

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Get a hand separator.

Don't forget the road drag.

Aren't well painted buildings a good sign?

It is unwise and wasteful to stuff a horse with hay.

Salt regularly twice a week is better than once.

Just as soon as the cream is separated it should be cooled.

The potatoes can be greatly improved by selecting the seed.

Drench the ground around the tea roses, but do not spray the bush.

No not neglect to spray the orchard trees and berry bushes this year.

The average production of alfalfa has been four tons of hay per acre.

Disease lurks in a neglected will barrel. Scrub and scald it every week.

Seed onions should now have produced plants big enough for bunch onions.

Bloody milk or that from a sick cow should never be mixed with wholesome milk.

As chickens grow, diminish the number of meals as well as the variety of food.

It is fatal to some plants to fertilize them with rich manures when the ground is very dry.

It is well to have a trough in the hog-house in which is kept wood ashes, salt and coppers.

If the spring pigs are doing well hold them steady until fall and then push them for the market.

Some cows are such persistent milkers that it is next to impossible to dry them up, even for a short time.

It requires the work of experienced grower of ginseng to germinate the seed with any degree of success.

A hog needs all his time to make pork and should not be expected to spend any moments fighting lice.

It should be remembered that the milk cannot be increased in solids and in fat by the feeding of rich food.

The individuality of each horse should be studied, and the feeds supplied to meet individual requirements.

You will appreciate the difference between low-headed and high-headed trees when you are picking the crop.

An average of between one and two per cent. of all hogs slaughtered in the United States are infected with trichina.

In order to produce desirable flavor it is very essential that the milk and cream be handled under sanitary conditions.

Free range for hogs does not mean that they should be allowed to run in the highways and through the neighbors' fences.

Cabbage and cauliflower will grow better if frequently cultivated. Tie the leaves about the cauliflower heads to keep them white.

Each cow's udder should be thoroughly cleansed before milking and the hands of the milker should be absolutely clean and dry.

At no time is the development of the pigs so easily influenced as while they are depending on the sow's milk—the first month of life.

There is no trouble about working the brood mare on the farm, if she is the right kind of a mare and is handled by the right sort of man.

Hogs require attention, regardless of condition, age or sex, but the management of the brood sow is the surest test of the breeder's skill.

There are many farmers and stockmen who find quack grass, Canada thistles, dodder and similar weed pests established on their premises who cannot account for their presence except they come from the seedman.

Although lime applied as a top dressing on grass land is often beneficial, it proves most effective in correcting most of the faults of soils needing liming if it can be applied to the plowed surface and thoroughly mixed with the soil.

The silo is not an experiment.

Charcoal is excellent for pigs.

Take good care of what pigs you have.

If short of fall feed, sow rape or turnips.

Collar boils are caused by ill-fitting collars.

The use of silage does not breed tuberculosis.

One way to improve land rapidly is to pasture hogs upon it.

Trim any apple or plum trees that are over-bearing. It pays.

Setting away in a large can is a very poor way to cool cream.

Horses that have a light hay diet are seldom affected with heaves.

All weeds damage the appearance of a farm and render it less valuable.

Strong, vigorous pigs when a week old will care for themselves, barring accidents.

The dairyman cannot afford to keep a cow at the expense of the rest of the herd.

Local manure should be applied only when the ground is moist enough to absorb it.

Aim for early maturity, and keep hogs growing by intelligent feeding and good care.

Runs of confined fowls quickly become foul this warm weather. Plow them up often.

The pig crop is governed by numerous influences that tend to increase or decrease supply.

Even circulation of air is the one important factor necessary for the proper curing of corn.

It is just as necessary for little pigs to have fresh dirt to root in as to have nourishing feed.

Cowpeas sown in standing corn at the last cultivation will furnish a large amount of pasturage.

The first tomatoes to ripen that are oval and smooth, and the seed from them should be saved also.

Unless the birds are on grass, supply them with green food daily, therefore cut grass is excellent.

Hens that are frightened every time an attendant goes among them can't do well in producing eggs.

Humus is the organic matter in the soil, and is formed by the decay of animal and vegetable matter.

All breeds of hogs look good when taken care of, all of them will yield good money if rightly handled.

The man who can raise hogs profitably without pasture can increase his profits many fold by using pasture.

The usefulness of a horse depends largely upon his good health and ability to perform what is required of him.

The majority of silos being built have a continuous door, which makes it very convenient for emptying the silo.

Warm milk should never be poured into cold milk, nor should the night's milk be mixed with the morning's milk.

It is a good sign that the pure-bred sheep are increasing rapidly and are, therefore, improving all of the flocks.

The draft horse should show a vigorous, lively, energetic disposition, yet be docile, tractable, and intelligent.

Raise the type of colt that sells best in your community. Select the sire and dam that will bring this type of colt.

The pig is merely a meat-producing machine and the more he is fed—with good judgment, of course—the more meat he will turn over.

For the farmer who wants to go into the business of breeding for profit, mules are much better than horses, and a safer proposition.

A check rein is unnecessary cruelty. For the horse that occasions trouble by reaching down after grass or corn, try a muzzle, but leave his head free.

Formerly it was thought that the corn should be quite green when used for silage purposes. It is now realized that the best silage is made from corn which is well along toward maturity.

Keep the windfalls in the plum and apple orchards picked up. They often harbor insects. Pigs turned in among the trees will rid the ground of windfalls. If they are fed occasionally, there is little danger of their injuring the trees.

It is a mistake to think that one may cease reading his dairy paper simply because it is warm weather and the work on the farm occupies all the time. Find some opportunity to keep up with the lines of thought suggested by the best authorities.

LOW-HEADED ORCHARD TREES REDUCE COST OF HARVESTING

Pruning, Spraying and Trimming, as Well as Picking Will be Found to be Much More Convenient Than on High-Headed Trees—Three Feet is Very Common Height.



Low-Headed Orchard Trees.

Commercial orchards of apples and pears are nowadays headed much lower than formerly. 3 feet bring a very common height for starting the head of these trees, while with the peach and plum the head is started even lower, 18 or 20 inches being a common height.

The reason for this is that in certain localities where windstorms are frequent, the low-headed trees are less likely to be broken, lose a smaller proportion of their fruit and are less subject to injury from sun scald, as the low head of the tree serves to a certain extent as a shade for the body.

The cost of harvesting the fruit from low-headed trees is much less than that of gathering from tall trees.

With the low-headed trees a considerable portion of the crop can be gathered by the picker standing upon the ground, while with high-headed trees the major part of the work must be done from ladders, which greatly extends the time required to do the picking and consequently, increases its cost. Pruning, spraying, trimming as well as harvesting will be found to be more convenient on low than high-headed trees.

Best Road Making.

When will we learn that the best way to make good roads is to hire the ditching, drawing and dragging done by competent men, instead of the present bungling system of "every man" working out his own road tax?

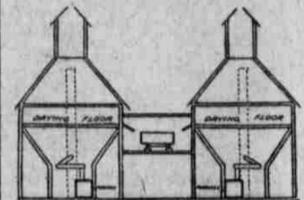
GROWING AND CURING HOPS

Crop Can be Grown Generally Throughout United States—Rich Alluvial Soil Needed.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.) Hops can be grown generally throughout the United States, but at present they are grown almost entirely in Oregon, California, New York and Washington.

A mild climate and abundant rainfall early in the spring, followed by warm, dry weather, are ideal conditions for the plant.

Hops require rich alluvial soils, or deep sandy or gravelly loams. The best method of growing hop vines is



Sectional Elevation of Stove Kiln.

from root-cuttings. Sometimes these cuttings are propagated in nurseries and set out when a year old. The price of the roots ranges from \$1.00 to \$10.00 per thousand, according to the yield of the crop.

The vines are set in rows and are trained to run on trellises made of wire or wooden slats. The posts for the trellises are about 20 feet long and set about 2 feet in the ground. The trellises alone cost about \$75 per acre.

Hops are picked by hand and cured

by drying with artificial heat. They must be dried soon after they are picked, otherwise they suffer from oxidation or heating.

The drying is of the greatest importance. A hop-drier consists of a furnace-room heated by furnaces or large stoves, and the drying-room overhead into which the heated air passes through cracks in the floor. The furnace should be placed at one side, so it can be fed without entering the building.

The air is admitted through an open space near the ground and this must be controlled in order to prevent uneven drying.

Hops are an uncertain crop, but are extremely profitable in certain years, the state of the market being determined largely by the stock held in storage, conditions at home and abroad, and the demand.

The crops are marketed wholly through middlemen. The dealer buys the crop, paying cash therefor, then sells it to the consumer on terms to suit his convenience.

Campaign to Save the Birds.

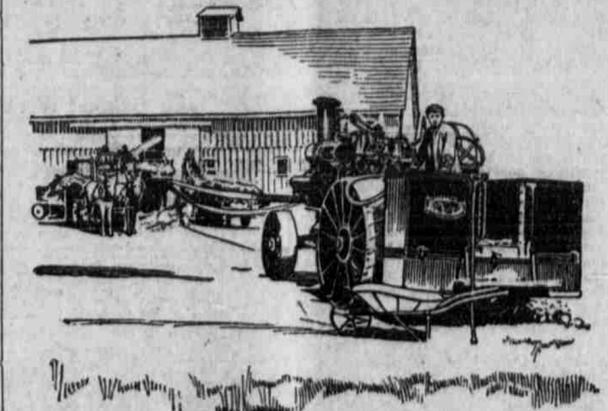
A country-wide campaign for state enactments against the sale of game birds has been started by the Wild Life Protective Association of New York, the National Association of Audubon Societies and the League of American Sportsmen.

Immediate extinction of many game birds will result, it is said, if protective measures do not at once obtain general adoption. Literature has been sent out calling attention to the fact that six native American birds already are extinct and that a like fate at an early date awaits fourteen others.

Pasture is Essential.

Pasture is essential and it must not be lost for the want of a little rapeseed.

SOLVE FARM LABOR PROBLEM



A 12 or 15 horse power traction engine will help to solve the labor problem on the farm. It will drag a gang-plow with harrows, the reaper, heavy

wagon trains, run the silage and feed-cutter, pump water, saw wood and perform a variety of tasks at small cost and in rapid time.

CONVENIENCE OF DIVIDING FALL AND SPRING HOG HERDS

By This Method Farmer Will be Able to Distribute His Time Equally, Economize in Room, Sell When Markets Suit Him and Furnish Customers Kind of Pork Desired.

(By C. C. BOWSFIELD, Illinois.)

Every farmer, who raises as many as 100 hogs in a year, ought to divide them into spring and fall herds. By this means he will be able to distribute the labor to suit his convenience, economize in room, sell when the market suits him, and furnish his customers on short notice, any kind of pork desired, from suckling-roast to prime bacon.

The thoroughly practical man can turn hogs into money very rapidly, but the business needs to be on a scale extensive enough to enable him to properly divide his fields and buildings, and to make thorough experiments, with different types, and different kinds of food.

I have observed two or three bad failures recently, which were caused primarily, by the old and erroneous idea that hogs do not require much ground room or forage.

In raising pork for the market, the farmer ought to keep in mind these vital points: Cost of feeding, danger of disease or sickness, and range of market prices.

Starting the season with 50 to 100 pigs just weaned, the owner should provide pasturage of some kind. I would give this lot of young animals one mess per day, of brain and shorts moistened with slops, skimmed milk or whey. This is ample in a grass-lot of five or ten acres.

Clover is excellent for forage, but artichokes and rape are better. A



Berkshire Gilts.

little corn soaked in water is good when the pigs begin to show growth.

What they need above all else, however, is the range, with just about such a line of food as would be required to give young cattle a steady and rapid growth. Field-peas ought to be available toward the end of summer. The hogs can be allowed to do the harvesting themselves.

This will give firmness and sweetness to the flesh, and could be used right through the fall, instead of corn. My preference would be to give the final month to a dressing up with corn. This crop being ready in October, the fattening process can be

ALFALFA PEST WORKS INJURY

Weevil is Not Native to America, But Introduced From Europe, Asia and Africa.

(By F. M. WEBSTER.)

The alfalfa weevil is not native to America, but has been accidentally introduced from Europe, western Asia, or northern Africa, where it is very common, and where, while more or less destructive to alfalfa, it is probably prevented by its natural enemies from working serious and widespread ravages.

The insect winters entirely in the beetle stage, seeking shelter, before the frosts of autumn commence, either in the crowns of alfalfa plants, close to the surface of the ground in the field or under leaves, matted grass, weeds, and rubbish along ditch banks, hay stacks and straw stacks. Indeed it is oftentimes found in barns where hay is kept over winter.

It has been estimated that fully 80 per cent of the beetles that go into winter quarters in the fall live through until spring. With the coming of spring the beetles make their way



The Alfalfa Weevil: Adults Clustering on and Attacking Sprig of Alfalfa.

forth from their hiding places and attack the young growth of alfalfa as soon as there is sufficient food for them.

In ordinary seasons they appear in March and the egg-laying period usually lasts from March or April until early July.

Some idea of the abundance of these eggs and the extent to which the pest may breed in vacant lots and other waste lands where alfalfa has escaped from cultivation and grows as a weed may be obtained from the fact that in one case a single plant has been found to contain 127 of these

rushed through the month of November, or until conditions are right for marketing.

The clearest profit is made in ten months, at which age, the hogs ought to average 250 pounds. Animals that get good pasturage, and about such a diet as I have described, are pretty sure to escape disease. It is essential to have plenty of pure water in the hog lot.

The farm should include three or four small fields, securely fenced, so that one kind of forage could be rested, while the other was used. Then again, if the owner detects fever or other sickness in the herd, it is easy to segregate those animals which are affected. Prompt action along this line, may prevent heavy loss.

Dipping is another essential, and as it is neither difficult or expensive, it ought to be attended to, twice each summer. With this kind of hog farming, cholera will not be known, and the stock will get a steady growth, from beginning to end.

If the weather be severe, when it comes to the last month of feeding, the hogs should be kept in clean, roomy pens, but even to the last day, they should have some succulent forage-plant to eat. Clover or alfalfa is suitable for this, and carrots are excellent, in connection with the corn, or peas.

It is for the good of the animal, and of course for the owner's pocket, that a program of this kind be marked out. Feeding 50-cent corn, for six or eight months, will not do. Farmers must learn that forage is natural to the hog, and that it will give the growth at a small cost.

Allowing full rental value for the land, the cost of all food supplies, and the wage value of the time taken up in the care of the stock, from the date of birth, to the marketing 100 hogs 10 months old averaging 250 pounds, can be turned off, at a cost not exceeding \$700.

It may be done for a little less, but if it is to be a business proposition, let it be figured as a business man would count the expense. With careful experimenting and observation, for several years, I get no figures very far from \$7 for a marketable hog weighing 250 pounds.

Keep Up Cow's Condition.

To keep up the condition of the cows and to supplement the pasture a little wheat bran and flaxseed meal can be profitably fed all through the summer.

AIDS FOR THE HOG BREEDER

Two Pastures Better Than One—Vicious Animal Should be Killed—Provide Shelter.

The breed of white hogs is rapidly disappearing from this country.

Free range for hogs does not mean that they should be allowed to run over our neighbor's farm.

With good fence wire as cheap as it is today it is an easy matter to divide up the hog pasture into convenient lots.

Two pastures are better than one, because while the hogs are feeding in one field the other will be recovering and later furnish much more attractive feed than as if both pastures are used as one.

The vicious hog that is forever breaking out and causing trouble for one's neighbor cannot be killed too quickly.

It is a good plan to provide summer shelter for the hogs on a high spot where the wind will have a full sweep.

Cow of Quality.

It is unofficially reported that a Jersey cow owned by a member of the American Jersey club, of New York, in a year's test gave 14,452 pounds of milk. The average daily was 39 6-10 pounds milk and 2 pounds and 1-7 ounces of butter.

Feed for Dairy Cows.

High-priced feed and low prices for milk or its products is a very undesirable combination, but it is sometimes economy to submit to a present loss, rather than allow a milk flow to go by default.

Sheep on Pasture.

If too many sheep are confined on a pasture they will eat the grass roots right out of the ground.