

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Keep the sows warm.

The busy hen lays best.

Keep the boar by himself.

Maintain regularity in all things.

Green bone is very rich in phosphate of lime.

Chickens will not stand crowding, they are too warm blooded.

Nothing is more desirable in horse-flesh than tractability and gentleness.

When the days are long, some people have just that much more time to kill.

If the market value of feed is unsatisfactory, sell it to the cows and shoats.

Sheep, if given half a chance, and if of good healthy stock are sure to pay their way.

Keep off the surplus fat by feeding muscle-producing foods and giving plenty of exercise.

Remember that the wood ashes are the best kind of fertilizer for the orchard, lawn or garden.

Skim milk from the right kind of separator has left in it only a half of 1 per cent. of butter fat.

Beg, borrow or buy all the wood ashes you can use in the garden; work it well into the soil.

Celery delights in a low, rich, heavy, moist soil and is usually grown upon the same land year after year.

Save every bit of the hen manure. Keep it dry and put it on some crop next spring. Worth its weight in gold.

Keep a close watch over the suckling colts. A blemish or an injury now may ruin the value of the future horse.

Cows will not give better milk than the feed you place before them. They can't. Give only the best and the purest food.

Experienced onion growers do not advise or follow the practice of planting onions on raw or new land as a first crop.

The man who dubbed the hog a "mortgage lifter" was posted; he knew something of the possibilities of the animal.

A small flock of vigorous sheep on the farm, if given good care, cannot help but yield good returns for the money invested.

The land that was plowed in the fall for next year's garden will work up better than that that must be plowed in the spring.

A mixture of corn and oats—two parts oats to one of corn—is a good working ration. Cracked corn is preferable to finely ground.

Breeding ewes and store sheep will winter well on good, bright wheat straw and stubble grasses and half pound of corn given to each daily.

Draft horses continue to be the leading market animals, best on the farm, best in the market and one of the prosperous live stock propositions for 1913.

A feeder may have his bin full of grain, but unless he has sufficient roughage to balance up the ration he will be shy on his profit at the end of the season.

Frequent cultivation of the garden reduces the damage done by cut worms. Cultivation exposes the worms to the sun, which is often fatal to them.

Keep over a few of the best ewes of your own breeding each year, even though they are not so good as you might buy. It will make your flock more uniform all the time.

A successful way that turkeys can be grown is to hatch them under hens (chicken hens preferred) and brood them with turkey hens that are two or more years of age.

The cellar needs a little thought these days. Ventilate well at night and shut the doors and windows during the daytime. You can keep the cool night air in and the warmer air out.

The value of skim milk as a food for young and growing pigs has long been recognized and several experiment stations have made comparative tests with other feeds obtaining quite similar results.

Hens need green food.

Ventilate the hen house.

Fruit is splendid medicine.

Dogs and chickens don't mix.

Half-bred cows give half-pails of milk.

A draft horse should have a large chest and square shoulders.

Keep the stable clean and well ventilated, and free from draught.

Put not your faith in the gentle bull more than in the vicious one.

Wash your hands with clean water before commencing to milk each cow.

The most important factor in soil improvement is growing leguminous crops.

The easiest way to eradicate weeds on the farm is to prevent their going to seed.

A shed of crotches and poles, covered with straw, is cheap, warm and businesslike.

Don't feed the brood sow heavy rations of corn when within a month of farrowing.

Keep dust and stuff out of your milk. You can't strain it out. Remember that.

The ability to produce profit is a standard by which all farm stock must be measured.

Silage made of corn and soy beans is more digestible than that made from corn silage alone.

You can weaken the constitution of your horse by making them carry a burden of useless flesh.

Whole oats placed on a dry, raised platform are a most profitable feeds for young and growing pigs.

To be of much good for feeding, corn ought to have pretty good ears on it. These are what count.

Oat straw is a pretty good substitute and makes very good roughage when fed with plenty of grain.

The Ayreshire and Guernsey type of dairy cattle are increasing in favor in the middle western states.

Individual excellence is the only safe guide to be depended upon in selecting cows to build up a good herd.

Some day we are going to find that as good a way as any to use the surplus sour milk is to give it to the hens.

One good dairy cow of the right conformation is more of an adjunct than several beefy animals with poor udders.

Has the kitchen garden a raspberry patch? They are hardy, excellent bearers, and certainly one of the most delicious fruits.

The cow that comes fresh in the fall is really fresh twice during the year, the second time when grass comes in spring.

If corn is to be the main grain ration for the cows, some bran or alfalfa hay will balance it nicely. But it is not necessary to feed both.

The mangel grows well, both north and south, and on good soil will pay as well as any other feeding crop in its proper place in the ration.

The wise dairy farmer has provided himself with a bunch of shoats and will make 9 or 10 cent pork out of cheap skim milk this winter.

At all times keep plenty of oyster shells, coarse gravel, fresh water, and milk before the chickens. In cold weather give them warm water and milk.

It is wrong to expect the cow to yield a large profit simply because she is well bred. She must have feed and care or the breeding will amount to nothing.

Snap beans, lima beans and navy beans are tap-rooted plants and require deep, mellow soil. Break the soil deeply and pulverize it well before you plant beans.

Experimenters say it takes about ten bushels of corn to make 100 pounds of pork, but when the corn is fed with skim milk, seven bushels will make the same weight.

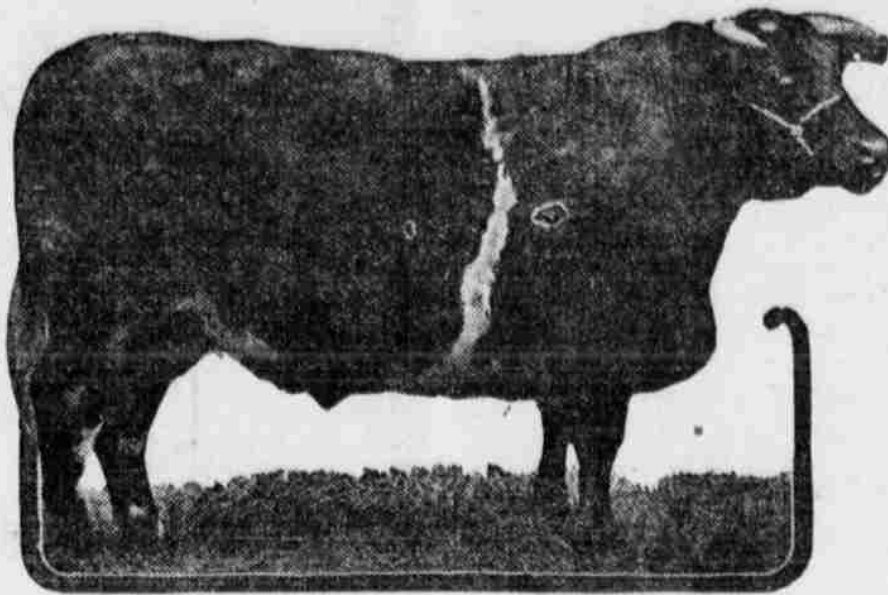
The successful dairy farmer must provide winter feed of a succulent nature. The silo is the best answer and next to this is roots. These are becoming more popular every year.

Don't imagine that the profits of the dairy business depend entirely upon the creamery, and not upon the farm or farmer. The dairy must be right before the creamery can bring the money.

If you haven't a respectable sized orchard on the place, don't stand in your own light any longer but set one out. The preserves, jams, marmalades, etc., that you enjoy so much through the fall and winter should remind you of the necessity of having a first-class and good-sized orchard.

INEXPERIENCED CATTLE FEEDERS SUFFER HEAVY LOSS IN PREPARING FOR SHIPMENT

Larger Amount of Feed Is Consumed by the Beef Animals Than Any Other on the Farm—As a Rule Feeds Are Lacking in Protein—Secret of Shipping Is to Have Them Well Fed.



A Prize Winning English Shorthorn Steer.

Beef cattle should be found on every farm where cattle are not handled for the exclusive production of milk. Whether or not the farmer enters the dairy business or handles beef cattle, should depend upon the amount of labor available in proportion to the crops produced, the demand for milk and its products, and the equipment for the proper production of milk. Beef cattle will consume a larger amount of feed than any other class of farm animals in proportion to the labor necessary in handling them. They are especially adapted to the utilization of roughage, require a small outlay for buildings and equipment, and return to the soil a very large percentage of the plant food consumed, thus reducing expense of fertilizer.

It is not always the heaviest feeders who get the best results. Every animal requires certain nutrients that enable it to perform its best work. If these nutrients are not supplied in the proper proportions, it means that the animal must consume and adjust larger amounts of some of the elements that it can use, in order to get enough of the others. Economical feeding requires that nutrients be supplied to animals in the proportion needed. As a rule, farm feeds are lacking in protein. If one is feeding cornstalks or wild hay, the farm grains will supply enough protein to meet the animal's needs for best work. This is especially true of dairy cows and young stock. When this form of roughage must be fed, some such feed as bran, middlings or oil-meal must form a reasonable proportion of the grain ration, in order that the protein supply may be maintained.

Inexperienced cattle feeders frequently suffer quite a heavy loss on account of the shrinkage in weight between the time the cattle are taken from the pasture and the time they reach the market. The shrinkage is usually due to the careless feeding in transit, or lack of preparation of the cattle before they are put on the cars.

Experienced shippers seem to be agreed on the point that cattle, which have been heavily fed for some weeks, should be prepared for shipment by withholding the usual grain feed for a day or two previous to shipping, and substituting for this grain feed roughage in the shape of good hay. Some very good advice along this line is given by John Clay in Henry's Feeds and Feeding, as follows:

A day or two previous to shipping, feed the cattle in a pen, and feed hay only. The secret of shipping all classes of cattle is to place them on the cars full of food, but with as little moisture as possible.

A steer full of water is apt to have loose bowels and show up badly in the yards; properly handled, cattle should arrive in the sale pens dry behind and ready for a good fill of water—not very thirsty, but in good condition to drink freely. Many shippers think that by salting their cattle or feeding them oats they can fool the buyers, but it always goes against them to use unnatural amounts.

As to feed on the road, nothing equals good sweet hay, which excels corn or other grains, because it is easily digested and does not fever the animal. Of water in midsummer, care must be taken to supply the animal wants, whereas in winter a steer can go for many hours without a drink. Cattle should arrive at the sale yards at from 5 to 8 a. m., appearing on the scene as near the latter hour as possible, since they always look better just after they have been fed and watered.

Funkhouser advises feeding all the hay the cattle will eat, and reducing the grain feed at least one-half two or three days before shipping. For steers in transit, allow 250 pounds of hay and one and one-half bushels of grain per car. Steers on pasture that have had corn should be taken off pasture twenty-four hours before shipping, and allowed half a feed of corn with plenty of hay.

KAFIR IS AS GOOD AS CORN FOR FEED

Silage Made From It Is Even Better Than Ordinary Kind for Live Stock.

Kafir is as good a feed as corn. Because farmers are learning this, kafir has become one of the most important crops grown in Kansas today. The grain is valued highly as a feed for all classes of live stock. In feeding, five bushels of kafir seed are considered as being equivalent to four bushels of shelled corn. It should be ground for all classes of live stock, excepting poultry, as it is so hard that they do not masticate it thoroughly if it is fed whole. It should never be fed wet.

Silage made from kafir excels corn silage as a feed, as the percentage of grain and leaf to stalk is much higher in the kafir. The same thing is true in regard to kafir fodder and corn stover.

Some of the farmers over the state cut their kafir with a corn binder. They then cut the heads off with a knife, similar to a tobacco cutter, only much larger, which is attached to the side of a wagon box. The heads are allowed to fall into the wagon box and are then threshed. The fodder which is left is excellent feed. Some persons have advocated the feeding of this fodder to horses suffering from the heaves, but Dr. C. W. McCampbell, assistant professor of animal husbandry at the Kansas Agricultural college, says that it has no more value for this purpose than any other similar feed.

Keeping Sheep in Condition. Doctoring sheep is expensive and often unsatisfactory, unless the symptoms of the disease are clearly understood. If sheep are not exposed to bad weather in the late fall, and are given proper care and feed, there is not much show for disease, unless brought in from other flocks. With sheep an ounce of prevention is worth considerably more than a pound of cure.

PREVENTING GRUB IN HEAD OF SHEEP

Noses of Animals Should Be Tarred Often During Fly Time to Repel Pests.

The condition known as grub in the head is caused by the presence in the cavities of the head between the eyes of the larva (worm stage) of the sheep bot fly. The trouble is confined to sheep and occasionally goats. The eggs are laid in the nostrils of the sheep during the summer by a yellowish-gray fly somewhat larger than the house fly. The eggs hatch and work their way up into the cavities of the head between the eyes, according to the Southern Agriculturist, but not in the brain. They attach themselves there and remain about ten months, when they loosen their holds and are sneezed out and burrow into the ground. There they pass through another stage, emerging in a month or six weeks an adult fly, and the life cycle is begun over again.

A few grubs may not cause enough trouble to be noticed. However, if there are many a thick, dirty, white or yellowish discharge is caused; coughing and sneezing, tossing of the head and weakened gait. Sometimes death results.

A veterinarian can relieve the sheep by trephining, but prevention of infection is a better practice. In fly time the noses of the sheep should be tarred often. Some force their sheep to take their salt through an auger hole and keep it smeared with tar during fly time. A dark shed where the sheep may escape from the flies is a great help.

Small Farms. A farmer near Philadelphia took a little farm of 15 acres. Upon that farm he was enabled to grow the first year enough to winter two head of cattle and a horse, and in a number of years he was able to winter 30 head of cattle and two horses, and had hay to sell. He employed a man and a boy. If you figure that up it comes to about 20 men on 100 acres of land.

NEWS for the YOUNG PEOPLE

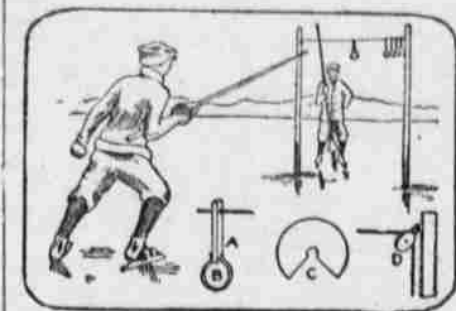
PASTIME FOR YOUNG AND OLD

Swedish Paper Describes Interesting Game to Be Played on Ice—Umpire Is Needed.

A novel and interesting winter game for young and old, described as a novelty by a Swedish paper, is played as follows:

Two poles of convenient height are erected on the ice; if skating on a shallow pond they may be driven through the ice and into the ground, but if the water is deep, holes must be bored through the ice and the poles will soon freeze solidly in them. A rope is stretched between the poles at such a height as is suited to the size of the players or as agreed on to make the game more or less difficult, and on this are strung a number of pieces of board, A, each having a ring of spring steel, B, attached to its lower end. The purpose of the game is to run at good speed between the poles and catch a ring on a spear, each player being entitled to make a certain number of runs, and the winner being the one who can catch the most rings.

The spears may be made of broom handles tapered toward the end, and



Player in Action.

with a shield made of tin and attached at a suitable distance from the thicker end (Pattern C). The line is fastened at the top of one pole and run through a pulley, D, at the top of the other, thence to a weight or line fastener. Each player should start from the same base line and pass between the poles at such a speed that he will glide at least 100 feet on the other side of the poles without pushing himself forward by the aid of the skates. Twenty runs are usually allowed each player, or ten players may divide into two parties, playing one against the other, etc. An umpire will be needed to see that fair play is maintained and settle any disputes that may arise.

NEAT WINTER EVENING TRICK

Allow Person to Think of Card and Then Make It Appear Where Company May Decide Upon.

To allow a person to think of a card and to make that card appear at any number in the pack which the rest of the company may decide upon:

After the cards have been thoroughly well shuffled offer the pack to one of the spectators and ask him to select any card he chooses and to remember the number at which it stands from the bottom of the pack. This done, you offer to make the card selected take any position in the pack that the rest of the company may choose to name. We will suppose the audience to decide that they wish the card to appear at number eighteen. Carelessly remark that it is not even necessary for you to see the cards, and hold the pack either behind your back or beneath the table, while you rapidly count eighteen from the bottom of the pack and place them on the top. Then, producing the cards, you ask the audience to tell you the original number of the card, as you will begin counting from that number.

Suppose they tell you that the number of the original card was fourteen. You commence counting, calling the first card fourteen, the next fifteen, the next sixteen, then seventeen, and last—Here, in order to make the trick as impressive as possible, it would be as well to pause and say: "Before I turn it over will you kindly tell me the name of the card selected?"

The card being named, you turn it up, and, to their utter astonishment, the company perceives that it is the right one.

RIDDLES.

Why are there three objections to taking a glass of brandy?
Because there are three scruples to a dram.

Why is a pretty girl like a locomotive?
Because she sends off the sparks, transports the mails, and has a train following her.

What are the most unsocial things in the world?
Mile stones, for you never see two of them together.

Why is the letter F like death?
Because it makes all fall.

When may a man be considered to be really over head and ears in debt?
When he owes for his wig.

What is it that a gentleman has not, never can have, and yet can give to a lady?
A husband.

What fruit does a newly married couple resemble?
A green pair (pear).

What is the difference between a mouse and a young lady?
One harms the cheese, the other charms the hes.

Why Not?



Polly has a ringing voice. You see she is a belle. And the neighbors all for miles around. Have dubbed her little (K)nell.

BOYS WHO LACKED TRAINING

Interesting Investigation Made by Juvenile Protective Association—Few Had Trade.

Failure properly to train boys for useful work is a prolific source of vagabondage and crime. An investigation made by the Juvenile Protective association of Chicago and reported by its president, Louise DeKoven Bowen, in the Survey, developed striking facts. A study was made of cases selected from among 1,328 confined in the Cook county jail in 1911. Mrs. Bowen writes:

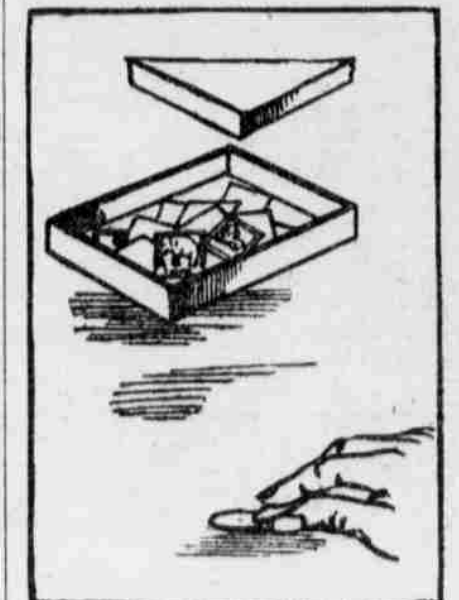
"The investigation emphasizes the fact that only three out of the hundred boys had a trade. Only six had been allowed to work at the occupation which they really desired. Most of them had been put to work at anything attainable. Sixty-six had begun to earn their living at fourteen years of age or younger. According to the government reports, the wages of unskilled laborers who leave school before they are fourteen increase slowly from \$3 to \$10 per week until they are twenty years of age. Here they remain stationary until they are forty years of age, when their earning capacity again begins to decline.

"Out of the 1,328 boys in the jail, 721 had been engaged in unskilled occupations. Nineteen boys had wished to become machinists; out of this number four drove wagons, one was a farmer, three were messenger boys, one an office boy, four were laborers, three were errand boys in stores, one was a chauffeur and two were grocery clerks."

GAME FOR WINTER EVENING

Disks Flipped Upon Cardboard Blocks of Various Values—Variation of Tiddle-de-Winks.

A new kind of game that is a sort of variation of the old game of tiddle-de-winks, and will afford much amusement for a cold winter's evening, has been devised by a Pennsylvania man. A flat rectangular box has spread out over the bottom a lot of cardboard squares, each bearing the picture of an animal and a certain valuation. Inter-spersed among them are other pieces representing fines. The player is provided with two disks of different sizes,



New Kind of Game.

the larger one to be used in flipping the smaller one into the box. Each player counts the value of the piece he lands on, or if it happens to be a "fine" he subtracts that amount. There can also be a penalty provided for failure to enter the box at all and a number of rules may be made to add to the interest of the game or make it more difficult.

Proof.

Tommy went home one day with a nice new golf ball.
"Look at the lost ball I found on the links, father!" he said.
"But you are sure, Tommy," said Mr. Traddles, "that it was a lost ball really?"
"Oh, yes," said the boy. "I saw the man and his caddy looking for it."—London Opinion.

Surgical Lore.

"Father, what is a minor operation?"
"A minor operation, my boy, is one for which the patient cheerfully pays the bill."
"And a major operation?"
"Oh, that's one for which the bill is settled by the heirs."—Judge