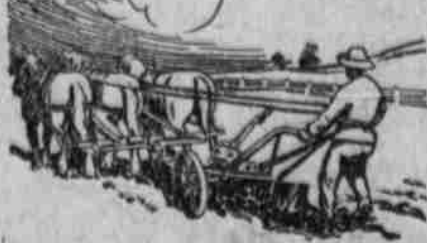


NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Prune the tomato plants.

The making of good hay is an art.

Sheep are good stock to have on the farm.

The cow test association is a great thing for any dairy locality.

Brood sows as well as cows should be selected for their milking qualities.

The manure that washes away and is wasted represents an actual money loss.

Milk is an excellent food for the young fowls, but requires skill in feeding.

It takes two years or more for the white grub to reach maturity from the egg.

The comb is as sure an indicator of the health of the bird as the tongue is of the person.

Young pigs need perfectly dry quarters, especially during the first weeks of their existence.

If in milking a part of the milk is bloody, stringy or unnatural in appearance the whole should be rejected.

The March pullets are the ones that will begin to lay in November if they have been given proper care.

A hay cap will shed a reasonably heavy rain and keep the larger part of the cock of hay from getting wet.

It is a great thing to know just when a plant needs water. It is a matter that requires close observation.

The very best kind of a pen for ducklings is one that can be easily moved from one part of the yard to another.

The condition of your neighbor's field makes little difference to you. Your attention should be centered in your own.

Old orchards can be renewed in such a way as to produce good fruit for the family while the new orchard is coming on.

The silo enables the dairyman to keep more live stock on the same number of acres and at less cost in feed and labor.

Shropshires are very hardy sheep, their wool brings a good price and they seem to be healthier than some of the other breeds.

Naturally the cow that gives the greatest profit is the one that gives the most milk during the winter for milk is then highest priced.

Never give drugs to a horse any more than you would to a baby unless he is downright sick. Shutting off his feed will cure all minor ills.

The size of the tile to be placed in a drain will depend upon the length of the drain, the depth of the distance apart the drains are placed.

The high grade draft horse, the product of a pure bred sire and a good mare, has made one of the most profitable industries upon the American farm.

Veal calves in hot weather will grow better if kept during the day in a dark, cool stable, but the stable must be cleaned out and well ventilated.

A hen may cease laying if not properly fed before she uses up all her stored energy, and it occasionally happens that a hen dies by overegg production.

If English farmers can afford to use pure-bred draft horses that are worth \$500 for ordinary farming operations, why cannot our farmers afford them as well?

A really good horse is never of a bad color, but some colors, such as perfectly dappled grays, pure blacks and blue roans, command better prices than others.

It takes some grit to say "No" when the butcher gets his eye on the nicest lamb you have—the one you wanted to save for yourself—but that very lamb will by and by bring you a great deal more than the meat man will give you for it now if you keep it.

A sick cow is the hardest of all farm animals to treat, owing to her complex digestive apparatus. At the first signs of a derangement the remedies should be administered in order to reach the seat of trouble by the time it will probably become serious.

Sheep are easily handled.

Handle cows carefully in summer.

Cows are annoyed by unnecessary delay and noise.

Labor saving equipment on the farm earns more than it costs.

With the silo, an acre of roughage will feed a greater number of animals.

It is well to keep grit and lime within reach of the chickens all the time.

It is well to remember that chickens cannot thrive if infested with vermin.

Don't leave your valuable farm machinery standing unprotected in the field.

Peat soil which produces poor corn generally does so on account of lack of potassium.

It is false economy to shut your poultry up to keep them from damaging your gardens.

Watch most carefully during the heated term that the chicks have well ventilated brood coops.

Plant early and late so that the supply of crisp vegetables can be maintained for months.

The bedding of a sow at farrowing time should be sufficient only for cleanliness and dryness.

The work is evenly distributed throughout the entire year on the best organized dairy farms.

Almost any one can succeed with sheep in winter time, or in early spring or in the fall months.

It is much better to use a medium season, heavy straw variety of oats when they are grown with peas.

If the man who has no silo would watch his neighbor feed and watch the results he would soon have one.

Success does not depend so much upon the number of cows a man keeps as upon the number of good cows he keeps.

Strawberries should be cultivated, the weeds eradicated and the moisture conserved for late summer drought.

The egg is manufactured by the hen from the food that is consumed, hence her feeding should be carefully considered.

Painting an old buggy or wagon or farm implement is not a very difficult task, but it adds a great deal to the appearance.

It is a mistake to pasture young clover for the cattle are apt to kill the plants as much by tramping on them as by feeding.

Keep up the warfare on weeds in the cornfields these hot days, when soil moisture needs to be conserved to its utmost limit.

Pigs at birth have two sharp pointed teeth, one each side of their jaws. If not removed they are apt to make the teats of the mother sore.

Plow and harrow the ground before sowing fall turnips. Turn under the weeds and make the seed bed as fine, clean and smooth as possible.

As the new corn gets dry and hard it is safe to feed more than when it was soft and green. It is more easily digested and gives better results.

The cows should have some protection from severe storms; that is, there should be some place where they can go if they want to during a cold rain.

The best way to obtain good cows is to raise the heifer calves from your best dairy cows, thus in a short time you are the possessor of good young cows.

Lettuce may be had for table use till late in winter by starting the plants now and protecting them with a cold frame when cold weather comes.

Hay troughs should be so fixed that particles will not fall through and become entangled in the fleece. Foreign matter of any sort in the fleece reduces its value.

Pie plant is a good commercial vegetable. The demand for it on the city markets is good. It is little trouble and can be shipped well, standing almost any distance.

Bookkeeping is well adapted to gardening and fruit growing. The bees will appreciate your skill as gardener and show their appreciation by paying tribute in honey.

It has been found by observation that in every instance noted the hen that molts last has the biggest record behind her. The later she molts the higher the production. You can select your breeders with safety at time of molting.

Every dairy farmer who keeps a dairy herd should know, with reasonable accuracy, how much milk and butter fat each cow in his herd is producing; this can be ascertained by regularly weighing the milk from each cow and testing for butter fat.

PROPER TREATMENT OF COLTS DURING THE SUMMER'S HEAT

Many Good Animals Have Been Aged and Made Dull by Foolish Habit of Letting Them Run Unbroken Into Spring When They Are Three or Four Years Old and Then Putting Them to Work.



Prize Winnink Draft Mare and Foal.

(By J. M. BELL, Virginia.)

Try to be patient with your colt Mr. Farmer. Remember he is green—yes, as green as the grass he eats so peacefully when you turn him out to graze and the harness no longer chafes his soft young body.

All farmers know that a four-year-old colt will stand more than a three-year-old. Bone and muscle are better matured and generally better size, therefore, he is better able to stand a day's work. But, when it comes to that, no green, unbroken colt should be expected to do a full day's work in the team of well seasoned farm or road horses.

So many good colts have been aged and made dull by this foolish habit of letting them run absolutely unbroken into the spring when they are three or four-year-olds and then catching them and putting them at hard, steady work just as the busy season comes on, when the crops need work, when the flies are rampant and when neither the master's nor the colt's tempers are at their best.

Imagine a farmer starting out to mow hay with a green or half broken colt hitched alongside of a mule or a steady farm horse to a mowing machine, double row cultivator, corn planter, plow or harrow.

All implements need a steady, well-broken team and at the same time a good driver, who, in order to do his best work has little time for else than quietly handling his team and implement at one and the same time.

This man will not get much satisfaction out of a day's work if he has to worry with a green, restive colt, who, chafing at the unexpected misery of heavy work in hot weather, starts up a little too soon or not soon enough, protests at having to walk in a straight line at a slow gait, etc.

It is not impossible that he will balk, kick or rear upon what might be considered a very slight provocation, or no provocation at all to a broken, middle-aged farm horse.

In that section of Virginia known as the "Valley" famous for its splendid line of stock, the farmers are very successful breeders of horses, notably heavy draft horses and their rule is to break these big colts at two years old, never working them over half a day at a time and beginning the breaking-in process in the late winter and early spring.

The first link is to a wagon in a steady team and with a quiet team-

OUR GROSBEAKS AND THEIR GREAT VALUE TO AGRICULTURE

Majority of the Little Finches Are Good Friends of the Farmer and Deserve to Be Widely Known in Order That Their Services May Be Fully Appreciated—Destroy Many Insects.



Black-headed and rose-breasted grosbeaks. (Upper figure, black-headed grosbeaks, male and female; lower figure, rose-breasted grosbeaks, male and female.)

(By W. T. MATEE, Assistant, Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture.)

Seven kinds of finches, commonly known as grosbeaks, summer within our boundaries. The majority of these are good friends of the farmer, and deserve to be widely known in order that their services may be appreciated. The grosbeaks are easily distinguished from other finches by their stout form, bright plumage, massive bills, and melodious voices. Two of them live mainly in cold mountainous areas, and having little to do with farms or with the insects that prey on crops, may be dismissed without further notice. The other five live largely in agricultural regions and secure most of their food about cultivated lands. All of them feed to some extent upon crops, but only one does appreciable harm. On the other hand, all perform invaluable service in destroying certain of our worst insect pests.

The rosebreast has an extensive range, breeding in Kansas and the mountains of Tennessee north to Newfoundland and the Great Slave lake region. It eats some green peas, and is charged with injuring orchards, both by budding and by eating the fruit. Our investigations lead us to support to the latter accusation, and, although the birds eat peas, they invariably consume enough injurious insects to more than offset the damage.

The rosebreast has long been held in high esteem because of its habit of preying upon the Colorado potato beetle, and the name potato-bug bird suggests its important services in this direction. Larvae, as well as adult beetles, are consumed, and a great many are fed to nestlings. No less than a tenth of the total food of the rosebreast examined consists of potato beetles—evidence that the bird is one of the most important enemies of the pest. Its services in devouring other exceedingly harmful insects are scarcely less valuable. It vigorously attacks cucumber beetles and many of the scale insects. It proved an active enemy of the Rocky Mountain locust during that insect's ruinous invasion, and among the other pests it consumes are the spring and fall cankerworms, orchard and forest tent caterpillars, tussock, gipsy, and brown-tail moths, plum curculio, army worm, and chinch bug. In fact, not one of our birds has a better record. The rosebreast attacks the worst enemies of agriculture, making them its favorite prey, and time after time it has rendered valuable aid in checking their destructive infestations.

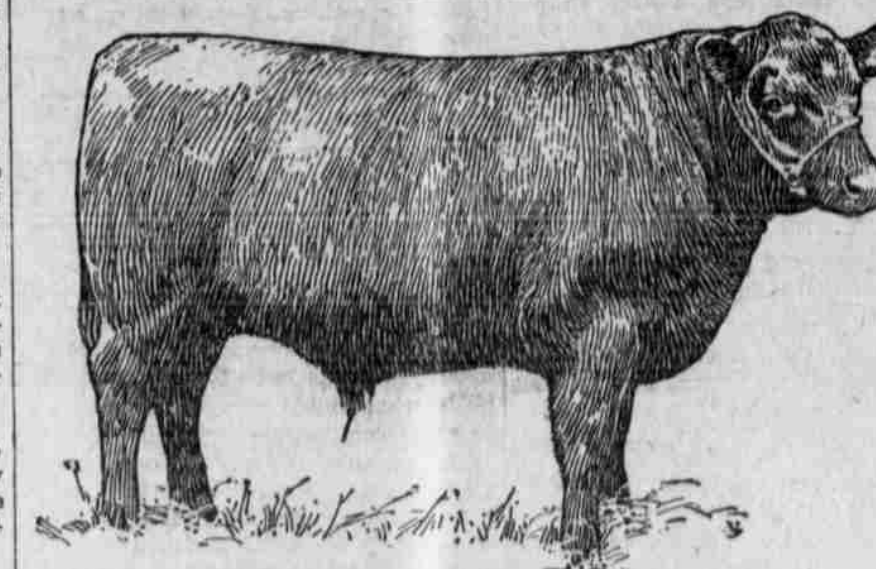
The black-headed grosbeak ranges from Southern Mexico to British Columbia, North Dakota, and Nebraska. It fills the same place in the west that the rosebreast does in the east, and economically is fully as important. In parts of its range it is destructive to early fruit and attacks also green peas and beans. However, since by proper precautions such losses may be minimized or altogether prevented, they should not be given too much weight in estimating the value of the bird. Instead of being regarded as an enemy by western orchardists, the blackhead should be esteemed as a friend, since it is a foe to the worst pests of horticulture—the scale insects—which compose a fourth of its food. The black olive scale alone constitutes a fifth of the bird's subsistence, and the frosted scale and apricot scale, or European fruit Lecanium, also are destroyed. In May considerable numbers of cankerworms and codling moths are eaten, and almost a sixth of the bird's seasonal food consists of flower beetles, which do incalculable damage to cultivated flowers and to ripe fruit. For each quart of fruit consumed by the black-headed grosbeak it destroys in actual bulk more than one and a half quarts of black olive scales, one quart of flower beetles, besides a generous quantity of codling moth pupae and cankerworms. So effectively does it fight these pests that the necessity for its preservation is obvious, while most of its injury to fruit is preventable.

A permanent drinking and bathing place on the farm and in the garden is to be numbered among the most potent attractions for birds, and with a little ingenuity one can be prepared in almost any locality. Winter feeding serves to attract the cardinal, which relishes corn, sunflower, and other seed and takes kindly even to table scraps. If particular premises prove congenial as a winter home, the bird is likely to prefer them in summer.

No effort to attract the grosbeaks will succeed, however, unless protection is assured. Grosbeaks are already protected by law in practically every state, but, since the machinery for the enforcement of the law is often ineffective, statutory protection must be supplemented by individual action, particularly under the trespass laws. Such action has long been taken in behalf of game birds, and the wise landholder will take equal precautions to preserve the smaller insectivorous species which he is so fortunate as to have as tenants. Shooting and nest robbing must, of course, be barred. Squirrels, when allowed to become too numerous, destroy many eggs and young, but in the settled districts the worst enemy of birds is the prowling cat.

Present investigations prove that the services of grosbeaks in destroying insect pests are invaluable. Each kind pays special attention to certain pests which if unchecked would cause enormous losses. Few of our birds are to be credited with more good and with fewer evil deeds than the grosbeaks, and none more clearly deserve protection by the practical farmer.

CHAMPION STEER SHAMROCK II.



Silage is going to be more used than in the past, and cattle feeders are coming to the conclusion at last that it should not be ignored, says the National Stockman. Cheaper grains have been made by using silage as roughage, while gains have been made more rapid, especially where the cattle were fed only 90 days. The plan adopted in handling silage is to let the ear of the corn reach as advanced a stage of maturity as possible without firing the fodder. Many stock feeders in the upper edge of the corn belt, where dent corn often fails to come to maturity because of early frosts, are using this silage method with the best of success, and for wintering cattle its use is equal to pasturing them. Meanwhile the demand for breeding cattle is showing a steady increase, and Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio farmers are buying thousands of good breeding cows, paying as high as \$50 per head, or more than killers will offer. Furthermore, west of the Missouri river, in the former range country, new farmers have fenced in the lands and are in the market looking for pure-bred bulls in some instances, although most of the demand now is for cheap bulls. The illustration shows Shamrock II., grand champion steer, at the recent International Live Stock show.

Timothy Hay, when fed alone, is a very poor ration for any animal, but it is much worse for a growing one. It will fill, but he who feeds it will not get best results.

ALFALFA LAYS ON MOST FAT

What Kind of Forage Will Produce Largest Amount of Weight in Hogs is Difficult Problem.

(By J. R. WAGGONER.)

A Kentucky farmer who keeps about 100 hogs on his farm every year asks: "What kind of forage will produce the most fat?"

This is rather a difficult question and will depend upon the time of year and quality of forage, but when considered from a fat producing standpoint, we would feel safe in making the assertion that cow peas would give the best results for producing fat, but if we were asked what was the best forage we would say alfalfa.

The whole question depends upon the locality, but with any kind of hog pasture it will pay to feed some grain feed to harden the meat and give it a more desirable flavor. There is nothing that will produce as rapid gain in hogs as alfalfa and corn.

Castrate the Grade Bucks.

The grade buck lambs should be castrated early in the season. Only lambs of pure blood and superior quality should be saved for breeding purposes. New blood should be added to the flock by buying stock rams of pure blood from reputable breeders.