

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



A round silo is best.  
Corn likes mellow soil.  
Exercise produces warmth.  
There is no better place to fit a colt for market than on the farm.  
Leaves mixed with straw make an excellent cover for strawberries.  
Promptly gather up and burn all brush and rubbish in the orchard.  
The coming of the silo is developing some new high records for high-priced beef.

Increase the cow feed a little morning and night as the weather grows colder.  
It is as an egg producer that the Indian Runner duck has gained the most fame.

Poultry balance their own rations if they are given a wide variety of feeds to select from.  
Eggs that cost 25 cents per dozen will bring \$7 to \$8 when hatched and sold as broilers.

All young stock on hand now that you do not intend to keep through the coming winter should be marketed.  
Bran is a very good feed for cows. It is light, palatable and rich in mineral matter, especially phosphorus.

A set of scales will give a good deal better than you can as to the weight of the milk each cow gives.  
It is usually mere guesswork to tell the age of a hen by her appearance after she has passed the pullet stage.

A hen over two years old is fit only for the pot and to mother chickens. She is past her profitable laying days.  
It is well to remember that there are ten buyers for horses worth \$200 and upwards to one that is worth \$100 or less.

Goose eggs require from twenty-eight to thirty-one days to hatch, according to variety and method of hatching.  
It is a well known fact that the cow that makes the largest profit is given the best care and most comfortable shelter.

When the farmer makes a selling of his crops with as much a business as does the buyer he will find farming profitable.  
Of almost, if not quite, as much importance as their food is plenty of exercise. Exercise and sunshine are great sheep tonics.

If you live where stones are plenty (and they are found in most sections) never waste through winter mud in going between house and barn.  
It pleases the cow to be milked quickly, and gets her in the habit of giving down promptly. It is often the slow milkers that make the strippers.

If you plan to take the horns off your cows, better do it early in the spring. It is a trying ordeal at best. Be as humane about it as you can.  
Vitality is a very important characteristic in the dairy cows or any other farm animal. If weak along this line the best returns cannot be expected.

Next to using a Babcock machine a pretty good test of milk may be made by putting samples in tumblers and noting the thickness of the cream several hours later.  
Sugar beet growing means more than the mere profits from growing the beets. It induces a higher type of agriculture and the crops raised in rotation are better.

Whatever ration one may be able to provide for the flock of hens one condition should be kept in mind—namely, they should be compelled to scratch for most of the grain they receive. This means exercise and exercise means health.  
Few of us realize how important bees are to our farm, garden and orchard crops. If the bees were terminated this year there would be a failure of the clover seed crop; the same would be true of many vegetables and fruits. Many flowers must be cross fertilized, and it often requires some insect to do this. The apilary may thus serve a double purpose; furnish the family with sweets and increase the seed, vegetable and fruit production.

Sell off the old sheep.  
Whitewash at any time.  
Clover is an egg producer.  
Give the pullets ample nests.  
A horse with long legs and fat sides is not an easy keeper.

The ram should be in perfect condition, but not fat at mating.  
Chickens that go home to roost ought to stay home to scratch.  
Hard labor in the orchard is almost sure to mean hard cash in the bank.

The cleaner the stalls are kept, the less the amount of bedding required.  
If your horse has broken feet, have him shod with a good tar and oakum pack.

Rub the window panes with old newspapers—it will let in the sunshine.  
Any time in the year is the right time to begin planning for an asparagus plot.

If the garden is fall plowed it means you can plant at least a week earlier next spring.  
If the churn is likely to remain idle for some time, keep it filled with lime water.

Selling the young heifers, that are from the best cows is moving backward in dairying.  
Intelligence in hurrying feeds for the dairy cow is one way of increasing profits on the farm.

One big advantage of the hog raising industry is that the hogs give quick and profitable returns.  
In breaking a colt, remember that it is an easy matter to overload and ruin him by causing him to balk.

Sprained tendons and joints are often the effect of long-grown hoofs continually tamping on solid floors.  
Perhaps a banking of the cow shed on the north side would make it more comfortable for the cows this winter.

To get the best results the dairy should be well ventilated, fly proof and at some distance from the sheds.  
One mistake in hen culture is not to feed the hen well when she is "dry." A molting hen is doing hard work.

After hens are through laying they should be sold to the butcher unless they are needed for breeders next season.  
The actual cost to keep added to the service fee of the sire, represents the amount at which horses you raise stand you.

It does not require any great ability at figures to show that there is a great waste in selling hogs when they are but half fed.  
Salt, hardwood ashes and charcoal are ideal to keep in hog pasture, and if there is any other one thing needed it is pure water.

Never whip a balky horse. Sell him if you can't manage him and let the other fellow match his temper against that of the horse.  
Those who are feeding huddle corn to their cattle must make arrangements to have hogs follow them or the waste will be too great.

Fruit for breakfast, fruit for dinner, fruit for supper, and some between times. It is the key to good health. Let the children eat liberally.  
Green bone is a complete food. It contains the nitrogen for the albumen, the phosphate for the bones of the chicks and carbonaceous matter for the yolks.

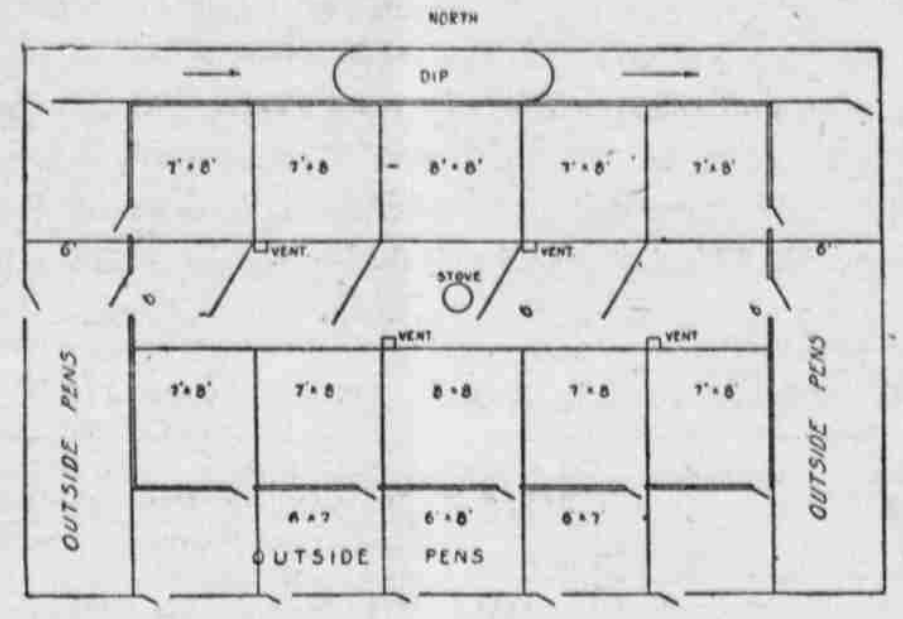
The secret of a good strawberry crop is to set out a new patch each alternate spring. A large family ought to be more than supplied by 130 points.  
When planning for grain crop and live stock improvements, don't forget about the fruit and vegetables for the farm means more contentment and better health.

The dairyman who will sell off each season two or three of his poorest cows will soon improve his herd if he replaces them by heifers raised from his best cows.  
Either clover or alfalfa hay, corn and cotton seed meal are the cheapest and most efficient feeds that you can use together with the corn silage for fattening steers.

In practically every town there is a good market for dairy products and fresh eggs, as well as some of the other farm products, at the leading hotel, restaurant or bakery. Cultivate their trade and you will be surprised to see how profitable it can be made.  
It takes a little more than 2 percent of an animal's weight to keep it up to normal condition without making any gains and if exposure to cold and rain and storms are to be counted against it the feeder can easily see where his profit goes glimmering.

## COMFORTABLE HOUSES MAKE 2 LITTERS OF PIGS PRACTICABLE—THREE GREAT BREEDS

Good Hog Raisers Try to Have Sows Commence Farrowing About March 1—Building Shown in Illustration Is Convenient and Pleasant for Animals—Duroc-Jersey Is Popular.



Ground Plan of Well Arranged Hog House.

Most good hog raisers who have warm buildings try to have their sows commence farrowing about March 1, but without good houses this is impracticable. Without a good house two litters a year cannot be raised to advantage, because the spring pigs must be put off until so late that the fall litters do not get well started before cold weather, but with a good house two litters can be raised.  
What is the necessary cost of housing a litter? Where lumber is \$25 to \$35 a thousand, good single-walled houses need not cost over \$10 to \$20 a pen, and double-walled \$20 to \$30 a pen. It is doubtful economy, under most conditions, to make them cost over \$30 a pen, and very good sheds are sometimes made for less than \$10 a pen. It is easy to get too much expense into any building, and the hog house is no exception. No one can afford for any purpose a building so expensive that interest and depreciation will eat up its usefulness.  
Possibly the cheapest house possible is a low building with a single row of pens and no alley, but such a house is very inconvenient, especially in stormy weather. A hog house should always stand east and west, facing the south, so that the maximum amount of sunshine may be had in each pen.  
One of the most serviceable structures the writer has ever seen was built by a prominent Duroc breeder. This house has been copied by many farmers. The house is 22x36 feet and contains ten pens.  
The gates across the alley all lift off their hinges so they can be removed or replaced in a moment. The fronts of the pens next to the alley are

all loose panels which lift out. In this way the whole house can be made into one large room in a few moments. The house is well ventilated and is unusually convenient and comfortable for the hogs.  
There are three great breeds of hogs, and in the order of their numbers they are Poland-Chinas, Duroc-Jerseys and Berkshires. The Duroc-Jersey hog is rapidly becoming more popular, and deservedly so. They have all the good points of the Poland-Chinas, but the sows have larger litters of pigs and the ability to save them, while the fat hogs when ready for market outweigh Poland-China hogs of the same age and finish. The Duroc-Jersey and the Poland-China breeds originated in Ohio, and constitute the corn belt type of hog. Long grown by breeders who selected for neatness of frame, a result favored by a ration, principally corn, which consisted largely of fat and carbohydrates, and low in content of protein and calcium salts, hogs of these two breeds are chunky, early maturing and producers of the best lard in the world. Hogs of these breeds are fine of bone and fatten easily at early ages, making possible the large run of 175 and 200-pound hogs that were so much in demand during the present year and always find a ready market.

Though of the fine-boned, meat-built chunky type of hog the Duroc-Jersey is not so extreme as the Poland-China, being somewhat larger and possessing more scale. Their color is a rich red or mahogany, and is very pleasing. The faults of the breed, a tendency towards too large litters of undersized pigs, faulty backs and a tendency to sandy colors.

## WINTER CARE FOR HORSES AND MULES

Animals Not Injured During Cold Weather if Given Good Feed and Warmth.

Horses that are well fed and given warm, well-bedded stables and carefully handled are not injured by being worked in cold weather. Give good daily grooming, plenty to eat, water regularly, provide good ventilation, clean the stables every morning, and let the sun shine into the stable.  
Sunshine and pure air is of prime importance. Manure allowed to remain in the stable will ferment and poison the air of the stable and give the horses lung disease. When horses are brought in at night from hard work rub the legs down with bands of straw, and if warm blanket, when cooled off, remove blanket, taking care that they are not exposed to draughts. When out with team carry blankets to put on each horse if he is to stand out in the cold when warm any length of time. Carriage horses, which it is desirable should have a shiny coat, may wear linen covers buttoned round the breast and having a cropper attached.  
When a horse is worked hard, his food should chiefly be oats and corn. These grains supply more nourishment and flesh making material than any other kind of food. Give good mixed hay, just what will be eaten up clean.  
A careful hand will save his wages in the feeding and care of his team. For severe work mules are superior to horses. If humanely handled they are as docile as the horse, much less liable to disease. A grass pasture attached to the barn will be a great convenience. The horses when not at work may be turned out to graze and for exercise when the weather is suitable. Stable the stock in rainy weather. Do not turn stock out when the ground is wet, as the sod will be injured.

## To Drive Out Bees.

The American Bee Journal prints a report from England, which states that cloths soaked in a weak carbolic acid solution, if laid over the filled supers underneath their covers, will quickly drive all bees out of them, and the supers may then be removed. If this does not affect the taste of the honey, it is a short cut in gathering the crop.

## LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN DAIRY BREEDS

Milk Function Requires Certain Amount of Care, Whether Jersey or Holstein.

When the best results are desired in dairy work, there is very little to be said regarding the difference in care between the different dairy breeds, says Hoard's Dairyman. Milk function requires a certain kind of care, whether it is found in the Jersey, Ayrshire, Guernsey or Holstein. The moment we expect a dairy cow to rustle for her living, that moment she begins to depreciate as a dairy animal. The milk-making function of the modern dairy cow is to a large degree artificial, and to keep it up to the highest state to which it has been developed requires what might be termed artificial environment and feeding.  
We presume that if we would study the history of the Ayrshires, Guernseys and Jerseys, we would find that the Ayrshire cow has been forced to do more rustling, living under more rugged and rough conditions, than either the Jersey or Guernsey. The Ayrshire comes from a country the climate of which is colder, pastures rougher, and perhaps less productive than the countries in which the Guernseys and Jerseys originate. But as the milk-making function becomes developed and the animal is called upon to do a larger amount of work, it demands, whether in the case of Ayrshire, Jersey or any other breed, about the same kind of care and treatment for the best results. If, however, we should reason back to the environments under which the Ayrshire, Guernsey and Jersey originated, it would perhaps not be out of place to say that the Ayrshire would be a better hustler for her feed than the Jersey or Guernsey.

## Good Potato Crop.

A crop of potatoes at the rate of 550 bushels per acre is reported by W. B. Hewitt of Kennebec county, Me. The field comprises only one-third of an acre. The variety was Green Mountain and the fertilizer hen manure. The crop was sprayed six times during the season.

## Kafir Corn Fodder.

Kafir corn fodder has about the same feeding value as corn fodder, and can be used in the same way.

## POULTRY

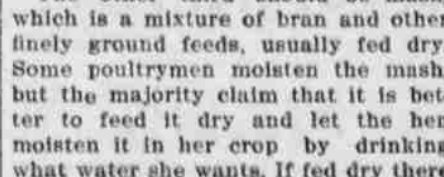
PROPER FEED FOR CHICKENS

Considerable Studying and Experimenting Required to Ascertain What Laying Hens Need.

(By K. A. GRIMES.)

It takes considerable studying and experimenting to find out just what the hens need, and how much they ought to have, but we must learn as soon as we can, or we will find our poultry is not so profitable as it ought to be. The feeding question is one of the most important in the whole poultry business.  
Experts tell us that a hen needs about six ounces of food per day. A flock of ten, then, will need about 3½ pounds per day, or a trifle over 26 pounds a week.

Of this amount two-thirds by weight should consist of grains. The grain should be a mixture of equal parts wheat, cracked corn and oats. A few handfuls of sunflower seed, cane seed or buckwheat should be added for variety. They are to the hen what pie is to the boy, and you know what that is.  
The other third should be mash, which is a mixture of bran and other finely ground feeds, usually fed dry. Some poultrymen moisten the mash, but the majority claim that it is better to feed it dry and let the hen moisten it in her crop by drinking what water she wants. If fed dry there



Hopper for Feeding Grit, Shells or Mash.

is less danger from certain kinds of disease.  
A good formula for a mash is as follows: One-half bushel of bran, 4 quarts of alfalfa meal, 2 quarts each of ground oats and corn meal, table-spoonful of salt and 1 tablespoonful of pepper.

## IMPORTANCE OF PURE FOOD

Experience of Long Island Duck Raiser is Given—Trouble Located in Sand Given Fowls.

To show the importance of purity in food, an experience of A. J. Haddock, the Long Island duck raiser, is worth quoting: At one time a lot of ducks were sick and off their food; they were dying and no cause could be discovered. All the ingredients of the soft food were thoroughly examined and found to be all right, and it was a mystery as to the source of the trouble. Finally one day the feeder happened to catch the odor from the sand they were using and found it to be very foul. It had been dug out of the bottom of the creek near where the ducks had run and was supposed to be all right, but it proved that the leechings from the duck yards had flown down over it and rendered it impure, and this resulted in the trouble mentioned. The throwing out of this and the substitution of perfectly clean, pure sand remedied the difficulty.

## POULTRY NOTES

Health goes with a clean body, inside as well as out.  
Plenty of grit for the flock will mean fewer digestive troubles.  
Leghorns are nervous fowls, and excitement decreases the egg yield.  
A lousy, dyspeptic fowl is a very good representative of the cholera victims.  
Never place ducks in close, stuffy quarters. They need plenty of air and dry floors.  
A London remedy for roup is about three drops of camphor on a piece of bread.  
A damp henhouse is a disease breeder, and dampness and filth are a very bad combination.  
No wonder some men's hens never weigh anything. The lice have just about carried them.  
Spraying a chicken house with 1 to 20 solution of lime-sulphur will effectually destroy all nits and lice.  
Middlings and corn meal wet with skim milk makes a fine forcing feed for culls that are to be marketed.  
A good nest egg may be made by blowing out the contents of an egg and filling the shell with wet cement.  
Are the hens roosting out on the trees these cold nights? Better get them in and avoid frozen combs and feet.  
Those who have tried it claim that a teaspoonful of Venetian red in a gallon of drinking water is a good bowel trouble preventive.

## The ONLOOKER S. E. KISER

The OTHER MAN'S CHANCE



How smoothly everything would go, How nicely all things would run, How sweetly all the winds would blow, How fairly all things would be done, How quickly we should do away With every evil that distresses, If each man might possess today The chance some other man possesses.

## Serious Mistake.

The arresting officer said he didn't know just how the trouble had started; but it seems, according to the testimony offered in police court, that Mrs. McTigue hit Mr. McTigue over the head with a rolling pin.  
Mr. McTigue was staggered, but being game, he came up smiling and knocked his wife against the ropes, with a half-arm hook.  
After sparring for an opening, Mrs. McTigue got hold of the rolling pin again, feinted with her left, and then soaked her hubby over the right eye. He was still dreaming when the policeman arrived.  
After the testimony had been taken and Mr. McTigue had stepped down from the stand a stranger arose and said:

"If the court please, I would like to ask for the dismissal of these people. Their detention is interrupting my business, and the policeman who made the arrests deserves to be severely censured."

"I am unable to fathom your meaning, sir," the judge returned.  
"Then I will explain," said the stranger. "I had secured the kinetoscope privileges on this fight, and unless it can be resumed at once, I'll sue the city for damages."  
A public apology was then made by the authorities, and the affair went on to a finish without further interruption.

## Her Liberal Dad.

"My father is trying to get me to promise not to marry until I am thirty years old," she said. "In any event, he says he will give me a thousand dollars for every year that I wait."  
"Geo," he replied, "if you hold out till you're thirty you'll have a couple of thousand dollars, won't you?"

## He Found Out.

"What is that ugly-looking building across the square?" asked the visitor.  
"That is our city hall," replied the chairman of the reception committee.  
"Heavens! Whoever could have designed such a monstrosity as that?"  
"I did."

## More to the Purpose.

"Are you in favor of a ten-hour day?"  
"I don't care anything about the days," replied young Rounderley, "but it would be a jolly good thing if we could have twenty-four-hour night."

## Artistic Temperament.

"Your daughter seems to have such an artistic temperament."  
"Yes. She slapped the cook yesterday morning because the coffee was bad."

## Skeptical.

"Do you really believe George Washington never told a lie?"  
"I sometimes doubt it. He was a property owner and must have had to fix up a tax schedule."

## Long Time.

"How long have you been married, Mrs. Syphilike?"  
"Three years."  
"Dear me! Why?"

## Wan't His Fault.

"Pa, where was Washington born?"  
"In Virginia, my son. You must remember that Ohio was not then in the Union."  
Poor and Puny.  
What a poor, puny, shriveled figure Merit always appears to Concelt.