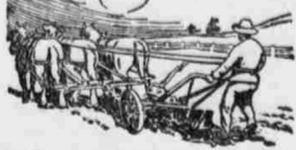


NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Ventilate the dairy.

Clean up the orchard.

Feed the fowls a variety.

Sorghum hay makes good roughage.

Many poultry ills could be traced to a lack of grit.

A neglected cold makes it easy for roup to get a start.

The average farm flock has too many roosters in it at this season.

A pound of oats is not nearly as good for fattening hogs as a pound of corn.

Experiment has shown that oats are not a satisfactory feed for fattening hogs.

Make lime water by adding two or three pounds of lime to a barrel of water.

Careful dressing of fowls for the market has a good deal to do in getting top notch prices.

One of the qualities of the soy bean that commends it to the stock feeder is its protein richness.

Much of the feeding value of the clover depends upon how the crop is managed after it is cut.

Five feet apart is about the right distance for the currant and gooseberry bushes. Do not crowd.

Breeding stock can be purchased to better advantage in fall and early winter than to wait until spring.

If the hens are slacking up in laying try giving them a little green cut bone every day and watch results.

Where hens are forced to use part of their food as fuel to keep warm there is bound to be a falling off in eggs.

The greatest ten-year yield of corn, since it became of national importance in the United States, occurred between 1870-1880.

Corn is no doubt the best feed there is for hogs, but its full value can only be realized when it is used in conjunction with other feeds.

Quiet, gentle handling of the ewes during the winter makes it much easier work to care for the flock during the lambing period.

Don't let any fruit remain on the trees during the winter. Rotten apples are good places for insects to hibernate in during the winter.

The sum of money that is lost every year on the farms of this country by the dairy cows that are not bred especially for dairy work is stupendous.

People are realizing the great comfort and advantages of a few good fruit trees and ornamental shrubs more than ever. Start them growing.

All dairy utensils should be periodically placed in the sun, but wooden vessels should be removed before the heat is sufficient to crack or warp them.

Fruit is the best medicine that we know anything about. Money invested in apples and strawberries is much better invested than it is in "sulphur and molasses."

The next time the cow gives bloody milk give her a dose of epsom salts, bathe her udder with warm water and rub with camphorated lard. This will often cure the trouble.

The time to dehorn is in the spring or fall. Fall is considered best, because the cattle usually are shut up and any ill effects of the operation can easily be prevented.

Clover is as much an egg producer as it is a producer of milk. It is rich in nitrogen and mineral matter. Having a high nutritive ratio, it is equal to barley, and almost as high as wheat.

Don't turn young horses out where the fences are low or easily pushed over. They will be sure to get out. Either they will jump over or they will run the fence over and step out. Good fences make good, orderly horses.

The value of farm land can only be arrived at by its earning capacity. If it is worth any price it will pay good interest on the investment in the regular farming process. We can add to its value by adding to its capacity to grow things and grow them a little better than any other farm in the neighborhood.

Cull out the roosters.

Whitewash the stables.

Balance the hen's ration.

Young pigs like vegetables.

The warm and busy hen is the best winter layer.

Use few words with a horse, but have them understood.

It is as easy to teach a colt good manners as faulty ones.

Desirable eggs are said to weigh about 24 ounces to the dozen.

If hens develop the feather-pulling habit send them to market at once.

Dairying is a cash business. The good cow pays for her board every day.

Alfalfa will grow on nearly all good, well-drained soils, but best on a rich, sandy loam.

The first big need of the majority of the older corn belt soils is limestone and legumes.

It is better and more profitable to have a herd of five good cows than ten that are inferior.

The green food problem in winter isn't much of a problem if there is any alfalfa hay on the place.

Muddy and unclean stable yards are always sources of loss because of their insanitary condition.

There are but few horses that can not be made gentle and quiet by the proper kind of treatment.

The kind of feed which the cows eat often has an effect upon the flavor of milk and its products.

The farmer who makes an effort to fill the corn crib and smokehouse each year generally succeeds.

Swedish turnips grow well in the northern states and provide a large amount of feed for the winter.

The best stock pea for grazing in the field is the black. Everlasting Red and Red Ripper are also good.

The farmer who is not raising legumes has his eyes closed to some of the biggest opportunities in farming.

Fruit growing and poultry raising go well together. Anyone following either will do well to consider the other.

The sand vetch is smaller and more recumbent than the common vetch, and has been tested but little in this country.

Hens, when they cease laying, fatten very easily and a fat hen is a thrifty candidate for all kinds of poultry diseases.

Penning chickens is the best way to get a fine flock, for it means that you are getting eggs from the best hens you have.

A hog fed on corn alone from the time it is weaned from the sow until butchered at 18 months old, seldom pays for his keep.

The cows like the silage in the winter just as well as they do the grass in the summer and it is good at any season of the year.

Stout, livable chicks are obtained only from sturdy parents, and pullets that have been forced for winter eggs are hardly in that class.

Don't blame anyone but yourself if your farm won't grow legumes. They will grow for the man who knows how to make them.

It is poor economy to feed spoiled food to the poultry. They may contract disease or become poisoned. Burn all decomposed food stuff at once.

The day has forever passed when the progressive dairyman allows his cows to be brought, running or excited, into the barn, by a dog or a boy with a whip.

Sheep in the summer are gross feeders, rapidly cleaning the land of brush and weeds, but in the barn and in the feed lot they are extremely dainty in their eating.

The best family horses, as a rule, are raised and trained on the farm. Their dispositions are then thoroughly understood, and it is known how far they can be trusted.

It pays to whitewash, ventilate and properly light the stables; to brush and curry cows; to use clean and well-covered utensils, to cool milk quickly and to have a cool place for the milk.

The fruit farmer can always find something to do, either in the orchard or around the buildings. This business like any other is ruined by too much loafing. Keep the loose ends well in hand for the best results.

It often is your fault that hens get to eating eggs; but after they do contract the habit, lay the ax at the root of the tree—in other words, stop the business, short off. Then change your bill of fare. Something lacking in the feed you have been giving. Balance the ration.

EXPERIMENTS WITH ENSILAGE AS SHEEP FEED FOUND ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY

Good, Clean, Bright Article May Be Used With Excellent Results, Either as Succulent Food for Breeding Ewes in Winter or as Efficient Roughage for Fattening.

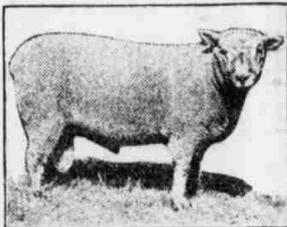


A Profitable Mutton and Wool Flock.

With the tremendous increase in the use of silos for utilizing a larger amount of the corn plant and the greater use of silage generally during the last two or three years, there has arisen a great deal of inquiry, especially during the present winter, as to the value of silage for sheep. Recently silage has come into general use on cattle farms. Now that its value as a cattle food, from the standpoint of cheapness, is becoming more and more apparent, the man who owns sheep is beginning to ask why he cannot share in a good thing, too, writes Ellis Hall of the University of Nebraska in Wallace's Farmer.

Unfortunately, the use of silage for sheep feeding purposes has been tried out to but a limited extent. Few farmers have used it and the experiment stations have done little. From all sources of investigation it seems now that there is no reason why silage shall not find a permanent place in the list of desirable and economical foodstuffs for sheep. The writer has met several men this winter who have used it with satisfactory results, and one man especially, who had fed out quite a string of sheep with silage almost the sole feed, was very enthusiastic in his appreciation of it. We have not found any men who have had trouble from feeding it.

There has been a popular conception that silage is more or less dangerous to feed sheep, especially breeding ewes. It was thought that it had a weakening effect on the lambs, also that there is likely to be some mortality among the ewes. Such ideas do not seem to be well founded. It is true that such results have been noted in flocks which had silage, but careful observations show that other factors may have had more to do with



Prize-Winning Southdown.

the results than the silage. At the station three years ago the ewe flock had considerable silage, in fact, all they cared for. Also, the lambs were not as strong at birth as they ought to have been, and some loss was experienced at lambing time. But an excessive amount was allowed and ewes were entirely too closely confined without adequate exercise. Exercise is an absolute necessity for pregnant ewes if satisfactory results are to be had at lambing time. Lack of an experienced shepherd to handle these ewes at lambing time doubtless contributed to the loss. Since that year we have had no bad results.

Back in the fall of 1907 the Indiana station began to experiment with silage for feeding pregnant ewes. One lot of ewes was fed silage along with clover hay and grain, while another lot was fed more hay, slightly more grain, but no silage. These two lots of ewes were as nearly alike as could be had. The next year practically the same experiment was repeated, and again in 1909. During the first year a limited amount of silage was fed. The second year, four pounds per head, per day, was allowed and as no bad results accompanied this liberal feeding, the last year the ewes were given all they would clean up, which was practically 4.6 pounds. With all they wished of the silage, no deleterious results were observed either in the ewes or in the lambs.

As to results from these three years' experiments, the authors of the bulletin concerning this experiment say that the general thrift and appetite of the silage ewes was superior to that of the lots fed hay and grain alone. The ewes, having a quantity of silage, made each year a larger gain over winter than did those on dry feed. The latter averaged for the three years a gain of six pounds while the silage ewes gained 13.75 pounds, or more than twice as much. Yet the writers state definitely that this gain was not mere fat like corn

feeding, would produce, but that the ewes were in good condition to produce strong, vigorous lambs. It was a noticeable fact that right straight through the whole three years, the lambs from the ewes having the succulent feed, i. e., silage, averaged nearly 10 per cent larger at birth. As to the cost of feed, the ration including silage proved the more economical, while more satisfactory results were obtained. The lambs from these two lots of ewes were all fed out for an early market and those from each lot did equally well, gaining nearly a half pound per day until they were sold.

The general results of this test running for three years show definitely that the use of silage for ewes, even in large amounts, will not interfere with the health and thrift of the pregnant ewe nor of her prospective lamb. Also, the succulence which the silage affords seemed to promote the thrift and general health of the ewe, and because of the added health and vigor, the foeti were better nourished, with the consequent result that larger lambs were produced. Furthermore the producing of all these satisfactory results did not affect the lambs unfavorably, and the silage ration was more economical.

Accurate data regarding the value of silage in a ration for fattening sheep and lambs is scarce, but what there is indicates that it is useful. As far back as the early nineties the Michigan experiment station fed some lambs on silage and other foodstuffs. The gist of their findings is to the effect that a mixture of fodders composed largely of a good quality of silage proved a cheap and successful ration for fattening lambs.

The Iowa station at Ames made some comparative tests of dry hays, roots, and silage as roughness in 1906 and 1907. In lots fed the first winter, the silage cheapened the ration considerably. During the second winter the various lots were fed for a long period, 168 days, and the silage lot refused to eat much silage. They ate almost as much grain and hay as the other lots did and the gain on these silage lambs was more expensive than was that with some of the other food combinations. But the average of the two years was favorable to the use of silage as a means of cheapening the ration. The lambs from all lots finished into market toppers, but the dressed carcasses showed the silage lambs a little superior on the hook. Taking these few experiments then into consideration, and also the general results which various feeders have obtained in practical work, it seems that silage has an important place among desirable and economical feeds for fattening sheep.

It is my opinion that silage can be fed to sheep with satisfactory results. The use of moldy or frozen silage may cause trouble, but good, clean, bright silage can be used with excellent results, either as a succulent food for breeding ewes in winter or as a cheap but satisfactory and efficient roughage for fattening lambs and sheep. This opinion is based partially on observations of flocks which have been fed, and partially on the experiments quoted above. The results to date point toward silage as a cheap and valuable feed for sheep.

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GOOD PROFITS IN RAISING POPCORN

Crop Should Be Cultivated and Cared for in Same Manner as Other Corn.

With popcorn so popular an article of consumption as it is, there is no farm in any portion of the corn belt that should not grow a patch to supply the family needs. Popcorn will do well on any land that will produce a good crop of corn.

It should be cultivated and cared for in the same general manner as corn, though it may be planted more closely. It ripens in about 100 days, and it should be shocked at once as it is ripe, so that it will dry out well before husking. It will produce from 50 to 60 bushels of ears with a good stand, and this will fetch from \$1 to \$2 per bushel.

POULTRY

TURKEYS READY FOR MARKET

There Never Has Been More Active Demand for Good Birds Than at Present—Ways of Killing.

(By T. F. M'GREW.)

After turkeys are grown and ready for market, quite as much care and attention should be given to the killing and shipping as to the proper growing. When these things can not be done to good advantage, it is better to sell them alive. Buyers who are prepared to kill, dress, pack and



White Holland Turkeys.

ship turkeys, and to save the feathers should be in position to pay what they are worth alive; and should be able to handle them at a profit, better than the grower, who may not be prepared to do the work to the best advantage.

So much depends upon marketing them in the best condition that small growers should either dress and sell to their home market, or, providing it can be done at a fair price, sell alive to someone who makes a business of handling such stock.

Kill nothing but well-fattened stock. It seldom pays to send ill-favored stock into market. Do not give any food to the turkeys for twenty-four hours prior to killing. This allows the crop and entrails to become empty and avoids much of the danger of spoiling. Full crops and entrails count against value; they often taint the meat and prevent its being kept for any length of time.

There are two methods of killing largely used. The most popular is to suspend the fowl by the shanks, head down, and cut or stick it in the roof of the mouth with a knife made especially for this purpose. This severs the arteries and cuts into the brain, causing insensibility and a free flow of blood from the mouth. This is called "sticking in the roof of the mouth."

The other plan is to break the neck by a quick twist or jerk backward. When the neck is completely disjointed the head is pulled away so as to form an open space in the neck in which the blood may settle. This plan has been but little used, though the claim is made that when so killed the fowls will keep longer, because there is no opening by which the air can get into the body, as there is when they are stuck in the roof of the mouth. This method has been used more for chickens than for turkeys, and to use it well requires considerable practice. The method of beheading with an ax or hatchet has been employed for ages.

RHODE ISLAND RED'S ORIGIN

History of Youngest Breed of American Chickens—Considered Excellent for All Purposes.

The Rhode Island Reds, although one of the youngest breeds in the American class, are growing in popularity. The history of the Reds dates back to about 1854, but it is only of recent years that the poultry world acknowledged them as a breed, says the Farm Journal. At that date, it is claimed, Red Cochins, China cocks and Red Malay cocks were brought into sections of Rhode Island and Massachusetts by sea captains. Later Rose Comb Brown Leghorn blood was introduced in some sections, and thus for 60 years the male bird for the head of each flock was selected of a red color and a vigorous condition.

The breed is conceded to be one of the best for practical purposes. The birds are excellent layers of large



Rhode Island Red Male.

brown eggs, and are first-class as table poultry, being adapted for both broilers and roasters. The standard weight is: Cock, 8½ pounds; cockerel, 7½ pounds; hen, 6½ pounds; pullet, 5 pounds.

Keep Out the Frost. There should never be frost in the hen house.

The ONLOOKER S. E. KISER

STILL A WOMAN



She's a graduate of Vassar. And her knowledge is immense. And, though beautiful and stylish, she is full of common sense. She can talk in French and German. She reads Homer in the Greek. And 'tis worth your while to listen when it pleases her to speak.

She can read the hieroglyphics on the tombs along the Nile; She can hold discourse on physics in an interesting style. But, in spite of all her learning, she steps backward from the car, and she always stops and wishes when she sees a shooting star.

Up-to-Date Wedding. The guests had arrived; the preacher had taken on a solemn look; the wedding cake had been placed on the table, and everything was in readiness for the ceremony.

The bride-to-be was pale but beautiful, and there was a wistful, eager look in her great liquid eyes. She nervously tapped one of her dainty feet upon the floor, and ever and anon she sighed a tremulous sigh.

The prospective groom stood at the side of the woman he loved. Ah, he, too, was beautiful! But it needed no trained eye to discover that he was impatient. His breath came in quick, uneven gasps, and he clasped and unclasped his hands continuously.

Why did they wait? What mysterious spell was upon them and holding them back? The guests cast inquiring glances at one another, and occasionally shook their heads. The preacher yawned; the clock upon the mantel ticked and ticked, and still they waited.

The situation was becoming embarrassing. The bride bit her lips, and the groom seemed about to say something, when suddenly the sound of hurrying feet was heard. In another second a breathless messenger had burst into the room, with a telegram announcing that the bride's petition for divorce had just been granted.

Marvelous. Thomas—You and I have remarkable wives.

Harkins—Do you think so? Thomas—Yes. You know when my wife and I were at your house, night before last? Well, my wife had on a new dress, and she and your wife talked about it nearly all the evening.

Harkins—I don't see anything remarkable about that. It was the natural thing for them to do.

Thomas—But hold on! Your wife didn't ask you who made it, and my wife didn't tell!

A Revelation. "Yes, sir," said Jordan, "I've come to the conclusion that I amount to something, after all. There have been times when I was disposed to believe that I was a mere cipher in this world, but I can never have so small an opinion of myself again."

"What has caused this sudden change in your estimate of yourself?" "I have just been talking to a politician who wants my vote."

Not Always. Clarence—It is always the unexpected that happens.

Charley—Oh, I don't know. I expected Old Burnstead to fire me out when I went to ask him for his daughter.

Clarence—Well? Charley—Well, that's just what he did.

Unrefined Cruelty. Young Novelist—Ah, sir, I am highly flattered to hear that you take my book to bed with you and read it there.

Old Scrupmy—Yes, I've been troubled with insomnia for a long time, and I find one of your pages much better than any medicine the doctor can give.

He Knows One. "Yes, sir, I know one woman who can keep a secret."

"Please explain." "My wife and I have been married for ten years now, and she has never yet consented to tell me how it is that she is always in need of money."