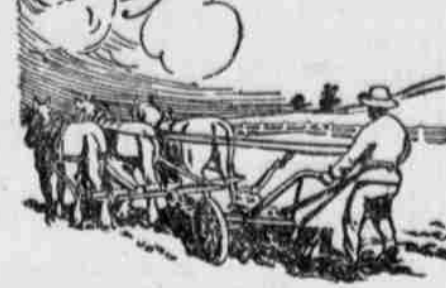


NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Give the chickens grit.
Lime your corn ground.
Whitewash the hen house.
Keep sheep out of draughts.
A few oats make a good poultry food.
When you feed grit, have it good and sharp.
It is not good for cows to lie on the bare, cold ground.
The fresher the eggs the better they will be for hatching.
The silo lends itself admirably to efforts at intensive farming.
Keep the young calves growing. Give them a little grain every day.
Extra banking around the base outside will make the hen house warmer.
Plenty of hay, oats and fresh air relieves the horse of that skinny feeling.
Reject all damaged feed. It will pay you in good milk and excellent butter.
Ground limestone will prove to be beneficial to an alfalfa field if the soil is sour.
The gospel of clean milk is not a strainer gospel, but a gospel of prevention.
Currants and gooseberries need very little, if any, protection through the winter.
It is important, before trying to prune, to know where and how the fruit is borne.
The White Leghorn is the breed kept on 90 per cent of the egg farms of the country.
It is not a good plan to dehorn a cow while in milk flow. Better wait until she is dry.
The warmer the milk the quicker the bacteria multiply, and the quicker the milk will sour.
Cows should have all the roughage they will clean up well in addition to their silage allowance.
Fall pigs often do not eat enough in the winter-time unless special pains are taken to make the feed palatable.
A broad patch of sunlight on the inside of the house costs little but pays big. Not too late yet to put in some glass.
It is impossible to milk a cow that has a cake of manure on her thigh without getting some of the filth into the milk pail.
The quality of butter produced by a dairyman depends very largely upon the treatment of the cream previous to churning.
Filthy conditions in the cow stable and in the milk house are perhaps the most common sources of bad flavors in milk or cream.
Corn silage may be fed out of doors, in bunks, in the stall, or, in fact, any place where animals can eat it without waste.
Provide a scratching yard or a scratching shed in which wheat or oat straw is strewn at a depth of six to eight inches.
Do not let the ewes crowd and push through tight doors and openings. Many an ewe has lost her lamb as the result of a squeeze.
Pure bred animals will almost always reproduce their good qualities, while the scrub will invariably reproduce their bad qualities.
A little tankage mixed in makes a better egg food of the mash and this is a good way to furnish the meat portion of the laying ration.
Good young horses are always in demand on the market, and can only be supplied from the farms where colts receive the proper care and treatment.
No matter at what price you sell the poor cows it is generally safe to say you get all they are worth and a little more, particularly if she is to be classed as a dairy animal.
Rotted stable manure for the asparagus and rhubarb beds will make these crops double their yields. If put on now the rains will wash it into the soil ready for the plants next spring.
The colony plan of housing and yarding is in general use; portable colony houses being used where the range permits. In cold climates these portable houses, which are scattered over the farm in summer, are drawn in convenient to the other buildings that the fowls may be readily cared for in winter.
A warm-day ration will not satisfy the hunger and appetite of a hen on cold days. She needs some food to counterbalance the inroads of the intense cold on her system, besides the usual allowance that should go to the making of eggs.

Milk rapidly.
Cowpeas are profitable.
The work horse needs care.
Use fresh eggs in the incubator.
Weeds delay the curing of grain and hay.
Fowls will eat quantities of sand and gravel.
Sweet ensilage is said to be a safe food for work horses.
Plenty of exercise for the ewes in the winter time is imperative.
Finely broken charcoal occasionally, makes an excellent conditioner.
About an ounce of food a day is needed for every pound of hen weight.
In fitting horses for hard work increase the grain ration but not the hay.
At present prices of corn and hogs, hog feeders are just about breaking even.
Do not have the trees come before you are ready to put them into the ground.
Sheep should not be kept with horses or swine, for they are liable to get killed.

Sheep do best on high, rolling ground; low ground produces foot-rot and parasites.
Millets will yield between three and four tons of hay per acre under favorable conditions.
Fruit trees are slow-growing plants, and therefore do not need quick-acting fertilizers as a rule.
A herd of good dairy cows is the best insurance against hard times or a slump in prosperity.
Filthy cows, and in many cases unclean milkers also, have their effect upon the milk produced.
The cow that is to do her best in the winter must be well fed, well sheltered and well cared for.
One of the best forms of investment on the farm is the liberal feeding of farm animals of all kinds.
The winter feed of the ewe should contain the essential food nutrients in their proper proportions.
If a heifer is to make the best dairy cow, she should freshen when she is from two years to 30 months old.

Roughage for calves should first be fed at two or three weeks of age, when the calf begins to eat grain.
A few turnips, cabbage, beets, etc., will relieve the monotony of dry feeds and help the milk flow wonderfully.
Ice-cold water checks the milk flow and so affects the cow that it is apt to be detrimental to her unborn calf.
Cleanliness is an exceedingly important thing in carrying horses through the winter in good condition.
Feeding is a most important part of the pure-bred live stock industry and one to which not enough attention is given.

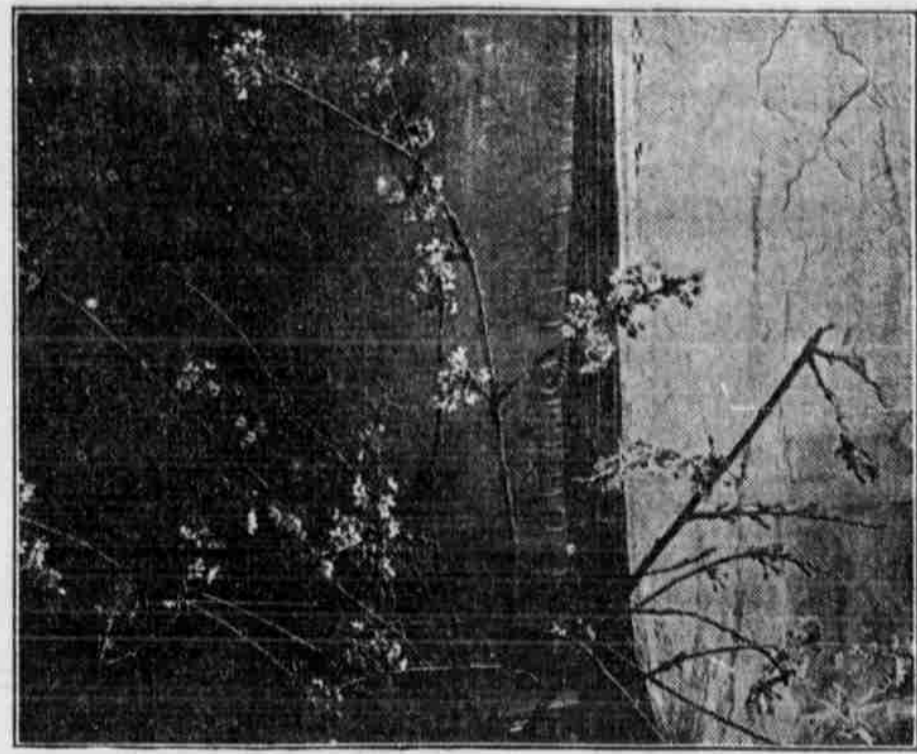
Silage is strong in carbohydrates, the principal food requirement for all animals, but needs protein to balance it.
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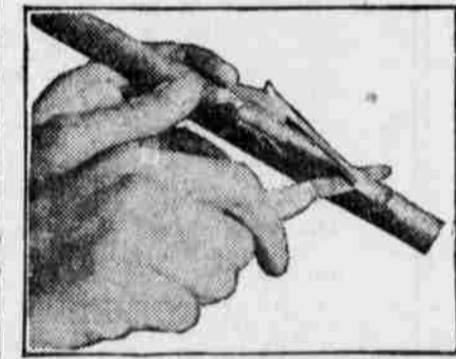
BRINGING TREES AND SHRUBS INTO FLOWER DURING WINTER

Purpose of Method Is to Imitate Natural Process in Mid-Winter at Which Time Fresh Growth Will Have Special Value—Secure Boughs During Very Severe Weather.



Showing Buds Developed.

To the gardener, the cold months of the year must always mean a cessation in the active work of plant-culture. Any scheme which will enable the enthusiast to pursue his pastime during the winter is sure of a welcome. The new method of bringing the branches of trees and of shrubs into flower at this time, is one which promises to make a valuable addition to the resources of the indoor gardener. Its very simplicity must appeal to everyone, while the decorative possibilities of the system cannot fail to attract all flower admirers.
In order to understand the purpose of the treatment the consideration of a few natural science points may not be out of place. It is well known to botanists that all deciduous trees and shrubs bring their next season's growth to a very advanced stage during the fall. Indeed, all leaves and flowers are quite ready for the spring folded up on a very small scale beneath the protecting bud cases. Now the resumption of growth, when it does take place, is largely due to the fact that the plant starts to draw water from the soil and the fluid rising to the buds swell out the undeveloped tissue and the tree comes into foliage



Removing Bark.

and blossom. The purpose of the present method is to imitate as nearly as possible this natural process in mid-winter at which time the fresh growth will have a special value.
Nowadays when flowering trees and shrubs are so common in our gardens there will be no difficulty in finding subjects for treatment. All the ornamental plums, apples, cherries and currants, to mention only four kinds are perfectly adapted, whilst the wild species of these fruits which are to be found in the hedge-rows may be made equally useful. Bright green foliage is always very acceptable and branches of trees with large buds, such as chestnuts and sycamores, may be included in the collection.
The season of the year when the system may be most successfully practiced is during the months of January and February. Strange as it may seem, the buds always expand more readily if they have been subjected to a week or two of frost, so during a spell of severe weather is a good time to secure the boughs. It is, of course, a matter of importance to be able to select the boughs of the trees which are well budded for blossom. Mostly the flower buds will be fatter than those producing only foliage.
In cutting the branches from the trees it is a matter of some importance to make a clean severance, seeing that torn or ragged fractures prevent a free development on the part of the twigs. The most shapely branches should be selected and all along it should be borne in mind that the sprays are to be used in vases for decorative purposes. In order to enable the boughs to absorb water as freely as possible it is a good plan to remove some of the bark on the lower portion of the stem. This is best cut away with a sharp knife in alternate slices, as is shown in the illustration. Now secure a number of large bowls into which some hot—not scalding—water has been poured. Tie all the branches to be treated into bundles and place the ends of the boughs in the water, at once removing the whole thing to a dark cupboard.
This emersion in hot water seems to have the curious tonic effect of stirring the sleeping buds so that when brought out into the light they will be able to commence active growth. Of course the method is one

often followed by florists when they wish to revive drooping flowers.
It is just as well to leave the branches in the dark cupboard for twenty-four hours, although naturally the water will have become cold long before this interval has elapsed, but this does not matter. It is a question for the individual to decide whether the boughs shall be grown to perfection in the vases or whether they shall only be placed in the ornamental receptacles after they have fully developed. Some people do not find the leafless branches inartistic and these are, of course, soon adorned with expanding buds which give a delightful "spring" feeling to the apartment.
Which ever course is adopted the boughs should be placed at once in pure water which it is necessary should be kept in a fresh condition. To this end it is not a bad plan to place a lump of charcoal in each vase or bowl, or change the water every day. It is now desirable that the branches should be placed in a fully light position, if possible in front of a window where they will get all the sunshine.
The speed of growth will be entirely dependent upon the warmth of the room; if the temperature is high the buds will commence to swell very rapidly. Soon the expanding flowers and leaves will be plainly visible and at this stage dust is harmful to the young growth.
If possible, the boughs should be protected when any sweeping is going on in the apartment, and in any case the shoots will be benefited if they are sprinkled occasionally with luke warm water. It should be pointed out in conclusion, however, that the directions emphasized in the foregoing lines should be followed if the best results are desired.

WOODEN SHOE FOR THE PLOW

Piece of Board 30 Inches Long and 12 Inches Wide Protects Sharp Edge From Stones.

When farmers start to plow in the spring or fall it is usually the custom to load the plow or plows into the wagon or on to a stone boat in order to take them to the field.
Many people hitch their teams to the plow and drag them, writes J. G. Beattie in the Wisconsin Agriculturist. This, however, is a bad mistake, because the plow edge is not only spoiled by scratching the occasional stones



A Shoe for the Plow.

that lay along the road, but the whole plow is jarred as it swings from one side to the other.
To save the time of bothering with a stoneboat, or the exertion of lifting the plow on to a wagon each time it has to be moved, we take a board 30 inches long and 12 inches wide. This board is beveled out in the center so that when the plow rests upon the board lengthwise and is pulled forward, the plow grips the board and holds it there in place. The under side of the front edge should be rounded off with a draw shave.
Japs Learn Sheep Industry.
During the past two or three years Japan has sent some of its expert stock growers to America to learn how to raise sheep and it is understood that sheep raising will be extensively engaged in over there.
Apples From Nova Scotia.
Nova Scotia sends away over 1,000,000 barrels of apples during the season.

FEED LOT CONTRIBUTES MUCH TOWARDS PROFIT IN CATTLE

There Is No Place on Farms Where Gains Can be Eaten Up Quicker—Excellent Plan Is to Provide Shed That Is Open to South and Windtight to North, West and East.

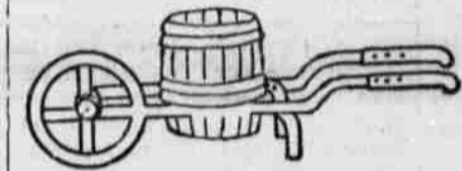
(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)
Carrots should be raised in quantities whenever possible as they are a very valuable addition to the feed in making it palatable. They require light, sandy soil and with little cultivation produce large crops.
Linsed meal in small quantities once or twice a week keeps horses in fine condition.
Last winter we saw a bunch of 85 steers being fed on a farm near Aurora, Ill. These cattle stood in a large lot on the side of a hill in mud up to their knees. The barn and all its surroundings were as filthy as could be imagined, and we were not surprised when the owner, looking gloomily over his cattle, remarked: "I never seemed to hit off steer feeding to any great advantage."
Heavily timbered land does not make good feeding ground for cattle because the sun cannot dry out the ground as quickly as an open lot.
The best feeding shed for cattle is one that is wind-tight on the north, east and west and entirely open on the south.

Of course a paved feed lot is an expensive proposition at the start, but we believe that on a reasonable cost the profit will more than justify the expense. Even if a man cannot afford to pave his feed lot he can drain it with tiling and by the addition of gravel, and small, smooth stones improve its condition at very small cost.
Oats make an ideal feed for the lamb during the winter, but he needs about only a pound a day to keep in fine condition. In addition he must have clover hay or alfalfa or corn fodder and turnips and other roots at least three times a week.

A very handy wheelbarrow for the feed lot can be made of either wood or iron. The frame should be very strong, but not heavy. Iron makes a strong frame and very light. It can be made in four sections and bolted together. The iron hoop should be made of one-eighth inch iron and is of a size to admit a common flour barrel to the second row of hoops. The barrel can easily be put in and taken out. The wheel should be made of wood with a very broad tire, not less than three inches, and four inches would be better. If the frame is made of iron, the handles can be made of wood and bolted on. Wood is better for this purpose.

Do you know that some of the smaller packing houses which cater to first class trade at home and abroad will not buy swill-fed hogs at any cost? They want animals that are fed on clean corn, roughage, roots and water.

We do not think much of the skim milk that comes from the creameries for feeding hogs. In many of these creameries, washing powders are used for cleaning the machinery, and this is very injurious to hogs.
Skim milk that is separated on the farm cannot be beaten for feeding



Useful in the Feed Lot.

pigs, calves and poultry. It is a shame to allow a single gallon of it to escape.
An Illinois farmer writes to know if unthreshed wheat is a good feed for hogs. We think not. If wheat is to be fed at all, better thresh and either soak or boil it. But we do not believe that wheat was ever intended for hog feed.
Cattle that are allowed to run on green beet crops often scour so badly that they are set back from two to four weeks. They do not like the dried and cured crops so well but will eat them if forced to and they make a fairly good ration.
English feeders raise large quantities of turnips, mangles and other roots. In the fall they dig enough for the cattle and leave scattered throughout the field enough to keep the sheep

busy for weeks. Some feeders allow the sheep to dig them out of the ground while others dig them for them. The latter plan is the best.

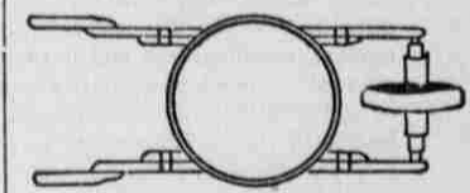
Many cattle feeders who do not believe that silage is a good feed will continue to stuff their animals with corn fodder or timothy hay. If these men would take the pains to conduct a careful experiment they would quickly discover that silage even as a feed would beat corn fodder.

Silage fed alone is not ideal for fattening steers. It contains a large excess of carbo-hydrates and some nitrogen must be put into the feed to even it up. Soy beans, clover, alfalfa hay and cotton seed meal will do this to perfection.

If you have plenty of cow peas, clover or alfalfa on the farm, not much use to spend money on bran or cotton seed meal. A little oil cake is good at all times.

The best class of dairy cows cannot return a profit unless they have all the clean and wholesome feed they can possibly consume at all times during the winter.

It is a mistake to keep cows on scant rations during the winter. The cow that goes through the winter on semi-starvation rations suffers a shock from which her system is very slow in recovering, and if the half rations



A Handy Feed Carrier.

are continued any length of time her milk-giving capacity for the approaching freshening period is materially decreased.

Good feeding does not mean the cows should be stuffed with high-priced grain feeds but coaxed to consume enough roughage and cheap feeds to keep them in good, thrifty condition at all times.

MANURING FOR GOOD POTATOES

Massachusetts's Specialist Differs From Familiar Methods in Fertilizer and Preparation.

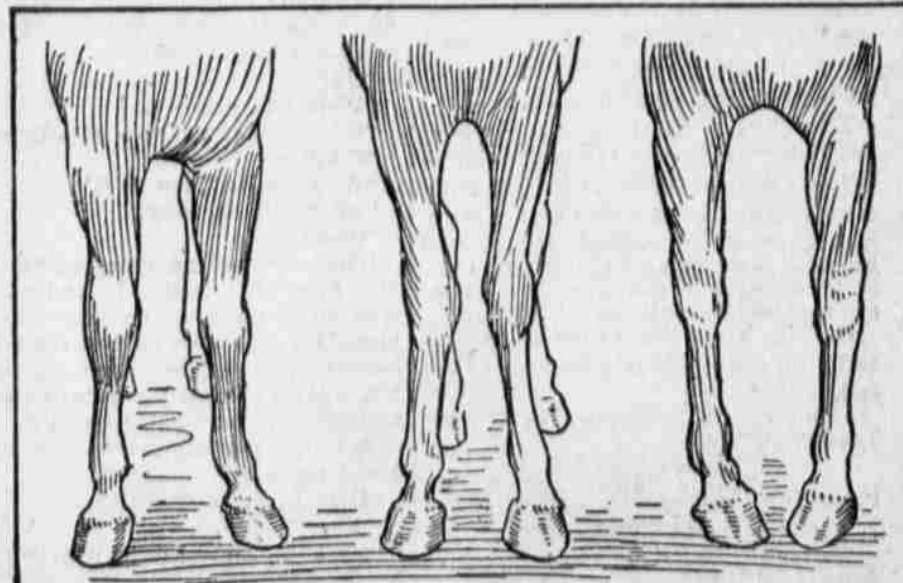
Dr. J. Fisher of Fitchburg, Mass., is very successful in growing large crops of potatoes, and he varies from our familiar methods principally in his fertilizer formula, the preparation and planting of the seed. Following is the formula:

Two hundred and twenty-five pounds of sulphate ammonia; 750 pounds nitrate of soda; 150 pounds South Carolina floats; 450 pounds acid phosphate; 450 pounds sulphate of potash; 150 pounds sulphate of magnesia; 200 pounds air-slacked lime; 2,375 pounds costing about \$40.

Two-thirds of this formula will be spread broadcast and will be harrowed in before planting. The seed potatoes are treated with the corrosive sublimate solution to prevent scab, then spread in a greenhouse and allowed to sprout several weeks. At planting time the seed is cut and only one sprout left on each piece, the surplus sprouts being purposely broken off. Dr. Fisher considers a potatoe the size of a marble, which has been started in this way and all but the best sprout rubbed off, as very good seed.

Plowing out is done with a horse hoe and the seed is planted under a line, giving perfectly straight rows and exact distance between plants. Each seed piece is set upright and covered with about two inches of earth; the remaining third of the fertilizer is now scattered in the drill and covered by running the horse hoe between the rows. The horse weeder and cultivator are used so frequently and thoroughly as to avoid hand hoeing.

BAD FAULTS IN CONFORMATION



In the first illustration the toes of a horse are shown turned out. The middle picture shows inkneered attitude, and the third shows in-turned toes. Whether standing or traveling, the appearance is unpleasant and mitigates against value.