

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Build a round silo.

A cement floor is of value.

Cottonseed meal is a good cow feed.

The successful management of poultry requires systematic work.

Active breeds given plenty of exercise seldom get the feather pulling habit.

The appearance of the orchard is helped by cleaning it of dead branches.

It is better to salt the cows every day. Two to three ounces to each cow is enough.

Sheep will do better on rough land than will any other kind of stock save goats.

Clean hen manure when used freely in the garden often causes too great a growth of foliage.

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

Except in special cases the dairy calf should be removed from its mother before it is three days old.

Good ventilation is essential; but it should be so arranged that the cows shall not be exposed to a draft.

There is just as much importance in improving the dairy farmer as there is in improving the dairy cow.

Many farmers will let the steer trample \$100 worth of feed into the mud rather than spend \$25 for a feed rack.

Capons are quiet, grow more per pound of feed than cockerels, grow larger and bring a better price per pound.

One of the chief reasons for butter becoming rancid at an early age is the fact that it is not washed thoroughly.

Excited men and women make excited birds, and that has a bad effect on the egg producing mechanism of the birds.

All hens which have completed their second laying season should be disposed of at once to make room for the young stock.

Do not despise well bred poultry. No territory has ever been noted for its poultry products unless well bred fowls were the rule.

Farmers should take advantage of any fine days that may occur during these remaining months of winter to prune the bush fruits.

A yearling tree is preferred by many to older trees. They are thought to be safer to transplant than two-year-old trees.

In driving cows, never hurry them when their udders are full of milk, or when they are heavy in calf as they may be seriously injured.

Earth floors should always be raised a foot or more higher than the surface of the ground on which the poultry house is placed to insure dryness.

A litter carrier will add much to keep the barn clean, because the boys and men will work more readily than if they have to depend upon the old method.

Oats as a hog food have never been very popular for two reasons. First, the price is usually too high; and, second, the feeding value is not so great per pound for hogs as that of corn.

A yellow frosting is made by heating the yolks very light, and thickening them with fine sugar, as you would the whites. It will take a little longer to harden than if the whites were used.

The Embden is a uniformly pure white goose with prominent blue eyes, flesh-colored beak, orange legs and remarkably strong neck. When not allowed to become too heavy they are good layers and their flesh is tender and juicy when properly cooked.

To weigh chickens by hand scales, take a piece of cloth two and one-half by one and one-half feet, make a hole in the center for the bird's feet, and tie the ends of the cloth up over its wings, and in a knot on its back. Hook the scales through the knot. A similar arrangement makes a comfortable hammock for holding the fowl when cleaning its legs and feet for exhibition.

Salt the cows every day.

Use the manure spreader daily.

Maintain the fertility of the soil.

Road dust makes a good material for the hen's dust bath.

The bull should be kept in a roomy box stall adjoining the cow stable.

If meat scraps are fed to the poultry better see that they are not too old.

Better keep one good hen than three that you have your doubts about.

Keep the orchard land in good tillth. The trees can be set as soon as the leaves fall.

No dairyman should forget that his barn is a place where human foot is produced.

Split carrots, turnips, beets, etc. in two and allow the hens to pick at them at will.

Almost always the cow that gives the most butter-fat does it the most economically.

If you have a poor seedling pear or apple tree it may be entirely made over by top grafting.

Oats and Canada field peas make an excellent combination, and are often grown for hay for dairy cows.

The best way of disposing of surplus late hatched cockerels (too late to be sold as broilers) is as capons.

It is claimed that early-sown fall wheat is benefited when pastured with sheep to keep down the rank growth.

Well managed poultry is preferable to farm crops in that poultry will produce an income at all times of the year.

In every variety of farming, planning ahead of time is necessary, and perhaps most so in poultry husbandry.

Ten drops of carbolic acid to a gallon of drinking water makes a good disease preventive when cholera threatens.

A good time now to haul an spread manure on the vegetable garden so that the spring rains can do their part.

Colts often suffer when teething. At such times steamed, crushed oats and bran mash are most sensible and beneficial.

Do not let your young birds roost with the old hens, as they are liable to catch diseases which old hens are more subject to.

The average value of all property in the United States in 1911 was \$6,444, an increase of 80.9 per cent over that of 1900.

The expense of caring for a mule is less than for a horse. He eats less, requires no blanketing, no stall and is more easily kept clean.

If one is obliged to feed timothy hay a good ration of bran and oat will help to maintain the ewes in good condition in the winter.

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

All the growth and thrift that can be encouraged and maintained during the first year of a colt's life insure a stronger and a better horse.

The manure spreader is a useful article of equipment that should be extensively used. It saves time and labor and distributes the manure evenly.

The stable manure has been put on the garden or truck patch, the corn or wheat field, but rarely is it though necessary to apply plant food of any kind to the orchard.

If you doubt the advisability of keeping dairy cows comfortable and contented visit the man who makes the best records with his cattle and see how he cares for them.

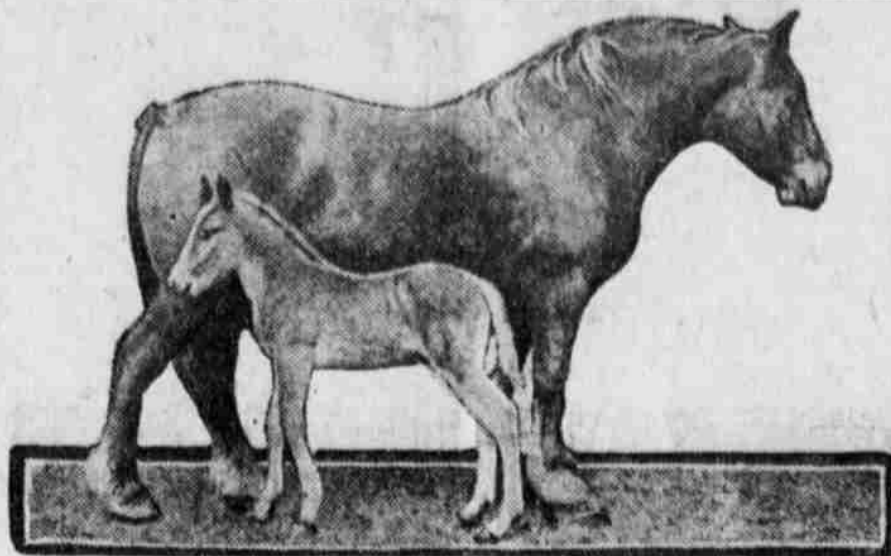
If the male bird seems inclined to quarrel with one of his mates, chances are that she is not laying. The males are usually more attentive to hens that are laying or just ready to lay.

In a recent experiment oats, corn, dog fennel and some flower seed were exposed during 118 days to temperature of 40 degrees below zero. Afterward nearly all of the fennel, oats and corn seeds and some others germinated.

To be a successful feeder a man must study the habits and characteristics of his animals, the condition that surround them and the quantity and quality of the foods that are available, and then vary the food according to the animal's powers of assimilation.

The belief that use of clover or manures, or mineral fertilizers, or two separate and independent schemes for maintaining the fertility of the soil has led to very many wrong conclusions as well as badly depleted soils. These two must work together for good.

ESSENTIAL POINTS IN HORSE BREEDING



Brood Mare and Colt.

A few words of advice to the farmer who intends breeding his mares this season may not be amiss. There is certainly room for improvement in the way some men attend to this part of their work. Seemingly, they do not mix in enough brains and common sense.

Each breeder should firmly impress upon his mind the fact that he is doing the wrong thing when he breeds a small mare to a large horse, says a writer in Farm Progress. True, the large horse will bring the better price, but the horse raised from a mare that has been bred to a large sire is not worth the price, even though it has the size.

We might say that quality and finish are the two most essential points to be considered in a horse and these can be obtained only by proper mating. Mismatching is what has filled the country with so many scrubs, and until breeders give this matter more attention, there is likely to be little improvement.

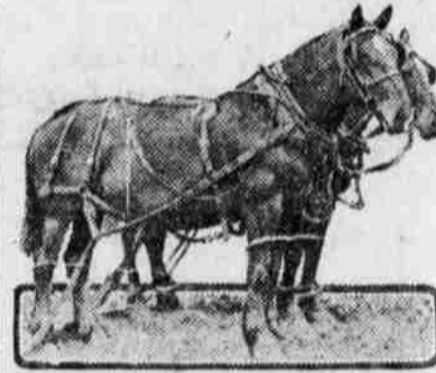
Over in England a great many of the breeders give their attention to rearing cobs, but our breeders seem to pay scant attention to the demands for that sort of animals. The man who owns a compact little mare of less than a thousand pounds weight has the opportunity to raise a very valuable animal if he will use a little discretion in choosing the sire.

By breeding to a short-legged, compact and handsome sire he will be able to secure an animal that is stylish, of good bone and full of action.

On the other hand, if he chooses a big, stupid sire weighing a ton or more it will only be a freak of nature if he secures a colt of any real value. It will be almost certain to inherit more of the weak points of both sire and dam than it will of their good points.

It is contrary to the laws of nature for the small mare to produce a large colt. Her capacity is such that the foetus is cramped and starved, hence it is foaled a large, raw-boned, ungainly colt. Even after foaling the mare cannot furnish enough nourishment, and the body is built up weak, flabby and without muscle.

Every breeder must admit that the country is full of just such animals as described above, nearly all of



Excellent Types of Farm Brood Mares.

which are the result of improper breeding. It would seem that our breeders would tire of such animals because there is always a demand for horses of real value.

There is very little doubt that a mare ought to be worked during the weeks prior to foaling. The mare that is allowed to stand up in a close stable is more apt to prove unsatisfactory at foaling time than the one that has been worked up to within a day or two of her time.

But there is danger of overworking. A mare that is put to the plow and plods all day through soft ground, such as is often encountered in spring plowing, is apt to strain herself dangerously.

While the crop that is to go to the ground is important, the value of the mare and the future colt deserve equal consideration. By keeping exact count of the time that elapses during the gestation period the owner can make his plans to shirk the mare considerably as foaling time draws nigh.

Road work, light driving and some light hauling about the farm are recommended by all horsemen for the mare that is pregnant. If the roads are bad, and they are in a sad condition many times in the spring, the mare should be kept off them. There is a chance that she may seriously strain herself.

When a mare is being worked in the later stages of her pregnancy the harness and the double-tree may require some changes in order to avoid accident. I use an extra long single-tree that will hold the traces well away from the mare's sides. This prevents dangerous pressure and avoids the possibility of a premature foaling through bruises or chafing.

If the mare is being driven it will

be best to drive her in a team. The single buggy's shafts sometimes have too narrow a space between them for the mare's comfort. Their constant pressure on either side may cause her serious injury, and be the means of losing a colt.

Of course, the stall where she is kept should be roomy and the doors should be wide enough that the mare will have no trouble in passing through them. A narrow doorway is sometimes the occasion of the mare being seriously injured.

There are instances in every neighborhood where the mare has been worked hard all the day before foaling, and then having got through the ordeal without the least trouble. The colts seem as sound and vigorous as those that have had greater pre-natal care. Such instances as these do a great deal of harm. Not every mare can stand such treatment, but the general impression gets around that they can, and much harm results in some cases.

There is a difference between overwork as applied to a regular plow team and as applied to the mare with foal. A whole day's work, one day following another, is too much for a mare. Most of her energy is going into the building up of her young and hard work means an actual drain upon her vitality.

PROFIT MADE IN RAISING SWEET PEA

Plant Does Not Need Any Special Soil to Attain Grace and Beauty—Few Hints.

Sweet peas do not need any special soil to attain grace and beauty, and while one sweet pea specialist claims compact, strong clay soil, made rich with cow manure, another says they must have light, sandy leaf mold; and again another who lives near the sea advocates a briny atmosphere necessary for their development, while he who lives in the west thinks inland air the best for sweet peas. Wherever you live and whatever your soil and climate, grow sweet peas and make the best of existing circumstances.

Here are a few pointers by one who has grown sweet peas in the middle west which were awarded prizes, and we found no mystery in their growth or care.

Select a sunny locality, and have the rows run north and south. Dig the soil deeply and stir in plenty of well rotted cow manure—other manure will do if cow is not to be had.

Wait until the frost is out of the soil to do this. Even if the earth freezes it will not hurt the sown seed. After the soil is well spaded and enriched, firm it well, and then run two furrows two inches deep and eight or ten inches apart. Cover the seeds, and firm the soil. You may soak the seeds for 24 hours before planting if you wish. Sow the seeds thickly, and only when the vines begin to spin thin out so that the vines stand three inches apart.

Remember that sweet peas like a firm soil and therefore, when it is necessary to have them to kill the weeds, firm the soil well about the pea stalks.

If the season is very dry, water, and when the flowers begin to bud stimulate the vines with weak liquid fertilizer. A weekly drink of soap-suds on wash day applied to the roots will help to make well colored blossoms. The finest sweet peas grown by the writer were planted in pure leaf mold, well firmed and well watered.

Provide strong, well twigged brush for them to climb over, or wire trellis, but the former is preferred by the sweet pea. The sweet pea lends itself to various forms of decoration. A neighbor fitted a deep and long, narrow box on brackets to a south window and in it planted a row of sweet peas. They were trained upon a netted twine screen, and when they bloomed they were very much admired. However, care was taken to pull down the white opaque shade when the sun beat too warmly upon the vines, for sweet peas scorch very easily.

Another friend reported that she had planted a lot of sneds about the base of a strong support, and the vines were trained up to an umbrella frame which was fastened to the support. The vines were then allowed to fall over the frame, and they resembled a fountain. Those who like the unique may try various ways of growing the sweet pea, but it gives better satisfaction grown on brush, and more flowers.

POULTRY

COMBAT POULTRY YARD FOES

Some Essential Measures Outlined by Expert Poultrymen for Control of Insect Parasites.

Insect parasites are the cause of a great deal of annoyance and loss to poultrymen. Some essential measures as outlined by George M. Turpin for their control are:

Have the poultry houses separated from all other farm buildings.

Have all the interior fixtures of the poultry houses, such as roost-poles, nest boxes, feed hoppers, dropping boards, etc., removed so that every part of the interior can be readily cleaned and sprayed.

Keep a good dust bath to which the fowls may have access at all times of the day. Common road dust with fine ashes and powdered sulphur or air-slacked lime added is excellent. The road dust should be gathered during dry weather for use during the winter.

Spray the coops and fixtures with a good whitewash twice each year, adding two pounds of salt and one-fourth gallon of crude carbolic acid to every 50 gallons of the spraying mixture.

Setting hens should have access to a good dust bath such as mentioned above. If lice are found later on the chicks, rub lard in the feathers of the head and throat, and in bad cases also under the wings.

SHIPMENT OF BABY CHICKS

Little Fellows May Be Sent Long Distances by Express Without Danger or Discomfort.

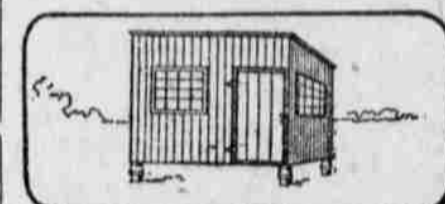
One of the most interesting branches of the poultry business is the shipping of baby chicks hundreds, even thousands, of miles, and yet have them arrive in good condition for further growth and development. By shipping direct from the incubator when the chicks are one day old, advantage is taken of that period in the life of the chicks when nature intended that they should be without food, and they can therefore without injury or discomfort be sent long distances by express under any conditions of climate.

Chicks when first hatched require neither food or drink. Indeed, such is harmful. During the first seventy-two hours the chick's life is sustained by the assimilation of the yolk, for the embryo chick is developed from the white of the egg, and just before hatching the yolk is drawn up into its system and furnishes all the food any chick should have for the first three days of its life. It is during this period that chicks can be shipped as far as express can take them.

KEEPING RATS FROM POULTRY

By Inverting Tin Bucket on Posts Supporting House Rodents May Be Kept Away.

If there are many rats in your vicinity it will pay you to make it impossible for them to enter your poultry house. Put a post in the ground for every corner of the house, says a writer in the Iowa Homestead. Invert



Rat-Proof Hen House.

over the top of the post an old three gallon tin bucket. Set your house or these posts and when Mr. Rat attempts to climb a post and go into the poultry house he simply goes up in side the bucket and does not accomplish his purpose.

HEN MANURE AS FERTILIZER

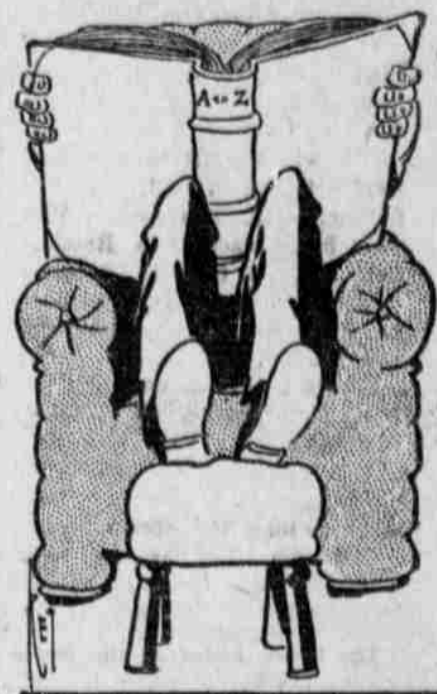
Has Greater Value Than Any Other Kind Used on Farm—Should Be Well Taken Care Of.

Hen manure as a fertilizer has greater value than any other fertilizer on the farm. It is generally supposed by some poultrymen that the manure will pay for taking care of the hens, but this depends much on how it is kept. The dropping boards under the roosts should be kept covered with some absorbent to preserve the strength of the droppings. Land plaster or South Carolina rock is good. Never use wood ashes or lime with the poultry droppings. The ammonia or nitrogen would be set free, and part of the value of the fertilizer lost. The droppings should not be applied on a growing crop, or covered soil. Use it on corn by putting a handful on each hill at the time of last hoeing. It should be kept under cover until used.

Killing a Turkey.

The proper way to kill a turkey is to tie its feet together, hang on a pole, then cut the throat and allow to bleed freely. Dry pick, leaving head and wings on. After picking, dip in hot water and then in cold. This will give the skin a fresher look.

The ONLOOKER S. E. KISER THE WORLD'S GREAT WANT



They are trying to arrange it so that man may safely fly; They are trying to learn more about the stars up in the sky; They are digging up old ruins so that each of us may know what people did for pleasure and for profit long ago; Here and there is some one trying to revive the love of art; Here and there some poet bravely sings a song that's from the heart. But away with art and science and the Babylonian brick, What we want is some sure way in which to Get Rich Quick.

Men are fighting still for freedom, fighting still to have the right To address their God unhindered when they kneel to pray at night; They are chafing 'neath oppression as their fathers did before, They are tugging at the fetters which their luckless parents wore; Here and there some man arises and attempts to let us know How to make fair peace forever the sweet mistress here below; But we have no time to bother over such affairs; we stick To the hope of finding ways in which to Get Rich Quick.

The preachers keep on preaching of the glories over there Where the hoodlers cease from troubling and the prospects all are fair; The anxious, eager doctors keep on striving to defy Grim Nature and arrange it so that people needn't die; But away with all the dreamers and the foolish ones who preach, Who cares what the stars are made of, or what ancient tablets teach? We are looking for the hero who will show us all the trick, Who will kindly point the way in which to Get Rich Quick.

Foolish Boy.
We pass the lovelorn youth and smile Because he reaches happiness Through building airy castles white We grasp at shadows of success; We scoff because he gladly dreams Of one whose graces may be few— Of one that foolishly he deems Too sweet for earth, too precious, too.

We pass him by careless jest, Or cunning sneer, because the joy Of love is in his callow breast And hope is in his heart, poor boy! Ah, we are moved to laughter by The love-lorn look upon his face, But what, alas, would you and I Not give if we were in his place?

Why He Was Depressed.
"Somehow," he said, disconsolately, "I don't seem to make farmin' pay."
"Maybe you haven't tried the right way."

"Yes, I've done ev'rything. I've tended meeting's an' jined clubs an' voted for every candidate that said he knowed the way to help us along. But it don't seem to do no good, an' I mus' say I'm getting clean discouraged."

Chance to Get Some.
"I have always thought," said Mrs. Oldcastle, "that I would be the happiest woman in the world if I only had a Botticelli!"
"Why don't you ask Mrs. Thompson to get some for you?" asked her hostess as she hung one of her ropes of pearls over the back of a chair, "she has a cousin down in the country who sends her some of the best every fall that I ever et."

Disgusted.
"I'm getting awfully sick of the kind of plays we've been having in this town lately."
"Why, I thought there had been a lot of goods shows here recently."
"I haven't seen one all this season where I had to cry the least bit."

Too True.
"There's nothing like a baby in the house to brighten it up."
"Yes, especially when it ought to be dark and still."

Glorious.
Oh, what a heaven earth would be— In every way how nice— If people here were half as free With help as with advice!

S. E. Kiser.