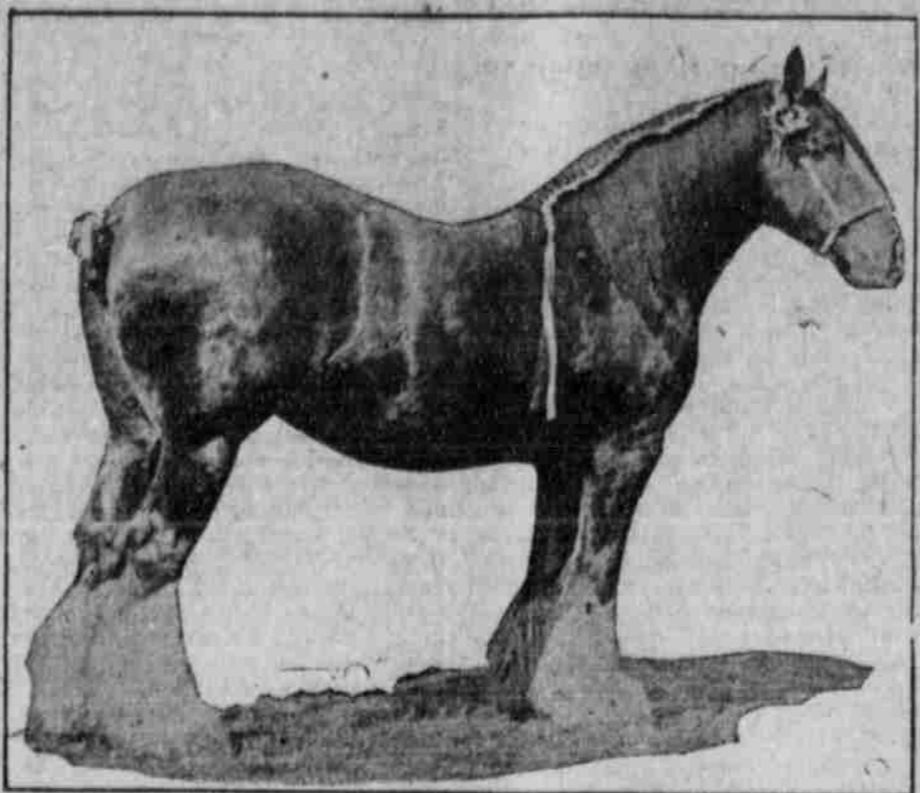
For market purposes a stock bird, large-breasted, firmly set on short legs, surmounted by large thighs, will prove valuable, especially if belonging to a family of egg producers.

Whether dairying or beef raising should be carried on depends entirely upon the tastes of the land owner or renter and, of course, upon the condition of the buildings, the local market for dairy products, shipping facilities, etc.

Many very good dairymen disagree as to whether it is best to separate the cream while it is warm and fresh from the cow or whether it is best to wait until it is cooled and again brought to the proper temperature before being separated and pasteurized.

## PEDIGREED STOCK BREEDING PLEASANT AND PROFITABLE

Of All Pursuits That City Business or Professional Man With Country Home Can Indulge in, Live Stock Heads List.



Prize-Winning English Sire.

(By CAPTAIN WADDELL.)

There are pleasant profits to be made by the man who is seeking a country home and rural pursuits by way of relaxation from business, than the ordinary man of this kind has any idea of.

A country home with land attached to it would be a dull place if there were not something besides the fresh air, scenery, babbling brooks, song birds and flowers to admire and occupy one's mind in a way that combines rest with pleasure.

Of all pursuits that the city business or professional man with a country home and farm can indulge in, nothing is so pleasant and remunerative as that of pedigreed stock breeding. This may comprise horses of the various breeds, cattle, sheep and swine, either of which when taken hold of practically and sensibly will bring much pleasure and a good deal of profit to the man who indulges in it.

In the first place, there is a ready market for good pedigreed stock of every kind, and apart from the pleasure of breeding them and seeing them flourish and grow into maturity there is the delightful fascination of exhibiting them at the various horse and live stock shows, competing with friends and neighbors and beating them with animals one has bred himself.

In the case of horses almost all the great stables of this country that have been and still are winning the majority of the blue ribbons throughout the country have imported all these horses from Great Britain, which robs him of much of the pleasure of working with home-bred animals, this is particularly the case with heavy harness horses, but the same holds good in regard to Shires, Clydesdales, Suffolks, Percherons and Belgians. All the great winners at the great shows throughout this country where these horses are shown are importations from England and Scotland in the first three cases and France and Belgium in the two latter.

As far as polo ponies are concerned it is only necessary to say that nine-tenths of the polo ponies that competed for the American cup at Hurlingham two years ago were English bred and English purchased, which robbed that splendid achievement of much of its glory.

All these animals as well as hunters, hackneys and Shetland and Welsh ponies, which are all in great demand could be bred in this country as successfully as they are in the countries in which their breeds originated, and it remains for the man of wealth with a country home and farm to show Americans how easily this can be done, and so make it as pleasant and profitable as it is in Great Britain.

Lice seem to be more troublesome during the spring when the farm animals are kept inside until warm weather comes than at any other time during the year and as soon as an animal is discovered to be lousy, the lice should be destroyed at once. We have found a strong decoction of tobacco an excellent wash for the purpose of destroying lice, but during recent years we have been using a mixture of crude oil and crude carbolic acid mixed 50 parts crude oil to one part crude carbolic acid, and find that this does the work in a very thorough and effective manner. On the cattle we apply it with a hand sprayer, but for the hogs we prefer to use a brush, or to saturate a few gunny sacks or old blankets and wind them around a post in the hog yards and allow the hogs to make their own toilets by rubbing against these posts. They will soon learn how to apply the mixture where it is most needed and will keep themselves free from these pests if their beds and houses are kept clean and disinfected.

Lamb is Helpless. Considerable attention should be given to ewes and young lambs. A new-born lamb is just about the most helpless thing on the farm, and frequently needs a little help to get started in life, but when fairly under way no young stock will give the owner more satisfaction; and it will pay to have patience and do all one can to assist them at first.

Good for Scours. A half cupful of wheat flour and a raw egg in the milk, if given to a calf with scours, is said to be very beneficial.

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## LICE INFECTED FARM ANIMALS

Insects More Troublesome During Spring When Live Stock Kept Inside Until Warm Weather Arrives.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

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## ELEMENTARY LESSONS IN PRODUCTION OF PLANTS

In Study of Rudimentary Agriculture One Soon Learns That Things Do Not "Just Happen," But Follow Inexorable Laws.

(By D. J. CROSBY.)

To show that plants absorb moisture from the soil, take two one-quart tin cans as near alike as you can get them and punch holes in the bottoms for drainage. Secure enough garden soil to fill both cans, mix it thoroughly, and sift it to remove pebbles and clods. Fill both cans level full of loose soil, which should then be packed by jarring each can three times on the table or floor. It is important to have the soil packed alike in both cans. Weigh the filled cans, and if one is heavier than the other, take out enough soil to bring them to the same weight. Plant five or six kernels of corn in one can, water both cans alike, and set them aside for the corn to grow. Whenever water is applied to the can containing corn, an equal amount should be applied to the other can in order to keep both soils in about the same physical condition.

When the corn is three or four inches high, wet both soils thoroughly, allow the cans to stand until water ceases to drip from the bottom, weigh them, and record their weights separately. Set both cans in a warm light place where the corn will continue to grow rapidly. Weigh the cans twice on the following day—morning and afternoon—and record the weights. Keep this up for three or four days, or until the corn begins to suffer from lack of moisture. Water again and continue as before. You will probably find that the can containing the growing plants loses moisture much more rapidly than the other.

This experiment may be performed in another way by using flower pots instead of tin cans. When the corn is three or four inches high, get two lard pails or cans just large enough to take in the pots to their rims. Mark on the outside of the pails the depth to which the pots will extend on the inside, and at a point one inch above each mark make a dent which can be distinctly seen on the inside of the pail. Now fill each pail with water up to the dent, water both pots thoroughly, and set them in the pails as shown in the figure. Set both pails and pots in a warm, light place so that the corn will continue to grow. The next day remove the pots, and you will find that the water is not up to the dents, you will conclude, and naturally, that the soil has taken up



Moisture Demonstration.

A, B, to show that plants absorb moisture from the soil. C, to show that plants give off part of the moisture from the soil.

the water. From an eight-ounce graduate pour into one pail just enough water to bring it up to the dent again. Make a record of the amount necessary to do this. Fill the graduate and bring the water in the other pail up to the dent. Repeat these operations daily for two or three weeks and you will be able to find out exactly how much moisture the growing plant absorbs.

In order to show that plants give off moisture, take a plant that is well started in a tomato can or flower pot, a piece of cardboard, and a glass tumbler large enough to cover the plant, cut a slit in the cardboard and draw it around the plant, seal the slit with pitch, wax, or tallow so that no moisture can come up through it from below; cover the plant with the glass and set it in a warm, sunny place. Moisture will condense on the inner surface of the glass.

If moisture does not condense readily inside the glass, cool the glass by exposing it to a current of cold air or by wrapping it for a minute or two in a cloth wrung out of cold water. The outside of the glass should then be dried so the moisture on the outside will not obscure that within.

That water absorbed by the roots of plants is forced upward through the plant can be demonstrated by severing the stem of a geranium three or four inches from the surface of the soil, setting on top of the cut end of the stem a section of glass tubing several inches long, and fastening the two together by wrapping the joint with a strip of adhesive tape or surgeon's plaster. Keep the root of the

plant normal by supplying it with water. Note what happens inside the glass tube, making observations every few hours.

To show that water and whatever substances it holds in solution circulate to all parts of the plant, fill a tumbler about one-third full of lukewarm water colored with a few drops of red ink or some other brilliant coloring matter, and place in colored water the freshly cut stems of white carnations, white roses, lilies of the valley, or other white flowers, or the twigs of trees with young leaves on, or almost any soft green plant. Be sure that they are fresh. In a short time the colored water will rise through the stems or twigs and may be seen distributed in vein-like pattern through the petals of the flowers or through the leaves. Hold the leaves up to the light and the coloring matter can be seen more clearly. In this manner the stem of the plant carries food in solution which has been absorbed by the roots.

## GUARD YOUNG FRUIT TREES

If Mulched and Not Properly Protected Much Damage Will Have Been Done By Mice—Best Material Is Wire Screening.

(By W. A. PATRICK.)

If your young trees were mulched last fall and not properly protected from mice and rabbits, you will probably be surprised when you visit the orchard to find that many of them have been ruined. Mulch is a good thing for the trees, but it is also a good thing for mice, as it affords them the best protection during the winter and they gather in large numbers around the foot of the trees and eat away the bark.

Protection is easy. The best material is wire screening, although some use tarred paper and veneer from wood. Some orchardists practice tramping snow around the base of their trees, but oftentimes this is neglected and the trees are injured before the work is accomplished. The protectors should be pressed into the ground deep enough to prevent the mice from crawling under. Personally I prefer wire screening, but in case tarred paper is used it should be promptly removed in the spring to prevent injury from scalding.

## Transplanting Asparagus.

Some growers prefer lifting asparagus plants in the fall, choosing only the strongest for planting in the permanent plantation. If the ground is prepared early in the spring, the plants need not be lifted until planting begins, but the safer course is to take the plants up in the fall and store them in a cool, moist cellar or pit. Experiments at the Pennsylvania state college indicate that too much care cannot be exercised in the selection and planting of asparagus roots. This is one of the main arguments for growing one's own plants. If they are purchased at about \$4 a thousand, it is not likely that many will be discarded, while if grown at home and there is a surplus of several thousand, the grower does not hesitate to select the strongest. It is important that thinning be practiced in the nursery with a view to growing the best plants. This should be done when the plants are about two inches high. They should be thinned to one or two inches apart.

## Mulch the Beds.

A mulch should be placed over the beds in the fall. It prevents the plants from heaving out of the ground by frost, protects them during the winter, conserves moisture the second season before and during the harvesting season, discourages growth of weeds and protects the berries from sand and other dirt.

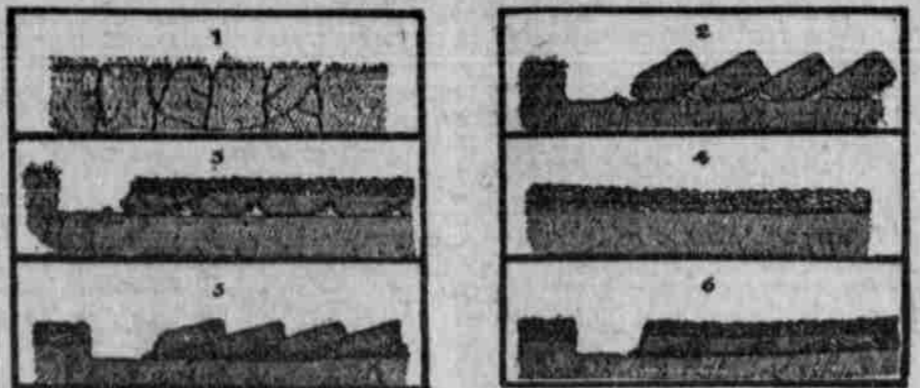
## Scraping and Pruning.

Scraping old apple trees to remove loose bark is a good practice when combined with judicious pruning. It makes the trees look better and do better, and it reduces the number of insect hiding places. Once in three to five years if often enough to do it.

## Dividing Point.

In the garden the Fourth of July is the natural date or dividing point between the early or first crops, and the late or second crops.

## GOOD USE FOR DISK HARROW



The illustration given herewith shows the various uses to which the disk may be put in preparing the soil for a crop:

Fig. No. 1 represents hard, cracked-open soil that has not been tilled, showing how clod formation takes place and the depth at which moisture can escape from the ground.

Fig. No. 2 represents ground plowed, showing air space between the turned over slice and the ground beneath. This air space prevents a firm and compact seed bed from being made and stops capillary attraction with the subsoil.

Fig. No. 3 is plowed ground disked. Note that the air spaces still exist. This is what happens when corn stalk ground is plowed without first being disked. Corn stalk roots and other trash prevent the ground from becoming compact and firm.

Fig. No. 4 is ground disked before

it is plowed. The mulch of dirt breaks up capillary attraction so that moisture cannot escape from the top of the ground. This permits what moisture there is in the ground to come close to the surface.

Fig. No. 5 is the disked surface shown in Fig. 4 plowed. Disking the ground before it is plowed leaves a mulch of fine dirt which fills up the air spaces left between the furrowed slice and the ground beneath, thus making the foundation for a firm and compact seed bed.

Fig. No. 6 illustrates disked before and after plowing. When the ground is treated in this manner the seed bed becomes compact and firm in a much shorter time and forms a means of capillary attraction. This treatment puts the ground in such condition that whether the season be wet, dry or normal, the farmer is not taking any chances.

## MAKING HOTBED ON SURFACE



If plenty of manure can be obtained a hotbed may be made on the surface by making a layer 2½ feet deep and extending several feet beyond the sides and ends of the frame. Pack the manure solid and leave for a few days before putting on the soil. Rich gar-

den loam a trifle sandy is best for the purpose.

## Value of Mulching.

Mulching answers practically the same purpose as cultivation in keeping down weeds and conserving moisture.