

# NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Cull your chicken flocks often.

Alfalfa is the best soiling crop known.

It does not pay to be careless with farm machinery.

There is nothing equal to mother's milk for a young foal.

The honey bee is necessary in the pollination of fruit trees.

Whitewash is a cheap aid to the keeping of a sweet and sanitary stable.

This is the time of year when it is necessary to keep the cultivator going overtime.

After cooling, milk should in all cases be held at the lowest available temperature.

Good ventilation is absolutely essential, but drafts must be prevented in the lambing shed.

The best way to get rid of mosquitoes, like the balance of our troubles, is not to raise 'em.

The Guernsey, when it comes to butter fat, holds a distinguished place as a record breaker.

The cost of 100 pounds' gain in calves is about \$4.10, while it is nearly \$6.50 for two-year-olds.

The cultivation of beans should be along the same lines as of corn, and if possible more intensive.

Spray the first time for the special purpose of filling every blossom on the tree with the poison used.

Breaking broody hens is not a hard task. A little care in the feeding and housing is all that is required.

The United States produces one-fifth of the wheat and three-fourths of all the corn grown in the world.

Do not wait until the broody fever has become chronic, but discourage her as soon as she shows signs of it.

Alfalfa is one of the best plants to furnish green food for chickens, but ordinarily it soon kills out if over pastured.

Shorn sheep sell at a discount because the wool cannot be pulled until it has a growth of three-quarters of an inch.

Brush the udder and surrounding parts just before milking, and wipe them with a clean damp cloth or sponge.

Keep small turkey poults out of the long, wet grass in the morning and see that they are under cover during heavy showers.

Butter from fresh and properly ripened cream not over one day old keeps better than does butter made from sweet cream.

An important feature in the successful management of the sow and litter is to get the little pigs to feed as early as possible.

It is found that success in dairying depends as much on the kind of care and management bestowed on the herd, as upon the breed.

When you weed and thin out the family garden don't forget the poultry; they will relish the garden waste and put it to a good use.

Plan to raise a fine flock of general purpose standard-bred birds this season. They will yield much more satisfaction and profit than a mixed flock.

If a man has Jerseys, give them less of Jersey care and feed, for they cannot succeed on scrub fare and fodder. They were not intended for that purpose.

By two or three plantings of sweet corn two weeks or so apart, one can have tender juicy corn on the table three times as long as one planting can give them.

Cooked fish makes good summer animal food. Beef scraps are less liable to cause indigestion and diarrhoea in hot weather if well scalded and mixed with ground grains.

The butter fat from very fresh cream is apparently in a more stable condition than is the fat in the sour cream over one day old, and not so predisposed to decomposition.

If shod, the shoes should be removed at frequent intervals, because the hoof of the horse keeps continually growing. If the horse goes unshod trim the feet occasionally.

Have spraying outfits enough to cover the orchard within seven to ten days, if possible, or before the earliest blossoms close enough to prevent getting the spray into the calyx.

Many farmers use a boar of different breed of that of their sows to produce a cross. Sometimes this is good practice for the first cross, but the sows from such a cross should never be bred.

Hatch guinea fow's eggs under common hens and let the hen raise them. When so reared they will be very tame and will stick to the hen mother, much to her displeasure, after they are well grown. As they live chiefly on weed seed, grass and insects, it costs little to grow them.

The fact that dairymen have devoted more attention to other phases of their dairying than to the breeding and development of the cow is one of the reasons why so many of our dairy herds are not capable of returning a profit from their food and cost of attendance.

There are several different types of the plant, the Phyllocactus being among the most popular—These Produce Some of the Most Magnificent Flowers Known to the Tribe.

(By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.)

There are possibilities among the cacti too little appreciated. Blossoms among them are unexcelled in color, form and richness of effect, while the peculiar growth of many is a subject of interest to all plant lovers.

It is the popular supposition that they must not be watered freely. In fact there are certain seasons when this holds true—during the dormant period; but when a plant shows indication of new growth it should then have an abundance of water.

There are several different types of cacti, the phyllocactus, or leafy-stemmed variety being among the most popular. These form handsome plants at all seasons and produce some of the most magnificent flowers known to the tribe.

Those with large scarlet flowers are most frequently seen, though there is a pink one with trumpet-shaped blossoms which is, if possible, even more beautiful.

The Queen cactus, one of this group, is often called the night blooming cereus, though the flowers are smaller than the true cereus, pink tinted and with a delightful odor.

It blooms at night and certainly deserves the large crowds which flock to see it open. The phyllocactus group

## POSSIBILITIES AMONG CACTI TOO LITTLE APPRECIATED

There are several different types of the plant, the Phyllocactus being among the most popular—These Produce Some of the Most Magnificent Flowers Known to the Tribe.

remains in bloom for weeks if not exposed to too much heat.

The cereus types, which require a more sandy soil, are readily recognized by their slender, half-climbing habits. The rat-tail is one of the best spring bloomers, suitable for the hanging basket.

As soon as these appear water freely and give all the available sunshine. Liquid manure applied once a week is, during the growing season, as beneficial to this and to all other cacti as to the geranium. The flowers are of a rich magenta and borne in profusion.

The genuine night blooming cereus is a snaky looking plant, but from the time the buds appear in the early spring, looking like tiny tufts of cotton, until the wondrous blossoms are perfected the plant is always an object of interest.

The opening of a cereus blossom can never be appreciated until seen. There is the quivering of the petals, the gradual disclosing of the creamy interiors, within which is a most marvelous mechanism of stamens surrounded by the star-like petals. Only the white pond lily gives any suggestion of the wondrous purity and even this the cereus far transcends. Yet it is easily grown.

If insects attack, spray or wash off with kerosene emulsion, a wing being



Cactus Garden in Southern California.

all like a richer soil than that accorded to most of the tribe, and may, in fact, be treated as a geranium, fertilizing when the plant is growing and watering very sparingly during the period of rest.

The humming bird or lobster cactus is another plant which should be in every collection. The entire plant, which is leafy, is beautiful at all times, and in late autumn or early winter the load of pink buds depending from the ends of the leaves suggest the common name, and it requires little strength of the imagination to think them winged visitors, the poles imitating that of the humming bird almost perfectly. The opened blossom is an exquisite shading of white and rose and the plant

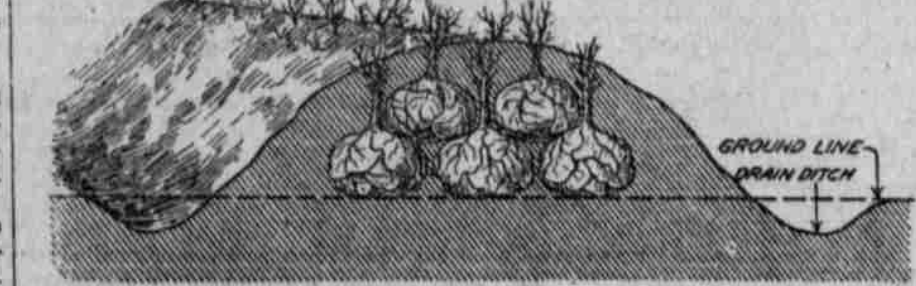
is excellent for cleaning this plant. The scale and aphid are its chief enemies.

Some plants are slow in attaining blooming size, yet when this is once reached they are faithful each year. The humming bird and rat-tail are notable for exceptions, blooming nicely when from a few months to a year old.

Wants Pure Buttermilk.

A St. Louis woman is advertising for pure buttermilk. She recites that no dairyman need apply because she has tried all the dairies in St. Louis and has been half around the world in a vain search for buttermilk of the old fashioned kind, churned in the old way with little pieces of butter floating around in it.

## GOOD STORAGE FOR CABBAGE



The early cabbage which is grown by the market gardener is cut, carefully trimmed, and marketed from his wagon or stall. The later crop which is harvested in the fall may not be marketed immediately, but may be stored temporarily in a cool, well-ventilated building in which case the heads are usually cut from the stalks, carefully trimmed, and stored in small bins or on shelves. If such facilities are not available an area on a well-drained portion of the field is prepared for the storage of the cabbage. The preparation usually consists in leveling an area wide enough to allow about five heads of

cabbage to be placed, roots up, in a continuous row or belt, as suggested in the illustration. The outer leaves are all preserved and carefully wrapped around the heads as they are placed, after which the whole is covered with a layer of straw or marsh hay, and, as the weather increases in severity, with a slight layer of earth. In the milder portions of the country this protection is employed for the whole winter. Farther north the soil layer must be increased, and where winters are severe storage houses should be used rather than this primitive method of storing.

## BADLY DESIGNED FARM DWELLING

Appearance of Home Can Be Improved on by Covering of Vines—Permanent Plants Are Best.

(By WALTER B. LEUTZ.)

Badly designed farm houses can always be improved in appearance by a covering of vines. It is a matter of regret that the work of the turning lathe and fret saw still holds its place in many American houses; but as long as we continue to decorate our dwellings with figamirigs and porch posts turned and carved into ugly fantastic shapes, those who can discern their ugliness must content themselves by hiding it with the leaves and flowers of clinging vines.

The Moon vine is not indeteroid as it should be. A single vine is of not much use but in large numbers trained to cover a side of a house or

high porch it is most slightly with its mass of white flowers which, however, unfortunately, appear only at night.

Growing of temporary vines is only to be tolerated when permanent vines will follow. They should be planted together in order that during the two or three years required to bring the permanent plants up the temporary vines may serve as a substitute and then be dropped without much loss of beauty.

Big Apple Crop.

Berkley county, West Virginia, produced 100,000 barrels of apples last year and the entire crop was sold in the orchard to buyers at from three to five dollars per barrel.

Tobacco in England.

Tobacco was introduced into England from America by Raleigh in 1585 and wheat, barley and oats were introduced into the United States in 1607.

## PRACTICAL CONSTRUCTION OF COMFORTABLE HOG BUILDINGS

Floor Problem Is Still an Unsettled Question—Concrete Is Satisfactory If Covered With Plank Overlays or False Floors—Ventilation Is Important Factor Often Overlooked.

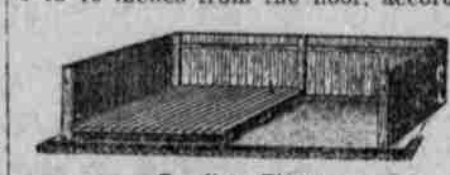
(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

The hog house floor is an unsettled question. A good floor is the ground with woven wire stretched on top to prevent the hogs from rooting. Electrically welded corner wire is very satisfactory. This makes a floor which is easy on the hogs, almost free from rats, and, if properly bedded, warm and dry. It is, however, more difficult to keep free from dust than some other floors. Many concrete floors are used, but they are cold, liable to be wet, and are hard on the hogs' feet. Often almost an entire pig crop and many sows are lost by taking cold on concrete floors. Concrete floors are, however, very satisfactory when covered with plank overlays, or false floors, which should be raised from the concrete about an inch by nailing cleats on the under side. The wood portion of this floor consists of 2 by 4 inch timbers laid about one-fourth inch apart to allow drainage.

Board floors are expensive, short lived, cold if up off the ground, and make the worst kind of rat harbors. The writer once visited an old hog house with wood floor in which the owner said the rats had gotten over half the pigs. Several men report that rats may be kept out by packing sand or cinders to the top of the joists before laying the floor, but these materials are often too expensive to be used for this purpose.

In making the inside partitions, care should always be taken to have them perfectly tight at the floor and for about 10 to 12 inches above, so that young pigs cannot crawl through, and so sows in the adjoining pens cannot get hold of them and pull them through. A sow will often pull a newly born pig through under a partition and eat it, when, if the pig was in the pen with her, it would be perfectly safe. Above the first 10 or 12 inches it is better to have the partitions open enough so the hogs can see out, otherwise at every sound the sows will be up on the partitions to see what is going on.

Pig rails or guard rails should be placed on the inside of the pen, from 6 to 10 inches from the floor, accord-



Feeding Floor.

ing to the size of the sow, and should stand out 6 or 8 inches to prevent the sow from mashing the pigs against the wall.

It will be found convenient to have the alley gates removable by lifting out. It is sometimes helpful, also, to have part or all of the partition fences removable. All partitions should be 30 to 36 inches high.

Six by 8 feet is generally found to be a very satisfactory size for pens, but if feeding is to be done inside, the pens will need to be longer in order to give room to feed and water without getting the bed befouled. Very large sows, such as are sometimes kept by breeders, may need more room, but the producer of pork will not need a larger pen. Small sows do not need this much room, and it might be good economy to make half of the pens 5 feet wide. Five by 7 feet will accommodate a small sow very well.

How doors should be 22 to 23 inches wide and 30 to 31 inches high in the clear. In cold weather a piece of burlap or ducking hung at the top of the hog door, with a stick a little shorter than the width of the door nailed across the bottom to prevent the wind from blowing it back, will help materially to keep the pigs warm. The pigs will soon learn to lift the curtain when they want to go through. The board doors in cots would not then need to be closed except in very bad weather, or while the pigs are very small.

In most cases either ventilation is lacking or the house is drafty. In a well-ventilated, double-walled building, little moisture will gather on the walls even in very cold weather, while in a poorly ventilated one thick coats of frost will often gather, and the whole house will be damp when the frost melts. It is not easy to secure a good supply of fresh air and prevent all drafts from striking the pigs. There are, however, several quite sat-

isfactory methods of ventilation in use. The commonest one is to make some of the windows so they will either slide or swing on hinges. The cloth curtain window also does good work.

Whitewashing the inside of the house is an excellent practice. Besides going a long way toward disinfecting, it increases the light materiality. When the sunshine strikes a whitewashed wall, much of it is reflected to the floor and does a great deal of good. Dark houses, which must be used will be much improved by whitewashing.

**BENEFITS OF FARM WINDMILL**

In Some Respects it Serves as Hired Man—Affords Fresh Water for the Live Stock Day and Night.

(By F. H. HATLEY, Kentucky.)

I use my windmill to a great advantage on my farm. In some respects it serves as a hired hand. When I purchased my windmill I secured two pieces of timber, nine feet long, five inches thick and eight inches wide.

I placed the legs of the windmill on the two pieces of timber which has a bevel on the bottom like a sled runner. I firmly screwed the legs to the timbers and nailed braces across from one to the other making it steady. Then it was ready to move from place to place by means of a pair of horses.

In the summer months when it is hot and dry I hook up to my windmill and take it to the pasture and connect it with the pump, keeping fresh water for the stock day and night. I save the labor of doing the pumping myself which before, took me about two hours twice a day, and my stock enjoyed two good drinks a day. Now they enjoy cool, fresh drink at all times through the day.

I have a pen around my windmill and pump to keep my stock from damaging either. My watering trough is made from gum lumber 18 feet long and 14 inches wide, 1 1/2 inches thick and is 18 feet long, 28 inches wide and 14 inches deep.

I have a rubber hose to fit over the mouth of the pump which is five feet long and leads to the trough and at the end of my trough I have an inch and three-quarters iron pipe that intersects it about one inch from the top. It comes straight down to the ground with an elbow allowing it to go along on the ground to a ditch.

My pipe is three inches under the ground from being mashed by the larger animals.

When the summer is over and it begins to rain I hook up to my windmill and bring it to the house, which requires but a short while, connect it to my pump at the house to use in pumping water for my stock after I bring them into winter quarters and also for the use of watering the house.

I have a rubber hose 14 feet long which I use in washing off my buggy and wagon. I also use it for washing my horses' feet and legs as the windmill forces a powerful and effective stream.

By means of the patent self-locking and unlocking method I can stand on the ground and stop or start my windmill by pulling the cord which hangs down beside the frame. My windmill cost me \$54 but a good mill can be purchased for \$27.50 and up.

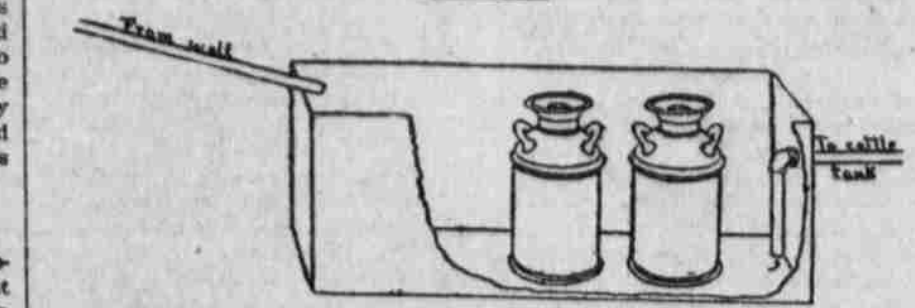
Counting the three months that I keep my stock in the pasture and three hours' work per day at 10 cents per hour which is the minimum wages for farm hands, the windmill will save \$27—half the price of the mill, while it would cost me that amount if I did not have it for a hand to pump water for the stock.

There are several other advantages that the windmill is to the farm. It can be attached to the grindstone, the cream separator, churn, etc., making it one of the most useful implements on the farm.

**Boys' and Girls' Clubs.**

Clubs for farm boys and girls to stimulate interest in improved methods of agriculture and better living conditions on the farm now have a total membership of 144,000 in the United States.

## CONSTRUCTING MILK COOLER



The tank is made of galvanized iron and is set near the well with a pipe connecting from well to tank at the top of the cream house. In one side of the tank make a hole for a piece of gas pipe using a couple of locknuts, one on the inside, the other on the outside to keep from leaking. On the inner end of this outlet which connects with the water tank for cattle, use an elbow with a piece of gas pipe about sixteen inches long turned down so that the circulation is good in this tank the water going in at the top and out at the bottom. All the water for cattle must pass around the cream where the cream can be set as soon as separated.