

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Clean up and disinfect.

Every farmer should have a garden.

Turn the horse out to pasture at night.

Overexertion is as bad for the colts as no exertion.

Now that cows are on grass they will need salt offtener.

Sheep, unlike hogs, need to be clipped only once a year.

The well-fed colt requires more exercise than the poorly fed one.

There is little use in wasting time over a crippled or deformed chick.

Poultry can not stand any more neglect in warm weather than in cold.

A mongrel fowl is one that has resulted from the haphazard mating for years.

One good sire can do wonders in improving the dairy herds of a neighborhood.

If a horse is required to do extra work he should be liberally and frequently fed.

Don't keep tapping your horse with the whip unless you want to drive a regular old plug.

Generous feeding and frequent salting will help to fortify the lambs against the parasites.

Dipping does more than merely kill lice. Disease germs, especially in the case of hogs, are destroyed.

No matter how good their conformation, the vast majority of little horses sell at corresponding little prices.

Give the cows a fair show. To expect a large flow of rich milk from them on insufficient or poor feed is unjust.

Corn lands should be put in the best possible condition so that the little roots can get the most nourishment out of the soil.

Cattle that have been well wintered can be put on the early grass-fat market and good judges think this market will be a high one.

Under ordinary circumstances the poorer the feed the greater the daily cost of milk and butter-fat, and the less will be the profit.

As warm weather approaches the task of preventing drinking water for hogs from becoming contaminated becomes more and more difficult.

Of later years the Clydesdales have been coming on in draft horse popularity and the breed is now occupying quite a place among the pullers.

The old ducks need a swimming pond, as their feathers will not be nearly so good without the water and their eggs will be much more fertile.

Clover hay can be put in the mow safely with more sap in it than timothy, but neither will keep without molding when put in with dew or rain on it.

It costs from two to six cents more to produce a pound of pork than a pound of ordinary bacon, but the difference is on the other side at market time.

Alfalfa makes the best pasture, but peas and oats sown in equal parts, also rape, clover and a mixture of wheat and oats sown thickly makes excellent pig forage.

Most all our gardens can be at least double cropped by selecting early varieties of vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce, onions, beets, bunch beans, potatoes and early corn.

As soon as the pigs have been put into the fattening pens in the fall they should be fed all that they will eat with a relish; for the shorter the fattening period the larger the profits.

Before starting up a hill with a load, and when the top of the hill is reached, give the team a rest. Let them catch their breath. Undue forcing of horses up a hill with a load frequently causes heart and lung disorders.

Of two colts similar in disposition and sense, one may develop into a steady and valuable family horse, while the other may be everything that is vicious, treacherous and unsafe—all because of the difference in the men handling them.

Good roads spell prosperity.

Grade up the eggs before shipping them.

There is no grain so safe for horse feeding as oats.

Do not feed heavily when horses are not working.

After the colt is halter broken he should be trained to lead.

Grind the corn you feed the old sheep. Their teeth may be poor.

Pasture for pigs should be short, as fresh grass is more easily digested.

Turn the sows and pigs out in the pasture when the grass affords a good bite.

Almost 10 quarts of 4 per cent. milk is required to make one pound of butter.

To make the most profit out of chickens, stuff your birds from hatch to hatchet.

Hogs can be fed on good pasture at 20 per cent more profit than in a dry lot on mill feed.

There is no feed that can quite compare with skim milk to keep the young pigs growing.

It is best to teach chicks to roost on perches as soon as they are weaned from the hen.

Rose buds and bugs arrive about the same time. The latter cause trouble among the grapes, too.

The cow must have pasture or its equivalent in order to do her best. That's why silage is so valuable.

The heifer bred too early always remains stunted in growth and her milk flow is shortened for all time.

The full feed to the idle horse has cost the life of many a good one. Adjust the feed to the work the horse does.

Rape, sown now, on good rich soil, will make hog pasture by the last of May. Use 5 pounds per acre if sown broadcast.

The harder and faster the work a horse has to do the more nutritious, the stronger and more liberal must be his food.

The cheapest culture for all fruit trees except pears is to plow deep in the spring and sow five pecks of cow-peas to the acre.

Properly handled and cared for the farm mare can do nearly as much work while raising the colt as she would otherwise.

The first two weeks of a chick's life there is danger it will overeat, but after that it is safe to let them help themselves.

A strawberry bed that has borne for two seasons has passed its greatest usefulness, as far as high quality berries is concerned.

It is best to hatch turkeys away from the hen house, and other places frequented by chickens, to keep them from getting lousy.

Castrate the lambs when about ten days old. The operation is easily performed at this age, and the lambs are not so likely to bleed to death.

In the case of young sows it is doubtful whether either rye or rape will furnish sufficient feed for maintenance and proper development.

Try replacing the windows in the calf and cow barn with muslin and see what an improvement there will be in the air, and still keep the flies out.

When pigs keep up a terrific rooting of the ground, charcoal, sulphur, cinders, lime or bone meal will probably be very much appreciated in their ration.

The commercial fruit grower can afford his own spraying outfit, but the farmer must largely depend upon the commercial sprayer to save his orchard for him.

If you can grow alfalfa you may rest assured that grain will be yours, not only from the greater feeding value but also from the greater productiveness of the farm.

Straight breeds of cattle sell better than mixed ones. Whatever you do, don't get Jersey blood mixed up with your beef herd. The Jersey marks will show for three generations.

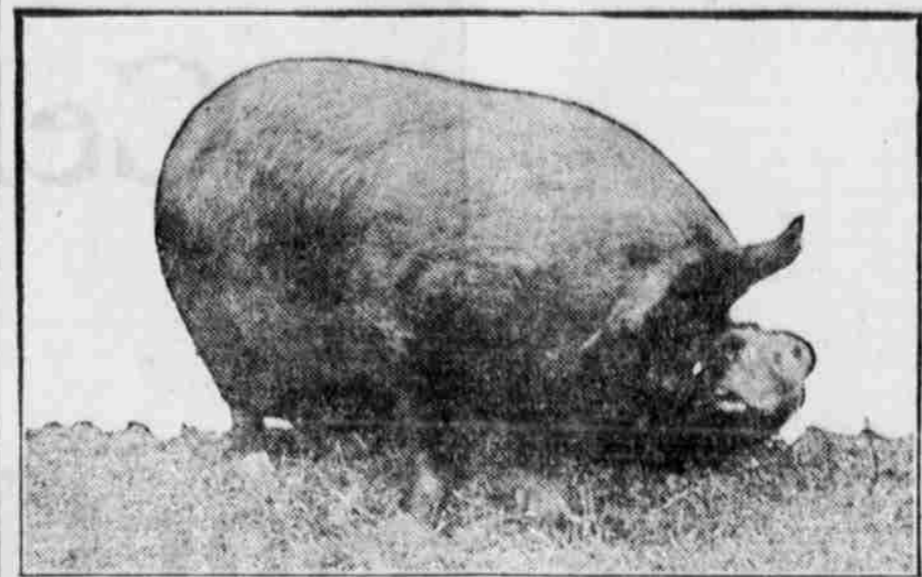
For the shot hole borer apply in June with a long handled brush this mixture: 20 pounds caustic potash, 20 pounds whale oil soap and 60 gallons of water boiled together two hours.

Be sure to destroy the weeds. It is easy if you know how and take them in time. They destroy the beauty of the country, the city, the village, the home, besides using up moisture and valuable plant foods in the soil.

To keep apples from becoming wormy it is necessary to kill the codling moth. To do this, spray just after the blossoms have fallen and then three or four times after that at intervals of about 10 days. Use for this 1 pound of paris green, 1 pound lime and 200 gallons of water.

PROPER SELECTION OF BROOD SOW FOR PRODUCTION OF PORK

Regardless of Breed, Animal Should Possess Certain Definite Characteristics Typifying Combination of Good Breeding With Individual Excellence—Hints for Summer Care.



A Berkshire Champion.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

The brood sow is the unit of pork production. Regardless of her breed she should have certain definite characteristics typifying a happy combination of good breeding with individual excellence. The easiest and most expensive method of embarking in the swine breeding business is to purchase two or more pure-bred gilts, safe in pig to unrelated sires, to be used as foundation stock. Selection of the best females from their progeny and mating them to a useful growthy quality male will establish within a very short time a high-class herd. In selecting a sow for breeding purposes the following points should be emphasized:

1. The gilt should be pure bred; a typical utility representative of her breed.

2. Should trace to a large, even litter, farrowed by a kind; disposed, heavy milking dam that displays vigor, quality and symmetry.

3. She should evidence early maturity; possess a clean, shapely head, large, bright eyes, heavy paws, light jaw, neat ears, short neck; have a long, straight, strong back, broad, meaty loin, smooth, compact shoulders, deep, well arched sides; even width, plump, shapely hams, a neat trim underline, dotted with many evenly placed rudimentaries; short, straight legs, with clean, dense bone; stand upright on strong, well supported pasterns, and exhibit style and finish throughout.

4. She should be a pasture product rather than pen-fed, chubby pet.

5. She should possess quality; be in a vigorous growthy condition, free from wrinkles, and giving promise of development of flesh in region of valuable cuts, thus yielding a higher dressing percentage of edible pork.

In order that we may take proper care of the young pigs it is necessary that we know about what time to expect them.

I have made it a rule to keep a record of the date on which the sows are bred.

By reference to my record I find that my sows farrow from the one hundred and twelfth to the one hundred and fifteenth day from breeding.

Some claim that an old sow will go

longer than a young sow, but I bred a yearling sow, a two-year-old, and a six-year-old sow all on the same date. These three sows all farrowed on the same day.

I like for my sows to be in a thriving condition when the pigs are farrowed. In fact, I like for them to improve in flesh during the entire period of gestation.

Some people are afraid of getting their sows too fat, and I suppose that they can be made too fat, but they ought to be in good flesh. They should have a surplus laid up for the suckling of the young pigs, because it is hard to keep a sow from going down in flesh rapidly while the pigs have to depend upon her for their food.



Middle White Sow, Walton Rose-69th, First at Royal Show, Liverpool.

The sows are given separate lots, with a good shelter, close, warm house, if the weather is cool, about a week before they are due to farrow.

The sows are fed sparingly for a few days after farrowing, then gradually brought up to a full ration.

It has always been hard for me to keep from feeding the sow too much while the pigs are young, and as a result I have had several cases of scours with the young pigs.

When I find the pigs beginning to scour, I give the sow 15 to 20 drops of laudanum in her feed for a few feeds. Her feed is reduced and this usually checks the scours in a day or so. If I have not any laudanum I have used powdered charcoal with good results.

As soon as the pigs are old enough to eat I give them a separate trough where they can eat without being disturbed by the mother. They are given a mixed feed of middlings, corn meal or other ground feed mixed with water. The sow gets a similar ration. More corn is used in cold weather than if the season is warm.

LITTLE SPARROW PEST DESTROYER

English Bird May Be Used Against Alfalfa Weevil in the West—Experiments Are to Be Made.

The English sparrow, originally imported into this country to destroy insect pests, but known chiefly in recent years as a pest of other birds, may come into its own again, according to the officials of the government biological survey. It has been found that the sparrow is a vigorous enemy of the alfalfa weevil, an evil which threatens to spread throughout the entire alfalfa farming territory of the west as the cotton boll weevil has spread in the south. So far the weevil has appeared only in Utah and part of Wyoming, but a dozen other states. It is said, will be affected within a few years unless a real enemy of the pest is introduced to fight it.

The biological survey is planning to experiment with other birds this summer and will not recommend that the English sparrow be sent into the alfalfa territory unless no other effective enemy of the weevil can be found. The bureau of entomology has received from its agent in Italy a number of parasites which feed on the alfalfa weevil and these will be sent to Utah at once.

Protecting Sheep From Dogs.

A Minnesota farmer says that he keeps dogs away from his flock by putting in his pasture the dummy of a man holding a stick for a gun. This dummy is taken down every morning, and put up again in the evening at different places from night to night. He says a sheep-killing dog will not go near enough to the dummy to discover that it is a bogus man.

Size of Farms.

Our farms are decreasing in size, the average number of acres in farms having decreased from 146 in 1900 to 138 in 1910.

GIVE HERD BULL PLENTY EXERCISE

Important to Keep Animal Strong and Vigorous—Various Ways of Giving Him Needed Work.

It is very important that the bull at the head of a herd be given plenty of exercise, and be fed like a work horse, as in this manner he becomes strong and vigorous, and a sure calf getter.

On the other hand, if a bull be deprived of exercise and the proper kind of feed and becomes indolent, lacking energy, especially breeding energy, he is rendered almost valueless; in fact, he becomes a detriment to a herd, owing to the fact that a breeder is losing valuable time by repeatedly breeding his cows to him without results.

The various ways of exercising a bull might consist in a paddock to run in, a tread power to work in, or being chained up and staked. At any rate, it is important to conceive some manner in which to give the herd bull plenty of daily exercise, as the results of good feed and plenty of exercise may be plainly noticeable in the offspring.

The New Way.

This is the modern idea of cow management—to first have a cow of largest possible dairy capacity, know what her capacity to convert food into milk is, and feed up to the capacity and no more. In your herd that you are feeding all alike it may be possible that two cows of limited capacity are wanting food that one may be in need of to do her best work. Are you underfeeding good cows and overfeeding poor ones?

Cut Off Diseased Wood.

Diseased wood on a tree can never be made new again. Cut it off and allow another shoot to grow. Every day that such wood remains on a tree adds to the liability of losing it.

NEWS for the YOUNG PEOPLE

GOOD TRICK WITH SCISSORS

Something That Has Puzzled Many People and Requires Practice to be Done Quickly.

This is something that has puzzled many people. The trick is to place your little fingers through the handles of a pair of scissors, palms up, and then twirl the scissors round toward you and bring them up in front in such a way that the points will be upward, as shown in Fig. 3. If you don't know the secret they will come up with the points downward instead. The trick is in the way you manage the scissors just as you flop them over; if you leave your fingers in the handles the scissors will come up with the points down. In order to make them come points up you have to take your fingers out of the handles momentarily and let the scissors turn a little between the palms of your hands and then put your fingers back through the other way. The principle



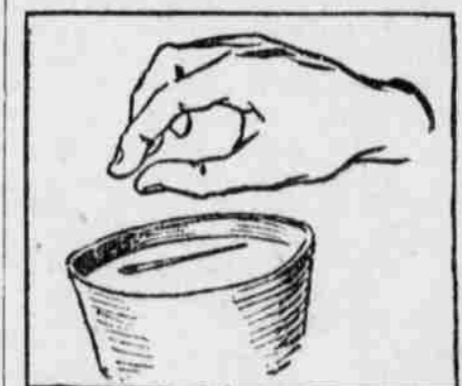
The Way It's Done

can best be followed by trying it with a pair of scissors. First stick your fingers through the handles, with the scissors points down and your palms facing up, as in the top picture. Then by a movement of the hands you can force the scissors upward and around till the points are near your chest, as in Fig. 2. Now is the time to take your fingers out for an instant. You continue the rotation by holding the handles between your palms and put your fingers back through from behind, thus allowing the points of the scissors to come up when the hands are placed back to back as in Fig. 3. It must be practiced so it can be done quickly.

HOW TO MAKE STEEL FLOAT

Needles Held on Surface of Water by "Tension" Just as Skip-Jacks Run About on Ponds.

Will steel float on water? Ask this question in a crowd and almost everybody will say "no." Then



Making Steel Float.

go ahead and prove that steel will float.

Take a glass full of water and some fine steel needles, perfectly dry. Lay the needles carefully on the surface of the water one at a time. If you are careful enough about it they will float.

The needles are held up by the "surface tension" of the water, just as are the skip-jacks that run on the surface of ponds.

Juvenile Books a Century Ago.

Does the modern child count his blessings in the matter of Christmas books? What would he say if, instead of one of the healthy, brightly written stories that now crowd the bookshelves' windows, he received a copy of one of the books for juveniles in vogue a century ago? The very titles of some of these old volumes would rouse the back of present day youth—"The Advantages of Education as Elucidated in the History of the Wingfield Family," Elizabeth Ann Dove's "Tales of My Pupils, or, an Attempt to Correct Juvenile Errors;" S. W.'s "A Visit to a Farm; or, an Introduction to Various Subjects Connected With Rural Economy" (this reached a fifth edition in 1811), and Sandham's "Perambulations of a Bee and a Butterfly, in Which Are Delineated Those Smaller Traits of Character Which Commonly Escape Observation."—London Chronicle.

Safety Valve for Vesuvius.

An Italian scientist proposed to supply a safety valve for Vesuvius by boring a tunnel in the base of the mountain and letting the lava escape into the sea. His idea is to bore the tunnel while the crater is in a state of coma, and he believes that when the volcano becomes active such a channel would be sufficient to carry away the lava, says Popular Mechanics. His whole proposal, however, is not to let the lava escape altogether, but to run it into molds and make it into blocks for use in the streets and quays of Naples.

TO THE GARDEN.



Annie wrapped a Parcel up As neat as any thing. But oh! She ascertained too late—There wasn't any string! She swiftly to the Garden hies—And with string Beans—Her Parcel ties!

BIRDS PECULIAR ABOUT EGGS

Can Tell at Glance if Meddled With and Will Almost Invariably Desert Their Nests.

If you have lived in the country and know something about chickens you will not need to be told that a hen turns over the eggs in her nest every day while they are hatching. Until this secret was discovered the incubator was not a success.

By what instinct a hen, or any other bird, can tell whether an egg has been turned over or not it is impossible to say; but it is well established that if a bird finds its nest has been disturbed, especially if one or more of the eggs have been turned over, that bird will most likely desert the nest at once and never return to it. It seems to know that something is wrong and that its plans for hatching out those eggs, taught it by nature, have been interfered with, and it is useless to bother about the eggs any more.

Whether or not it is the sense of sight or of smell that enables the bird to recognize the fact that the nest has been disturbed is not known. But every time a boy meddles with the eggs in a nest no matter how carefully he touches them, he should remember that he will probably be the cause of the mother leaving the half hatched little ones to perish.

PROTECTION FOR THE SHOES

Leather Guard Keeps Motorists' Foot-gear From Being Rubbed and Worn by Pedals.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to own automobiles know how hard they are on shoe leather. This sounds paradoxical, but it is true where a man drives his car himself. In using the pedals and various other foot mechanism a man's shoe gets badly scuffed along the sides and on the heel. A California man has designed a shoe protector to prevent this. A leather flap with broad, studded ends fits under the ball of the foot and comes up on both sides, a narrow end crossing over the top of



Shoe Protector.

the foot and buckling to the other side. A strap also passes around the heel and buckles to the back part of the one side guard. Thus the automobilist's shoe is amply protected from rough wear and he may wear much better shoes than he would otherwise care to do.

Punctuation.

"Father," asked eight-year-old Alice, returning home from school, "are you good at punctuation?" "Yes," replied the father. "Well, tell me, please, how would you punctuate, 'The wind blew a five dollar bill around the corner?'" "Why, daughter, I would simply put a period at the end of the sentence." "I wouldn't," said Alice mischievously. "I would make a dash after the five-dollar bill."