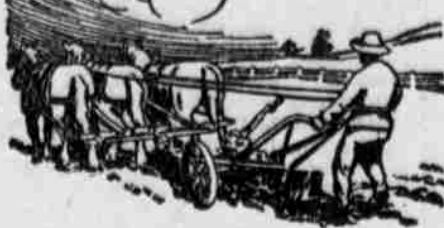


NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Keep a spray calendar.

Cut out the dead branches.

Chickens relish fresh lettuce.

Select your breed and stick to it.

If you plant pear trees in rich soil you invite blight.

It is worth while to scald the calf's feed pail every day.

A peach tree will stand a heavier heading than an apple tree.

Do not allow the stock to run in the orchard during the winter months.

Scatter the manure as you haul it, don't put into little piles all over the land.

Keep the feed troughs clean. It is a wasteful practice to mix manure with grain.

Letting the calf suck the cow the first day or two lessens the danger of milk fever.

If sows are expected to produce a fall litter, the spring litter should be weaned when about 10 weeks old.

Five or six of the twelve or thirteen species of beetles attacking stored grains are found usually in farmers' bins.

If you are still so far behind the age as to be dairying with no separator, get one now, if you sell a cow to do it.

An occasional colt or young horse to sell, even when one is not making a business of raising horses, is a help to any farmer.

The litter carrier will do much to keep the barn clean, because it encourages the boys and men to do their work better.

The training of a colt cannot be too thorough. A half-broken horse is not broken at all, and is always a dangerous animal.

Calves should have plenty of water as early as they want to drink it, but it is best not to let them have it right after their milk feed.

Where from four to eight cows are milked the churn should hold from six to ten gallons. Better a little large than too small.

Currant bushes must also be watched carefully, and be thoroughly sprayed at least twice or you will find more green worms on your bushes than fruit.

A vessel which would hold 1,000 pounds of water would hold 1,022 pounds of whole milk, 1,038 pounds of skim milk, or 1,000 pounds of good cream.

When you see the little ghost-like winged creatures rising like tiny clouds from your rose bushes, be sure it is the aphid. Get after them with the spray.

Young climbing roses ought to be cut back to a strong eye, and the side shoots pruned as grapevines are pruned—that is, a couple of eyes from the stem.

When cream foams in the churn and butter will not come, put in a handful or two of salt and a little water, slightly warmed. This usually remedies the trouble.

Get some variety in the poultry ration. If the chickens are not eating heartily they may need a little change in their food to put their appetites back in tone.

Not a few of our dairy folks are going to raise a crop of cowpeas as hay feed for cows this year. Cowpeas hay is next to alfalfa and clover in milk-making qualities.

Eggs to be preserved should be perfectly fresh and be placed in the solution the same day as laid to obtain the best results, although eggs several days old will keep very well. Washed eggs should not be used.

With gravel and sand to be had on most farms, the purchase of some Portland cement will provide the entire material for a root cellar, a drinking trough, a milk house and many other convenient buildings which will last for many years.

Where there is hardly enough milk from a single milking to make separating worth while it may be set away until next milking time, when the cream should be thoroughly stirred in and the milk warmed up before running through the machine.

Get a separator.

Old ewes are unprofitable.

Plant cowpeas in the orchard.

The value of a cow is hard to guess.

Don't forget to brace the end post of any fence or trellis.

Pigs that show signs of thumps should be forced to take exercise.

A little vaseline rubbed into cuts or chapped teats will soon heal them up.

Commercial fertilizer, when properly used, will increase the yield of crops.

The silo is a time saver when it comes to feeding a large number of animals.

The wheel hoe will save many a backache and do the work of three hand hoes.

Fruit trees should never be planted on the lawn, as they cannot be profitably worked.

If more farmers were tied down by dairies, fewer of them would be tied down by debts.

Three-pail feeds a day for the young calf are none too many. That is more like Nature's way.

Wheat bran has just the elements in it that sheep and lambs need to make good growth.

About 23 pounds of average milk should furnish enough cream to make a pound of butter.

Powdered charcoal in the feed is good for bowel trouble and plenty of grit has the same effect.

The best method of dehorning is, to rub a little caustic potash on the calf's little knobs when a few days old.

After chicks are a week old whole Kaffir makes about as good a single grain as can be fed to make weight.

Wood ashes are valuable to spread around fruit trees for small fruits and vegetables; they should not be wasted.

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

It is generally conceded that the best time to sell chickens is from the first of January to the first of November.

The garden can and should be made the most productive and most profitable plot of ground on the farm. It should not be overlooked.

The sheep manure as a fertilizer has no equal, and no manure spreader has ever been invented that is as satisfactory as the sheep itself.

The check rein has no place on the harness of a man who cares for his horses, and desires for them comfort and freedom when at work.

If your horse is a mule, remember to speak kindly to him whenever you fasten the traces. The same rule applies when he is only a "hoss."

Corn silage and alfalfa make an excellent ration for dairy cows, and good yields of milk have been reported where nothing else was fed.

The old neglected orchard, with its dead leaves and wormy apples, is a blot on the face of the earth. Trim, spray, cultivate and get big returns.

Nothing is so salable in the stock line just now as a good dairy cow. The raising of purebred milk cows as an industry should receive more attention.

The hand separator is good in theory, but the majority of farmers do not keep their cream as they should, nor deliver it to the creamery often enough.

The reason why so many of our beautiful plants and vines are destroyed by bugs is because we are too lazy or unqualified to fight them all the time.

It will pay to buy wheat bran to mix with the barley or corn meal for feeding cows. Bran and good barley meal, half and half, makes good meal for milk.

One reason why it is well to let the new calf run with the mother a day or two is because it is better able to take the swelling from the udder than the hand milker is.

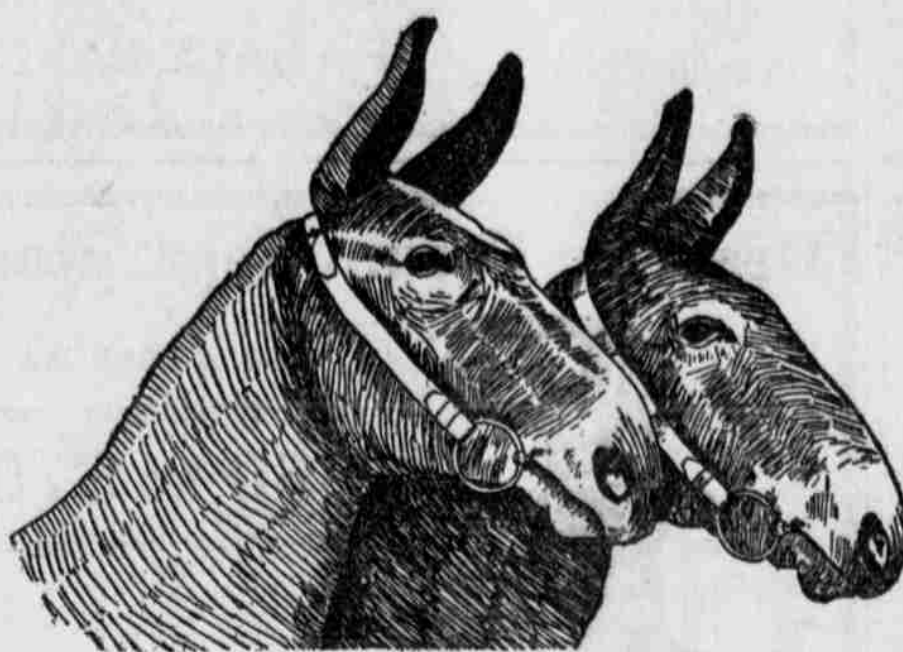
Burn the diseased branches so that the other trees will not be contaminated. It will also be advisable to open the heads of peach trees, remove the surplus branches and take off the water sprouts.

Avoid sudden changes in the feed of your hogs. Diminish the old feed gradually and make up the shortage with the proportionate amount of the new. Sudden changes in diet will retard development.

A good, balanced feed for a horse is one quart of oats and one of bran twice each day, when idle, and three times a day when at work—substituting corn for oats occasionally; and half a bundle of fodder, or one good forkful of hay, three times a day at regular hours.

ANIMALS FOUND EFFICIENT FOR ALL-ROUND FARM WORK

Some Farmers Prefer Mule on Account of Hardiness, Less Fastidiousness in Appetite and Its Value in Garden Work—Man of Moderate Means Should Keep the Horse.

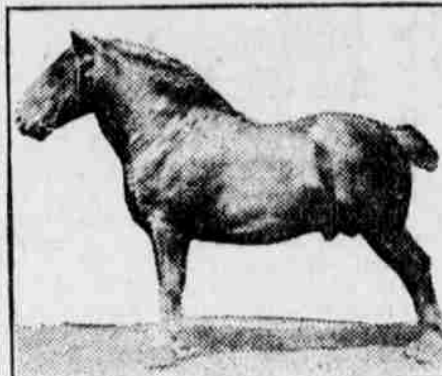


Team of Prize Winning Mules.

The following letters have been received from farmers located in various sections of the country on the merits and demerits of the mule and the horse.

"I have had thirty years' experience in working horses and mules on a tobacco, wheat and corn farm, and I prefer the mules. Their feet are smaller and they injure very little of the tobacco and corn; they are less liable to disease, less fastidious in appetite, will endure greater hardships, are longer-lived, and worry the plowman less, as they are more steady. Not one horse is used for farm work to ten mules, in this section of the country."—W. E. E., Kentucky.

"On large farms where there is steady work and lots of it, I have found the mules the most profitable. They can do a certain amount of work at a less expense for feed, are tougher, and, in proportion to weight, stronger than horses. While they stand neglect and ill-treatment better than horses, they appreciate kindness just as well. Mules are ready for work six days of the week and fifty-two weeks in the year, and are all the better for it. There is a prejudice against mules



Typical Belgian Horse.

here which I consider unjust. Their use on large farms in Ohio would be found profitable, I am sure."—W. E. O., Ohio.

"In this climate a mule stands the heat better, works with less feed, and stands the treatment he is sure to get from the negro hands, better than a horse. A mule lives longer, too. I have seen mules doing service at 25 years of age. As a farm animal he is unexcelled in the south."—W. H. G., Georgia.

"The mule has a number of important advantages over the horse in farm work. A good mule is a treasure

on the farm. He is tougher, stands the heat and hard work better; he is not so susceptible to disease as a horse. I know mules which, in plowing in a garden will step over hills of potatoes or other vegetables with as much care as the gardener would ask. I never saw a horse that would try to avoid stepping on a hill, and in some instances they seem to make a point of trampling down everything in reach of their big feet."—L. W. C., Tennessee.

"Our experience with mules leads us to believe they are harder than horses; they are seldom sick, their shoulders hardly ever become sore and they are more easily taught what is expected of them. We have never yet known of a mule being injured in any respect from over-feeding. They know when to quit eating. For steady work and hard knocks we prefer the mule every time. The farmers of the west are beginning to appreciate them at their true value, as the number of mule teams now in use, compared to what there was a few years ago, fully attests."—H. C. S., Kansas.

"Forty years' experience with mules has satisfied me that they will not compare, in a financial way, with horses, not being adapted to saddle or carriage, nor will they bring any increase, as a horse does. They are mischievous, brachy and will often kill young stock if turned in with them on pasture. A farmer of moderate means should keep horses every time."—H. M., Illinois.

"Where farming operations are carried on, on a large scale, and animals are kept solely for farm work, and not for alternate work and driving to buggy, I prefer the mule to horses. Mules endure a warm climate better than horses, largely because they do not over-heat or over-exert themselves in hot weather. No animal can take the place of the mule in the south. The mule is very valuable in garden work, from his close-stepping habits, which make it easy to work small plants in narrow rows without damage. As to feeding, while a mule will keep at work on coarser food than a horse, I have never found that a hard-worked mule team would keep in fine condition on less than a similar team of horses. Never buy a long-legged mule. A big, "gangling," long-legged mule is the meanest "critter" on earth. Whether heavy or light, see to it that he is compactly built."—W. F. M., North Carolina.

GIVE CHICKENS BEST OF CARE

Birds of All Ages Should Be Examined During the Hot Months for Little Mites and Lice.

(By M. B. BERNARD.)
All the old birds, and young, too, should be examined frequently during the hot months because then it is that the lice and mites thrive.

If cut bone or chipped meat is fed during the summer extra precautions must be taken to have it perfectly fresh.

Many birds die from eating bone and meat scraps which have been allowed to lie around exposed to the heat and the flies.

In feeding chickens, always remember that they are provided for to produce fresh eggs for human feed and therefore their own feed should be just as pure as that we eat ourselves.

The hot sun will cause young goslings and ducklings as well to topple over and die. Provide shade for them until they are strong on their legs.

Care of Stallions.

A stallion shut up in a dark stall without the companionship of other horses often becomes moody and savage. Some English stallions ride a pony while leading their horses for exercise, and the horses become so attached to the ponies that they become fretful and uneasy when they are not near. At night the ponies are given a stall next to the horses. Of course, some horses are too savage in nature to permit their being led in company of a pony, but if broken to this treatment when young stallions can be handled in this way.

COVERING WALLS WITH WISTARIA

Common Purple Variety Is Best Adapted to Hide Great Vacant Spaces—Needs Pruning.

(By WALTER B. LEUTZ.)
We seldom see great wall spaces covered with wistaria, yet it is to our eye the most beautiful flower for that purpose that grows.

The Japanese wistaria is not so well adapted to this purpose as the common royal purple flower of America. To get the best results the vine must be constantly pruned and kept back for two or three years, else it will run in long streamers and the flowers will hang straight down. The vines must be trained to run in all directions.

We can never forget the wall of a large old house in Richmond, Va., that is covered with this beautiful flower. The wall is about seventy feet high and is one soft mass of ravishing beauty. In this climate the vine needs no attention after it has once been well started, and blooms early and late.

What Nitrate of Soda Will Do.

It is estimated by experts who have conducted experiments with nitrate of soda that under ordinary conditions 100 pounds per acre, applied to crops named below, will produce yields as follows:

Barley, 400; corn, 280; oats, 400; rye, 300; wheat, 300; potatoes, 3,000; hay, 1,000; cotton, 500; cabbage, 5,000; onions, 15,000; strawberries, 200 quarts; asparagus, 100 bunches; celery, 30 per cent.; sugar beets, 4,000; beets, 4,000; sweet potatoes, 900.

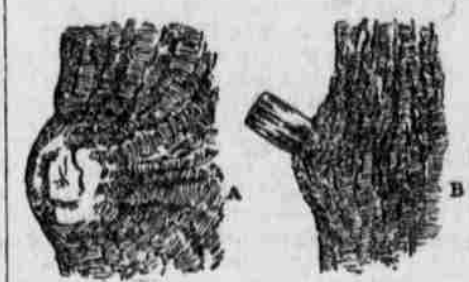
NECESSITY OF FREQUENT AND VIGOROUS PRUNING OF TREES

In Order to Preserve Symmetrical Form and to Prevent Fruit Being Borne at Extremity of the Long, Slender Branches, Careful Heading-in Is of Much Importance.

(By L. C. CORBETT.)

During the early years of the life of both ornamental and fruit trees a vigorous use of the pruning knife is frequently necessary. Trees normally make much longer natural growth during the first ten years of their existence than later. For this reason, in order to preserve a symmetrical form and to prevent the fruit being borne at the extremity of long, slender, branches, careful heading-in is necessary. With pears and apples the main body branches left at planting time should not be more than eight inches long. At the close of the first season, when pruning time arrives, the growth of that year should again be shortened to at least one foot and each of the main body branches should be allowed to carry not to exceed three subdivisions, each of which should be eight inches long. The third year the same operation should be repeated and instead of allowing each subdivision to carry three branches the number should be reduced to two. The arrangement of these branches should in all cases be based upon the same principles as the arrangement of the branches on the main body of the tree.

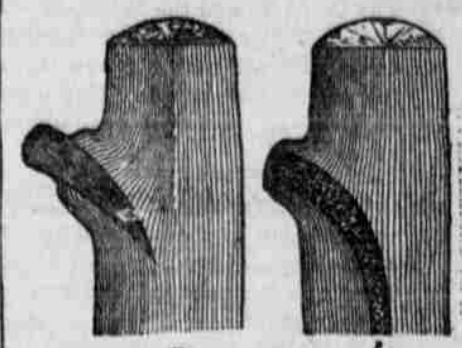
It is not reasonable to expect that every tree planter will have observed all of the proper precautions in caring for his ornamentals and fruit trees. It



Results of Correct and Incorrect Pruning. A, Correct Method; B, Incorrect Method.

therefore frequently happens that the removal of large branches becomes a necessity. The question then arises how shall this be accomplished with as little injury to the plant as possible; in other words, how shall the cut be made? Those familiar with the propagation of plants from cuttings, as well as those who have observed the results of pruning trees, will have

noticed that when branches are cut at a certain distance from their origin, the stub which is left invariably dies, decay follows, finally the rotten stub breaks off close to its origin, and a cup, which catches the rain, is left. This is also an attractive spot to many birds and rodents which are fond of nesting in such places. They assist the natural decay by excavating, and thus accelerate the work which the



Progress of Decay Due to Improper Pruning. a, Dead Stub; b, Decay of Heart.

elements have begun. The result is that the branch which was removed for the purpose of lengthening the life of the tree and to improve its appearance has in reality been the direct cause of its early destruction.

The decay in the stub which breaks off near its origin does not stop at that point, but the factors which have been the cause of its decay and death continue their work upon the heart-wood of the plant, until the hollow trunk of the tree only remains. On the other hand, if the branch is removed at another point the wound is rapidly covered by new growth, and in the course of two or three seasons it is practically impossible to determine where the branch formerly appeared. These results, which are so important to the life of the tree and to the success of the plantation, whether ornamental or economic, are well understood by all plant physiologists. The stub which is left when the branch is removed, if cut off at some distance above its origin, invariably decays and leaves a hollow branch, while the branch which is cut off close to its origin almost invariably heals quickly, the new growth covering the wound.

GOOD SANITARY HOG WALLOWS

Nothing Is Better for All Swine During Summer Months Than Reasonably Clean Water.

(By JOHN H. DUNLAP.)

There are objections to the filthy mud holes that hogs often make to wallow in, but there is nothing better for hogs of all ages during the summer months than reasonably clean water. I find that my cement hog wallow is one of the most satisfactory improvements I have ever put on the farm. It is situated near a storage tank that is fed by a wind pump, and is directly over an eight-inch drain. The water is allowed to flow through the hog wallow and out into the tile, so it is always pure enough for the hogs to drink. I have never had any sickness among them in the last 14 years that I have used this method.

I find that the hogs get great satisfaction from lying down and wallowing, except in the winter, at which season they are content to drink from the sides. My cement wallow is ten feet long, five feet wide and twelve inches deep, inside measurements, and has a cement floor several feet wide beyond each side, so that the wallow will not get so muddy. Though the hogs manage to carry some mud to it, I find that it can be cleaned out very easily every few weeks.

A wallow of this kind is very useful

in exterminating the lice on hogs; this can be done by stopping the outlet and the inlet and using any standard disinfectant or crude oil. The crude oil stays on top of the water and has the same effect as if used in a dipping tank. With the use of the disinfectant the hogs get the benefits both externally and internally.

Some authorities object to giving hogs all the water they want during the summer months, but I have never found any ill effects from allowing hogs of all ages all the water they can drink at all times.

A Garden Pond.

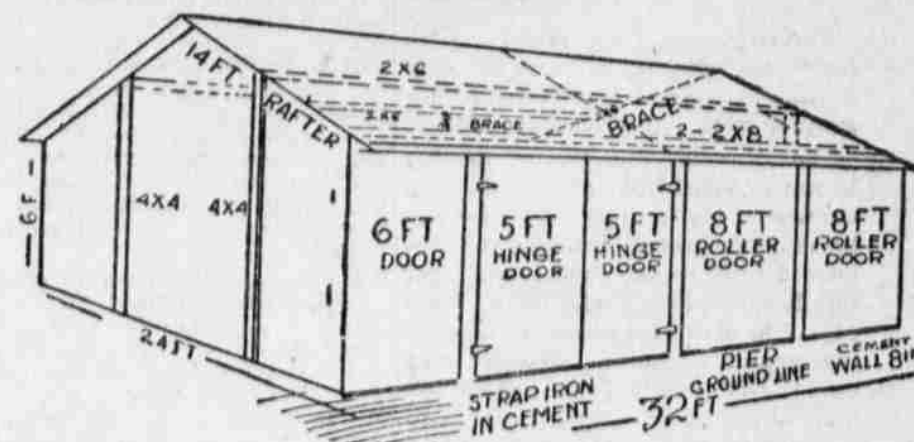
A garden pond is sometimes a thing of beauty and is certainly a thing of joy to the birds all summer long, but it brings the mosquitoes. A dozen gold fish placed in the water will take care of most of the mosquitoes, and they will add to the attractiveness of the pond.

A border of well selected stones next to the water and just outside of them a few aquatic plants, will also help. Very often frogs are attracted to these little ponds and will help the fish take care of the mosquitoes, and sometimes they become quite tame and make their winter bed in the mud, and are ready to greet us in the spring with their songs—if you like to call them that.

Danger of Drilling Manure.

Never drill strong fertilizer, like sheep or poultry manure, in the rows next to the seed. Better plan to work it into the ground before planting, or in rows after the plants appear, and not close enough so it will touch.

SATISFACTORY MACHINE SHED



As the result of our reference to a machine shed W. H. Dunning sends in his plan, says the Orange Judd Farmer. Selecting a well-drained spot with a south front, the best shingles that could be procured were used for the roof of the shed and the sides are shiplap up and down, which will paint.

The front is all doors and no sill to lift over. There is only one hinge door, the hinges being set in enough so that the roller doors will pass on

a track nailed onto the 2x8 plate before the roof is put on. Use as short a roller as possible, so it will roll under the eaves.

After passing the door there is a space 16x24 feet, so that it is not necessary to move everything to get what is wanted. The heavy machinery will go through the ten-foot door, and can be taken in and out with a team. This shed may be built longer and the same kind of doors used without more hinge doors.