

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Keep weeds out of strawberries.

Farm teams should have extra care.

Horses should not be checked up when at work.

Wild mustard causes but little trouble in the corn belt.

Ensilage materially reduces the cost of raising and fattening cattle.

Sometimes old strawberry beds will pay to keep for another fruiting.

Ordinarily the best animal food for hens at this time of year is cut green bone.

For the women who love plants there is nothing so pleasant as indoor gardening.

A sanitary stable is absolutely necessary for a uniform quality of good butter.

It costs less to raise strawberries in a new bed, and they are of better size and flavor.

A man who cannot succeed with a scrub flock will hardly make a success with a pure bred herd.

Dairy farmers should not raise or buy timothy hay for cows. Clover or alfalfa is much better as a milk producer.

With the majority of farmers the pasture provides the sole summer feed for all the animals except the work horses.

A patch of rutabagas or an acre of pumpkins will make the cows remember you with increased yields next fall and winter.

The temperature of the cream when in the churn should range from 52 to 56 degrees, and it should be churned for 30 to 40 minutes.

The sheep that shears ten pounds or over, an animal of good size and strong back, with proper attention will make money for its owner.

The great advantage of the cream separator over the various systems of cream-raising is that thick or thin cream, as desired, may be obtained.

Home-grown seeds, pure, free from weeds and found by local experience to afford satisfactory yields, are generally to be preferred over all others.

Summer selection should be kept up until the fowls are fully grown. Dispose of every little runt that shows up, because they are not worth keeping.

Get the horseradish into the ground just as soon as possible. Plant the roots two or three inches deep with the thick end up. The soil must be very rich.

All infertile eggs have a value. While it is unlawful to sell these eggs we find that when well boiled and mixed with cornmeal they make excellent food for chicks.

To give the hen heat and energy, we use carbonaceous matter (carbohydrates—starches). The two must be mixed. Fats, to a more or less extent, can be found in every article of food.

A gallon tin fruit can with holes made a half inch from the open end and inverted over an inch deep pie pan makes an ideal drinking fountain. Use the scrub brush on the pan once in awhile, too.

When corn is several inches high, put in the sulky cultivator set to mellow the ground fully five inches deep when corn is small and shallow; when stalks are half grown and roots spread across the rows.

The Pekin duck is very hardy, a good layer and fattens quickly. The ducklings, if well cared for should be ready for market in ten weeks. They should be killed before the pen feathers begin to grow.

Be careful not to overcrowd the birds during the hot season. Fresh air and cool quarters are conducive to health these warm days, and prevention is better than cure with chickens, seeing that the best cure for a sick fowl is death.

If the hens are confined to a small yard, a portion of the yard should be dug up once a week and a little finely-ground bone and meat fed three times during the week to take the place of the worms and insects they would pick up when at large.

Alfalfa roots are fine and tender.

Iron sulphate solution kills dandelions.

The horses should have free access to salt at all times.

Gooslings must be driven in when a hard shower comes up.

A rich sandy loam with clay subsoil, is the best ground for berries.

Do not allow a dying or worthless tree to stand in or near an orchard.

Beef, meal and meat scrap are fed by many poultrymen with excellent results.

Club root of cabbage is one of the most annoying yet easily controlled of diseases.

The matter of growing the corn and filling the silo is of great and growing importance.

Cattle on pasture can be fed grain and made ready for market early in the summer.

Wheat and oats in equal parts ground together are excellent for chicks of any age.

As soon as the corn is up, or even before, go over the field with a weeder or smoothing harrow.

Flaxseed may be broadcasted, but is generally drilled at the rate of from two to three pecks to the acre.

A small amount of animal food is required by all poultry, especially during the time of egg production.

Try to see that the chicks are not fed until at least 48 hours old; then give water first, feed afterwards.

Failures in the sheep business, in nine cases out of ten, may be traced to overconfidence and "plunging."

The farmer who makes milk production his business is a dairyman, and he needs the best of dairy cows.

If one has pigs that have to be kept in a yard all summer, sweet corn is the best green feed he can grow for them.

Barley and kafir corn are both good poultry feed, but not essential when one has plenty of the above mentioned grains.

Dairymen doing a small business connected with farming cannot live up to the standard without increasing the cost of milk.

The temperature in a brooder the first week should be 95 degrees, second week 90 degrees and the third week 85 degrees is enough.

Corn silage and alfalfa make an excellent ration for dairy cows and good yields of milk have been reported where nothing else was fed.

Go over the young apple trees and cut off every water sprout with a sharp knife close to the trunk. Do it early and they will heal this season.

It is the early vegetable that brings the big price and the man who sticks to his hot bed and makes good use of it always gets to market first.

There are several crops which may be planted for late summer pasture which will furnish fresh, succulent green feed for all seasons of the year.

Two or three days after potatoes are planted go over the field with a harrow, and continue this until the plants are several inches above the ground.

As soon as the potatoes are planted and up sufficiently to cultivate, it is becoming customary, and necessary, to spray with some poison solution to kill the bugs.

The fruiting strawberries should have all weeds and grass cut out between plants; take a sharp, narrow-bladed hoe and cut the soil fine without disturbing the roots.

The poultry yard should be all cleared away and tidied up in June, and all coops and racks no longer in use securely stored away in some shed where they will be kept dry until next season.

One can spread ashes, lime, land plaster, pulverized lime rock, etc., etc., with the manure spreader by first putting a layer of litter in the bottom of the spreader and the fine material on top.

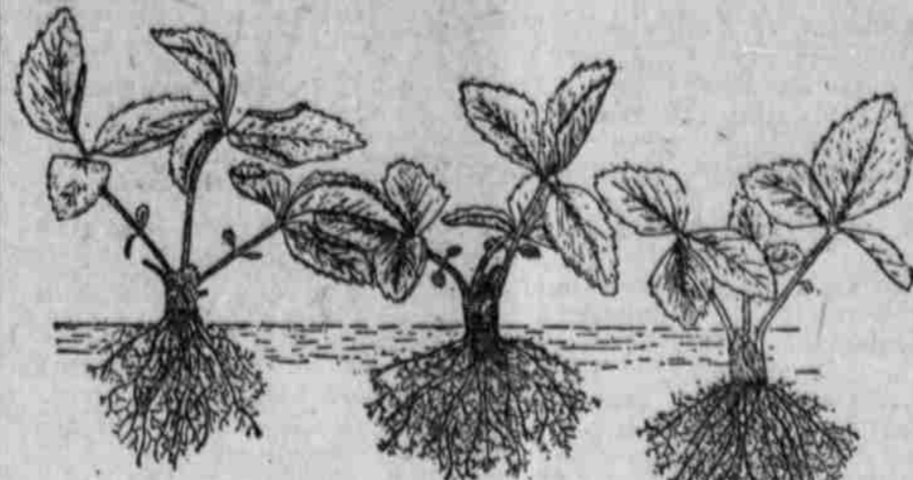
A remarkable thing about alfalfa is its perennial youth. When one growth is removed another one comes on immediately to take its place, and so continually as long as moisture and temperature conditions are favorable.

Grow your tomatoes on trellises this year and see if you do not have better crops than ever before. Trellises should be set in the ground about 18 inches deep when the plants are set out and the vines trained from the start.

When one stops to consider the stupendous fact that Philadelphia, Chicago and New York consume 7,000,000 cases of eggs annually, some idea may be obtained of the number required to feed Uncle Sam's rapidly increasing family all over the country.

STRAWBERRY IS MOST WIDELY-GROWN FRUIT IN THE WORLD

One of the First Farm Products to Reach Market in Spring and is Always Welcome—Well-Drained, Friable Clay Loam is Probably Best, Soil That Warms Up Easily, Yet Will Hold Moisture.



Setting Strawberry Plants.

(By LE ROY CADY, University of Minnesota.)

The strawberry is probably the most widely-grown fruit in the world. There are varieties adapted to almost every climate and condition, from Alaska to Florida. Our cultivated kinds have been developed from the Chilean strawberry (*Fragaria chilensis*) and the common wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*). The Alpine strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) of Europe is the parent of the ever-bearing varieties which are coming into prominence just now in some places. They, however, are not as yet of sufficient value to deserve much attention. The strawberry is one of the first fruits on the market in the spring, and hence is always welcome.

The strawberry is propagated by seed, by division and by offsets. In common with other fruits, the seeds do not come "true"—that is, do not reproduce plants like the parent plant; hence, division of the old crowns or the use of offsets afford the only practical methods of propagation.

Seed planting is resorted to to get new varieties. The berries are crushed in sand as soon as ripe, to get rid of the pulp and juice, and the seed is then sown at once in a sandy loam, in a box or open bed. The plants grow very quickly. As soon as large enough, they are transplanted to a bed, four inches apart, and left over winter. They should be mulched, with about six inches of hay or straw, as soon as the ground freezes. In the spring they may be set in the fruiting bed. About one plant in a thousand may prove of exceptional value. However, many people find pleasure in developing new varieties.

Division of the old plants is never used except in case of a very choice variety, that cannot readily be propagated by offsets. It is too uncertain and slow a method. Propagation by offsets or runners is the best method. These runners are made during the summer, and the next spring may be separated from the old plant and set out in the permanent bed. Usually these root readily; if they do not, a little earth may be thrown over the tip early in summer, to aid in rooting.

A northern slope is to be preferred, as the plants do not start so early in the spring. They thus escape the early frosts and they are not so likely to be dried out by the hot south and southwest winds at fruiting time. Many growers, however, obtain good results on a southern slope, in spite of the disadvantages.

Any land that will grow a good crop of corn will grow strawberries. Sod land should never be used if it can be prevented, as it is likely to contain grubs and cut-worms, which will eat off the roots of newly-set plants. A well-drained, friable clay loam is probably best for strawberries—a soil that warms up easily and yet will hold sufficient moisture for the crop.

Strawberries require a rich soil, hence it is well to thoroughly manure the land that is to be used for the crop in the fall, and plow under from four to six inches deep. In the spring, disk, drag and smooth thoroughly. This gives a loose soil in which to set the plants, and a firm subsoil to hold the moisture, and yet open enough to let the roots through.

The best time to set a strawberry-bed is in the early spring, as soon as the land is in good condition and the plants can be obtained. There is more moisture as a rule at that time; and this, combined with the cool weather of spring, gives better growing conditions than August planting. Plants may also be set in the fall, if extra attention and care are given them. It does not pay to set the plants in dry soil or in a dry season, unless plenty of water for irrigation purposes is available.

It often happens that strawberry plants are received in a dry or weakened condition, or that the soil is not ready for their planting. They may be "heeled in," or temporarily planted in some sheltered place, until they have recovered or the land is ready to use. Cut open the bundles in which the plants are received, dip the roots into muddy water, and set in rows close together, placing a little dirt between the plants, so that they will not heat. Pack the soil firmly over the roots, so they will not dry out. If the plants have been weakened in transit, they should be shaded for a few days until they recover. It is well also to protect them from the wind.

The illustration shows three ways of

setting the plants. The setting of the plant in the left is too shallow; that at the right is too deep; the center plant is properly set, with its crown even with the surface of the ground.

BUYING TURKEY BREEDING STOCK

Secret of Success Is in Getting Little Poults Well Started—Should Be Allowed Much Range.

In buying your breeding stock be sure and get good strong, healthy birds. Don't go around among your neighbors and buy a few of the cheapest scrub turkeys that you can find, but be willing to pay a good price and be satisfied with nothing but good birds. The secret of turkey raising is to get the young turkeys well started.

Eternal vigilance is the price of success. The young turkeys will not need any feed for 24 hours after hatching. And then don't feed too much at a time, but feed often.

Turkeys enjoy a variety in feeds. Table scraps are good and the term should include not only portions of cooked food, but rinds, grape seeds, apple cores, etc. While grain should be the basis for a satisfactory ration, these accessories are very helpful. The potatoes which are too small for table use, if boiled and salted a little, are devoured greedily by fowls. They should be fed twice a week at least.

The more we try to domesticate and confine them the more susceptible they become to disease. Even in the most severe weather, turkeys should be allowed to roost out doors and forage as widely as they please.

There is only one sort of weather from which it is advisable to house the birds. This is the wet, sleety weather, when snow or ice may cling and freeze to their plumage. When such a night impends the old turkey raiser rounds up the flock and gently drives the whole aggregation into a large, roomy shed kept ready for the purpose. The next morning they are set at liberty bright and early, fed, and then allowed to roam again. But if the nights are dry, no matter how cool the season, they are allowed to roost in the air, away up in the branches of the large trees near the barn.

Turkeys are very different from other farm fowls. They are brought to the most prime condition when allowed the most freedom. They should no more be forced to eat and drink with chickens and ducks than horses should be obliged to feed with hogs. They should be fed at the barn daily, but be more or less free to forage in the corn lot, the grain field and the meadow and wood lands, if not too far from home.

DISCOVER NEW POTATOE DISEASE

Wart Is Enemy of Crop Which Is Attracting Attention in Europe and Is Liable to Be Introduced Here.

The wart disease is a new enemy of the potato crop which is attracting great attention in Europe, and which is liable to be introduced into the United States at any time. It affects the tubers, forming large rough, unsightly warts, and, in severe attacks, completely destroys the crop. Once the fungus gets into the soil, it is impossible to grow a crop of potatoes on the land for several years.

The fungus which causes this disease was discovered in 1896 in potatoes grown in Hungary. It is now prevalent in many places in England and there is great danger that it may spread to Ireland. It is also found in Germany and some other European countries. It has been carried to Newfoundland, but has not yet appeared in the United States.

It is spread by using affected potatoes for seed, and, as this country imports considerable quantities of potatoes every year, there is danger that it may be introduced.

The United States department of agriculture has recently issued a circular for free distribution, giving a brief account of this disease.

SILO SHOULD BE REGARDED AS NECESSITY ON STOCK FARM

Huge Receptacle Is No Longer an Experiment and Is as Valuable to Man Who Breeds Stock as to Dairyman—Silage Very Materially Decreases Cost of Putting Pound of Beef Onto Feeding Steer.

We have been laboring in season and out of season to induce farmers to build silos. The silo is no longer an experiment. It has been used by dairymen with success for thirty years. It was for a long time supposed that it could only be used in dairying, says the Wallace Farmer. We have found out now that it is almost as valuable to the man who grows stock as to the man who milks cows. We are finding out that silage very materially decreases the cost of putting a pound of beef onto a feeding steer. We have found out that it is good for the ewe, for the brood sows, and for young stock of all kinds as well as for dairy cattle. The only animal on the place to which it is not safe to feed it is the horse; just why we do not know. It is perhaps entirely safe if of good quality, but dangerous if moldy.

We are finding out still more about silage, namely, that by using a summer silo, one about half the size of the winter one, we can bridge over the droughts, which come in every coun-

Suppose you cannot fill one man's silo before it is dry; you can easily remedy that by putting in water. We have done it and it works finely. You can even take the corn that stands in the field ready for husking and make good silage out of it if you put in water enough; or you can plant some sorghum and corn, and let the abundance of moisture in the sorghum make for the deficiency in the corn.

All these things are worth thinking about. What we want to impress upon your minds just now is that you cannot afford not to build a silo if you are in the stock business. You can no more do without a manure spreader or a grain drill. There are some things that are well settled over most of our territory. There are sections, say in the extreme north, where it is more of a question as to whether one should build a silo or not, because these northern farmers can grow roots to much greater advantage than we can and silage is not so practicable in a very long and cold winter on ac-



A Silo for a Stock Farm.

count of the freezing. This, however, is only in the extreme northern sections. Throughout the corn belt the silo should be regarded as an absolute necessity on the stock farm in every section where there is liability of summer drought.

Some of the readers may shake their heads at this, but we are telling them agricultural gospel truth. They may say: While we often have these dry periods in July and August, we do not always have them. Some years we have excellent pastures. True, but your silage will keep almost as well as the fruit your wife keeps over from a year of abundance to a year of want.

Last year we fed on one of the farms belonging to the Wallace family silage that was two years old. Apparently it was just as good as the year it was made.

Why do we talk about it now? Because, if you are going to have a silo this fall for either winter or summer use, you ought to be thinking about it; not about the building of it or the cost of it, although it is worthy of thought, but where you will plant your corn to necessitate the least hauling and diminish the expense; about what kind of silage you want, whether rich with corn or scant in corn. You can determine that by the thickness of planting. If you want silage rich in corn to fatten steers, you want to plant it as you do for the market—for the maximum of ears; but if you want it to feed to the dairy cows and want a large yield of stock with small grain yield, you must plant it thick.

The main reason we are talking about it now is because to put up a silo and use it economically you want to enlist the co-operation of your neighbors. The same silage cutter and the same power will answer for two neighbors anyhow, and frequently three, but not more. Have you not a couple of neighbors who would be benefited by having a silo? If they are not convinced of this, can you not get them to convince themselves by investigating it? Then can you not arrange to co-operate in buying a cutter, and what is quite as important, in filling the separate silos? Can you not agree to plant an early corn and a later variety?

FRENCH MILK POWDER PROCESS

Article Produced Found by Analysis to Contain All of Constituents of Milk Except Water.

The processes currently employed for making milk powder are based upon desiccation by heat. In a process recently devised in France by Lecomte and Lainville the action of cold is substituted for that of heat. The milk is poured into vessels similar to those which are used for producing blocks of artificial ice, and is cooled to a few degrees below the freezing point (about 28.5 deg. F.). Suitable precautions are taken to prevent the water of the milk from freezing in a solid mass and to cause it to assume the form of fine snow. The congealed milk is then placed in a centrifugal separator which revolves very rapidly. The snow crystals remain in the machine while the other parts of the milk are expelled in the form of the soft, greasy paste, which still contains some water. The desiccation is completed by placing the paste in a drying room heated to a moderate and uniform temperature. The milk powder thus produced has been proved by analysis to contain all of the constituents of the milk, except the water, in an unaltered condition. The process is equally applicable to whole milk, and to milk deprived of part or all of its cream.

Danger of Early Grass. Too much early grass will physio the work horses severely, which will run them down in flesh.

Farrowing Sows. Oats, wheat, bran and middlings, with a quiet corner and a warm place, for the farrowing sows.