NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Spray potato plants for bugs.

Use barnyard manure for fertilizing.

Study the comforts of the cows and young things.

No kind of young stock grows so fast as a draft foal.

Raspberries are propagated by seeds, sucker plants and tip plants.

The currant must not be cultivated deeply, for it is a shallow-rooted plant.

Twenty acres of good corn put in the silo will feed 30 cows for a whole year.

The raspberry and blackberry, like the strawberry, will succeed on any good corn soil.

Water the horses before feeding. When fed first there is often more danger of colic.

Care should be taken that the cow does not have to wade through filth in the barnyard.

Very few farmers take enough time in fitting the field for planting either corn or potatoes.

Watch sweet clover. It begins to look as if it had a very valuable place among our farm crops.

Horses that are clipped dry off fast at night. This is better than having them stand around in a heavy wet coat.

A teaspoonful of coal tar to a peck of corn, moistened with a little water, is said to be a protection against gophers.

To be on the safe side cabbage plants should be started in soil which has not been previously used for cabbage culture.

The production of pure milk means obtaining the milk under scrupulously clean conditions and handling it in a cleanly manner.

Farmers make more clear money from a flock of hens than from any other livestock, but they are more careless with them.

Much may be done to increase the value of a woodlot by cutting out the unsound or unlikely trees which are crowding more valuable ones.

When buying a sprayer, get one that throws a mist spray, as no other will get the solution uniformly distributed over all parts of the plant.

Where orchard trees have been heavily pruned early in the season, many water sprouts or "suckers" will be apt to grow in the center of the trees.

The chief value of alfalfa meal over alfalfa is that it is all fed up, and thus saves the waste impossible to prevent in woody or coarse alfalfa.

The horses and oxen should be kept in good, thrifty condition, not too fat nor too thin, and this can only be had by regular grain feeding throughout the year.

The fertilization of the crop is only one of the several important considerations in growing a crop: seed, preparation of the soil and cultivation are equally important.

The best way to start in the poultry business is to get a few hens and set them on good eggs. These should always be bought from a reliable breeder and should be from pure-bred stock.

Barnyard manure is the best general fertilizer to use about young fruit trees; care should be taken, however, not to pile it up about the tree trunk as it is liable to burn the bark.

In order that the hen may be able to manufacture eggs she must be given material that will not only build up the wasting tissues, but will also furnish the right ingredients to make the eggs.

A catalpa grove will yield its first crop in about ten years, when each tree should produce one first-class post, one second-class post and two or three stays. From the small and crooked limbs considerable firewood is secured.

The farmer who complains that his hens lay all over the barn is apt to be a man that does not think cleaning the hen-house necessary. Stray eggs indicate the hens do not like home, or nests with mites, abode bugs and mould.

Keep on cultivating the corn.

The foolish man sells his best cows.

Electricity is coming to be a farm possibility.

Carelessness is the greatest cause of failure in farming.

The teeth and the feet of the horse should receive special attention.

Protein, starch, fat, sugar and fiber are the nutrients that make up foods.

A rest just after foaling is worth more to the brood mare than just before.

In building a dairy barn one of the main points is to see that it is light enough.

A good tomato plant should yield 30 pounds or one-half bushel, at a low estimate.

The feet of the horse should be cleaned every morning before he leaves the stable.

Government whitewash will preserve the wood of old buildings more cheaply than paint.

Corn grown to rid land of weeds should be check rowed. On clean land drilling is satisfactory.

A fully ripe tomato taken from the vine will weigh 20 per cent. more than one pulled and ripened indoors.

The new born colt must have milk during the first half hour of its life, or the chances are that it will die.

Apple trees should be sprayed immediately to kill the eggs and the hatching young of the apple aphis.

The west has probably reached its limit in sheep production. Now the native lamb will get better attention.

The churn should be thoroughly scalded and cooled with clean, cold water before the cream is put into it.

It is said that 20 acres of corn put into the silo is worth more in feeding a dairy herd than 30 acres in the crib.

The best dairy cow is the one that will convert the forage raised on the farm into the greatest amount of butter fat.

White pine is one of the most profitable trees to raise, and can be planted to advantage on cutover land or worn out pastures.

Brush the mud off the cow's udder and flank, then wipe off with damp cloth. You can't strain mud out of milk. Keep it out.

No man or woman to whom the chickens are mere machines to swallow corn and shell out eggs can ever hope to get best results.

There are some excellent dry chick feeds on the market at the present time, ones that are both cheap and possess a good feeding value.

The white grub, or larva of the June beetle, is found in sod land; hence the best preventive is not to plant strawberries on freshly-broken sod.

For black loams, clay and limestone lands, the sod should be deeply plowed in the fall or early part of winter to the depth of six to eight inches.

Tender chickens for table use are a rarity in the cities at practically all seasons in the year, and it seems that this particular demand will never be satisfied.

About 8,000 Dutch farmers are coming to America to settle upon farm lands in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. About 350 have already arrived and all have large families.

For the thrift and product of the hen—to keep her in a good, healthful condition and produce many eggs—both carbonaceous and nitrogenous foods must be used with proper balance.

If chickens are confined in the hen house until late in the morning they are sure to fly off the roost as soon as it is light and scratch around in the filth, thereby laying the foundation for disease.

A blanched ration, in poultry diet, means a sufficient amount of carbonaceous material in a mixture to counteract any bad results that might arise where an entirely nitrogenous ration is given, and vice versa.

Groom the horses in the morning and rub down at night; bathe the shoulders with cold water both morning and evening; the horse collar should be scraped clean before putting on in the morning.

While it is true that April weather is sometimes a little severe on young chicks, it must not be forgotten that June heat is too. It is really better to be a little too early with chicks for next winter's laying than a little too late.

Chicks hatched under a hen are quite apt to have lice. Do your best to have the sitting hen free from these pests. Sprinkle the nest boxes with insect powder when the eggs are first set and look out for the lice all the way through.

IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE OF REQUIREMENTS OF MEAT MARKET

With Understanding of Grades and Classes of Beef and Pork Breeders and Feeders May Judge Carcass Yield and Regulate His Feeding Accordingly—Several Factors Not Appreciated.

(By L. D. HALL.)

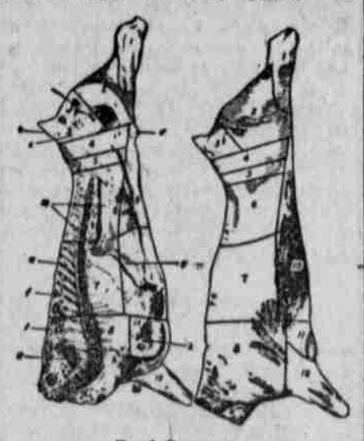
Breeders, feeders, or investigators who consider only the cost of production and the market value of the live animal, ignoring the demands of the meat trade, overlook one of the most important factors that affect the live-stock market and may thus fail to follow the most rational lines of improvement in breeding and feeding. With an understanding of meat-trade requirements it is possible for a stockman to judge the carcass yield and quality of his animals intelligently as buyers at the stock yards, because his knowledge of the feeds used, length of feeding period, and gains made are as essential in making such estimates as the apparent form, condition, and quality of the fat animal, upon which points the buyer must chiefly rely.

The descriptions presented are based on data secured in an investigation at wholesale meat markets at the Union stock yards, Chicago, and also at prominent wholesale and retail markets in Chicago and other cities which are supplied from the large houses at the Union stock yards, and may be considered standard for all the great packing centers of this country; and since most American wholesale markets are supplied from these centers, the classification may be regarded as standard for the country. It should be borne in mind that the classifications are those of the wholesale meat trade and not of the live stock market, and that the weights given refer to dressed carcasses and cuts, and in no case to live animals.

Carcass Beef.—This includes both full sides and quarters. The classes are steers, heifers, cows and bulls and stags. The classes differ not only in sex, but also in the uses to which they are adapted.

The grades within the classes are prime, choice, good, medium, common and canners. The grades are based on differences in form, thickness, finish, quality, soundness and weight.

"Native" carcass beef has sufficient finish to indicate grain feeding, is comparatively compact in form, thickly fleshed, mature in proportion to age, and consists chiefly of medium to prime steers, heifers and cows of the heavier weights. "Westerns" are relatively "rangy" in form, "grassy" in



Beef Carcass.

Cuts of beef: 1, 2, 3, round; 4, 5, 6, loin; 7, rib; 8, chuck; 9, flank; 10, 11, plate; 12, shank; 13, suet; 1, hind shank; 2, round (rump and hind shank off); 3, rump; 4, 5, loin end; 6, pinbone loin; 5, 6, flatbone loin; 10, navel; 11, brisket; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, hind quarter; 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, fore quarter; 7, 8, back; 7, 10, piece; 8, 11, 12, Kosher chuck; 8, 10, 11, 12, triangle; a, aitch-bone; b rump-bone; c, crotch; d, cod; e, chine-bones; f, "buttons;" g, skirt; h, breast-bone; r, ribs.

color and general appearance, coarser in quality and inferior to "natives" in finish, consisting largely of common to good cows and steers. "Texas" beeves are light weight carcasses.

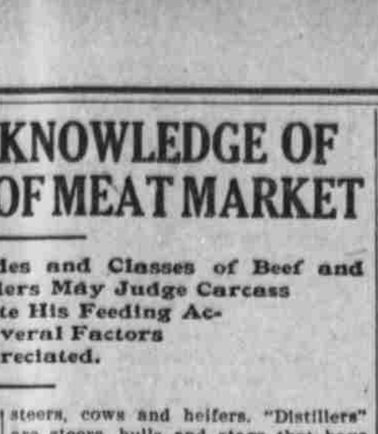
"Butcher cattle" are those especially adapted to "butcher-shop" trade and consists principally of medium to choice heifers, steers and cows. "Kosher" cattle are beeves that have been slaughtered, inspected, cleansed, and labeled in accordance with Jewish rites, and include medium to choice steers, cows and heifers. "Distillers" are steers, bulls and stags that have soft, "washy," flesh and "high color," characteristic of cattle fattened on distillery slops.

Beef Cuts.—The "straight cuts" are loins, ribs, rounds, chucks, plates, flanks and shanks.

The grade of a cut of beef depends upon its thickness, covering, quality and weight.

Cured Beef Products.—These are barreled, smoked and canned beef.

Barreled beef is packed in brine. The standard grades are extra India mess, extra plate, regular plate,



Hog Carcass.

Cuts of pork: English cuts—A, long-cut ham; B, long side or middle. Domestic cuts—1, short-cut ham; 2, loin; 3, belly; 4, picnic butt; 5, Boston butt; 6, jowl; 7, hock; 8, fat back; 9, clear plate; 2, 8, back; 2, 3, 8, side; 4, 7, picnic shoulder; 5, 9, shoulder butt; 8, 9, long fat back; 4, 5, 7, 9, rough shoulder; R, ribs.

packet, common plate, rolled boneless, prime mess, extra mess, rump, butt and mess chuck beef, beef hams, and Scotch buttocks.

Smoked beef is cured in sweet pickle, dried, and smoked. It consists of dried beef hams, dried beef clods, and smoked brisket beef.

Canned beef is sealed in tins or glass jars, usually after partial curing and cooking. It consists principally of chopped beef, beef loaf, corned beef, and roast beef.

Distinct grades of hogs are recognized only in the packing and bacon classes, the former being based on weight and the latter chiefly on quality and finish.

Pork Cuts.—The classes are hams, sides, bellies, backs, loins, shoulders, butts and plates, and miscellaneous, these being determined by the parts of the carcass from which they are made.

The grades and methods of grading vary widely in the different classes of cuts, and involve not only their quality, shape, finish and weight, but also the styles of cutting and methods of packing used.

The Horse's Collar.

See that each horse's collar is clean each morning before putting it on

Prevention is worth the proverbial amount of cure and consists in carefully fitted collars.

The use of pads is largely a matter of choice; pads should be used only with the smaller and lighter collars when used in heavy work. Galled shoulders frequently result from the use of a sweat-soaked pad or one wet in a heavy rain.

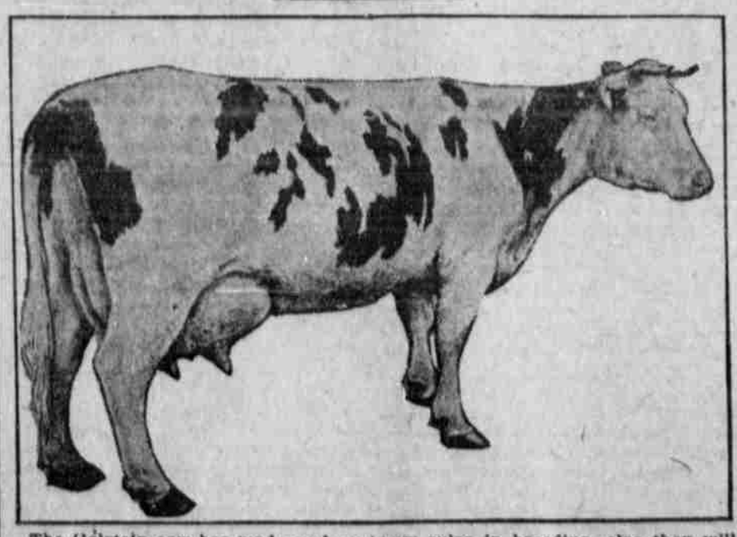
Variety of Vegetables.

Every home gardener should attempt to have a liberal production of a variety of vegetables throughout the season. This cannot be accomplished without planting in succession. Peas, beans, sweet corn and many other vegetables should be planted at intervals of ten days to two weeks.

Big Apple Crops.

In Ottawa county, a Missouri man last fall sold $1,840 of Jonathan apples from one acre, while a neighbor sold $611 worth of Bartlett pears from three acres.

ENVIABLE RECORD OF HOLSTEIN



The Holstein cow has made such an enviable record and is such a useful animal, and is filling her place so well, that it will behoove all other dairy breeds to change the old order that now rules in breeding, else they will be outdistanced by the Holstein in the big dairy race now being run in this country. As things stand now, the Holstein in this race is in the lead.

PARIS GREEN IS RECOMMENDED TO CONTROL DESTRUCTIVE PEST

Cut-worm Does Much Damage in Gardens and Sometimes to Foliage of Fruit Trees—Caterpillars Usually Lie in Concealed Place During Day Time and Come Forth at Night to Feed.

(By WM. J. PARDY.)

By "cutworms" is meant the larvae of certain millers or moths. The term is applied to a number of species which are very destructive to garden and field crops and sometimes also to foliage of fruit trees. Though there are some differences in the life histories of the several speecies, they are sufficiently alike in some of their habits so they may be fought by similar methods.

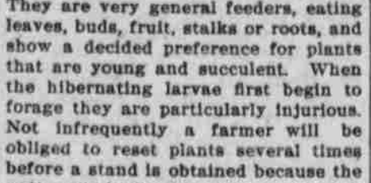
The larva is a flat, dirty gray or brownish creature, an inch or more in length when full grown and practically hairless. The W-marked cutworm and the spotted cutworm are each marked by a double row of black spots, which in the first mentioned species are of equal size, but in the second the spots gradually decrease in size toward the head.

The caterpillars usually lie curled up during the day, in a sheltered spot or in the earth. After nightfall they come to the surface to feed upon whatever vegetation may be convenient. They are very general feeders, eating leaves, buds, fruit, stalks or roots, and show a decided preference for plants that are young and succulent. When the hibernating larvae first begin to forage they are particularly injurious. Not infrequently a farmer will be obliged to reset plants several times before a stand is obtained because the pests cut them off as fast as they are set. The injury continues until midsummer, when the larvae are full grown.

The larvae then burrow into the ground to a depth of four to six inches to form a cell in which they pupate. Later in the summer the moths emerge. These differ somewhat in coloring in the various species, but for the most part have grayish or brownish obscurely marked fore wings and grayish or yellowish white hind wings.

The most effective remedy is the poisoned bran mash which has come into wide use. This is made by mixing half a pound of Paris green with 50 pounds of slightly moistened bran. In making this, it is best first to dampen some of the bran slightly with water containing a little sugar or salt, half a pound to a gallon. After mixing thoroughly, add the Paris green by dusting it on to the surface and stirring all the time.

When required for garden use sprinkle a little of the poisoned mixture by hand around such plants as are liable to attack. When crops are planted in rows a convenient way is to make the mixture rather dry and then distribute it by means of a wheel seeder. In



A. Cutworm Moth. B. Cutworm.

field practice, among such close-growing crops as standing grain, which are sometimes injured by cutworms, the poisoned bran remedy is also serviceable. The mixture can be distributed by means of a paddle or shingle and can be thrown easily to a distance of 20 feet. When distributed in this way there is much less danger of chickens and birds picking it up than if it is placed in lumps.

The question of danger from the use of this poisoned bait is one that must be considered. As a rule there is little danger from this cause. The quantity used is so small that it is not noticed by poultry; then, too, in gardens, poultry do so much harm to plants that they should never be admitted at the time of year when cutworms occur injuriously and only at special times of the year when there are no crops to injure. The experience of a great many people who have used this remedy without taking any special precautions is that injury to domestic animal is extremely rare. However, there will be many occasions when plants in gardens may be protected by putting out the poisoned bran in small heaps and then covering, so that the material cannot be got at by stray chickens and other poultry.

SMALL TOOLS ON THE FARM

Necessity of Fairly Complete Outfit Is Apparent if Farmer Would Avoid Many Trips to Town.

(By WALTER B. LEUTZ.)

If the average farmer were asked: "How much money have you invested in the small tools on this farm?" it is probable that after a moment of thought, during which he would have a mental picture of an ax, a handsaw, a grind-stone and rather a confused idea that there was a lot of stuff of one sort or another somewhere about the farm, would reply that from $25 to $50 would cover the cost.

A recent investigation conducted in Ohio, discloses the fact that this is far short of the mark. Careful inventories were taken on 33 farms, and in every instance the total amount was many times what the owner had "guessed."

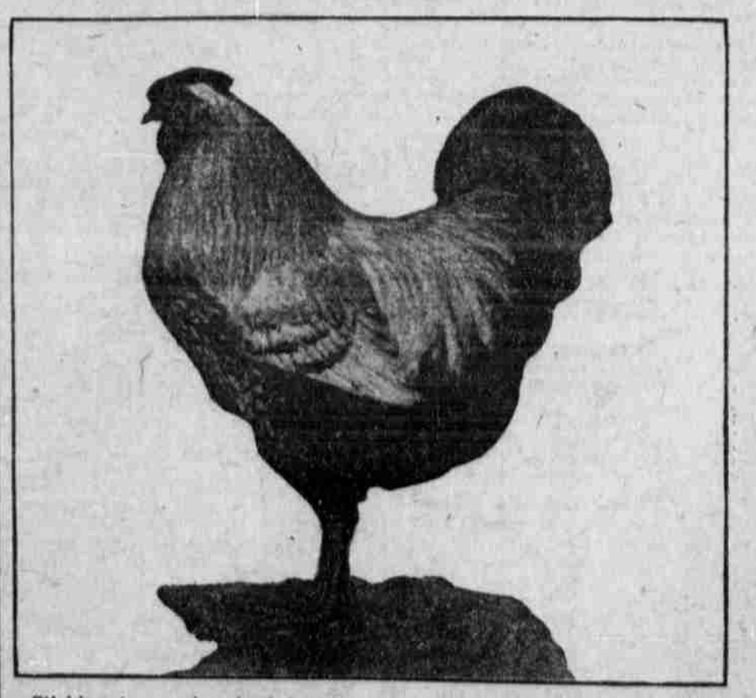
The fact that these small tools are bought, one at a time as needed, and are not cared for systematically, leads to a very erroneous idea of their value. Summarizing the inventories of these 33 farms, it is estimated that to completely equip a general farm of 160 acres in Ohio with small tools will probably cost from $200 to $300, or in excess of the farmers' "guess" by more than 500 per cent. An error in judgment of this amount, particularly when the error is against the farm, is serious enough to challenge attention.

Even on farms where inventories are habitually taken, these tools of minor equipment are usually included as "other small tools," and given a guessed at value, somewhat after the stereotyped expression appearing on sale bills: "other articles too numerous to mention."

Farm requirements differ very greatly, the highly specialized farm not needing nearly so many tools as the general farm. The necessity of a fairly complete outfit is apparent if the farmer would avoid expensive trips to town or to the neighbors to meet some immediate need, thereby stopping teams and laborers until the repair is effected. The advantage of some systematic arrangement is also apparent, in order that the exact tool may be at hand when wanted and thus avoid loss and delay by reason of mislaid, borrowed, stolen or lost tools.

Some of these tools can be charged to special farm enterprises, as to the horses, the dairy, corn, hay, grain, etc., but by far the great majority constitute an overhead charge against the farm. The connection between an auger bit handle and a bushel of wheat may not be at once apparent to the miller, but it requires the auger bit handle to turn the bit, to bore the hole in the plank, to make the wagon-jack, to grease the wagon that hauled the grain to the machine, and that brought the wheat to the mill. Before the bushel of wheat can yield a profit it must help pay for the auger bit handle and the other minor tools which total a hundred or more dollars in value on any well managed farm.

EXCELLENT PRODUCER OF EGGS



Sticking to one breed of fowls is best for the average farmer. The Silver Laced Wyandotte is an excellent produced of eggs and meat. It comes as near being the ideal dual purpose fowl as any for farm conditions.