

## NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Know your brood sows.

Clean the poultry houses.

Chickens like sunflower seeds.

Kerosene emulsion is easily made.

A horse that is trained without blinds is usually the safer horse.

Young pigs are peculiarly subjected to various kinds of intestinal worms.

It is better to give the orchard clean cultivation than to try to raise crops in it.

It is better to have a dirty floor than a dirty, dusty atmosphere during milking time.

Leave a horse untied when hooked to a vehicle and he will be likely to be gone when you return for him.

Fine gravel is not the proper grit for poultry. They want a sharp material with which to grind their food.

Expert orchardists recommend seeding the orchard to crimson clover—or rye to be plowed down the following spring.

In localities where aster, goldenrod and other fall blooms abound it is well to look for surplus even in September.

An hour's work with a sharp wire at the foot of your peach trees killing borers may mean an extra bushel of fine peaches.

A tree can be bridge grafted in less than half an hour, and it is better to take this time to do it than to let a valuable tree die.

Go over the young apple trees and cut off every water sprout with a sharp knife close to the trunk. Do it early, and they will heal this season.

To do well the cows should be turned dry something like six weeks before freshening. This is good for the calf, rests the cow, and develops the udder.

When it comes to growing pigs, calves, poultry or cream, any farmer with a few acres of alfalfa on his farm has a great advantage over his neighbor without it.

The first milk of the cow is of a peculiar character—called colostrum—acting as a purgative, and this puts the bowels of the young calf in perfect working condition.

If you did not have enough good seed for the farm crops, lose no time in getting enough to plant your crops. Get the best that can be had, regardless of the price.

A ration for a dairy cow should fulfill the following requirements: It should be balanced, palatable, home grown as near as possible, and finally it should be economical.

During the winter the dairy farmer has more time to figure out his plans for improving his system of farming. The great question should be to get a better and more profitable lot of cows.

Sixty per cent. of all horses that go unsound, go wrong in the hock joints, according to the notes taken by one breeder. Too much attention cannot be given the hocks in choosing stallions to which the mares are to be mated.

Call a veterinarian if a mare is having trouble in dropping a colt and you are in doubt of being able to assist her properly. A fee of \$5 or \$10 to the veterinarian may save a \$300 mare and bring a colt into the world that will develop into a horse worth, as much more.

A little knowledge of the proper type of animal to select is worth a lot of money to the buyer sometimes. Attend the short course schools whenever you get a chance and study the types and breeds as well as the markets. There is a surprising difference in animals when you know what to look for—as much as there is in people.

When it is desired to spray the poultry house it is important that every square inch of space should be given a fine spray, and while small force pumps, rubber sprayers, bellows, etc., may be used, it is not so important to do the work quickly as to do it well, care being taken to force the spray mixture upon the walls and into the cracks. It must be in the form of a fine spray to reach every spot. Such methods of applying it require but a short time, and it is labor well applied if the lice are exterminated.

Give the chickens grit.

Kill out the peach borers.

Don't overfeed the little chicks.

Alfalfa makes an excellent roughage.

The rent in the clothes will not pay the rent on the farm.

The Babcock test is just as accurate as the man who uses it.

Don't keep eggs for hatching longer than ten days or two weeks at most.

Milk at 90 degrees is about the temperature at which it separates best.

If rabbits have gnawed only the outer bark, wrap the wound with cloth.

Barley and oats, as well as wheat, are usually improved in quality on flax land.

Working the soil when it is wet will make it coarse and lumpy the whole season.

As soon as your lettuce is large enough, feed it to those chickens you are fattening.

There is no better way by which the corn crop can be used than through the silo.

You can not make as good silage from dry cornstalks as you can from mature green corn.

Plant a row of the large, tame sunflowers along the fence for hen feed at moulting time next fall.

The strawberry is one of the small fruits which apparently thrive better in acid than in alkaline soils.

The fleece of the ram should be dense, even in quality, and of a strong, clear, white fiber throughout.

A pure-bred bull is often a poor-bred bull. Pedigree and performance are not interchangeable words.

It is to the poultryman's interest to keep his stock to the best type, healthy and vigorous all the time.

A half day's work in the orchard with the manure spreader will show up when apples are ripe next summer.

No profit in keeping old ewes that have lost their teeth. Better fatten them the best you can and get rid of them quickly.

You should know the working qualities of your sows; watch them from the time they farrow and see how they treat the little fellows.

The average cow ought to have four to six weeks' rest each year. A good time to dry them off is just as they begin to make an udder.

Coal oil will soften the old paint brushes used last year. Place them in a can of the oil and wash them well in warm soapsuds.

Feather pulling may be checked by dissolving powdered aloes in water and washing the feathers of the birds that have been plucked.

To keep up a heavy milk flow a cow must have all the water she can drink for every 100 pounds of her milk contains 87 pounds of water.

Every garden for the home should have grapes and many market gardens could be made more profitable by growing this splendid fruit.

Many people have the idea that brown shelled eggs are the richer but the difference between white and brown eggs is only in the color.

The best milking pail is the one so constructed that it will reduce to a minimum the amount of dirt falling into the milk during the process of milking.

One of the most general methods adopted for cooling milk is to place the cans in a vat containing water which reaches a point slightly above surface of milk.

Cleanliness in handling, in straining and in separating the milk is a thing that cannot be too religiously adhered to, for prevention is the key word to quality in all dairy work.

The cow is a fertilizer factory, a butter factory and a skim milk factory; yet many farmers feed her as little grain as they dare in the winter and none at all in the summer.

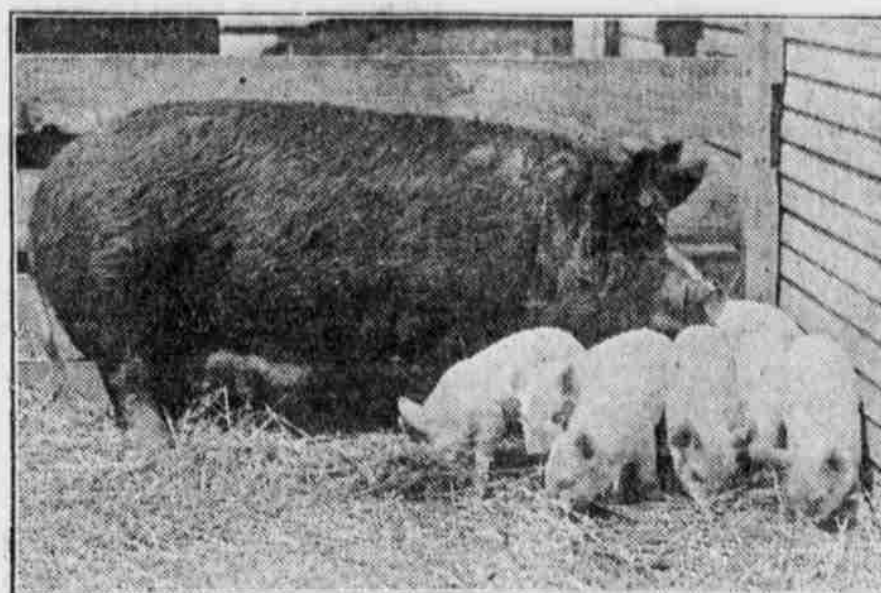
Plan to have a good, big patch of strawberries for home use, and secure your plants early in the season. The big crop of berries is from vines that have a long season of cultivation and growth.

Horses with sore eyes can be greatly relieved by applying one part coal tar disinfectant and eight parts vaseline. Do not get grease in the eyes. Also use saturated solution of boric acid and salt water as a wash.

If you have plenty of potatoes on hand they make an excellent feed for pigs, but they should be cooked and mixed with corn chop, middlings, etc. Corn meal and potatoes, well cooked into a soft mush, makes an ideal feed and is greatly relished by pigs, besides it is a very healthful food.

## SEVERAL IMPORTANT FACTORS IN SECURING SUPERIOR HOGS

Too Much Stress Cannot be Laid on Selecting Breeding Swine From Sound, Healthy Animals—Cream Separator Has Greatly Reduced Scours in Pigs—Balanced Ration Best.



Excellent Brood Sow and Litter.

(By B. E. LARA.)

The farmers of Denmark secure the best prices for their fancy bacon for the reason that they have established small packing establishments where they can haul their hogs and get their pay for the hogs according to their actual worth.

The man who has a lot of thrifty August and September pigs and gives them rational care until grass comes and has them ready for the market by the middle of June will make better money for his feed than he will on any bunch of pigs that he feeds during the year.

On each and every farm there should be some provision made for dipping hogs. This not only proves to be an easy and effectual way of disinfecting animals which are brought onto the farm but it also keeps them free from lice.

Possibly there is no other farm animal that can offer as poor an excuse for his existence as the scrub hog. He is an unprofitable animal any way you take him.

As an economical pork producer he is a failure. Even his ability to shift for himself does not recommend him to the people within the limit of his range as he has the reputation of preying upon neighboring corn fields when food is scarce.

His build naturally adapts him to his manner of living since he is long-legged, narrow in the chest, has a long, narrow snout. This adapts him to his manner of living. With the scrub hog it is "root hog or die," hence the long snout. His narrow body aids him in getting through small fence cracks and if he fails to find a place large enough to go through the fence he can soon dig under it with his long snout.

There is no standard of excellence for the scrub hog since he may possess almost any form except a beautiful one; he may be of any color.

He has the reputation of being able to stand all kinds of rough treatment and still survive.

He is regarded as being able to resist disease better than the improved breeds of hogs. We very much doubt whether this quality attributed to the scrub hog is true since we have noticed that hog cholera takes the scrub as well as the well-bred hog.

One thing is sure—that the scrub hog can consume more valuable feed and give less in return than any other animal that we know of.

A farmer who owns a herd of scrub hogs seldom needs any other corn crib than his hogs.

He never gets rich selling pork and in fact if he depended upon his hogs to make him money to buy better bred hogs he would never own better ones.

The scrub hog usually keeps his owner so poor that he is not able to buy better stock. In fact, this is the excuse usually given for his existence. Poor farming and scrub hogs are usually found associated together.

They are near and dear companions. Both make a rapid retreat before a progressive spirit and there is not a better evidence of the general progressiveness of a people than the absence of the scrub hog from a community.

Too much stress cannot be laid on selecting breeding swine from sound, healthy parents. Animals that are not strong in constitution cannot withstand disease as well as those which are strong in that respect. In case hogs are troubled with disease it is almost impossible to give them medicine or anything else that will prove very helpful. About all we can do is to feed a ration that can be easily digested and keep them in clean quarters, thoroughly disinfect the pens and let the disease run its course.

Whole milk is one of the best feeds for hogs that are suffering with disease of any kind. It is an excellent feed and has often been of great assistance in bringing hogs through spells of sickness.

There is no disputing the fact that corn is an ideal hog feed, but every practical feeder admits that better results can be brought about by feeding a ration that is composed of less than two-thirds corn. It is a mistake to think that we cannot afford to buy other feed to mix with the corn.

Ordinarily it is a mistake not to feed the hogs the liquid before the solid food.

Hogs will make from 10 to 12 pounds of meat, live weight, for each

bushel of corn eaten, but because of this too many farmers feed too much corn.

The cream separator has greatly reduced scours in pigs because the skim milk can always be fed while sweet.

When the sow of good type has proven herself a prolific breeder, an economical feeder, and a good mother, it is a good plan to keep her several years.

The mature sow requires only food for maintenance, while the growing one needs food for growth. Furthermore the older one will have an appetite for waste that a young one would not care for.

Exercise will help make that streak of lean and streak of fat that is desired.

## SUPERIOR OAT SEED ESSENTIAL

Good, Plump Variety Will Germinate Rapidly and Get Vigorous Start—Best Land Needed.

(By W. M. KELLY.)

There is more light and inferior oat seed planted than any other causes a low yield of oats every time. The actual cost of improved seed is very low compared with the increased yields that come from its use.

By good seed I do not mean extremely high-priced seed that is advertised to produce 100 bushels of oats to the acre but good plump seed that will germinate rapidly and get a vigorous start early in the spring. We seldom see a large crop of oats threshed from a field that makes a poor start in the spring.

I have found that it pays big returns to select one acre of the best land to grow seed oats on each year and to keep this crop for seed only and to buy new seed every two or three years to plant on this acre plot.

Under ordinary conditions I believe that we should change oat seed every three or four years, for there is no farm crop that will thrive better when moved from one locality to another than oats, or that will deteriorate faster when grown on the same farm year after year. Of course proper seed selection will help to overcome this tendency, but few farmers take that precaution.

Closely linked with the good seed question comes that of selecting or planting healthy seed, and I have found it a good plan to treat all oat seed with formalin before sowing, to kill the smut spores and insure healthy seed.

## DIFFICULTY IN GROWING MELONS

Leaf Blight Is Most Common of Cantaloupe Troubles—May be Checked by Spraying.

When blight attacks the cantaloupe then the hopes of the grower with, as well as the leaves of his plant—it is usually a hard case to cure.

Leaf blight is the most common of cantaloupe troubles. The leaves become covered with light, to dark brown, generally circular spots, which increase in size and finally coalesce, resulting in complete wilting and curling of the leaves.

The spots commonly show fine and rather indistinct concentric markings such as are found in the common alternaria blight of the potato. The leaf stalks and vines are so affected. The blight is caused by a fungus which may at least be checked by spraying with bordeaux.

The first application should be made when the vines are from 12 to 18 inches long and then every two weeks during the season.

The bordeaux mixture should be of the usual strength—six pounds of blue-stone and six pounds of lime to 50 gallons of water.

The greatest care should be taken to get down on the under side of the leaves with the spray. Use a hand pump on small plots with a fine spray. If this does not save them nothing will.

## IMPORTANT REQUISITES IN MANAGING A PEAR ORCHARD

Pruning and Training of Trees Essential to Attain Symmetrical, Evenly Balanced Heads and Maintenance of Sufficient Foliage to Protect Trees and Branches From the Sun.

(By G. B. BRACKETT.)

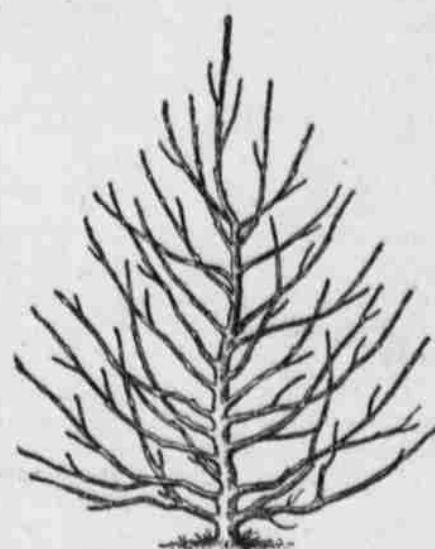
Pruning and training are important requisites in the successful management of a pear orchard. The objects to be attained are: (1) symmetrical, evenly balanced heads; (2) the admission of sunlight and free circulation of air into all parts of the tree tops; and (3) the maintenance of sufficient foliage to protect the trunks and branches from the intense heat of

fire with adjoining ones should be cut out and the centers of dense growth thinned out; side branches which are making a stronger growth than the others should be checked by shortening in, so as to maintain an evenly balanced head. Some varieties have an upright habit of growth and some make a slender, straggling growth. All need attention each year. In cutting back the last year's growth the top bud should be left on the side of the branch facing the direction in which the growth needs to be diverted. By this method there will be no difficulty in shaping the tree into any desired form.

All pruning and training possible should be done while the trees are young and the growth of wood is tender. At such time the healing over is more rapid and complete, and the tree suffers less injury.

Old trees that have been neglected may be renewed by severe pruning, cutting back all the branches that are not in a healthy condition. This pruning will cause new, vigorous shoots to grow. The new growth will need to be cut back as occasion requires. By persistent pruning an entire new top may be formed in a few years.

The pyramidal form differs from the vase form in that the main leading shoot of the tree is allowed to maintain its upright growth and the side branches are shortened back so as to produce the shape of a pyramid. The intermediate form is probably



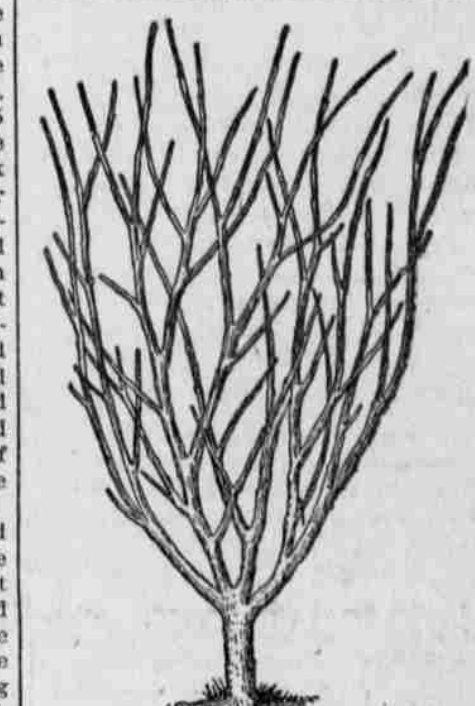
Pyramidal Form of Top.

the sun's rays which would otherwise be likely to scald and injure both tree and fruit.

Pruning should begin as soon as the trees have been planted by cutting back the young trees at the time of planting to the height from the ground it is proposed to start the branches to form the head of the tree, which should not be over 12 to 15 inches. This cutting back will cause several of the upper buds to break and grow, thus starting the top or head at the proper height. The starting branches should be watched and only such left to grow as are to form the main branches. The strongest shoots should be left at equal distances around the stem and should tend obliquely outward so as to spread and make an open head. The second year these shoots should be shortened back to the extent of about half of the growth. The same plan should be continued the third and fourth years.

In all pruning to give the desired form to the head and especially while the tree is young, the orchardist should keep clearly fixed in his mind the form of the tree as it is to be when old; for what may seem to be an open head when the tree is young may prove to be too dense and crowded when the tree is older. The branches should not be too close together for convenience in gathering the fruit.

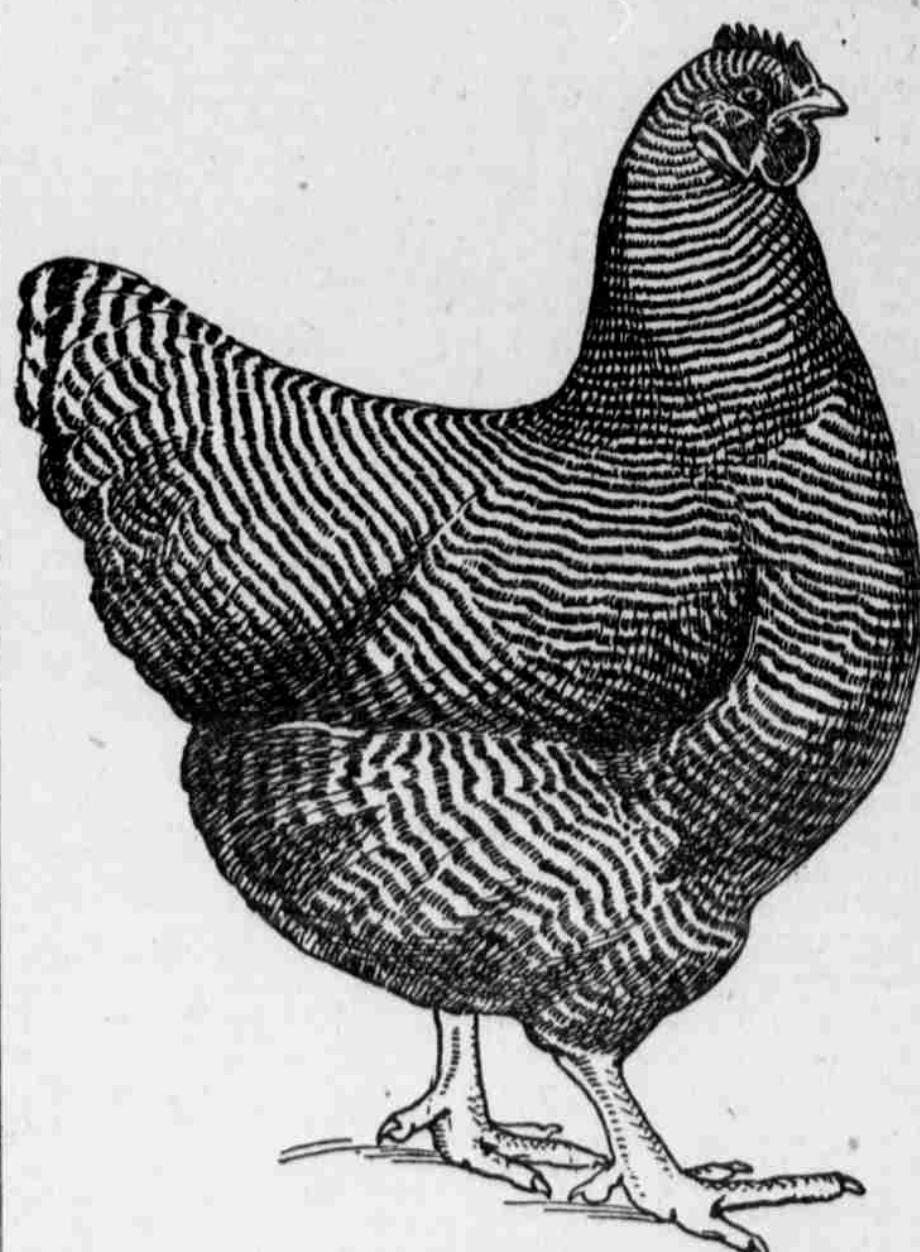
During late winter, or in early spring before the sap starts, each tree should be carefully looked over and all branches which are likely to inter-



Vase or Goblet Form of Top.

the best for training the pear. The tree is allowed to grow more in accord with its natural habit, but it must be checked and modified more or less in its growth so as to conform to the ideas of the planter.

## PLYMOUTH ROCKS FOR THE FARM



The general purpose breeds of poultry, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Orpingtons, should be kept on the farm, rather than small-egg breeds or small mongrel stock. It should also be remembered that the dark-plumaged varieties do not, as a rule, look as well when dressed as poultry of other colors.

Usually more interest is taken with a flock of fowls that are of the same breed and color, and it is an estab-

lished fact that such a flock produces a more uniform product, which invariably secures to the owner higher prices than can be derived from the product of a mongrel flock. As soon as the hatching season is over, all male birds should be marketed, they having no influence whatever on the number of eggs laid, and eggs produced by flocks composed of females only keep much better than eggs from hens that are allowed to run with males.