NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Use only dairy cows.

Dock the lambs early.

Don't be slow about spraying.

Chickens devour many insects.

Use caution with cottonseed meal.

Move the brood coops every two or three days.

It is always best to have a system, and stick to it.

Blood tells with sheep as well as with everything else.

Persistency is one of the great traits of the best dairy cow.

One of the worst evils in the orchard is the so-called pear "blight."

A milk house aids very much in the proper care of milk and milk utensils.

Be sure the hogs, old and young, have plenty of pure, fresh water to drink.

The best kind of a garden club is a wire net fence to keep out the chickens.

For orchard spraying a three-eighths or half-inch hose is best, and in lengths of fifty feet.

The grape is one of the surest of crops, as after the third year a generous crop may be expected.

Ten acre fruit growers and egg producers who adhere to modern methods are making a success.

It will not be necessary for any corn-belt farmer to go many miles to see what a silo is like next winter.

Don't get the idea that you cannot obtain satisfactory results from spraying just because your neighbor failed.

The hen house that is whitewashed inside and has clean widows will be more healthful and attractive for the fowls.

The heifer calves from parents of long dairy inheritance are almost sure to equal or surpass their dams in productiveness.

The sudden change from the warm stable to the night—and damp ground, might prove serious with some of the heavy milkers.

Successful dairying means that it is vital to steer clear of dry cows and indifferent producers. High priced feeds brings this home.

Many a case of chick disease might be traced to the chilling they so often get in transferring the hatch from the incubator to brooder.

The chief value of the manure spreader lies in its ability to put a thin coating over a large area, and thus produce maximum results.

The building of a silo is not a speculation by means of which you can get something out of nothing, but it is a good, sound business proposition.

When done spraying each day, run some clean water through the pump, to wash out the spray mixture and avoid corrosion of the working parts.

Ducks do not like whole grain, but prefer soft food. When winter approaches they may be fed twice a day, at night adding animal meal or cooked meat.

To get a good, select private egg trade, make it a rule to put eggs in the package that are not only strictly fresh but which were made from pure, sweet food.

The person who raises good stock need have no fear about prices. First class fowls always bring good prices, no matter how great the surplus of ordinary stock is.

If the dairymen could come into direct contact with the people who eat their butter there would be less need of discussing the subject of making a better grade of butter.

Test the spray hose several days before needed for spraying. Try it with the highest pressure you will use. If it burts easily or leaks, make the needed repairs in it, or get a new hose. It will save delays at a critical time.

Soaking cabbage seed in a solution of one ounce of formalin to two and one-half gallons of water for twenty minutes will be a good start against cabbage rot. Soil and manures free from black rot germs will also be necessary.

Fresh eggs hatch best.

Keep the calf pen clean.

Give the turkeys free range.

Sow for a succession in crops.

Little chicks enjoy green feed.

Kindness is well repaid in the dairy.

Go slow with corn to the brood sows and young pigs.

Dock the lambs early. There is less shock and no danger.

Do not sell a pig until it is in best condition, or you will lose.

Sows that are to produce fall litters should be bred in May, if possible.

The wise sheep owner will never allow a setback in the growth of the lambs.

Collar boils need the attention of a veterinarian who can easily remove the cause.

To attain the greatest success in dairying, it is necessary to have dairy-bred cows.

Cows are not always to blame for being unprofitable. Often the fault is nearer home.

Hens that have been crowded for winter eggs should have no place with the breeders.

The hens find considerable animal food in the bugs and worms that are beginning to appear.

Be careful how you breed your colts and don't be guilty of flooding the market with misfits.

Some cows are like some people, notional, have to be humored to get them to do their best.

Some cows are so persistent in their milking habits that it is dangerous to force them dry.

The successful dairyman endeavors to raise as much of the feed needed as possible on his own farm.

The smoother the perches the more easily they can be kept free from vermin. And have them movable.

Grasshoppers sometimes inflict injury on the young trees by eating the tender bark on the small limbs.

As soon as scouring begins, give the calf a teaspoonful of ground cloves. One dose is usually sufficient.

The sooner a hen can be turned loose with her small chicks the better after they are able to run and pick a little.

Spray your trees whether they have a crop or not. Spraying in off years is just as important as in years of heavy crops.

Calves at the age of three or four months will consume some silage if care is taken to pick out the leafy portions for them.

Many small chicks are counted among those lost because they are allowed to follow the mother through the dew-covered grass.

Make sure of one thing—if vigor is not in the stock that produced the eggs, the chicks will not live and thrive as they should.

Whether eggs are in incubators or under hens it will be well to wet them with water that feels warm to the hand, on the nineteenth day.

As a rule late seeding should be deep, in order to strike moisture, and thus start the plant ant once on its handicap race against the season.

The careful farmer who gives his personal attention to the making and feeding of silage and is not satisfied with the result is yet to be heard from.

The neglect to keep brooders clean, and to provide clean litter for chicks to scratch in, is responsible for considerable mortality among baby chicks.

A sack of cement and three or four times as much sand will make an everlasting base for the separator, and it lengthens the life of the machine, too.

Market the butter often. The fresher it is the more it will appeal to your customers and the surer you are of getting from 40 to 50 cents a pound for all that you make.

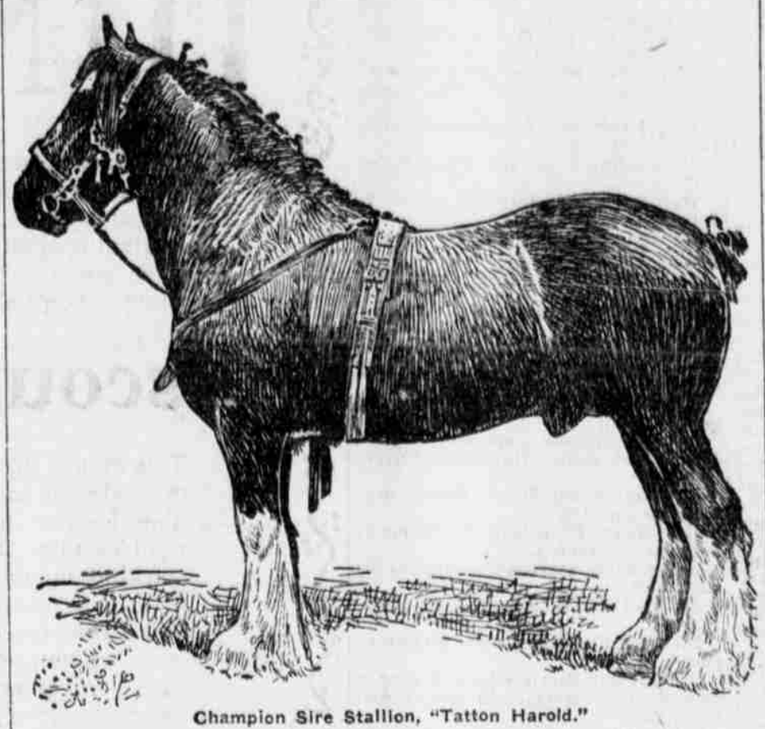
Plan and breed now for early calves next spring. They're the ones that bring in the money, while their dams are producers of dairy products at a season when they reach the top in quality and price.

There may be certain lines of farming in which it is difficult to keep a definite account of the cost and profit, but dairying is not one of these. There is no excuse for ignorance on the part of the dairy farmer.

It requires some degree of courage to thin out lettuce, radishes, beets, etc., when the plants look so sturdy, but older plants and larger roots require more soil, and unless they have it, they will be poorly nourished. Lettuce should be thinned to four inches in the rows.

RAISING HORSES FOR GENERAL FARM WORK MADE PROFITABLE

Possible to Breed Farm Mares and Make Lucrative Business Out of Colts at Very Small Expense—With Large Animals There Is Better Profit in Raising Mule Colts.



Champion Sire Stallion, "Tatton Harold."

The matter of supplying teams for a farm of any size is one that is a matter of importance from the purely business standpoint, as well as from personal interest. There was a time when this question was very general for farmers who had land at all suitable for the business to raise their own colts to supply the deficiency from time to time in the teams for farm work.

It is less so now in these days when making a specialty of things has reached the point that seems almost a craze. I am old fogy enough to like the "good old ways," says a writer in the Farm Progress, and I still think that on the great majority of farms, if not absolutely all of them, it will pay to raise all the colts that may be needed for use on the farm, and any more that can be raised without interfering with the farm work.

There has not often, if ever, been a time in the last two generations when it did pay to raise good horses. And now, although power vehicles and power-driven implements have certainly taken the place of a vast number of horses, first-class animals are selling at as good prices as they ever did. Consequently, there is profit in the business, even if at times it is a little inconvenient.

The thrifty farmer will generally make something out of every department, if possible, on the farm where general farming is done. The amount that can be made will depend altogether on the capacity of the individual to supply the executive ability needed to do justice to a variety of interests.

Not long ago I took a drive of ten miles with a man who was taking me to his home on the farm. He was driving a sorrel mare of about medium weight, and extremely quick and alert in her movements. She was not fast, but seemed to go along at a good, steady trot, and was reeling off not less than a mile in five minutes. Her activity and quick movements made me think she was a young mare, as she had none of the appearance of age. I said to the owner, "That mare looks like a mare it would pay to get some colts from."

"I have been breeding her, but have quit now," he replied. "She will soon be twenty-one years old, and I have had fourteen colts from her since she was seven. They were all good, and the youngest, now six months old, looks as good as any of the rest did."

This mare had been doing farm work mostly during all that time, and was used a great deal for driving, because she was quick and always ready to go. The fourteen colts no doubt averaged $150 as three-year-olds. A few years ago I had a mare with the same qualities from which I got some splendid colts, used her for farm work as well as driving; still she was twenty-five years old when she died from an acute attack of colic. Some of her colts sold as high as $175 each.

Of course, it is sometimes a little annoying to either drive or plow with a mare with a young colt, but fall colts, as a rule, do not give nearly so much trouble as those that come in the spring. This makes it possible to breed farm mares and make a profitable business out of colts at a very small expense. I never half-starved our colts. When foaled in the fall they were ready to run to pasture by spring, and it is a very poor farmer who cannot supply ample pasturage for colts at least nine months in the year. But with plenty of clover hay, or pea hay, colts can get along with very little grazing or grain.

If, therefore, any one is in a position to get some colts from work mares I would counsel them, by all means, to breed them. In most cases, with large mares, there is a better profit in breeding to a jack and raising mule colts.

MAKE THE CROP FIT THE SOIL

Farmer Needs to Study Requirements of Various Crops He Grows and Plan for Rotation.

(By W. M. KELLEY.)

There is no use in trying to achieve success with a soil not fitted to the crop. We must make a more intelligent study of the selection of crops that are better adapted to our soils and that can be made to return larger and more certain profits. There is something that is very interesting about the preference of crops for certain soils and climates.

One of the first things for farmers to learn is to find out which crops are best adapted to his soil and grow them on his farm. He needs to study the requirements of the various crops that he grows and plan his rotation of crops so that each crop may be grown under the most favorable conditions.

While I am a staunch friend of stable manure and constantly urging the keeping of more and better farm stock, yet I can see the necessity of facing the situation in a practical manner.

The average farmer has reached a point where stable manure will not supply the adequate amount of plant food to produce the maximum yield of grain and other farm crops, and the only sensible thing to do is to supply the deficient elements.

The generality of soils on our stock farms are deficient in mineral fertility, especially phosphorus, and it is clearly to our interest to supply this one element to our soils if we fit the soils to the needs of our crops.

On soils possessing an abundance of humus and nitrogen we may purchase the phosphorus in the form of the raw ground phosphate rock and mix it with the stable manure, but on soils that are lacking in humus and nitrogen better results will be obtained by using acid phosphate, which is readily available to the growing crops.

With clover and manure plowed under, to liberate potash, and supplemented with this purchased phosphorus, the fertility problem will be solved on the average stock farm. On many types of soil potash will be needed, but the average stock farm in the middle west has plenty of potash locked up in its soil to produce good crops for a hundred years or more.

READY RESULTS FROM A DAIRY

Cow Is Constant Quantity as Far as Her Production Is Concerned — Regular Money Crop.

The great value of dairying in connection with mixed or diversified farming is that the cow is a constant quantity, so far as her production of milk is concerned. She can be banked on more than poultry, hogs or field crops to yield a constant amount of salable products every week, if she is given a variety of good feeds and general good care.

This cash coming in at regular and frequent intervals from dairying enables the farmer of moderate means to use the money to good advantage as it is needed, for general running expenses and making things go. For this reason the average dairyman should become prosperous and have a well-improved farm.

The only regular money crop for the farm is that which comes from the dairy house. Every week the milk and butter goes out and the money comes back.

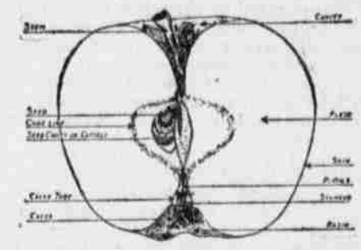
The modern dairyman seldom has to go to the bank to borrow money to tide him over till he sells his crops, because he is selling his crops every week.

NAMES OF VARIOUS PARTS OF APPLE GIVEN AND DESCRIBED

While There are Great Ranges of Variation Within Individual Limits of Any Variety, There are Certain Characteristics Constant and Dependable for Classification.

One of the readers has asked me to "analyze an apple, giving the names and descriptions of the various parts." To anyone who is interested in scientific pomology this is quite necessary to be well understood, writes H. E. Van Deman in the Rural New Yorker. For the benefit of the general reader, I will try to make the analysis as plain as can be, thus serving, if possible, both the scientifically inclined and the more ordinary worker with fruits.

An apple is known in science as a pome, which is a fruit that contains its seeds in capsules surrounded by a fleshy pulp. Other examples of the pomes are the pear, quince, wild hawthorn fruits and those of the rose. All of these have five capsules containing the seeds, which together compose the core. In making a scientific or pomological description of an apple we begin with the outward appearances. There have been various systems or methods of classification by pomologists for centuries past. Some of them have been very curiously, not to say absurdly, founded on certain real or imaginary characteristics, while others were quite reasonable and practical. The best of them all, according to my judgment, is the system devised and published by Dr. John A. Warder, of Ohio, in his American Pomology. The first divisions in his classification are based upon the shape of the vertical sections and are four in number: Class I, Oblate or Flat; Class II, Conical; Class III, Round or Globular; Class IV, Oblong. Next comes the shape of the cross or transverse sections, called Orders, of which there are two, Regular and Irregular. The



The "Analysis of an Apple."

third stage in the system is regarding the flavor, which are termed Sections, of which there are two: Section 1 includes the varieties that are sweet and Section 2 those that are subacid or sour. The last set of this descriptive classification is made up of three Subsections. The first of these includes all varieties that are yellow or green and may be blushed and even quite covered with red in some rare cases, but never striped. By this system almost any apple may be properly classified, and if listed and described in detail might be identified by any careful student of pomology. While there was never but one edition Dr. Warder's book on apples, American Pomology, and that was issued in 1867, and many valuable varieties have been introduced since that date, it is even now the best of all our books on apples, by which they may be studied and identified. While there are great ranges of variation within the individual limits of any variety, there are certain characteristics that are quite constant and dependable, and upon these any intelligent classification must be based. Mere alphabetical or other ordinary arrangement is of much less value.

To describe an apple in such manner as will lead to an understanding of its individual peculiarities I have made a drawing of a specimen of the Delicious that was grown in California The most important parts are named and pointed out in such a way that they may be studied. To begin with, the form, which is one of the first points that anyone will notice, may be flat, conical, round or oblong, as looked at from the side, and round, elliptical, irregular or even angular when observing from either end. The size may be large, medium or small. The depression in which the stem is set is called the cavity, and it may be regular, irregular, or lipped; large or small; deep, medium or shallow; with a steep, abrupt or wide slope; it may have russet markings that are large, medium or faint, or none at all. The stem may be long, medium or short; slender, stout or fleshy. Sometimes a variety will have stems of all these descriptions, but they are generally of one type. The depression at the calyx or blossom end of an apple is called the basin. It may be regular, irregular, waved, furrowed or knobby; deep, medium, shallow or wanting; wide or narrow; marked with russet either cracked or smooth. The calyx may be open or closed; with the sepals long or short, upright or reflexed. The surface is smooth, rough, bloomed or russeted. The color, yellow, green, blushed, red striped and with all possible variations of intensity and lightness of shadings, mottling, splashings and suffusions. The dots are very characteristic and quite constant. They are numerous or scattering; large or small; dark or light; round or pointed; with light, dark, green and sometimes on raised bases. The skin may be thick and tough or thin and tender. The flesh is yellow, white or stained with red and very rarely pink throughout; and its texture may be fine or coarse; firm, tender or soft; and in weight light or heavy. The core may be large, medium or small; conical, round or oblate; open or closed; meeting or separate from the tube. The calyx tube large or small; long or short. Axial diameter long or short. Seeds numerous or few; large or small; plump or narrow; light or dark brown. Flavor sweet, subacid or sour; rich aromatic or spicy. Quality good, very good, best or poor. Season very early, early, mid-summer, fall, early winter, mid-winter and late winter.

Thus it is that a pomologist would describe an apple. Blanks for descriptions are prepared for the government records and also by some of the states. I have them for my own private use in keeping records of the varieties I have examined. Paintings, models and historical notes of all interesting fruits are also made and carefully preserved in the office of the U. S. Pomologist at Washington, which is work that I planned and instituted when I was in charge of that office over 20 years ago. These records are of inestimable value and will be more more so as time advances.

EXCELLENT FEED FOR THE CHICKS

Hard Boiled Infertile Eggs, Ground in Meat Chopper and Mixed With Bran are Good.

(By PROF. W. A. LIPPINCOTT, Kansas Agricultural College.)

An excellent food for the chicks is made in this way: Take the infertile eggs—those that have been tested out of the incubator—hard boil them, and grind in an ordinary meat chopper. Mix this with bran and moisten with water. If you have some old, dry bread which has not become moldy it may be crumbled and added to the bran and ground eggs. Do not make the feed sloppy or the chicks may gorge themselves.

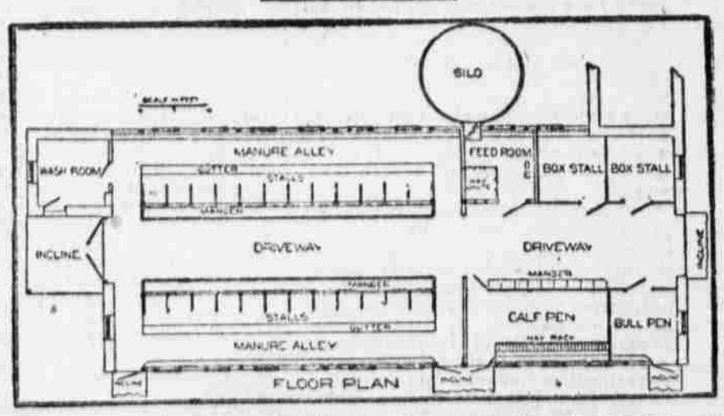
Many other good feeds, such as fine cracked corn, cracked wheat, cracked kafir and steel-cut oats may be fed. Milk curd and beef scraps make a good change in the food. These two supply to the chick about the same food elements it would get by eating insects and worms.

Charcoal, fine grit or finely ground bone should be kept where the little chickens can get it. If it is possible, they should be kept on a grassy plot, and if not, green stuff should be supplied them. Alfalfa is the best for this, and may be given them occasionally.

Ostrich Raising.

Some farmers in Southern Missouri are experimenting with ostrich raising.

FLOOR PLANS FOR A DAIRY BARN



The accompanying illustration gives the floor plans of a modern dairy barn for 24 cows, as designed by the bureau of industry of the United States department of agriculture. The stalls are planned to be three feet six inches wide and from four feet eight inches to five feet long, depending upon the size of the cows. The manure gutter should be from 16 to 18 inches wide and about four inches deep. The manure is planned to be two feet wide and six inches deep, the bottom being two or three inches higher than the floor of the stalls. Patent stanchions may now be bought so cheaply (one to two dollars each) that it is scarcely worth while to bother about making them at home for a small herd of cows.