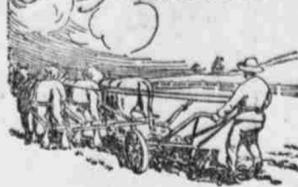


NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Feed the calf regularly.

Keep thrifty, vigorous ewes.

Handle the new calf as you would a new baby.

Don't sow alfalfa seed on very recently plowed land.

All sources of plant food should be utilized by the farmer.

No animal will attain to as good results as the one liberally fed.

Rhubarb or pie plant is one of the perennials that should be in every garden.

The big secret in keeping butter is to have it good to begin with, then keep it cold.

For a cheap but effective milk strainer nothing beats several thicknesses of cheesecloth.

Let the cream can have the coolest place in the cellar if a tank of cold water is not available.

Dairying goes by spurts, but don't you spurt. Keep a steady hand on the spurting apparatus.

To sell off a cow because she will bring a good price does not go far toward improving the herd.

Turkey hens are considered profitable until five years old, but toms ought to be changed every year.

The cause of dead chicks in the shell can sometimes be traced to stock that has been too closely inbred.

Letting the calf run with the cow sometimes has a good effect on hard milkers and other ular troubles.

Ice-cold water checks the milk flow and so affects the cow that it is apt to be detrimental to her unborn calf.

In dairying there is no excuse for the man who goes at it blindly to blame luck and weather for his failure.

Two of the best acreage saving money making propositions up to the farmers today are silage and alfalfa.

Have another round with the insect pests of your hen houses. It will help your birds to do their level best this season.

Whether brood mares or geldings, it is the well-fed horse that exhibits the greatest endurance and efficiency in the harness.

Know what you must spray for, then do the work right. Don't expect any one spray material to be a universal remedy.

Hogs by nature like a good clean bed to line in. They will do all the better for it, because they will be more comfortable.

In purchasing a boar it is well to bear in mind that one with heavy bones is more to be desired than one of the slight build.

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.

Don't wait till planting time to secure seeds, and then buy package-seed from the grocery store. This seed is apt to be of inferior quality.

Throw away the first few streams of milk from the teats. This milk is very watery and of little value and is quite apt to injure the remainder of the milk.

It takes a little time to remove all refuse matter from the last feed before giving fresh rations, but this pleases the cow and it is worth while to humor her fancy.

A good plan is for the poultry yard to open in the barnyard, and it is better if it were located near the straw-stack. There should always be an abundance of south front.

Trim out the dead limbs, suckers and branches that are too close together among the shrubs. Shrubs that flower in the spring should not be pruned until they are through blooming.

Healthy fowls do not need medicine any more than does a member of the human family who is in good health, and since it is the nature of all hens to lay, there is no reason why stimulants should be given. There are many things which will, no doubt, increase the egg supply for a short time, but disaster is sure to follow.

Bee keeping is profitable.

Deep plowing pays in the garden.

A dairy cow is not constructed to stand exposure.

Feeding skim milk has a tendency to whiten the flesh.

Regularity in feeding cattle is of the utmost importance.

Spray the fruit trees. It is good insurance for this year's crop.

Use the dishwater as a fertilizer. Throw it on the compost heap.

A man can hardly miss a good market when he has first-class stock.

It must not be forgotten that food flavors the flesh as well as the egg.

Dead fowls should never be allowed to lie about the premises. Burn them.

Rub the dust off the windows and let the light enter the chicken house.

The cow that is to do her best must be well fed, well sheltered and well cared for.

Tainted, musty or moldy feeds should never be served in the dairy herd rations.

Cows are not always to blame for being unprofitable. Often the fault is nearer home.

An economical use of roughage about the farm is greatly in favor of winter dairying.

Clean, wholesome feed in the right amounts and clean quarters usually insure healthy calves.

Be thorough about washing the separator. Do it upon honor, not once in a while, but every time.

Sweep up every article of silage in the chute and alleyway, and give it to the cows at every feeding.

Running the incubator two or three days before putting in the eggs gives the machine time to steady down.

Wood ashes spoil hen manure when mixed with it; they also hurt the feet of hens that walk through them.

A few turnips, cabbage, beets, etc. will relieve the monotony of dry feeds and help the milk flow wonderfully.

Make another inspection of the breeding pens and see that there are no dull, sickly-looking fowls in them.

A little earth in the bottom of the brooder makes it more to the liking of the chicks, but change it frequently.

Cold rains are much harder on cows than dry cold. Damp cold penetrates to the bones. Provide dry shelter.

A calf's inside "workin's" are sensitive and easily upset. A single feed of milk, too hot or too cold, may start trouble.

Turn the separator with a steady and uniform hand and flush down with skim milk or water at the end of separation.

It is quite customary among dairy men to quit feeding calves skim milk when they attain the age of eight or nine months.

Winter dairying provides more care and better feeding, but it also comes at a time when it is possible to give this care and feeding.

If you don't believe in keeping cows comfortable visit the tables of the men with the big cream check. That ought to convince you.

One pound of grain for every three pounds of milk produced is the commonly accepted winter feeding ratio among business dairymen.

Those who make a success of spraying fruit trees order the spraying mixtures before spring opens. They can then spray in season without delay.

A farmer should raise everything consumed by his family that his soil and climate will produce, when in so doing the cost does not consume the profit.

The manure that is taken from the barnyard to the field is out of the way before spring work, and it makes a great improvement in the farm surroundings.

It is worth while to have a good churn. Cream spattered far and near not only wastes the most valuable resource of the farm, but it makes the room look bad.

Keep the cows salted regularly even if the weather is stormy and so save part of the churning trouble. Should the cows lack salt, add some to the cream if it does not churn easily.

An attractive opportunity awaits farmers who undertake the production of high-class commercial mules and it is certain that many farmers will grasp the opportunity within the next few years.

It requires careful management to plan farm work so that the work horses are supplied with steady work at all times during the rush season. Idle horses, like idle men, are an expensive luxury.

ECONOMICAL PRODUCTION OF BEEF AND OBTAINING PURE-BRED HERD OF CATTLE



Prize Yearling Hereford Steer.

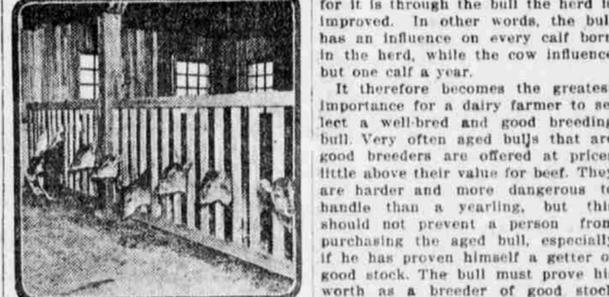
A bulletin entitled "Economic Beef Production," by H. R. Smith, has just been issued by the Nebraska experiment station. This report gives the results of four experiments in which comparisons are made of different rations suitable for producing beef in Nebraska and of different types and breeds of cattle fed under like conditions. The general conclusions are as follows:

In comparing bran, linseed meal, and cold pressed cotton seed cake each as a source of protein supplementing cornmeal and silage, the cold pressed cake proved to be worth 50 per cent. more per ton than wheat bran, and linseed meal 18 per cent. more per ton than cold pressed cotton seed cake.

In the use of each of these supplementary protein feeds with cornmeal and prairie hay, the cold pressed cotton seed cake showed a value per ton 22 per cent. greater than wheat bran, and the linseed meal 28 per cent. more than the cotton seed cake.

Where alfalfa was used in connection with cornmeal and silage, or cornmeal and prairie hay, large gains were made without the use of a concentrated protein food. The gains in both experiments where alfalfa was fed were larger, less costly and much more profitable. These experiments, supplementing what had previously been found, show that beef can be produced in Nebraska at a lower cost and with greater profit on a combination of the corn plant and alfalfa hay than on any other combination of foods available in the state.

These experiments show that corn silage gives larger gains than shredded corn stover when each is fed



Modern Stanchions for Calves.

with cornmeal and alfalfa, and for beef production is worth 60 per cent. more per ton.

Corn stover has a value 80 per cent. as great as prairie hay, and the portion consumed is fully as valuable. Prairie hay at its usual market price is not profitable for fattening cattle.

In comparing a ration consisting of a heavy feed of cornmeal, alfalfa and a light feed of silage, with a ration consisting of a medium quantity of light feed of corn, alfalfa and a heavy feed of silage, yearling steers being fattened for market, the cheapest gains were made on a liberal ration of corn silage and alfalfa without grain, the cost of gains increasing in proportion to the amount of cornmeal fed.

These experiments show that there is a great variation in the capacity of individual steers to make gains under like conditions. The data do not show that the individuals of one breed make larger gains than those of another breed. The variation in gain seems to be fully as great within a breed as between representatives of different breeds.

Type or conformation seems to be a controlling factor, the low-set more compact types having something of an advantage in gains and much in early maturity over the rangy type.

Gains seem to correlate to a considerable degree with body capacity as indicated by the size of the middle girth, the largest gainers have relatively larger middle girths at the same weight in most instances.

While the average gains made by all dairy bred steers are nearly the same as those made by the beef-bred steers up to the age of twenty-three months, the latter showed in most instances a higher condition of flesh, a larger proportion of high-priced meat, and sold for a higher price per hundred, returning larger profits to the feeder on the basis of the same initial cost per hundred.

It does not require a lot of capital to become a breeder of pure-bred cattle, provided a person can be satisfied to grow in the business rather than go into it. The first thing to decide is what breed meets a person's tastes and conditions best. When this point is settled, says the Southwestern Stockman, then a bull of good breeding should be selected and bred to the herd, and calves raised from best cows. The raising of grade calves will give the owner a wider experience and help him to understand some of the finer points concerning the rearing of special-bred dairy cattle.

The knowledge gained by raising and developing grades will be very helpful when a pure-bred heifer or two is purchased as foundation stock of a pure-bred herd. The information gained by the care of grades will not only be useful, but the selection of a bull will give an experience, at least it should, that cannot be gained in any other way. This step of selecting a bull places the dairy farmer in touch with the breeder of dairy cattle and he is awakened to the fact that there is a great difference in bulls. A pure-bred bull is a greater educator for he is the means of leading men to think and study.

With one or two good heifers it requires but a few years to build up a good herd of pure-bred cattle. In the selection of pure-bred heifers pains should be taken to select good animals, but greater care should be exercised in the selection of the bull, for it is through the bull the herd is improved. In other words, the bull has an influence on every calf born in the herd, while the cow influence but one calf a year.

It therefore becomes the greatest importance for a dairy farmer to select a well-bred and good breeding bull. Very often aged bulls that are good breeders are offered at prices little above their value for beef. They are harder and more dangerous to handle than a yearling, but this should not prevent a person from purchasing the aged bull, especially if he has proven himself a getter of good stock. The bull must prove his worth as a breeder of good stock just as the cow must prove hers in the pail.

To summarize briefly, the steps to be taken by a dairy farmer who desires to become a breeder of pure-bred cattle: First, select the breed that is preferred and meets conditions best. Second, select a well-bred bull, and when possible one that has proven himself a getter of good stock. Third, when finances and experience will permit, buy a pure-bred heifer or two, and from these animals grow into pure-breds.

Agriculture a Science.

Agriculture has become a science, and no unscientific methods can succeed in these days of close competition. New discoveries are constantly being made, and the modern farmer must be up with the times if he wants to succeed. There is no better way in which he can keep up with the times than by reading current agricultural literature.

Don't Worry Sheep.

Sometimes sheep get so fearful of dogs that they will start up and run the moment a man or other object comes among them. No flock of sheep that is as worried as this, ever can do well. The very thought of being chased takes away from their usefulness, and sooner or later it will ruin the fold.

Salt for Cows.

When cows are salted only once a week, they eat too much at a time, and it causes looseness of the bowels. They will eat a little salt nearly every day if it is kept where they can get at it, especially when the grass is fresh and abundant.

Cow Must Have Feed.

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.

POULTRY FACTS



CARING FOR LITTLE CHICKS

First Duty is to Provide Suitable Coop for Hen and Brood—Two Methods of Feeding.

During the hatching, if you are wise, you will not be too curious, but will allow the instinct of the hen to do her work. It may be well to quietly reach under the hen and remove such egg shells as can be taken out without disturbing her, but nothing further should be attempted.

The first duty is to provide a coop for the hen and brood. No matter what kind of a coop, from a barrel laid down to the most improved patented article, is used. See that it is clean and the bottom covered with fine sand, or if the weather be really cold, with oat chaff or short fine hay. When the chickens are twenty-four hours old they are ready to be removed to their new quarters. Up to this time, writes M. E. Scully of Illinois in the Prairie Farmer, they should have received no food, but they are now ready for their first meal. Give them water to drink in a vessel into which they cannot get their bodies. A tin vegetable can with small holes punched around the bottom and placed in a deep saucer will answer admirably. Whatever their first food may be, give them only a small quantity. The best rule for feeding is "little and often."

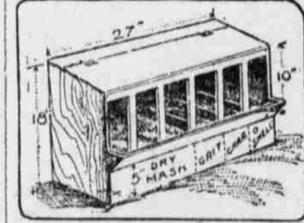
Two distinct methods of feeding have their special advocates, the wet, that is, ground feed moistened with milk or water; and the dry. I find the latter method the more satisfactory. I feed cracked wheat, corn and oatmeal.

Keep the chicks healthy and growing right from the start. Keep them dry and warm. Give them plenty of grit and pure water. If in a brooder scatter food in chaff and let them get exercise by scratching. The first three weeks are the most critical time; after that, if kept free from lice, they will do well.

HOPPER FOR FEEDING MASH

Home-made Receptacle for Keeping Oyster Shells, Charcoal and Grit is Quite Convenient.

I follow the "dry hopper" method in feeding fowls and keep constantly before them a mash made of two parts bran and one part each by weight of middlings, corn meal, gluten meal, ground oats and beef scraps. In the morning I scatter whole grain in the litter and at night feed corn in winter, but only a little of it in summer.



Dry Mash Self-Feeder.

writes Merrit T. Mead of Montgomery County, Ind., in the Farm and Home.

Oyster shells, charcoal and grit are kept in "bins" in the home-made "hopper," which is herewith illustrated. From experience I think this line of feeding satisfactory, for from 115 hens I got 11,357 eggs in 11 months.

POULTRY NOTES

Keep something in the grit box. Millet is a great egg-producing food.

Crowding just now lessen the fertility of eggs.

Get an incubator and let the hens keep on laying.

No better feed in the world than nice plump oats and wheat.

The first warm days start vermin to grow in unclean houses.

The modern poultry house has everything inside it easily movable.

Never feed little chicks wet, sloppy food. It is bad enough for mature stock.

Boiling the oats or wheat makes a good ration and a desirable change occasionally.

Feed at regular hours and the fowls will always be ready and waiting for their last meal.

A little more elbow grease used in keeping the premises clean will often prevent disease.

A hopperful of bran is always seasonable fed and the whole flock should have access to it.

Get rid of the hen that is never caught on the nest. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

When disposing of some of the old stock, pick out the poor layers and oldest specimens. They are just as good for the table, and you can't afford to part with the money-makers.

The ONLOOKER S. E. KISER Only A Chance



"I have the talent to succeed; A proper chance is all I need," He sadly said;

"I see around me everywhere Men who are ignorant and small, Whose wits with mine would not compare— Yet, lacking wisdom, after all, They get ahead."

"I have the wish to get along, My record's clean, my will is strong, I crave a chance; I know, if Fortune favored me, I have the strength of limb and mind, The knowledge and the grace to be Placed high among the worthy kind That still advance."

He thought a chance his only need To smash obstructions and succeed, And ne'er surmised That year by year and day by day, Through rainy seasons and through dry, While others pushed him from the way, He passed the fairest chances by Unrecognized.

Hope.

"John," said Mrs. Younglove in great distress, "I believe baby's left-handed. I have noticed several times lately that he is inclined to reach for his bottle with his left hand. What shall we do?"

"Let him alone, dear. Who knows? He may make us both famous by developing into a great snappaw flinger."

Successful in One Line.

"That fellow will never succeed at anything."

"What's the matter with him?"

"As nearly as I can figure it out he's lazy. I know of six jobs that he has lost within the past three months."

"Well, he seems to be pretty successful as a job finder."

The Mark He Toes.

She makes him toe the mark they say, And doubtless they are right; He toils away day after day, Her hands are soft and white.

She has a winsome, pretty face; His brow has lines of care; Still youthful, she possesses grace And splendid things to wear.

She makes him toe the mark, they say; He seems borne down by woes; Her clothes are rich, her laugh is gay; This (\$) is the mark he toes.

His New Song.

"The good old days" claim all your praise, But they possess no charm for me; My wife is suing for divorce; I'm looking forward now, of course, To the gala days that are to be.

His Position.

"My husband never denies me anything."

"What a lovely man he must be."

"No, he isn't at all lovely. He just sits around and lets me support him."

Not the Right Way.

"Isn't it noble of Mr. Rockefeller to give away his money as he does?"

"I don't see anything noble about it. I've never got a cent that he's given away."

Bitter Sweetness.

I like to take my faithful spade And for a while forget the cares That claim me in the marts of trade, Among contending bulls and bears.

Useless Effort.

The woman who is wearing a new \$45 hat can't understand why people should waste time or strain their eyes trying to see a comet.

S. E. Kiser.

Way Open.

"Say, mister," sputtered the caller, "you had an item in your durned old paper this morning about a diver who stayed under water two minutes and a half—"

"Can you beat it?" interrupted the man at the desk.

"You bet I can! I—"

"Well, beat it!" snapped the man at the desk, looking around for something to throw at him.