

Social Forms and Entertainments



Preparations for Easter.
 Out where the willows are bending low,
 Out where the mists drift to and fro,
 All in the Easter morning,
 Little brown birds in quiet nest,
 Twittering low 'neath mother's breast,
 Say, "Spring is coming; let us sing our best,"
 Early on Easter morning.

Just as I was pondering in my mind, as my good colored auntie would say, how I would amuse the children in planning for Easter, Polly, my unflinching one, dropped in and said: "Let's have an old-fashioned Easter like we did when we were young."
 "But, Polly," I wailed, "there was no egg trust then, eggs weren't 50 cents a dozen, and we had real hens and a real barn and we had mother's piece bag and everything that children haven't now."

After this wall from my usually cheerful self, Polly gave me this outline, which I pass on: Ask just the neighborhood children, say six or eight, and save enough perfectly fresh eggs to allow two for each guest. Set the time on the Saturday before Easter, from three to five, and request each child, boy as well as girl, to bring an apron.

Hide the eggs in nests hidden carefully behind the furniture, and warn the little hunters to be most cautious in handling the eggs, for they are to take them home for their Easter breakfast. It will be well to provide small handled baskets for each one. Tie a bow of yellow ribbon on those for the boys and white for the girls. They will make acceptable favors. After the eggs are found tie on the aprons and go into the kitchen, where squares of bright figured calico may be sewed tightly around some of the eggs and dropped into a kettle of boiling water for a few minutes.

These eggs will come out beautifully marked with the colors and pattern of the cloth upon them. On some of the eggs stick little dabs of beeswax, then drop in boiling cochineal water, and the covered spots will remain white. These spotted eggs were a great favorite in the olden days. Then we did not have specially prepared dyes, and used onion skins for our yellow, logwood chips for purple and, oh, yes; I forgot to say that the calico pieces must be sure to be the kind in which the colors will "run."

On the solidly colored eggs the names and simple designs may be traced with a sharp penknife blade. I well remember how I used to cling to these wonderfully decorated speci-

mens until the odor was so strong that "mother" would insist upon my giving up the sacred treasures.

When we used to go to grandfather's the week before Easter the rule was that each child had for keeps all the eggs found during the time between Wednesday and Saturday, time being up at noon on Saturday. We each carried out our own decorative scheme, the most beautiful (in our eyes) being those ornamented with transfer pictures, or, to be accurate, decalcomania work. And a small child just informed me that they have just such pictures now, so Polly is going to get some for this party. They are great fun. Then we are going to make the cutest place cards by gluing a half of an egg shell on a yellow-shaped card and mark a happy little face upon it with pen and ink, the child's name to be written underneath. These egg shell cards are fine for concealing gifts to be presented on Easter morning, and are large enough to cover a gold piece, a ring or even bright new pennies for the children. Of course the shells have to be broken, but they are easy to make, and no one minds a bit of trouble at this season.

We are going to serve brown bread sandwiches with cocoa, a wee yellow chick perched on each cup. That is all, just enough to make it seem like a party.

Easter Monday Party.

The Easter dawn is approaching, and with it comes requests for parties, especially affairs for children, who simply adore the "bunny" season. I must tell you how a mother of three is to entertain at "an all day" Easter Monday party, the guests being seven of the neighborhood children. The invitations are written on egg-shaped cards sealed with a violet paper, or the dearest Easter chick just coming out of the shell may be found among the seals or pasters, as the children call them.

The ages of the guests range from five to eight years. A third floor chamber is known as the children's room, and it is to be prettily decorated with flowers and branches of budding fruit trees which have been placed in water for several days. There should be a mass of blossoms on them by Easter. Ten little hoops have been prepared thus for one of the games, and each one is to be wound with a colored tape. The boy who can roll his hoop twice around the room without letting it turn over will be awarded a bag of marbles, and the little girl who accomplishes the same feat will have a dear little doll baby dressed all in white.

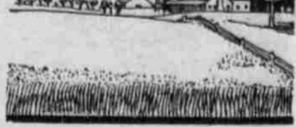
A substantial luncheon will be served at noon, with the prettiest table imaginable, all glorious jonquills, bunnies and fluffy yellow chicks. A music box will play during the repast. After luncheon the children are to decorate the eggs to take home.

MADAME MERRI.

"Mephisto" Coiffure.

One of the smartest and also one of the most becoming coiffures is called "The Mephisto." A very narrow band of black or scarlet velvet is taken right round the head, and two thin spikes of wired velvet stand straight up in front with a jewel cameo, or flower to hide the join.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



More sheep are needed.

Slick up all the odd jobs now.

Seed Corn is a costly decoration for windmill towers.

Churn when the cream is fit; not when other things are ready.

Every farmer should raise over 100 fowls for use on his own home table.

When skim milk is to be had, use it instead of water in the poultry fattening mash.

It is best to build a round silo, because in the square silos the slage spoils easier.

Manure is one of the by-products of the dairy farmer and it represents a decided profit.

Build a warm, dry and otherwise comfortable room for the calves for the cold weather.

Keep the hogs quiet, clean and comfortable if you expect the best gain from the food supplied.

Much poultry is sold to the Chinese and at good prices. It is estimated that they consume quantities.

It is best not to put sawdust in the poultry house, as it gathers too much moisture and causes dampness.

Unless the fattening steer has all the pure water he can drink at all times he will not lay on fat quickly.

Once a day is sufficient for chickens to be fed a mash. The remainder of the day dry grain is considered better.

The man who dries his seed corn on the windmill tower ought not to complain when it germinates only 60 per cent.

For the amount of money invested in the poultry business, it pays a larger profit than any other farm specialty.

For stallions, brood mares, young horses and horses at light work, good quality clover or alfalfa hay cannot be excelled.

Mules are ready for work younger than horses. They are able to endure as much at two years as a colt will at three or four.

The coming of woven wire fences will help to keep down the weeds along the roadsides in a rather roundabout way.

No one can do the best work without good tools, and tools are never good without they are in first-class condition.

Don't select a heavy, lazy sow for a breeder. She should be mild in disposition, but possessed of sufficient energy to take exercise.

Angora goats cannot thrive if they are crowded into small space, hence they should not be kept in large flocks on the smaller farms.

For an occasional noon lunch for the layers, try some finely chopped alfalfa hay scalded and mixed in a wet mash of bran and corn meal.

When seed corn is taken in, it should not be piled up, but must be laid on racks or boards away from mice and so that the ears do not touch.

Sorghum is an excellent succulent feed for cows, horses, sheep and hogs. When fed green it saves more expensive feeds and keeps stock in fair flesh until other feeds can be gathered.

Show birds keep up well in the show room if they are given bologna sausage, bread and apples. Do not give milk after washing it, it sticks the feathers together and spoils the appearance of the bird.

Three carloads of cattle shipped from a Kansas ranch, and which had been fattened entirely on grass, showed a gain of 276 pounds per head in 165 days. The animals got no grain whatever, but were in fine condition when they reached the market.

In choosing birds for exhibition do not make the final choice until they have been seen in the exhibition coop. A bird of good disposition will make a better appearance than a cross bird of really better quality. Wash more than will be needed, as the washing also makes a difference in the bird's appearance. A bird with creamy plumage often looks better before than after washing.

Capons are profitable.

Keep all water troughs clean.

Keep something in the charcoal box.

Charcoal should be freely used in the poultry yard.

It is not so much the breed as the feed that counts in obtaining results.

It is claimed the Indian Runner duck will lay nearly 200 eggs in a year.

The tool house has become one of the important adjuncts to the modern farm.

Sulphate of iron is a preventive of hog cholera and many other diseases in live stock.

There were only 59 cow testing associations in the United States at the close of 1910.

If you only have a few bushels of corn to shell for the poultry, use the zinc washboard.

Horses urged to the limit are apt to be found a littel past that point. It is the same with growing boys.

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

Every farm should have a family orchard of at least a few apple, pear, plum, peach and cherry trees.

The department of agriculture has estimated that the country's annual loss by insect pests is \$420,100,000.

If the poultry house is over-crowded kill off some of the older birds. Keep stocked up with young thrifty layers.

Rye makes fairly satisfactory silage when it is cut in one-quarter inch lengths and well treaded in the silo.

A large orchard poorly planted and poorly tended will not produce as good results as fewer trees well cultivated.

Good housing is one of the essentials for egg production and consequently should be given proper consideration.

Cherries, unlike other small fruits, cannot be counted on to give heavy crops each year; consequently, the price varies.

Hot sweaty horses should not be driven into a cold stream. It is almost as bad for them as drinking while heated.

The origin of the Indian Runner duck is unknown. It is claimed they were introduced in England about thirty years ago.

Of almost if not quite as much importance as their food is plenty of exercise. Exercise and sunshine are great sheep tonics.

In the horse for active service the breast should not be over medium width and the forelegs should be reasonably close together.

The practical remedy for little pigs that are liable to be troubled with thumps is to provide them plenty of exercise and large range.

Just because a man enters a barn where cows are kept, it is no sign for him to cut loose on his entire repertory of cuss words.

At no season of the year should water stand around the trees and vines. Their roots will not stand it. There must be proper drainage.

When the pure-bred swine are kept for breeding purposes they should be given every opportunity for bone and muscle development rather than a development of fat.

Alsike clover is a perennial and can be grown on ground that is too low and moist for the medium red or mammoth, but it is grown equally well on high ground.

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.

In feeding the cows do not give them more than they can use readily. Any feed that is left in the mangers after the cows are through will naturally represent a certain amount of waste.

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 drained soil readily absorbs fertilizers which may be applied to it. It is more easily prepared and requires less labor to put in condition for seed. The seed will germinate more quickly and the plant will grow more rapidly.

Rotation of crops is one of the simplest, practical methods of increasing the productivity of the farm and distributing labor. If you are not already practicing rotation in your farming, now is a good time to work out a systematic cropping scheme for your farm. A practical system of rotation can be worked out for every farm.

BROOD SOW MANAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT



An Ideal Portable Hog House.

(By JOHN M. EVVARD, Iowa Experiment Station.)

To produce healthy litters it is not only necessary that the sows be fed correctly upon the feeds that furnish sufficient muscle, bone and energy making materials, but that they be handled wisely during the period of gestation.

The mother sow needs food for three important purposes: First, for her own maintenance; second, for growth on her own body, and, third, for the nourishment of the fetal pigs. Corn lacks muscle and bone formers, and, in addition, is too concentrated (not bulky enough for breeding swine). Tankage, meat meal, linseed oil meal, skim milk, buttermilk, bran, oats, middlings, shorts, soy beans, clover and alfalfa are the logical supplements to corn in the middle west.

At the Iowa station the most excellent rations for gilts carrying litters are:

1. Corn, 88 to 90 per cent.; meat meal or tankage containing 60 per cent. protein, 10 to 12 per cent.

2. Corn, 75 per cent.; finely cut clover or alfalfa, 25 per cent.

3. Corn, 80 per cent.; oats, chopped clover or alfalfa, 10 per cent.; meat meal or tankage, 10 per cent.

For old sows the proportion of meat meal or tankage can be cut down practically one-third to two-fifths and still get excellent results.

Stronger, healthier litters, having more hair, more color and more bone, have been the result whenever we added a suitable protein and ash supplement to corn. When we selected our supplements wisely we also got cheaper pigs. At present prices for purchased protein and ash supplements, meat meal and tankage are our cheapest sources.

Above all things, excepting the food supply only, an abundance of exercise is the most important. All classes of pregnant animals do well only when an abundant opportunity for exercise is allowed. The general tone and vigor of the mother is reflected in the offspring; the better the general health and condition of the dam, the stronger and more vigorous the young.

Range of pasture is perhaps the best of all. Allow the sows to follow cattle for a while, but be sure to remove them when they tend to become clumsy and heavy. Scatter the feed over the ground, such as sheep oats, soy bean hay, etc., and let the sows

gather it. Feed on the side of the field opposite the sleeping bunka. Allow hay in racks, the eating of which is conducive to light exercise. Shut the sows from the houses in the middle of the day, rather than allow to huddle up and snooze peacefully. Schemes to induce exercise cost little, yet the returns are considerable. Warmth, dryness, ventilation and sunlight are essentials of an ideal hoghouse. Such conducive conditions can be secured with a little forethought. Good, dry bedding is needed, and to be kept dry must be changed regularly. Arrange the houses so as to avoid draughts and heavy winds, preferably placing them in sheltered nooks. Although the hog can stand considerable cold, yet the breeding hog does not have the fat which ordinarily keep the fat hog warm; neither does the breeding sow have a warm coat, as the horse, for instance, roughs it. We have found in our experience that sensible shelter saves many cents.

We hog men cannot afford to feed our hard-earned corn and other grains to lice and worms. Crude oil is cheap, costs not more than \$4 a barrel, is easily applied, and does the lice up brown and black—hence, why hesitate. It kills the nits at one application, and can be used in winter, because it is an oil, and does not evaporate. An old broom or sprinkling can, and a couple of hurdles, handled by two active men, is sufficient equipment for ridding the farm of hog lice.

Worms are a serious drawback. I know of no better remedy than santonin, six grains; calomel, four grains to a hundred pounds of hog, given once on an empty (twelve hours off feed) stomach, and repeated in ten days if necessary. It is not well to use any worm medicine upon sows within a couple of months from farrow, because all pregnant animals have some tendency to abort when given a strong laxative. The thing to do is to tend to the worms in time.

Laxativeness of the bowels is highly desirable, as costiveness is a menace. Plenty of exercise, combined with laxative feeds, such as tankage, oil meal, bran, alfalfa hay, etc., will largely solve the problem. However, if it does not, a week before farrowing an emergency remedy of an ounce of Epsom salts per hundred pounds of hog will help considerably.

FARM LIFE BEST FOR FAMILY MAN

Cost of Living in City Is So Much Higher Than Ordinary Man Saves Little.

(By J. C. CUMMINGS.)

To the Editor: I am glad to note the considerable interest being taken in small farms by those who have been bent on living in the city.

I am glad to state that I feel there is much more enjoyment and happiness on the small farm than there is in city life, and this I know through personal experience.

I am a carpenter by trade, learning the trade while living on a farm after a year or two. I thought I could make more money in the city, as wages were better, so I went to the city to work, getting wages ranging from 25 to 50 cents per hour.

I did not stop to figure the cost of living in the city, but I found that it was so much higher than in the country that at the end of each month I was where I started.

Finally in despair I decided to move back to the country on a small farm. We got some chickens, a cow and a hog, and soon found our living came much easier and I also find I have all the work I can do at my trade.

While wages are less per day than in the city, we get our board in connection, which lessens the expense. Farm life is more healthful and pleasant than city life.

What, for instance, is more enjoyable than to go out and see a nice flock of chickens and at the end of a day gather a few dozen eggs; at night and morning milk a good cow and have your own good sweet butter and pure milk for use, and then at the end of the summer put your winter supply of produce in the cellar?

This is all possible on the small farm, and I am certain that if many of our city brothers knew the advantages of the small farm, they would not only cry "back to the farm," but they would go.

ANSWERS GIVEN TO POULTRY QUESTIONS

Few Problems Regarding Incubators and Hatching Eggs Treated by Expert.

(By M. BOYER.)

W. E. R.—The dryer the air in the incubator, the more rapid the evaporation.

E. R. T.—The little eggs in the incubator throw off very little heat for about the first two weeks.

R. T. Y.—A high temperature during the early part of the hatch is apt to prove fatal.

T. Y. U.—A rise of temperature to 110 degrees on the eleventh day, if not too prolonged, will not necessarily prove fatal.

I. O. P.—After removing the infertile eggs from the machine, spread out the fertile ones so that they occupy the same relative position to one another.

A. S. D.—The White Holland turkey variety are among the heaviest layers.

S. D. F.—Inbreeding, lice, dampness and improper food are causes of great mortality among turkeys.

D. F. G.—Never breed from the same gobbler more than one year, unless the same breeding hens are also retained for another season.

F. G. H.—Maryland and Philadelphia dry-picked turkeys command the highest market prices, not only for the reason that the turkeys are fat and usually of a fine grade, but that they are well bled in killing, which naturally gives the skin a bleached, white appearance.

B. N. M.—A quick growth and development, with nearly maturity, must come from food.

Attention to the Cockerels.

Instead of keeping half a dozen cockerels that are deformed and otherwise unfit for duty, sell them all off and get one or two good ones. One cock can care for fifteen or twenty pullets. Better have blood than scrub.

Simple Costumes for the Young Girls of School Age



The illustration on the left shows a simple little style for girl six to eight years; it is made in gray-green cashmere. It is trimmed down the left side of front and along lower edge by spotted foulard cut in a two-inch band; the collar is also of the foulard, as is the waist-band; the overleeves are edged with it, while the under ones are plain.

Materials required: 2 yards cashmere 44 inches wide, 1/2 yard foulard 40 inches wide.

The next is for a girl of eight to ten years. Plain material is used for the dress itself and plaid silk or silk and wool mixture for the trimming of skirt, also the yoke, cuffs and the waist-band.

The bodice and skirt are cut separately, and are joined to the same waist-band.

Materials required: 2 1/2 yards 46 inches wide, 1/2 yard 40 inches wide for trimming.

The other would make a useful little school dress in nut brown fine serge; there are two tucks carried over the shoulder to foot of skirt each side, the fronts wrapping over in points which show pleatings of silk at the throat and foot of skirt; the sleeves are set into the armhole, and like the right front, are trimmed with buttons set on in threes.

Materials required: 2 1/2 yards 46 inches wide, 1/2 yard silk 20 inches wide, 2 dozen and three buttons.