


NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Rotation is profitable.

Be gentle with the cow.

Be liberal with fly repellent.

A good sow is a valuable asset.

The common term, "90-day corn" is a deceptive one.

The well-ventilated barn is quite as essential as the warm one.

Hogs should have clean pastures, beds and water and a variety of food.

The best time to cut post timber of any kind is when the trees are in full leaf.

Lice are responsible for more loss among little turkeys than any other cause.

Avoid a rush by ordering crates, boxes, barrels, etc., in ample time for shipping.

The cleaner the feed and feeding places, the better the quality of the pork in all.

The greatest element in successful turkey raising is a long dry season without any rain.

Turkeys are good for the fields. They can be driven anywhere you wish from one field to another.

In transplanting plants from pots to the open, water them freely the day before they are re-potted.

In making poultry pay much depends upon your ability, your experience and your aptitude in the work.

A chicken's stomach is not made of iron, and the same diet day after day harms them as much as it does a human.

Under-sized pullets are not profitable. There will be some scrubs developed in the best of strains. Get rid of them.

Poultry raisers can learn much by attending the farmers' institute meetings held in their section of the different states.

A good grain mixture for chicks is made up of two parts cracked corn, two parts wheat, two parts Kaffir and one part millet.

Keep track of the chicks that feather out early. The chances favor the birds becoming the most profitable ones to keep.

A tablespoonful of baking soda placed in the drinking water two or three times a week will prevent bowel trouble in the chickens.

It is always a good plan to use plenty of seed in planting cucumbers, cantaloupes, melons, etc. The hills may be thinned out later.

Give the new-born calf a touch of fly repellent on that spot on the back where the hair parts. The flies like to feast right there.

As the weather gets warmer be sure that all brood coops are well ventilated at night, so that the air will be pure and cool within.

Poultry "systems" requiring close confinement of the flock and a large amount of personal attention are out of place on a general farm.

To get the flock as a whole in laying condition in the time required by the breed or variety the fowls must be properly grown from chickhood.

Twenty acres of corn put into a silo is said to be worth more than thirty acres put in the crib. This is quite an item, especially when feed is so high.

Industrious hens are the kind to keep, it matters not what the breed. The lazy hen is unprofitable. It is the industrious hen that lays the eggs.

If any fruits or vegetables are marketed, see that they are put up in clean, neat and well-graded packages. They will sell quicker and at a better price.

The pig that can be raised under ordinary conditions and good care, and made to weigh from 250 to 300 pounds quickest, is the most profitable sized hog for the farmer to keep.

The man who wants White Leghorns has little trouble in buying baby chicks in large quantities, for this special branch of poultry work, the selling of day-old chicks, has been far more highly developed with this breed than with any other, thousands of Leghorn chicks being sold where only hundreds of other breeds are sold.

Capons are profitable.

Pack all fruit carefully.

Cows need pure, fresh water.

There is always a demand for turkeys.

Oats and peas will not inoculate ground for alfalfa.

No ewe should be bred until she has reached maturity.

Concrete floors in the cow stables are sanitary and easily cleaned.

The size of an apple can be influenced to quite a large degree by picking.

Don't let the cows out in the storms to stand around. It doesn't pay.

The colder the milk when separated the greater the loss of fat in the skim milk.

The cows that produce the largest amounts of butter fat do it most economically.

The calves should by all means be kept in clean, well-lighted and ventilated stables.

A proper kit for farm work is about as handy a thing as the average farmer can buy.

A ten-cent bolt now may save a dollar's worth of time when the rush of work comes.

You cannot fatten a brood sow and fatten a hog alike and make the best success of both.

A gallon of cream testing 25 per cent, should churn a little over two pounds of butter.

The object of cow testing and keeping record is to improve the herd and increase the output.

Frequent stirring of the soil is said to be a good preventive of rust forming on the cultivator.

Look out for the potato bugs on the tomato and eggplant plants. They prefer them to the potatoes.

For sandy land the mammoth red clover has proved superior to alsike or the medium red varieties.

A good night pasture is the cow's delight, and a delighted cow is more profitable than a discouraged cow.

If the soil leaves the plowshare shiny and wet, wait a day or two. Wet plowing makes a cloddy ground.

In looking for an occupation that will return pleasure as well as profit take up the breeding of fancy poultry.

Guessing at the quantity of salt to put in butter is a little risky. An ounce to the pound is about the right proportion.

Nurse the young clover and the alfalfa; plan more of both another season, also a large acreage of root crops and pumpkins.

A hen that goes around with her mouth open is not a comfortable hen; she is too warm. Give her a place to sit down and cool off.

Ventilation in the chicken house is a very important consideration, and the health of the fowls in a great measure depends on it.

The value of cowpeas as a stock feed crop is now firmly established and will grow in favor as they become more generally known.

Get rid of male birds except those to be kept for breeding. They are star boarders and eat up the profits of the flock.

Never pasture too closely. Leaves are essential to plant growth, and enough should always be left to promote a good growth of plants.

Keep away from the corn roots when giving the plant the last cultivation; they will be needed in further developing a good crop of corn.

Begin to check the colt early if you would have an easy time with the work and a well-broken horse. A two-year-old is easier to break than a four-year-old.

If you intend to plant a few choice trees next spring, dig large holes for them this fall, fill them with manure, removing it next spring and filling in up to the desired depth for the tree.

The farmer who raises fruit for his own family should have a much larger variety than the commercial orchardist because the latter must produce enough of each kind to ship to advantage.

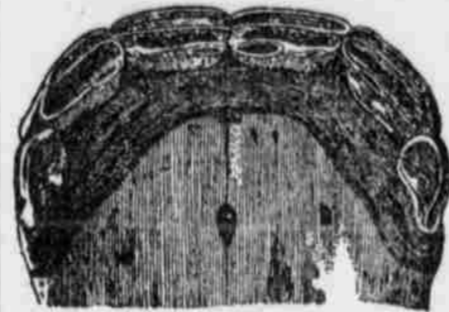
A stumbling habit may be caused by poor shoeing, or it may be caused by ignorant or careless hitching. Too tight checking is often the cause. Sometimes a harsh bit with a tight check rein will destroy the balance, and the horse is liable to fall.

While the hog is a debt payer, it is necessary for the breeder, farmer or feeder to manage so as to make the greatest amount of money at the least cost in the quickest time. To do this there is nothing of more importance than feeding alfalfa.

DETERMINE AGE OF HORSE BY EXAMINATION OF ITS TEETH

Average Animal Has Reached the Limit of His Usefulness at Twenty-Five Years of Age—Shape of Front Molars Gradually Changes With Growth—At Five Years Mouth is Full.

The age of a horse determines, in a general way, the limit of its usefulness. Still, it is not always a sure guide to follow. A well-preserved horse of good disposition and nervous temperament is often younger at sixteen, as far as activity and usefulness



Horse's Teeth, One Year Old.

go, than many another horse is at eight.

While twenty-five years is considered the limit of a horse's usefulness, exceptional cases may not have outlived their usefulness at thirty, and instances are recorded of horses having lived for more than fifty years.

A horse's age is commonly determined by an examination of the in-



Four and One-Half Years Old.

ternal teeth. This is usually an accurate method until the tenth or twelfth year. After this period the general appearance of the teeth and the bones of the head are relied upon in determining age.

At birth the foal commonly has no teeth in the front of the mouth and only four grinders in each jaw. After a few days the middle fore teeth appear and after a month another grinder breaks through on each side of each



Five Years Old.

jaw. After four months the intermediate fore teeth appear, and at the age of from six to eight months the side fore teeth or corners appear and

GOOD POINTS IN MAKING OAT HAY

When Allowed to Almost Mature There Will Be Greater Amount of Grain—How to Cure.

(By R. B. RUSHING.)

When the bulk of the grain on top of the head begins to turn yellow is the time to make oat hay. At that stage these top grains are in the tough state, and the remainder is mostly in the milk, and stalks and blades are still green.

While as a usual thing stock does not relish oat hay as much as mixed timothy or clover, it will always be found a good substitute.

It must be well cured, as it is one of the worst crops to draw moisture, heat and cold. It should be put into the barn when the least tough or damp.

I have made a good deal of oat hay and find it fairly good if cut at the right time and properly handled. Many farmers allow it to get too ripe to make the best hay.

When allowed to almost mature there will be a greater amount of grain, it can be more easily cured, and there will be less danger from molding, but it will not be oat hay; it will be oats in the straw.

When handled this way the animals will eat the grain readily but will only eat the straw when driven to it by hunger, and will get but little good out of it.

Nor should they be cut while too green, as in that case it will be very hard to cure sufficiently, while green oats cut in the milk makes very good feed for milk cows, but the curing is very difficult owing to the long period necessary for properly drying and the difficulty of getting good weather.

another grinder on each jaw. The set of milk teeth is then complete.

At the age of from thirteen to sixteen months the cavities in the face of the middle fore teeth are effaced or razed; and the same process takes place in the corner teeth by the end of the second year. The shedding of the teeth and the beginning of the second set or permanent teeth occur at from two and one-half to three years of age.

The first or milk teeth may always be recognized by their shortness, whiteness and by a constriction or neck. The middle front teeth are shed first, the intermediate ones follow at the age of three and one-half to four years, and the corner teeth are shed at from four and one-half to five years of age.

The determination of the age of



Eight Years Old.

horses between the years of five and ten may be made with considerable certainty by experts from a study of the front teeth of the lower and upper jaws. Naturally these teeth undergo a progressive wearing process which changes their appearance as the animals grow older.

In general, it should be remembered that the shape of the front teeth gradually changes with age; in young horse they are wider from side to side than from front to back, while in very old horses they become wider from front to back than from side to side, having in many cases a triangular shape.

As already indicated, a horse's mouth is said to be full, or dentition is complete, at the age of five years. At



Fourteen Years Old.

six years of age the nippers become worn down even with the middle teeth; the inner edge of the corner teeth is also worn off.

At seven years of age the tushes show a dull, rounded point, both edges of the corner teeth are worn smooth, and the cavity on the face of the teeth is small. From this until ten or eleven the incisor teeth of the upper jaw are usually examined for determining age.

The age is now indicated approximately by the amount of wear upon the face of the teeth and by the gradual disappearance of their marks or cavities. The marks in the corner teeth become obliterated at the age of from seven to eight years; the same process takes place in the fore teeth of the upper jaw more slowly, and when these changes have occurred in the upper teeth the horse may be looked upon as ten years of age or older.

It is absolutely necessary that the fodder be dried before storing.

When the surface of the ground is smooth I cut the oats with a mower, and let them remain several days, then turn them over, repeating this operation until thoroughly dried.

It usually takes me about a week to cure my oats properly. When the weather is not favorable and I fear a rain before they have time to dry in the windrow I build very large cocks and build them so as to turn the water as much as possible.

These cocks go through a sweat and may stand if necessary two or even three weeks, after which they must be stacked or put into the barn.

When unloading every two loads can be salted thoroughly and tramped down, it will then go through another sweat.

Such hay when fed with clover will prove excellent for horses and cattle.

Rape and Pea Forage.

The annual forage crop for swine which has given best results at the Missouri experiment station is rape in which have been sown a few oats. Rape may be sown as early in the spring as the ground can be worked or about the same time that oats would be sown.

It is a rapid growing, succulent crop and hence it is well adapted for swine pasture. The Dwarf Essex is the variety sown for this purpose. Good results have been obtained by sowing five or six pounds ahead of the drill and then drilling in one-half.

Jackrabbits in West.

Six hundred dozen jackrabbits were reported to have been killed and shipped to Seattle and Spokane last winter at an average price of \$3 per dozen.

Well Fed Sow.

The well fed sow gives the pigs a good start in life.

POULTRY

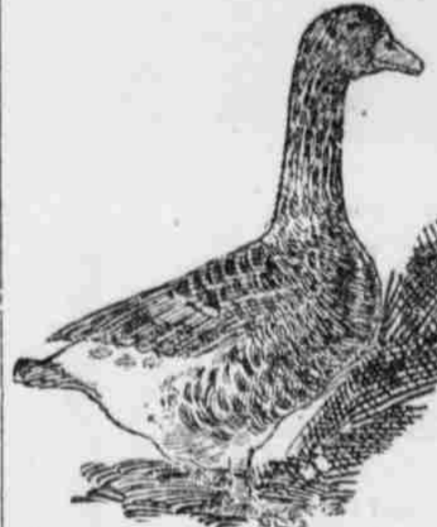


DETERMINE SEX OF A GOOSE

One Good Way is to Notice Difference in Voices—Mating Season is Usually in Fall.

In answer to a query as to method or rule for determining the sex of geese, an exchange makes the following reply:

There are no marks by which one can tell the gander from the goose. The only ways are to watch the actions of the birds and to notice the differences in their voices. The gander has what is popularly called a growl voice. It is possible that all four of your birds may be geese. If so,



Toulouse Goose.

You will be unfortunate in attempts to raise any goslings even if you do secure ganders. This is because the mating season is in the fall, usually in September or October, and also because geese very much dislike to have their quarters changed when once accustomed to them. For this reason people who wish to secure birds for breeding purposes make their purchases in the fall so the fowls will get accustomed to their new surroundings. Doubtless nests will be made and the eggs laid, but the eggs may not hatch. If you are forced to buy a gander this spring, it will perhaps be advisable for you to purchase some good eggs of the same breed as you keep, and use these rather than the eggs from your own flock, or at least mark the eggs so that you can distinguish the purchased ones from those laid by your own birds. In this way you should not be wholly disappointed.

GIVING CHARCOAL TO FOWLS

Puts Them in Good Condition for Work and Prevents Many Diseases Incidental to Season.

Does the average farmer know that an excellent grade of charcoal can be made by burning corn cobs till they turn red, extinguishing the fire and when dry grinding for mash feeding for the poultry.

Charcoal is not a food, though fowls gain in flesh and eggs during its use; it simply puts them and keeps them in a good condition for work. It prevents disease because of its great capacity to absorb gases, acids and impurities. It is an alterative, changing diseased conditions to normal, disinfesting the digestive tract and toning up the system.

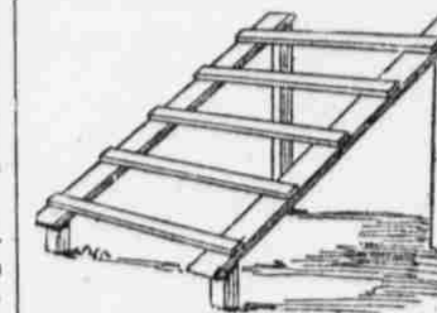
In putrid disease like roup, in fermentation like sour crop, in intestinal maladies like diarrhea or cholera, it is of great benefit. In spring and in summer, when the fowl's blood is sluggish it is needed as a purifier to ward off diseases incidental to these seasons.

It should be kept before fowls in size to suit their age, and where fowls refuse to eat it fine charcoal should be mixed in the mash occasionally. It is best given to individual birds in five-grain capsules—large doses are necessary.

ROOST IS QUITE CONVENIENT

Made of Two Four-inch Pieces Six Feet Long, Nailed Together With Five Crosspieces.

Select two four-inch pieces six feet long. Lay them parallel and nail five crosspieces, three feet long and three inches wide, to these. The legs may be made of 2 by 4 stuff the desired



Convenient Chicken Roost.

length. By means of long spikes secure them to the parallel pieces, says the Iowa Homestead. Place these in roosting quarters for chickens and they will soon be perching upon it at night.

Poultry Feed.

Corn is a good poultry feed the year around, provided the birds have plenty of green stuff during the warm months.

The ONLOOKER

WILBUR D. NESBIT

Dusty River's Prospects



You bet, our Congressman—he knows just what he is about; He rises in the Capitol, and for us folks he'll shout— He kept his wits about him when the River Bill went through, And little Dusty River got a 'proprietor, too. One million dollars to improve the Dusty River! Well, We've got the dandy Congressman; that's what I'm here to tell.

The Dusty River rambles down across our blooming plains, And you can see it ripplin' if you're watchin' when it rains. She ripples, when she dampened up, as grayly as you like; But other times it's hard to tell the river from the pike. Our Congressman, however, has assured us that right soon We'll hail the Dusty River as the biggest kind of boon.

Our Congressman declares that in about a year or so We'll see the steamboats sailin' up where now the brambles grow. He says it stands to reason, if we've got the river route, That it's the place of government to come and help us out. And so he dealt the Treasury some energetic thumps, And we'll run the river with a million dollars' worth of pumps.

The Pancake.

The pancake is a distinctive American institution. It is eaten only in secret in our best families.

It would be eaten openly and above board were it not that folks of the upper circle have to maintain their dignity before the servants.

Properly made, the pancake is a thing of beauty and a joy for the time being.

Improperly made, as it usually is, it is a blight upon life and a harassment to the stomach. A wrongly prepared pancake can stay with you longer than the after effects of pneumonia.

If our girls were taught how to make pancakes, civilization would go forward so rapidly that those who are now trying to reform our social structure would be back numbers by day after tomorrow.

Knew His Rights.

"No, indeed, I will not take it," protested the destitute man.

Nonplused, we gazed first at him, and then at the worn ten-dollar bill we had sought to induce him to accept for the benefit of himself and the starving family he had mentioned with such pitiful effect.

"No, sir," he continued, "I am entitled to a nice, crisp, new ten-dollar note, and that's what I insist on. I haven't read these stories of philanthropy for nothing."

One Way Out.

Thoroughly angered, the railway magnate stood glowering at the governor.

"Oppose me and my traffic combination, will you?" he thundered. "Why, I've got a good notion to buy your blamed little state for a freight yard!"

Saying which, he strode from the state house so rapidly that the kodaks were snapped in vain.

Our Crusade.

It is pleasing to note that the New York legislature has passed a bill abolishing the public drinking cup. We shall continue our crusade until it is done away with in all the states, and then we shall lead a movement to do away with the combs and brushes in public washrooms.

Felt Like It.

"Tut, tut," smiled the dentist. "That nerve does not reach up so far as you say. It is not a foot long at all. That's all in your mind."

"Um-m-m!" groaned the writhing man; "It surely feels as if it were nearly all there."

Always an Obstacle.

"There is always an obstacle at the top," said the Good Adviser.

"Indeed, yes," answered the Unfortunate Person, "but the elevator is not always running."

Wilbur D. Nesbit