

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Pure water is essential.

Mules are easily raised.

Weeds and strawberries are incompatible.

Starter for butter may be propagated from day to day.

Do not be stingy in the use of clean straw for bedding.

The sheep is more at home on the open prairie than among the fences.

Remove the seeds from the pumpkins before feeding them to the cattle.

Where butter has not the natural yellow color, it is well to use coloring matter.

The best time to castrate the tails as well as castrate is when the lamb is a week old.

Cull out the hens carefully, and do not keep more than you have room and feed for.

Sheep return to the soil 80 per cent. of fertility of food eaten. Sheep manure is valuable.

A great deal more money is usually spent in wintering farm work horses than is necessary.

Whole grain makes best feed for sheep. Cleanliness, pure water and salt are a necessity.

If the pig is stunted in its food at any stage of its life, it can never become a perfect pork-producer.

As new oats come in, give the cows some of them each morning and evening cut green as a molting crop.

It pays to maintain a heavy flow of milk, even if expensive feeds must be given the cows at certain seasons.

Stock beets planted on rich soil in drills and well cultivated often yield from twenty to forty tons per acre.

Use clover and alfalfa hay, supplemented with roots or ensilage for succulence, if you want an excellent ration.

Corn that yields well in one locality will often make an entire failure in another locality where conditions are different.

Probably the poultry plant on the average farm is usually the poorest equipped and poorest planned department on it.

Remember when you plow in the orchard that the roots are very near the surface. Three inches is plenty deep enough.

Many an animal sold for a high price because of its pedigree, should go to the butcher's pen instead of at the head of a herd.

If ewe's udder is hard or show tendency to garget, use unsalted lard, give it vigorous rubbing and give animal good dose of salts.

The nature and conditions of the soil in which tomatoes are grown has much to do with the size of the crop and health of the plants.

A patch of rye sown now will be found of great help to the ewes in the spring, and especially so if raising lambs for the market.

In feeding oat straw and corn stover in the morning your sheep will take more exercise looking for more food to satisfy its appetite.

Everything about the poultry quarters should be got-at-able, with no filagree, cracks or crannies, and with as little furniture as may be in the poultry houses.

Young colts that are put in the stall and given all the hay they will eat soon become pot-bellied, their hair grows longer and harsher and some of it stands the wrong way.

Usually it is not advisable to pasture new seedling, but often weeds can be destroyed by giving sheep the run of the fields for a few days without material injury to the seedling.

Where there is an abundance of good well-cured alfalfa hay, it is almost impossible to select a concentrate to go with it that would not make an acceptable ration to the cow.

The fall, after all of the garden plants have been killed, is the best time to clean up the trash in the garden and burn it to prevent insects from spending the winter in it and be ready to lay eggs next year.

Look-out for draughts.

Plant legumes in rotation.

Roots should be cut or sliced before feeding.

When marketing lambs leave the culls on the farm.

Sheep more than any other stock relish a change of pasture.

There is no danger of the production of hogs being overdone.

As the sheep bites close, they will eat down weeds to the roots.

In order to have good sized sheep grow them rapidly while young.

Clover or alfalfa seem to contain just what the dairy cow needs.

The total value of farm property in the United States is \$40,000,000,000.

Alfalfa seed cannot be separated from timothy because of its size.

Cool the new cream to the same temperature as the old cream before mixing.

Always if possible remove the sow from the pigs and not the pigs from the sow.

For draft work the mule is valued higher than the average horse, in nearly every instance.

Farmers who are going to feed live stock through the winter should try to have the best possible.

Rutabagas are very satisfactory root crop for winter, yielding as high as 15 tons to the acre at times.

If necessary to assist the ewe in delivering, use vaseline on your hands before commencing the operation.

Woven wire is used a great deal for re-enforcing concrete and in some cases old barbed wire is also used.

Watch out for ticks on the ewes. It does not pay to raise them and you better watch out for them. It pays.

Farmers will soon be feeding new hay and new grain. Change from the old to the new should be made gradually.

Many farmers make a practice of turning lambs into the corn field in the early fall to gather up all the weeds.

The proper treatment of barb wire cuts on horses will mean fewer bleibers and less serious consequences generally.

In feeding fattened stock and dairy cows, gain and profit come in proportion to the amount of food the animals put to use.

A small quantity of linseed meal fed in the milk will balance up the ration and make it practically as good as the whole milk.

Sheep-farming has been practiced since the earliest times, and is one of the most profitable branches of the live stock industry.

Colts and young horses should have bone and muscle producing feeds in their rations, such as clover or alfalfa, hay, bran and oats.

It is very necessary that an animal used for breeding purposes should have a good pedigree, yet it is not always an indication of its value.

A dairyman who has a good herd of cows will do well to carefully examine the newcomers in the barn and thus avoid introducing some disease.

Alfalfa is a very good feed for horses provided it is fed properly, although it is not considered as valuable for road horses as for working horses.

Experiments have shown that stubble burning not only decreases the amount of humus returned to the soil, but also accelerates the exhaustion of that already present in it.

In hogging down corn, fence off only a limited area at a time, as the hogs will eat more of the stalks and other herbage on the ground, and they will not waste as much of the grain.

Many farmers in the corn belt sow rape with the grain to furnish additional feed since this affords an abundance of succulent forage late in the season up to the time of severe frosts.

If a big bunch of young pigs is allowed to sleep together in cramped quarters, in cold weather, they will pile up, and the under pigs will suffer. Easy to separate them into lots of eight or ten each.

Tuberculosis in live stock is the same thing as consumption in human beings. There are many ways of spreading it, but the easiest way and the most common is through the droppings of diseased animals.

A sow pig, farrowing at one year old, will, if she and her offspring produce the average number of animals, round up a herd of 500 at the end of the fourth year—provided there are no slips, no death, no runts.

POULTRY



GOOD QUALITIES OF CAPONS

Although industry is growing rapidly supply does not begin to equal the demand.

(By R. R. SLOCUM.)

A capon is a male chicken bearing the same relation to a cockerel that a steer does to a bull, a barrow to a boar or a wether to a ram. As with other animals of this kind, the disposition of the capon differs materially

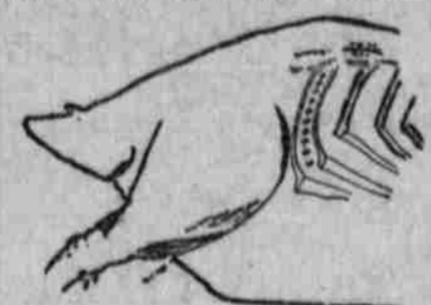


Diagram Showing Where Incision Should Be Made Between Last Two Ribs.

from that of the cockerel. He no longer shows any disposition to fight, is much more quiet and is easy to keep within bounds. The true capon never crows. Along with this change in disposition there is a change in appearance. The comb and wattles cease growing, which causes the head to appear small. The hackles and saddle feathers develop beautifully. Indeed, these feathers and the undeveloped comb and wattles serve to identify the capon and in consequence should never be removed when the bird is dressed for the market.

As a result of the more peaceful disposition, the capon continues to grow and his body develops more uniformly and to a somewhat greater size than is the case with the cockerel of the same age. For a time the cockerel and the capon make about equal development, but in a short time the capon outstrips the cockerel in growth.

As they do not fight nor worry one another, a large flock of capons may be kept together. Coupled with the better growth is the fact that the capon brings a better price per pound.

Cockerels up to 5 months old usually bring from 12 to 15 cents a pound; if held longer than this they are classed as old cocks and do not bring more than 6 to 12 cents a pound.

There are two reasons, then, why it is better to caponize surplus cockerels than to raise them for market as such: (1) There is an increase in weight, and (2) the price per pound is materially increased.

Yet in many localities where especially fine poultry is raised, while capons usually sell for a somewhat better price the difference is not great. In fact, for the Boston market many capons are picked clean and sold as "South Shore roosters." Hence it will be seen that the profit in capons must depend to a great extent upon local conditions.

In selecting the breed best suited for caponizing, several factors must be taken into consideration. Large capons bring the best prices. Consequently the breed should be large. It does not pay to caponize small fowls. Yellow legs and skin, as in other classes of poultry, are most popular.

The Plymouth Rocks, Light Brahmas, Cochins, Indian Games, Langshans and Wyandottes are all recommended by different producers, as are also various crosses of these. The Brahmas and Cochins possess good size. By some the Brahmas are claimed to be difficult to operate upon; by others this is denied. The Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are somewhat smaller, but sell readily and possess the advantage of yellow skin and legs. The Langshan is large and is easily operated upon. The Indian Game is probably the most useful as a cross upon some one of the

other breeds, thereby improving the breast meat without materially reducing the size of the fowl. In Massachusetts the Brahma was formerly the most popular breed for this purpose, because of the demand for large birds for roasters. Later, crosses between the Light Brahma and the Barred or White Plymouth Rock became quite popular, while at present the pure Barred and White Plymouth Rocks are also considered suitable and are widely used.

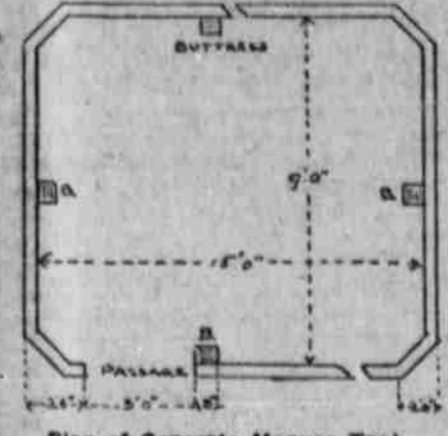
Prevents Indigestion.

Charcoal is very effective in preventing indigestion, which is a common ailment among poultry of all kinds and of all ages, and as is very well known by all who are in the business, indigestion is one of the fore-runners of poultry diseases.

CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE TANK FOR STORING MANURE

Detailed Instructions Given for Making Suitable Receptacle on Farm Where Six Horses are Kept—Most Satisfactory Bottom is Clay—Tank and Section of Wall Shown.

We give a plan of concrete manure tank, and also a section through one of the retaining walls, writes George F. Weston in the Country Gentleman, in response to a query. This is designed to take care of the manure from six horses on a farm. Since nothing is said about any neighboring residence or dairy, we have not considered it advisable for so small a surplus as is likely to accumulate from this number of head to suggest going



Plan of Concrete Manure Tank.

to the expense of roofing over or screening from flies. The proportions or area are to be modified to meet the special demands of the farm.

It is expected that the usual custom will be followed of hauling direct to the field, and that the tank is used simply for storage during bad weather or press of other work. Allowing that the manure is removed from the stalls in a wheelbarrow, a three-foot entrance for same is shown, which should be located at the most convenient corner.

The longest diameter should be in the same direction or parallel with the most convenient road for the teams to travel, and each corner should be protected from the wheels by sinking a conveniently shaped stone in the ground at points of probable contact.

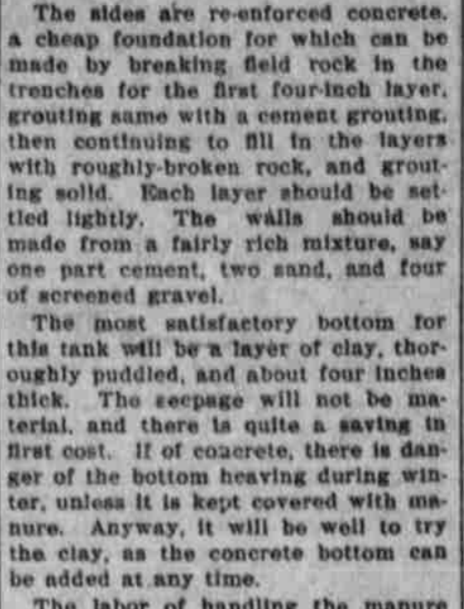
As economy is insisted on, diagonal corners are shown, but the general appearance of the tank will be improved by rounded corners, at an increased labor cost for making the forms. If the horse stalls have drainage for urine, this can profitably be conducted to a small concrete cistern built just inside the wall of tank, entirely below grade, and covered with slotted plank, so as to also drain ground manure. The contents can then be pumped over the manure, should it appear to be heating unduly. With this we should ad-

vised a shed over tank, on six by six-inch concrete supports, re-enforced with a three-eighths-inch iron rod in each corner, and inserting half-inch bolt and washer in each for tying down rafter plates.

The sides are re-enforced concrete, a cheap foundation for which can be made by breaking field rock in the trenches for the first four-inch layer, grouting same with a cement grouting, then continuing to fill in the layers with roughly-broken rock, and grouting solid. Each layer should be settled lightly. The walls should be made from a fairly rich mixture, say one part cement, two sand, and four of screened gravel.

The most satisfactory bottom for this tank will be a layer of clay, thoroughly puddled, and about four inches thick. The seepage will not be material, and there is quite a saving in first cost. If of concrete, there is danger of the bottom heaving during winter, unless it is kept covered with manure. Anyway, it will be well to try the clay, as the concrete bottom can be added at any time.

The labor of handling the manure on a place where many animals are kept is a much heavier and more costly job than many would believe who have not kept an account, and it should be lightened in every way possible. One method is to use a manure carrier, and unload direct from this into the manure spreader. Where a



Section of Tank Wall.

hillside site can be secured for the storage pit or tank, a "gravity" system of loading may be put in by scraping out a road on the lower side, that will allow the top of the bed of the spreader to be a little below the level of the bottom of tank.

The Onlooker

WILBUR D. NESBIT

September Goes



September goes. Across the hill she waves her brown arm in farewell; The day grows strangely sad and still As when she hears a passing bell; But still aglimmer in the wood Where but an hour she stood, Her arabesqued draperies.

September goes. Ah, when she came, Her arms heaped high with harvest gold, And fruitage pranked with ruby flame, And blossoms in each garment-fold! When she came singing down the way, Soft-voiced, her mellow autumn croon Made every hour of all the day Seem like the calm mid-afternoon.

September goes. The sunset glow Marks how her face is turned to us; Shakes out its banners tremulous, And ripened corn in row on row Its purple tassels idly droop Above the tawny, cringing husk— Thus her battalions, troop on troop, Salute her in the creeping dusk.

September goes. Her empty hand Fades in the last long shaft of light, And she relinquishes command To blend into the brooding night. But, throbbing from the distant dawn, Rise bugle call and thrum of drums To mark how, now that she has gone, All grandly proud October comes.

HIS ESTIMATE.



"I bought a little lawn for the girl's spring dresses today," said Mrs. Spendit, "and here is the bill for it."

"Lawn!" shouted Mr. Spendit, looking at the bill. "Lawn? Why, woman, you must have bought a whole farm!"

One of War's Horrors.

We do not think that Italy is acting very prettily in telling Turkey snippily she wants to gobble Tripoli.

Says Mr. Meddgergrass.

"As near as I can make out this here classic fiddle playin'," observed Mr. Meddgergrass, "it consists largely in physical exercise of a violent sort, in which the fiddler doesn't understand what he is playin' at an' the audience doesn't understand it, either, an' keeps wishin' he'd cut loose on some of the old time shaks the foot tunes, but has to look wise an' tell one another it's just grand. No, sir, this here classic music business is all right to talk to, but no great shakes to listen to."

Experience Teaches.

"I am the goose that lays the golden eggs," observed the barnyard bird to the agriculturist who was approaching with an ax.

"Hub," said the agriculturist. "How do I know but you will switch the package on me and hand me a tin egg full of sawdust?"

"For he had read the newspapers to some profit."

Latter-Day Carelessness.

"The profession is not what it was in our days. It is degenerating sadly," observed the First Retired Journalist.

"Indeed it is," agreed the Second Retired Journalist. "Only yesterday I read an account of a wedding in which the bride was not described as beautiful and accomplished."

Where He is Lacking.

"It is pitiful to hear old Lusher talk when he is intoxicated," said the Sympathetic Person.

"Yes, indeed," agreed the Individual who reads Realistic Stories. "Yes, indeed. He does not speak with the correct dialect of intoxication at all."

W.D. Nesbit

BACTERIA ON ROOTS OF CORN

Supply Sufficient Nitrogen to Serve Abundantly Their Purposes When Soil Is Exhausted.

(By WALTER B. LEUTZ.)

How the clover acted as a fertilizer was not known until about fifteen years ago. Since that time our knowledge upon the subject has very considerably increased and every year now something more is learned.

Leguminous and pod-bearing plants unaided have no more ability to help themselves to the nitrogen of the air under any circumstances than have other green plants.

Certainly bacteria existing in the soil penetrate the soft tissues of young roots of legumes and multiply within these lively tissues so as to form a little mass of gelatinous substance. Responding to the irritation produced the plant builds a nodular structure about the bacterial invaders, not unlike the formation of a gall consequent upon the sting of an insect.

Numerous nodules may be formed on the roots of one plant and they have characteristics peculiar to the species of plant on which they occur.

In some way not well understood these plants with nodules or tubercles are capable of getting sufficient nitrogen from the air to serve abundantly their purposes when the soil has no supplies, and when other plants must die from the want of it.

Either the bacteria are the direct agents in the process or they aid the plant itself to do what, without such aid, it cannot do. May there be legumes organisms or some of them be made to form tubercles or other plants for instant maize? Here is a matter of the greatest moment. Undoubtedly they have some times in the past become adapted to leguminous vegetation. There is nothing to prevent corn from gathering tubercles.

We know now that corn can be very decidedly modified in its chemical composition by processes of breeding. Types of grain can be produced in which for instance the nitrogen percentage is greatly increased and so a long way improved as food for man and beast.

If, in addition to this, Indian corn can be made to furnish itself, through accommodating bacteria, with this higher nitrogen content directly from the exhaustless storehouses of the air, the agricultural miracle of the age will have been wrought.

No one can predict whether or not this will ever come to pass, but from what is now known, the endeavor to bring it to come to pass seems at least worth while.

CARING FOR MOLTING HENS

Require Large Amount of Feed Containing Nitrogen, Such as Oil Meal and Protein Feeds.

(By J. BAILEY BRUCE.)

Most people believe that if they can force their hens to molt early they will lay more eggs during the season, but this is not true. Hens that have molted late will lay more eggs during the winter than the early molters.

This has been shown by the most careful experiments, but the facts are not generally known.

Molting hens require a large amount of feed containing nitrogen such as oil meal, meat and other feeds rich in protein. Molting can be forced by cutting down the feed of hens as it has been shown by experiments that scantily fed hens begin molting earlier than those on full feed, but the former do not finish molting much earlier.

Starved hens molt more uniformly than others and this is particularly noticeable in hens two or three years old.

In an experiment conducted by the Cornell experiment station it was found that on a basis of 100 hens the fed flock produced eggs to the value of \$29.27 more than by the starved flock.

The total income from all the birds was \$278 for the starved flock and \$350 for the fed flock, a difference in favor of natural molting for the year of about \$55.

A western poultryman of long experience gives his method of controlling molting as follows:

As soon as the hens are through laying he turns them out in alfalfa, feeding them dry bran only, in addition. Under this treatment they get thin. Then he feeds them a mixed ration of grains and meat, giving a light feed in the morning and all they will eat at noon and night. Under this treatment they finish molting quickly, get new feathers and begin laying in September. By October 1 they are all in good laying condition and make a profit through the fall and winter.

Only Peppermint Raiser.

The only successful peppermint raiser in the United States is said to be Miss Mary Clark of Berrien, Mich. She has twenty-eight acres of the herb and runs her own distillery, which produces from three to four hundred pounds of oil every year.

Produce Fine Meat.

With alfalfa pasture, corn is the only thing needed to produce the finest of beef and pork.



Method of Securing Fowl; Also Spreader in Place.