

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



A silo is a necessity.
Provide free range for hogs.
Horses and mules are very fond of oat straw.

Every dairy should have a butter or milk standard.
Only the wealthy man can afford to keep a poor cow.

The horse is the only animal which every farmer must have.
Oats make an excellent ration for growing and breeding hogs.

Pedigreed stock, with animals, means known parentage on both sides.

Do not neglect to spray the orchard trees and berry bushes this year.

Every instant that milk stands in the stable it gathers contamination.

The silo helps solve the problem of making a profit from \$100 an acre land.

Do not allow a boss colt to nag a younger or smaller one. Separate them.

Do not place much faith in new feeds—you do not know what they are made of.

Beginners should not purchase large colonies of bees. Begin moderately and go slow.

In feeding a milk cow a corn ration, reduce the ration at first indication of fattening.

There are usually some ewes that have served their days of usefulness and better be discarded.

Some of the cut-over corn ground can be sown to rye for late fall, winter and early spring pasture.

After the third month the calf will begin to want extra water, and some may be mixed with the milk.

If the strawberry plants are vigorous, and the bed not too weedy, it may pay to renovate it for other year.

Watch the bowels of both mare and colt, and if there are any indications of constipation give more succulent food.

Turn separator with a steady and uniform speed and flush down with skim milk or water at end of separation.

There are many methods of storing seed corn, but in all cases the place of storing must be dry and well ventilated.

It is almost impossible to keep the parts of a hand separator clean and bright without the use of some washing powder.

In building new quarters for swine, the foundations should be made permanent and the floors double and wind and waterproof.

If the sheep are kept on the pastures too late, they will eat right down into the roots, and do more harm than grass will do them good.

Keep the cows in clean yards during the day, and supply rations of food value to keep up the production of the herd to a paying point.

Now is the time to figure whether it would be cheaper to build a comfortable house for the hogs or supply the heat this winter by feeding extra grain.

Among the essentials of the successful care and management of a farm flock of mutton sheep are that we treat them in a manner adapted to their nature.

Young pigs are so partial toward foods rich in protein that they will acquire an excess of that element if given an opportunity, thereby stunting their growth.

The only method of ridding the poultry houses and nests of mites is to use strong treatment with a liquid lice and mite killer and keep the poultry house thoroughly clean.

The cow gets up on her hind feet first, with head down. For this reason the manger should be low and the cow allowed enough freedom in her stall so that she can rise with ease.

Old rotten apples, plums, grapes and prunings serve as excellent winter homes for many insects and bacterial diseases. These "mummies" and prunings should be gathered up and burned.

Better sires are needed.
Pork production is a specialty.
Cleanliness is the keynote in good dairying.
Careful selection should bring every cow up to it.
No definite temperature for churning can be given.

The sheep barn should be put in order for the flock now.

The silo is the best solution of the problem of short pastures.

Begin to feed a good ration in the stables to keep up development.

The age for working colts varies with size, strength and maturity.

It is time now to wrap young fruit trees in protection from the rabbits.

It is too expensive to dig around the trees by hand, and it is seldom done.

It is expensive to let a cow fall in her milk because of the lack of proper feed.

It has been well said that a farm can never rise above the level of its owner.

For cream and butter the Jersey and Guernsey grades should be chosen.

The apple crop of the United States is 14 per cent. larger than the average this year.

The young cockerels should be put up to fatten for two weeks, and as soon as fat sold.

Weeds crowd the cultivated plants, depriving them of light and space in both soil and air.

The ration should be balanced to meet the needs of the cow at all stages of lactation.

The development of the young horse requires the exercise of the best judgment in handling him.

Bits of sweet apples make the sheep happy. They need some such thing this time of the year.

A great many people would be glad to keep a few colonies of bees if they did not everlastingly swarm.

Lice feed on the young chickens—this is one great reason that they fail to make the growth they should.

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

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

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

Oat chaff and fine-cut clover hay make a substantial food when mixed with corn chop and wheat bran for work horses.

Of course, the fruit must have more or less shade, but nature will take care of that after intelligent pruning has been done.

It is a well-known fact that disease is more prevalent among hogs just after they are started on new corn than any other time.

Adobe and gumbo are similar. They are both soils of a heavy clay type, quite rich in plant food, which must not be worked when wet.

To prevent scours in calves, proper care should be given to the mother while pregnant, that she may be able to give birth to a healthy calf.

One of the first requisites for success with hogs is a shelter where young pigs can be kept warm and well supplied with sunshine and fresh air.

Ewe lambs from individuals that have proven themselves good breeders and producers are the safest ones to be retained for breeding purposes.

The dairyman with eight or ten cows should have a Babcock tester. This utensil does not cost much, and it pays for itself nearly every week in the year.

Steers fed on clover hay will not only consume more roughage, but also more grain than those fed on timothy hay if grain and roughage are fed according to appetite.

The feeder who cannot use cottonseed meal or similar feeds should certainly buy clover hay (alfalfa or cowpea hay would be fully as good), even though the cost may be \$18 per ton.

Any time from now till April is the time to spray the orchard with lime and sulphur to destroy the San Jose scale, which is liable to be found also on roses and a number of other ornamentals.

Fat is desired mainly under the skin and between the muscles, but a satisfactory development of this feature cannot be secured in one generation. Hence the importance of having good stock.

MANY IMPORTANT DETAILS IN TRANSPLANTING YOUNG TREES

Entire Root System Must be Fully Alive, Fresh and Vigorous—Where There Is Indication of Disease Specimen Should be Discarded—Mulching Will Conserve Moisture.



Excellent Specimen of Apple Tree.

There need never be any loss in transplanting trees if a few leading principles involved are carefully considered. The reason that so many trees die in transplanting is that the work is done without any serious thought of the vital needs of the tree. The first essential in transplanting a tree is that the tree shall be alive and in perfect health. Not only must the part above ground be alive and well, but the entire root system must be fully alive, fresh and vigorous. The roots must be green and full of color. If there are any dead roots it is an indication that the entire root system is diseased, and such specimens should be discarded. The nurseryman who sends out trees whose roots are partly decayed and show indications of disease is either dishonest or grossly ignorant of what constitutes good nursery stock. In either case he is



Method of Planting.

not deserving of public patronage. If any part of the root system of a young tree is found to be either wholly or partly in a state of decay discard the tree entirely, even if it has been purchased at a good price. It is better to pay the extra price of a good tree now than to plant a diseased one and be compelled to remove it after a few years, losing the time and space in the orchard and running the chances of infecting the orchard soil with troublesome diseases.

In transplanting a tree of any size or age a more or less number of roots will be broken and destroyed. This is no objection, provided the roots are properly treated; in fact, it results in good to the tree, especially to the young tree from one to three years of age. Where a root is broken off or cut off even, several new feeding roots will form, which results in a heavier and stronger root system. In every case of transplanting a large number of the outer and lower roots should be cut off smoothly with a sharp knife, and all broken roots trimmed and evened up. If the trimmings of the roots is done clean the cut will callous over, without decay, and each produce a half dozen or more new roots. Root-pruning should always be done in transplanting and a sturdier tree growth will result.

In setting the tree in the ground dig out an ample hole for the reception of the roots, so that they will not be bent out of place or shape when placed in position. Set the tree slightly lower than it stood in the nursery to allow for heaving through the freezing of the soil.

Take plenty of time in covering the roots with soil. Here is where probably more mistakes are made than in any other part of the work. The very finest of soil must be placed about the roots, or some of them are almost sure to dry out and suffer, unless a heavy rain should immediately follow the planting, which, of course, is not safe to rely upon. Fill in slowly about

the roots the finest of soil and press it down and against them with the hand. Extra care at this point will be well repaid, not only in better chances for the tree living, but of its starting off into vigorous growth the first season. If large lumps of earth are placed on the roots of the newly set tree the moisture contact will be so poor that too much air will get to them, and hence drying out will result. The first few days or weeks of the tree's life existence in its new home, until a heavy rain comes to settle down the loose soil, will determine its fate. If the filling in of the soil has been well done the tree will survive even though it should not rain for weeks. A close soil contact may be secured by pouring several pails of water about the base of the tree as soon as the hole has been filled, but this would require a great amount of labor where a large orchard is set out. For a few trees in the garden and about the home grounds this watering can easily be done and will pay well in quick and good results.

A good balance should be maintained between the branches and roots of a tree, and this must be carefully looked after where transplanting is done. The branches and leaves of a tree give off water from their surface, and this water must be supplied by the roots. Enough of the branches must be cut off to balance the roots removed. If this is not done the demands of the branches will be greater than the roots can supply. Evaporation from the surface of the branches takes place in winter as well as in summer, hence trees transplanted in the fall should be cut back at the time of root pruning. It is always better to cut back a little too much than not enough. Mulching the soil about the base of the tree will help to conserve moisture and enable the tree to get through successfully the first year.

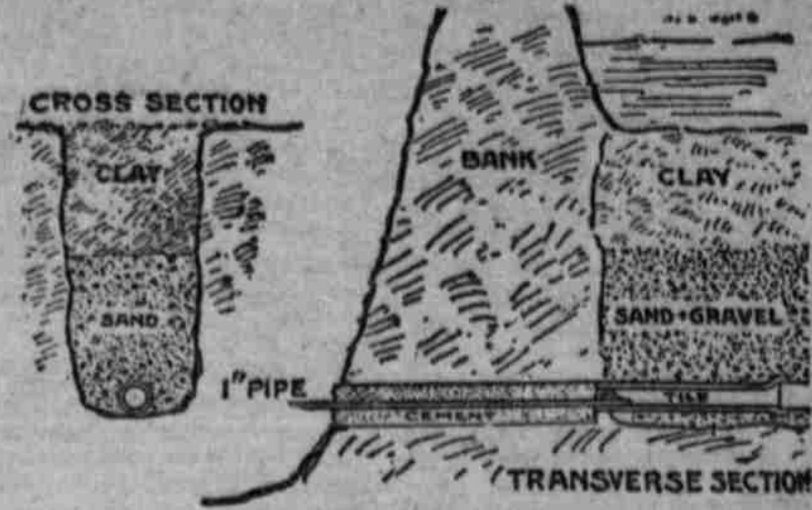
Growing Broom Corn.
An Ohio correspondent asks for information in regard to raising broom corn, both as to soil and culture. The soil preparation for planting this crop is no different than for growing Indian corn. A finely pulverized condition of the seed bed is necessary, since a rough or sandy condition of the surface will result in covering up some of the young plants during first cultivation. It is planted in drills with an ordinary corn planter or by hand. Cultivation may begin at any time after planting by the use of the harrow lengthwise or the rows. Young plants will not be injured by this treatment, while the weeds will be kept from gaining a start. If during the first few weeks your broom corn plants grow rather small, it is of prime importance to prevent the weeds getting a foothold before the plant is big enough to cultivate. Ordinary cultivating corn machinery is used in caring for the crop.

Farm Animals.
A few more animals on the farm will increase the profits next year. Animals consume coarse foods and convert them into high-priced articles of food. They furnish a market for your grain, hay and grazing plants and leave your fertility for the soil. They add interest and variety to farm life and often give incentive for your boys and girls to remain. Try a few more good animals.

Incubator Chickens.
Expert poultrymen in the west claim that in the west after several generations, incubator-hatched chickens lose the instinct to sit upon their eggs, and it is believed that in time all chickens will have to be hatched by artificial means.

CONSTANT SUPPLY OF WATER DESIRABLE FOR LIVE STOCK

With Suitable Arrangement of Tile Seepage It Is Possible to Secure Practically Spring Flowing From Pond—Should be Properly Fenced In to Keep All Animals Out.



Cross-Section of Ditch and Bank.

A constant supply of clear, cool water in summer, and a stream that will not freeze in winter, is something to be desired on every stock farm. This is not possible with the ordinary pond, which is often the only source of supply. However, with a suitable arrangement of the seepage it is possible to have practically a spring flowing from your pond winter and summer, and where the pond is fenced, as it should be to keep stock out, the water will be fit for house use, writes H. F. Grinstead in the Farm and Home. When you construct a pond, leave a gap in the embankment till the tile and pipe are laid, and if you contemplate adding this convenience to a pond already made, it will have to be drained by cutting the dam at the point where the pipe is to protrude.

In scraping out the dirt make the bottom of the pond, or as much of it as will be occupied by the ditch, almost level. In a medium-sized pond one line of tile extending about half-way the length of the pond will be all that is necessary, while in larger ones and where a larger supply is required, it will be best to have two lines meeting at right angles near the outlet pipe. When the bottom is scraped out, dig a ditch three feet deep and half as wide, beginning near the embankment and running back as far as the bottom is practically level. In the bottom of this ditch lay three-inch tile with close joints and plug both ends, so that all water that gets in will have to come in as seepage. Insert a three-quarter or one-inch pipe in the lower plug, and continue the pipe through the dam to the watering tank at a convenient distance below. A cement collar should be put around the pipe where it goes through the embankment.

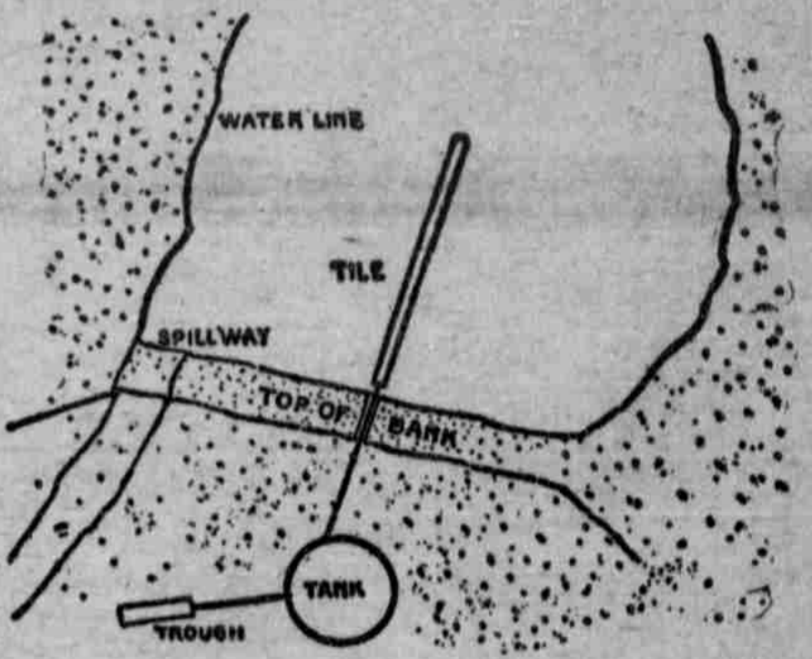
After the tiling is in place fill the ditch half full with sand and fine gravel and then with clay scraped

from the sides of the pond, except about ten feet at the upper end of the ditch, or the end opposite the pipe. Fill this with small stones and gravel till level with the bottom of the pond. This will allow of more seepage into the tile, and being at the upper end, the water remains in the tile longer, and is therefore cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

Where the outlet pipe enters the watering tank an automatic valve with a float will keep the water at a constant level. In winter a gate valve may be used and the water turned in and drained as needed in order to keep the tank from freezing. The water, coming from three feet below the bottom of the pond and through the filter of sand and gravel, is as cool and almost as pure as spring water, and there is no lee to cut in winter, giving more comfort to the stock. The tile is always full of water, the seepage being about as fast as ordinary use demands.

In constructing a pond dam the ground should be broken and the soil scraped off, then the clay broken and the embankment started on this broken clay with a clay of the same sort. By beginning this way it all cements together and there will be no danger from leaks in the embankment. The pond should be fenced so that stock cannot get to it by wading in. The value of any pond is doubled by having it arranged so that the water may be drawn out without stock standing in it.

The outlet pipe should have a little fall from where it leaves the ditch to the tank, which should be below the level of the tile. This will usually not be difficult, since most ponds are made in draws and the land slopes considerably below the dam. When this pipe is in place the gap in the embankment should be filled and well packed so as to make all parts of the dam of equal strength.



Position of Tile, Pipe and Tank.

WINTER PIGS ARE PROFITABLE

Animals Must Not be Slighted During the Cold Weather, Either in Housing or Feeding.

(By G. W. BROWN.)

There is a decided difference in caring for the pigs of autumn farrowing and those of the spring litters. On the average farm the latter have the advantage over the former of coming in previous to the advent of the springing grasses, and have a more generous supply of milk and other laxative food-stuffs to keep them growing and in perfect order.

It has been my practice for a number of years to raise two litters of pigs a year. To do this successfully I find that one must not allow overstocking, but rather should sell off a portion of the pigs soon after weaning time, keeping only so many as he knows he can accommodate with good quarters and generous feeding. One must not slight pigs during cold weather, either in housing or feeding.

Besides dry nesting quarters, the pigs should have a good-sized lot in which they may get plenty of exercise. Growing pigs should not be crowded into close, filthy quarters, exposed to vermin and disease. Our winter pigs are very profitably

fed upon whole corn in the fodder, as they delight in getting their feed from this material. I find that they eat very much of the fodder, which forms a fine diet. The cobs and coarse stalks are raked up and burned frequently, affording the pigs a generous supply of charcoal.

I aim to keep a cow for every litter of milk-stuffs I can grow a bunch of winter pigs, and with the milk and a supply of pigs equal to the spring litters.

Care of Sheep.
No matter if an ewe is four years old, if she has a good udder and good teeth and is otherwise in good health, keep her two or three years longer.

Most excellent breeding ewes can be found in any of the big markets because they are thin in flesh and have been rejected by the buyers, but have no other faults as breeders.

Sheep are not particularly greedy, but occasionally one founders from over-eating. This is never the case where they have free access to feed at all times of the day and night.

Lice in Pigeon Nests.
In hot weather lice breed in pigeon houses by the million and extra care must be taken to keep down the vermin.

Rats in a pigeon house not only destroy the young, but their presence frightens the birds so that they will not thrive.