

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Try a patch of alfalfa.

Gentleness pays best with the colt or horse.

There is a great deal of humanity in axle grease.

The pigs and light porkers should go to market early.

The boar should be well fed but not allowed to get too fat.

A draft horse should have a large chest and square shoulders.

Soils destitute of humus and nitrogen are impotent to produce clover.

Hogs should have clean pastures, beds and water, and a variety of food.

Old ewes and poor breeders should be fattened now, and sent to the butcher.

Always and with any variety of hens variety in feed brings the best egg results.

Pork production appeals strongly to a man of limited means who desires quick returns.

The busy bacteria gets busy in the milk almost at the moment it is drawn from the cow.

If too many rich table scraps are fed to the hens in confinement look out for soft-shelled eggs.

Sell to private customers and deliver on a certain day. Never fail to be there at the appointed time.

Many a bunch of promising feeders go to the country and return with indications of being half starved.

The fairs give a good opportunity to compare breeds, and farmers should use this opportunity intelligently.

The point of keeping the cows clean has been proven to be a saving in feed as well as an increase in milk.

It requires two-thirds of a full ration to keep a cow in fair condition before there is any milk production.

On every farm, where soil and climatic conditions are favorable, corn should be grown for fodder purposes.

Locate vines of bitter-sweet and fruiting grapes, that you wish to move from the woods to that porch or arbor next spring.

Work horses should be allowed to run out in the pastures at nights in all weather except during very severe cold and storms.

The man who feels that he is bigger than his job is generally mistaken. If he was he would quickly get a job that would fit him.

Homogenized milk is milk treated in such manner as to disrupt the fat globules so that they will not rise in the form of cream.

The vigorous hen and her rooster will start off a chick that will stand much more wear and tear than immature or weakly parents.

Alfalfa is a lime plant, and a dressing of 60 bushels of slacked oyster shells or 50 bushels of slacked stone lime to the acre should be given.

A simple way of finding out the value of each cow is by keeping a daily record of the quality of milk given by each, and testing it at intervals.

Humus was intended by nature to create and conserve the fertility of the soil for the production of the necessities to conserve the human race.

In feeding value silage compares favorably with other crops, although this will vary with the kind of stock and the grain rations with which it is used.

If the swine are in the fattening stage they should have all they will eat up clean, but growing animals should have just enough to keep them in a thrifty growing condition.

If your cow has obstructed teats, be very cautious about inserting milk tubes, probes, or quills. Nothing of the kind should be inserted in a cow's teat, excepting as a last resort; and then only with the most extreme care and cleanliness.

Soils that are heavily manured for cabbage, lettuce, celery and other crops will not need very much manure the following year, when planted with tomatoes, peppers and root crops, especially if a fair amount of commercial fertilizer is used.

Teach the colt to draw loads by degrees.

About ten weeks after shearing dip the lambs.

A horse suffering from colic should be kept quiet.

Keep sows over that have proved to be good breeders.

Keep the ewes in the stable on dry feed for a day or two.

The boar should be of good type and character and of pure blood.

To maintain normal soil fertility the supply of humus must be conserved.

Blood-meal is better for ducks than meat scraps, and it works into a mash fine.

Persistency in milk flow is one of the qualities which makes a profitable dairy cow.

The country fairs are announced. Be sure not miss them, especially the home one.

Poultry cannot be successfully raised without the application of brain and muscles.

Be careful about feeding horses inclined to heave, too much hay, or hay that is dusty.

A fowl that will not fatten when heavily fed on corn is not in good physical condition.

Extra feed increases the growth of a proper kind and makes larger animals at maturity.

If when the hogs are growing fast their hind legs become weak, feed a little bone meal daily.

Stop the churn as soon as the butter granulates if you want to work out all the butter milk.

What has become of the old-fashioned farmer who used to keep a savage dog to catch his hogs?

Culling the pullets may seem a small matter to many, but it adds dollars to the year's profits.

A bull tied in the stall will get lazy and useless, besides making extra work in his care and feed.

Use your skim milk. Five pounds of skim milk have been found equal to one pound of grain for pigs.

A drove of hogs of all colors and sizes brings as much money as a drove of the same breed, color and size.

To obtain a maximum supply of milk, small pastures, allowing frequent changes of feed, should be provided.

If a small hatching house is once used, no poultry keeper ever likes to do without its convenience afterward.

As a rule, a large flow of milk is associated with a low per cent. of fat, while a small flow shows a higher test.

Sheep are comfort lovers and the man who neglects to provide them with good, dry shelter makes a costly error.

Grinding the grain makes it more digestible, and the more digestible the feed the more milk from a given amount.

It is not a common sight at any of the stock yards to see a large drove of hogs from one farm all showing the same breed.

Oats, wheat bran, and a little corn or linseed-meal is a grain ration that will keep the lambs growing and in good flesh by winter.

There should be no hidden, inaccessible places in milk vessels. The seams should be soldered over smoothly inside and out.

The egg-producing qualities of the hen, like the butter-making qualities of the cow, will determine the hen's value at the end of the year.

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.

Except in unusual cases of rush work, the teams should cease work in time to cool off before the dampness and falling temperature of evening.

A mixture of barley, corn-meal, wheat bran and roots will put flesh on horses fast. With this, of course, a small quantity of hay should be given.

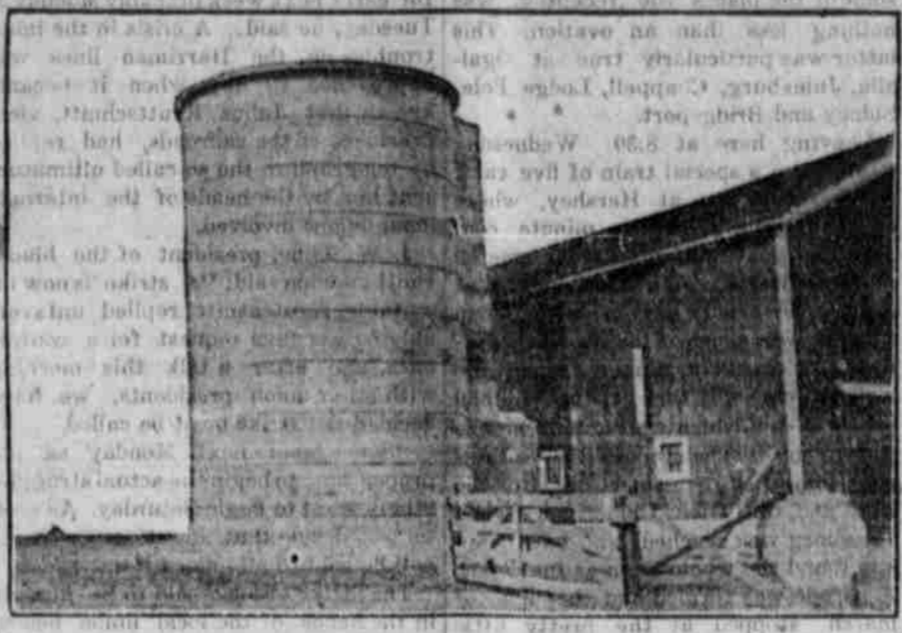
If care is taken to keep the surface of the silage level, two and one-half inches removed daily will be sufficient to keep the silage from decay ing.

In filling the silo, extra tramping should be done around the edges, and when the silage is settling, it is well for some one to go into the silo every few days and tramp the silage near the edges of the silo.

Prof. James E. Rice, in his Cornell reading course for farmers, says: "Corn is an excellent grain. It is, perhaps, the grain most relished by fowls. Therein lies the danger. Fowls eat it so greedily that, it being a fattening food, they are likely to become overfat, if it is fed too freely."

FEEDING IS IMPORTANT AS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF PROFIT

Farmer Now Provides Live Stock With Canned Green Fodder, Called "Silage," Made Most Commonly From Corn, Cow-Peas, Clover, or Alfalfa, Chopped Fine and Stored in Silos.



Solid Modern Concrete Silo.

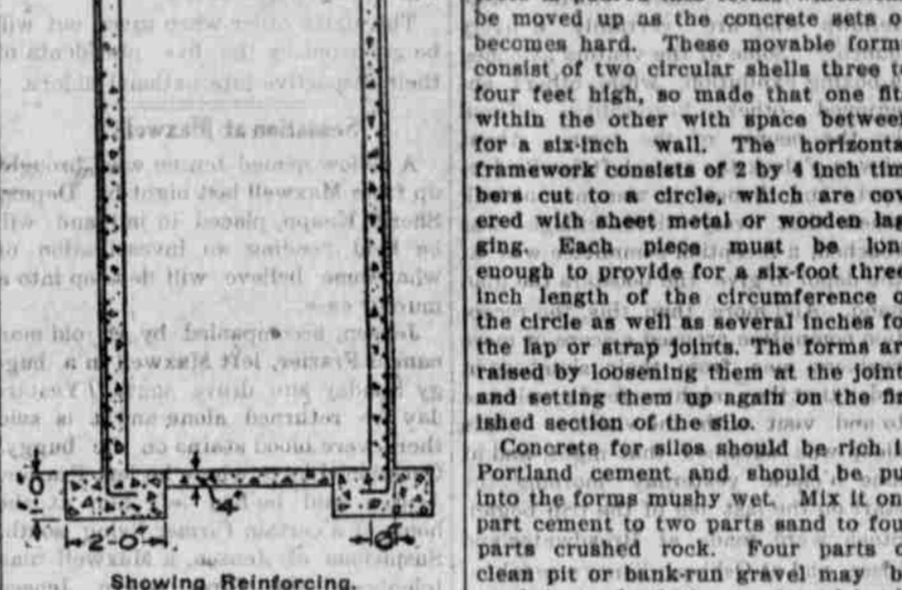
The principal source of profit in dairying, stock-raising and farming lies in improving the quality and at the same time keeping down the cost of production. In this matter of profit and loss nothing plays such an important part as the question of feeds and feeding. The natural feed for animals, the one on which they do best, is green pasture. In climates subject to frost, man has made the same provision for animals as for himself by providing them in winter with canned green fodder called "silage." Silage is made most commonly from corn, cow peas, clover, sorghum, or alfalfa, merely chopped fine and stored in large water-tight cans known as "silos." In silo should be of such size that a layer of silage at least two inches in depth will be removed each day after feeding has begun. This prevents a thin top layer from molding. A dairy cow requires about forty pounds of silage per day, and the following table is based on this amount. Forty pounds is also the average weight of a cubic foot of silage.

Locate the silo where it will be convenient for feeding. Usually it is joined to the barn by means of a chute and passageway with doors. Since the silo and its contents are heavy, it must be built on solid ground. The bottom of the foundation should go below frost line. The silo may, with advantage, extend four to five feet into the ground. Dig the pit large enough to allow for the thickness of the circular walls and a footing two feet wide.

In order to save lumber the concrete is poured into forms which can be moved up as the concrete sets and becomes hard. These movable forms consist of two circular shells three to four feet high, so made that one fits within the other with space between for a six-inch wall. The horizontal framework consists of 2 by 4 inch timbers cut to a circle, which are covered with sheet metal or wooden lagging. Each piece must be long enough to provide for a six-foot three-inch length of the circumference of the circle as well as several inches for the lap or strap joints. The forms are raised by loosening them at the joints and setting them up again on the finished section of the silo.

Concrete for silos should be rich in Portland cement and should be put into the forms mushy wet. Mix it one part cement to two parts sand to four parts crushed rock. Four parts of clean pit or bank-run gravel may be used instead of the sand and rock. Measure all materials on the basis that one bag of cement equals one cubic foot. Many persons raise the concrete in buckets, but the work can be done more quickly and easily by using a horse together with a derrick or a well braced jib-boom fixed to an adjoining building.

The first cost of concrete silos may or may not be greater than that of the best of any other kind. The time is now at hand when farmers, like railroads and corporations, are considering the lasting qualities of buildings. Concrete silos need no insurance; they do not blow down or burn up. They never have to be painted or repaired. With other kinds of silos during their short lives these expenses alone equal the first cost. Concrete lasts forever.



Showing Reinforcing.

dry weather or in winter, when green pasture cannot be had, this feed is equally good in producing a flow of milk or in putting fat on animals. One acre of a crop harvested as silage will feed twice as much stock as the same amount harvested in any other manner.

Like a glass fruit jar, a silo must be water-tight and jointless to keep the silage from molding or "dry firing." For this reason, and also because no painting or repairing is ever necessary, solid-wall concrete silos are coming into general use.

The best silos are built circular in shape. The size depends upon how many animals are to be fed daily, the quantity in pounds for each animal's daily feed, and the number of days it may be necessary to feed them. The silo should be of such size that a layer of silage at least two inches in depth will be removed each day after feeding has begun. This prevents a thin top layer from molding. A dairy cow requires about forty pounds of silage per day, and the following table is based on this amount. Forty pounds is also the average weight of a cubic foot of silage.

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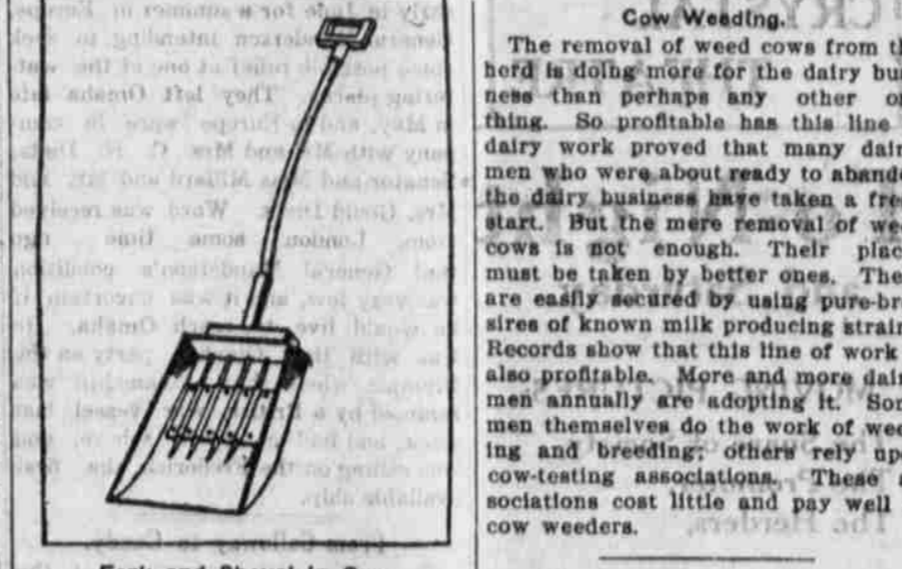
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COMBINED TOOL HANDY ON FARM

Scoop Detachably Connected and Has Grooves for Tines—Advantages are Easily Seen.

A combination implement that is handy for farm and stable use has been designed by a man in the state of Washington. It is a fork and shovel combined, and its advantage is that it



Fork and Shovel in One.

takes up no more room than one of these tools and can quickly be turned from one into the other. The basic implement is a fork, and the shovel portion is adjustably connected. In the head of the scoop are holes

MANY BENEFITS ARE DERIVED FROM MUCH ABUSED FOREST

From Every Point of View it is One of the Most Helpful Friends of Man—Its Influence Upon Streams Alone Makes Farming Possible in Many Regions—Other Advantages.

(By GIFFORD PINCHOT.)

The object of forestry is to discover and apply the principles according to which forests are best managed. It is distinct from arboriculture, which deals with individual trees.

Forestry has to do with single trees only as they stand together on some large area whose principal crop is trees, and which therefore forms part of a forest. The forest is the most highly organized portion of the vegetable world. It takes its importance less from the individual trees which help to form it than from the qualities which belong to it as a whole.

Although it is composed of trees, the forest is far more than a collection of trees standing in one place. It has a population of animals and plants peculiar to itself, a soil largely of its own making, and a climate different in many ways from that of the open country. Its influence upon the streams alone makes farming possible in many regions, and everywhere it tends to prevent floods and droughts. It supplies fuel, one of the first necessities of life, and lumber, the raw material, without which cities, railroads, and all the great achievements of material progress would have been either long delayed or wholly impossible.

The forest is as beautiful as it is useful. The old fairy tales which spoke of it as a terrible place are wrong. No one can really know the forest without feeling the gentle influence of one of the kindest and strongest parts of nature. From every point of view it is one of the most helpful friends of man. Perhaps no other natural agent has done so much for the human race and has been so recklessly used and so little understood.

One of the points of deepest interest to the forester is the reproductive power of his trees. Except in the case of sprouts and other growth fed by old roots, this depends first of all on the quantity of the seed which each tree bears; but so many other considerations affect the result that a



Winged Seeds: 1, Basswood; 2, Boxelder; 3, Elm; 4, Fir; 5 to 8, Pine.

tree which bears seed abundantly may not reproduce itself very well. A part of the seed is always unsound, and sometimes much the larger part. But even a great abundance of sound seed does not always insure good reproduction. The seeds may not find the right surroundings for successful germination, or the infant trees may perish for want of water, light, or suitable soil. Where there is a thick layer of dry leaves or needles on the ground, seedlings often perish in great numbers because their delicate rootlets cannot reach the fertile soil beneath. The same thing happens when there is no humus at all and the surface is hard and dry. The weight of the seed also has a powerful influence on the character of reproduction. Trees with heavy seeds, live oaks, hickories, and chestnuts, can sow them only in their own neighborhood, except when they stand on steep hillsides or on the banks of streams, or when birds and squirrels carry the nuts and acorns to a distance. Trees with light, winged seeds like the poplars, birches, and pines, have a great advantage over the others, because they can drop their seeds a long way off. The wind is the means by which this is brought about, and the adaptation of the seeds themselves is often very curious and interesting.

TO FERTILIZE YOUNG PLANTS

Liquid Manure, Usually Wanted, Contains All Elements of Commercial Fertilizer.

(By W. MILTON KELLY.)

We frequently read or hear of the relative merits of liquid and solid manures discussed. Some make the assertion that liquid manure is the best and base their claims upon the fact that it promotes more rapid growth to plants when young than the solid manure.

On the other hand it is claimed by a number of excellent authorities that the solid manure is the best on account of its lasting benefits by supplying humus, or partially decomposed vegetable matter, to the soil, which increase the capacity of conserving moisture and also improves the texture.

We believe that the best and most satisfactory results are made when both liquids and solids are used in the same relative proportions as when made.

According to our best informed men in soil culture and fertilizers, liquid manure contains approximately the same amount of fertilizing material as the solid, but the fertilizing elements present in the liquid portion are in condition to render them immediately ready for the growing plants.

The liquid portion of manure which is usually lost, or rather wasted, through imperfect methods of handling and saving, contains the same expensive fertilizing elements that

cost a farmer from \$20 to \$40 per ton when purchased from the commercial fertilizer agents.

It seems to be a pet fancy with many farmers that commercial fertilizer will make quicker growth when used to fertilize young plants than ordinary barnyard manure on account of being more available for the young plants to feed upon.

The above claim may be right to a certain extent if the best quality of commercial fertilizer is used on one plot and barnyard manure on another.

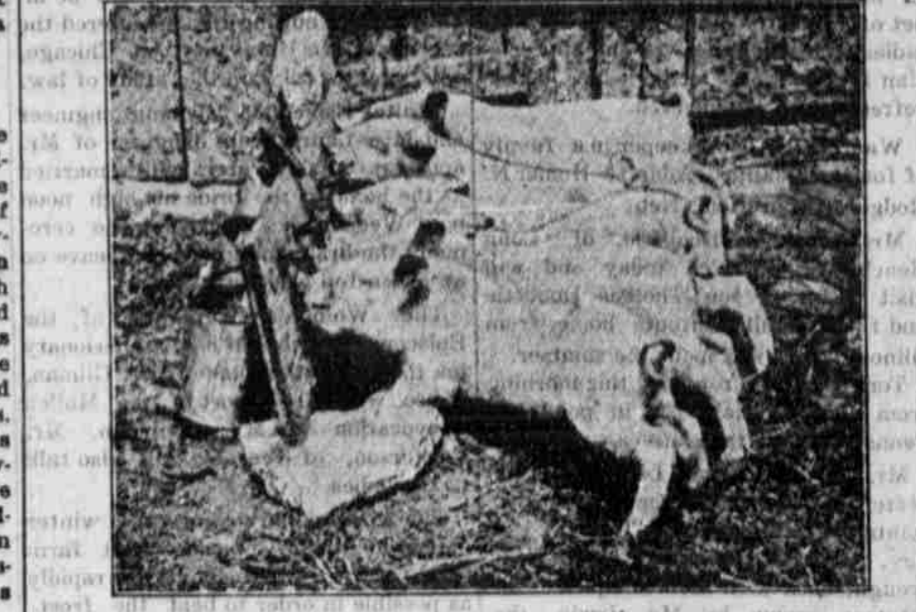
But when we speak or write of the ordinary barnyard manure, we must consider the fact that it is not as valuable as when fresh from the stable and contains the full amount of plant food, both liquids and solids, that it contained at the time it was made.

Thus, many make the mistake of losing the most valuable fertilizing elements from their manure and then claiming it inferior to the commercial fertilizers for promoting a rapid growth of the young plants.

We do not think that better results can be made by using commercial fertilizers for a number of years than can be made by using stable, not barnyard, manure, when care has been exercised in saving and preserving all of the fertilizing elements that it originally contained.

Whenever I see or hear the term barnyard manure used it calls to my mind a certain class of farmers who allow their manure to remain under the stable eaves all winter to ferment and wash away and who the next spring pay commercial fertilizer agents a whole hatful of money for the very elements that he has allowed to wash away, and then says that the feeding of livestock and dairying does not pay.

ARTIFICIAL MOTHER FOR PIGS



The illustration shows an artificial sow as arranged by an Englishman. The pigs belong to Mr. Bert Crook, Broughton Road, Melksham, by whom the feeding apparatus was designed and made. The mother sow died the day after giving birth, and the pigs have been successfully reared on cows' milk (diluted). They were 25 days old when photographed. The apparatus consists of ordinary rubber teats fixed through a board, and connected by rubber and glass tubing to the cans of milk behind.

Beware of Filth. Keep the chickens away from filth of all kinds.