

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Inbreeding too much will cause pigs to "go light."

Persistency is one of the valuable qualities of a good dairy cow.

Do not allow the pullets to roost in the coops where they were raised.

The horse that slobbers when eating should have his teeth examined.

The experienced poultryman will breed only from his best winter layers.

Onions, unlike potatoes and other root crops, will not keep in a moist cellar.

The drainage by making the soil firm, enables earlier cultivation in the spring.

Low ground drained can be cultivated earlier than high ground not drained.

Prune the currants and gooseberries as soon as the leaves fall, or early next spring.

At this season of the year with the coming of the fall rains, a dry shelter should be provided for the sheep.

"Almost every wrong act of the horse is caused by fear, excitement or mismanagement," said a great horseman.

Begin a systematic culling of the flock this month, and get rid of all unpromising birds before cold weather sets in.

A dairy barn can be kept practically free from unpleasant odors, but we never saw more than half a dozen such barns.

It is just as important that every horse should have his own collar all the time as that a man should wear his own shoes.

Save the small potatoes and imperfect heads of cabbage and other waste vegetables. They will all be relished by the hens in the winter.

Work horses, that have been pushed in the fields all summer should now have the advantage of every hour possible in the fall pastures.

Where a number of horses are kept in the same barn the sides of the stall should be low enough to allow them to see each other as all horses love company.

Let the same person milk the same cows every day when possible, because a strange milker always makes the animal nervous and affects the milk flow.

The first test to be given a new workman on the farm is to send him out with a team. If he handles them kindly and skillfully he is pretty sure to be a good all-round man.

If you find a workman kicking or beating a horse back him up into a corner and give him a sound lecture. Then watch him carefully and if he repeats the act send him adrift.

When a man sends his horse pell-mell down hill with a loose rein he not only jars the shoulders, springs the knees, weakens the nerves, but runs the risk of breaking his horse's knees.

Put new sand on the floor of the hen house immediately, otherwise it will not dry out thoroughly before cold weather comes but will remain damp and make the house uncomfortable throughout the winter.

There is no economy in feeding mutton grain of any kind to the chickens, even if it can be had for a quarter of the price of good grain. The fowls will eat it, if other food is withheld, but it is not good for them.

In many of the big sheep states the farmers find it profitable to engage the professional shearers with a machine. They go about from farm to farm shearing the flocks singly or have several flocks brought to a central point.

Sheep require different feeding and handling from any other animal on the farm. Even though you are an experienced sheep raiser, don't get too ambitious and try to manage a larger flock than you can keep up to the standard of excellence.

The average depreciation of farm machinery is reckoned at 10 per cent. per year. A machine shed will cut this cost at least one-third, or extend the life of the average machine to fifteen years, where it is now thrown onto the scrap pile in ten years.

The early hatched pullets will soon be beginning to lay.

There is no advantage in having the colts make too rapid a growth.

More horses are spoiled by poor drivers than any other way.

Horses like shredded fodder, but one must learn to feed it right.

The well-sheltered paddock helps out the winter feed bin.

It is bad policy to let the milk and cream get a kitchen flavor.

Surplus young ducks will soon be in demand in the city markets.

Let the hogs turn all the "windfall apples" into high-priced pork.

Washing a separator is not a very difficult job if done soon after separating.

Grapes are apt to overbear and it is never safe to let them set all the fruit they will.

Don't put up with a "robber" cow any more than you would with a robber of any kind.

There is no variety of fowls that can be so quickly gotten upon the market as young ducks.

As the weather continues to get cooler at this time of the year, fresh bones may be had at the butcher's.

Feed just enough—have the pig's bed clean and comfortable so he will lie down and sleep, and put on fat.

Guard the fowls against exposure to dampness and draughts and they will be kept free from colds and roup.

One of the greatest secrets in the successful keeping of horses is the furnishing of plenty of pure air and light.

Cows that are expected to return a profit must have liberal rations of the kinds of foods adapted to their needs.

An important item in feeding dairy cows is to have good, tight manure where the feed will not be soiled or wasted.

It is claimed that early sown fall wheat is benefited when pastured with sheep to keep down the rank growth.

Pedigree scrubs are the bane of the stock-breeding business, and need the attention of honest breeders of all classes of stock.

If taken at a very early age chickens can be taught to come and go at certain times, fed in a certain way and do other things that will save time and annoyance.

The chicken does not refuse to lay eggs or get fat through perverseness of character. It is simply because the owner does not know how to bring about desired results.

A well-filled crib of well-matured corn, which generally means a good yield per acre, is much more satisfactory and to be desired than many first prizes at the fair.

The truth is the farmers of the middle west are raising better mutton than ever before and people are learning that it is about the best and cheapest meat they can buy.

This cry is never heard by the birds by her or anybody else except at the times when they were actually wanted and the way they came running was a striking lesson in training.

In counting the profits from your flock do not fail to count the value of the fat lambs killed during the twelve months for the family use and the high value of all the manure.

If the colts are to come out sound, lively and ready for work or market next spring they must have good feed, plenty of exercise in open air every fine day and warm quarters at night all winter.

Cattle and other live stock will derive much good early fall an winter pasture on wheat and they will not damage the crop if the pasturing is done in dry weather or when the ground is frozen.

If you would really know how an unblanketed horse feels after violent exercise in cold weather take a brisk run of a mile or so and then stand where the cold wind will strike you for half an hour.

The winter egg producers are now in the course of development on thousands of farms, and it behooves every one to see to it that they lack nothing at this period that would assist in their development.

Never buy a horse for family use where the women folk are to drive him without at least one week's trial. If he is put through all his paces and sent up against steam engines and other scary things he will develop his good or bad faith in that time.

A pair of full grown Bull snakes will keep two or three acres of alfalfa free from the encroachments of the pocket gopher and the mole, and they are harmless with the exception of the fact that they may catch small chickens if they are given a chance.

When the Turkey Called

By Dorothy Douglas



WANTED, by a married couple, one lonesome, homesick American. Must be alone in London and desirous of eating Thanksgiving turkey with couple from home. Address will be found at window D.

Helen Graham turned after putting up her small sign on the wall of an American rendezvous in London and spoke to the man behind window D. "Now, Mr. Gray, you will be sure to send some very nice Americans to me, won't you? I am trusting entirely to your selection." The ever ready smile of the American came to her lips and eyes.

"Just fancy any Yankee's being otherwise," laughed the Englishman. "But I will confine my choice to two whom I think worthy of your hospitality." "How will you manage to turn undesirable away?" questioned Helen, who was not quite sure as to the outcome of her unconventional scheme for Thanksgiving guests.

"I shall tell them that the invitation has already been accepted, Mrs. Graham," the Englishman smiled, in his turn. He was not without his own plans. "I do not contemplate difficulty." "It's awfully good of you to do this for me," Helen's eyes reflected for a moment the wistfulness of her heart. "You see, at home Thanksgiving is such a chummy, big-hearted and happy day that I just couldn't stand it not to manifest a little good fellowship. Mr. Graham and I would have wept over the turkey, I'm sure."

The big lounging room of the rendezvous was practically deserted when Helen Graham and her husband made their way out on the Haymarket. "What a change from the crowds in July!" remarked Helen. "All the better for our advertisement," said Graham. "There won't be many applicants. I thought you wanted two guests?" "I do, but I put one down on the add, so that they will not come in crowds. A single person is more likely to be lonesome, anyway," she finished.

"I'll bet you put Gray up to sending a man and a woman," chided Bob Graham as he assisted his wife up the wobbling stairs of a Kensington bus. In the meantime Margery Bonner walked leisurely along the Haymarket toward the rendezvous. Her erect back and trim, athletic costume proclaimed her an American girl. And Hugh Gray, the man behind window D, was waiting for Margery Bonner. He had selected her as one of the guests for Mrs. Graham's Thanksgiving dinner. She had been calling for her mail only during the last three weeks, but Gray had discovered her charm the very first time her big blue eyes seemed to coax him for letters.

He looked up when she stood before him. "I want several letters this morning," she informed him, her lips parting over a row of perfect teeth. "Seven letters, Miss Bonner," he said, giving them to her eager hands. "Thank you when I read these I'm going to ask you about this," she said pointing to Mrs. Graham's invitation. She threw herself happily on to the great leather-cushioned circle in the center of the room and became engrossed in news from home. Robert Dexter swung in from the street, his broad shoulders away under an American rain-coat and his American eyes seeing everything within range. They lighted at sight of Margery Bonner. And while her eyes were lowered over her letters, Margery Bonner's heart gave a little jump when somebody big and broad passed her on his way to window D. She had covertly admired his clear cut lines and the honest look in his eyes. The girl approached window D again. "Tell me," she asked, "if you know anything about the person who put this notice here?" The Englishman smiled his approval of her directness. "A very charming little woman," he said quickly. "A Mrs. Graham. She and her husband are strangers in London and are simply longing for a friend on whom to lavish a generous impulse."

... the American there suddenly was born a great liking for all Englishmen. "She is a Miss Bonner," Gray said without waiting for the question. When Dexter left the American rendezvous, he had Mrs. Graham's address in his pocket and Gray took down a certain notice which ended his part in the planning of a Thanksgiving dinner.

On the last Thursday in November a taxicab whirled to the curb of a beautiful little home on St. Mary's road. Margery Bonner stepped out in the daintiest of gray chiffon toilettes. She carried a huge bunch of roses suspiciously like American beauties and a small square package. "I received your note, Miss Bonner," said Mrs. Graham as she led the way upstairs and into her own boudoir. In her heart she thanked Mr. Gray for his excellent choice. "And we are going to be even more unconventional and use first names," she went on quickly in order to hide any sense of strain. "I don't want Mr. Dexter, a friend of my husband, to know—"

"You are a dear—to think of that," burst out Margery, "and I am glad I brought you some roses." She thrust the huge bouquet into the arms of her hostess. "How sweet, Margery," said Helen, shyly. "Don't mention it—" "Helen," put in Mrs. Graham. "Helen," finished Margery and because they were both happy a duet of laughter reached the two men who were already smoking the pipe of friendship.

"You must say 'hello Jack' as soon as we get to the drawing-room," prompted Helen as the two descended the stairs. "Hello, Jack," cried Margery when two equally good-looking men rose at their entrance. Jack Graham did not lose a second. "Hello, Marj," he threw back at her, "you put on my favorite gown, didn't you? Come here and meet Robert Dexter, Miss Bonner—Mr. Dexter." They shook hands and Margery's eyes hid themselves lest he read her surprise and—yes, delight—at meeting him.

"Tell me," cried Margery excitedly, "have we time to do something awfully American, before dinner?" Before anyone had answered, she was away and back again with the package she had brought with her. She extended it to Helen. "Oh, you dear!" There were tears in Helen's voice as she hugged two boxes of shelled popcorn to her breast. "I haven't seen any of this for six months." She turned swiftly to the bell and the maid appeared presently with some long-handled corn poppers. There was a choky sensation in the throats of all four when these little implements of American life appeared, and they had the effect of breaking the last barrier of convention existing among the new made friends.

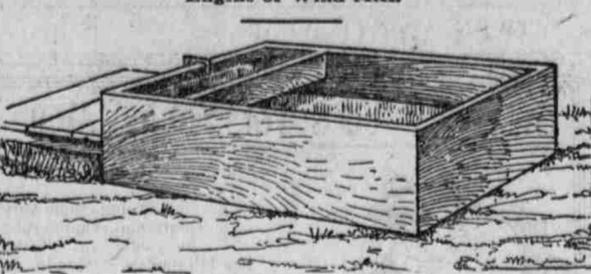


"The sport is rustic," cried Helen, falling on her knees before the fire, "but I love it!" "And these fires are ideal for popping," exclaimed her husband gazing at the bed of red coals. He went down on his knees before her. "Come on, Marj, get your popper! Here, Dexter, fill this popper for Miss Bonner." Bob Dexter looked at the trio of happy faces in the glow of the fire; the yellow corn was puffing into fluffy balls and the fragrance of fresh-roasted corn permeated the room. The picture stamped itself indelibly on Dexter's mind, especially the profile of the girl beside him. Her delicate face was clear cut like a cameo among the shadows. She glanced around and met the unguarded look in his eyes and a flush not caused by the fire mounted her cheeks. By way of covering his embarrassment she handed him her popper.

"Here," she said, "you are doing nothing—pop awhile." He took the long handle, touching her hand in the transfer. So intent was the quartette and so far had the memories escaped into the home land that they did not hear the soft voice of the maid when she announced dinner. To at least two in the party, there had never been a Thanksgiving dinner more complete. Cupid stole the wings of the turkey and flapped joyously about the interchanged two hearts in his glee.

COMBINATION TANK AND TROUGH FOR SHEEP, HORSES AND CATTLE

Illustration Shows Convenient Addition Which Will Eliminate One Great Difficulty and Will be Found of Much Value Where Water Is Pumped by Hand, Engine or Wind Mill.



Drinking Trough for Sheep in Water Tank.

Frequently a simple method of watering stock will mean much on many farms, especially where horses, cattle and sheep drink from the same trough. Large tanks do not permit sheep to drink unless the tank is full, therefore, if cattle and horses lower the water in the tank so it is only a quarter of half full, the sheep will be unable to reach it. The illustration shows a convenient addition, says the Orange Judd Farmer. This will be found of great value where either water is pumped by hand, by gasoline engine or wind power. A small trough is sent in the end into which the water is pumped, and as it overflows it runs into the larger tank. A raised platform at this end will make it possible for sheep to reach into the tank. Where hand power is required and the tank is nearly empty, without this convenience it would be necessary to pump the tank nearly full in order that sheep might reach the water, whereas by this method they will be able to drink at once. The same is true in the use of wind power. As soon as the pump begins to work, the sheep have access to the water. This method is used with great success in Conedale farm in Winona county, Minn. In this case the water source is a large spring and the power a couple of hydraulic rams. These rams work night and day, year in and year out, and the inflow is adjusted as shown in the illustration. Of course, there is a continual flow of water into the tank, but there is an outlet which permits the water to run from this tank into another one in another yard at a lower level. Though simple in construction this attachment will mean a great deal in watering stock.

BEST WAY TO TOP DRESS GRAIN

Should be Done During the Fall Months to Afford Proper Protection for Roots of Crop.

If grain is to be top dressed, the work should be done in the fall, as it is very necessary to have the grain deep-rooted with sufficient top to protect the roots. Haul and spread direct from wagon or cart when the ground is dry enough to haul over. The manure should be fine and well rotted. Clean, mellow ground should be seeded to grass at the time of drilling and sown to clover in the spring. The early seeded grain nearly always gives the best yield. Rather than land drilled to grain should be top dressed with long straw manure. If manure cannot be had spread straw or leaf mold from the woods. A thin covering will protect the grain and grass, and when rotted will help to keep the soil moist and cool during the hot weather. Straw is worth fully \$1.50 to \$2.00 per ton to spread over the grain. All straw not wanted for feeding and bedding should be used for top-dressing grain and grass. Where the land is not too rolling and the snows are not too heavy, there is no better way to use the winter manure than to haul it out, and when the weather is suitable and the ground is in condition to haul over and spread it on either the grain or grass fields. Much of the value of manure is wasted when it is piled in the yard, exposed to heavy rains and snows. There is little loss when spread over sod land.

CROSSCUT SAW IS VERY HANDY

Where Logs of Medium Size Are to be Cut Implement Shown Will be Found Convenient.

Crosscut Saw for One. It is often convenient to have a crosscut saw that one man can use for cutting medium sized logs, says the Orange Judd Farmer. The one shown herewith fills the bill very well. It consists of a blade, a handle, set as shown, and a bow reinforced with wire around it at various points. Preferably this bow should be of well-seasoned hickory, ash or some other tough, but not too heavy, wood. It is not necessary to have very much spring in the bow, although some spring aid; rigidity and tension to the saw, which can thus be run more easily. The most important points for the winding are toward the ends, where the pole is split by sawing to admit blade. The pole should be only a few inches longer than the saw when laid out straight.



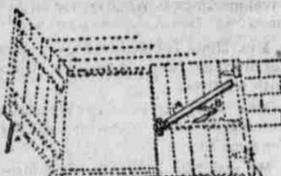
Crosscut Saw.

White Corn is Best. Experiments carried on at the Missouri experiment station during the past four years show that Boone county white corn is the best variety for general use in that state. The next in order below this are Commercial White, St. Charles White and Reeds Yellow Dent. These varieties are doubtless well adapted to other southwestern states.

SUPPORT FOR CELLAR DOOR

Excellent Device Is Shown in Illustration for Use When Passage-Way Is Wanted Open.

Support for Cellar Door. The illustration shows a self-opening and self-closing support for a cellar door. One-half of the door is shown opened and resting on the support A. The other half shows the support fastened in place. It is very simple to make and attach. Use a strip of wood for the support, seven-eighths by two inches, with the required length to allow the door to



Support for Door.

rest at the height wanted when open. Fasten two blocks with screws, one on each door as shown, and attach a support to each block with a tee-hinge. The folding bracket B is easily made of a piece of hoop iron. The support will lie flat on the door when it is closed, according to the Popular Mechanics, but will open up to the right position for a support as soon as the door is opened.

NEED OF LIME ON SOME SOILS

There is but One Sure Way of Making Known the Fault and That is by Practical Trial.

There is only one sure way of determining whether a soil needs lime and that is by trial. An application of lime over a whole field would be a waste of both time and money if the field were not in need of such an application. It is suggested that the farmer who has not already proved for himself whether his soils need lime would better conduct a few simple experiments at different points on his farm. A few barrels of lime or a few tons of limestone would not cost a great deal and the labor of treating a strip with lime or ground limestone here and there across different fields in which crops were to be grown or so treat a small area here and there, at different points in the fields in which crops are to be grown, would involve but a small amount of labor. These areas should be very carefully located and marked and the results of the applications should be carefully studied on the succeeding crops. It is possible that the effects, good and bad, may be easily apparent. It is possible that the effects can be discovered only by carefully cutting and weighing the crops from portions of the treated areas and comparing them with the crops produced upon equal adjacent areas.

Lime should not be applied to manure piles nor to the litter in the barn. Lime should not be applied to land being prepared for potatoes.—Circular 11, Michigan Experiment Station.

Caterpillar's Big Appetite. In a single month, a single caterpillar devours six thousand times its own weight in food.