

# NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Ducks are profitable.

Provide poles for beans.

Take good care of the colts.

Plant corn after sugar beets.

Careful feeding prevents scours.

The season for grape pruning is past.

Don't sow untested seed of any kind.

Sow peas early, then plant for succession.

Grass will soon show in the color of the butter.

Concrete makes a good foundation and barn wall.

Initiate the butter-fat test and recall the boarder cow.

Many an animal with a pedigree is not a profit producer.

Farming problems demand good judgment and keen thinking.

The silo has come to stay as a permanent form of farm equipment.

Barns and silos save feed enough in a short time to pay for themselves.

The dairy farm that is carefully managed improves from year to year.

A brush to wash dairy utensils is more sanitary than the time-honored rag.

A solid concrete base for the separator will lengthen the life of the machine.

Silage is the cheapest dairy feed there is and in many respects it is the best.

The man who breeds the best stock is almost invariably the leader in his community.

The mating of ewes and rams takes place from the last of March to the middle of June.

For bloat in sheep give one dram hypsulphite of soda and three drams of spirits of ammonia.

Chicks must be well fed to grow; the feeding pen saves the feed and protects the little chicks.

When vegetables are grown to sell, the eye must be consulted as well as the palate. "The looks of things" count.

It's fun to watch the thrifty early spring pigs tumbling over one another trying to see which will get to the trough first.

To rid the premises of rats, fill the holes with tin scraps from the tinner or with broken glass and plaster over with cement.

There is nothing that adds the appearance of prosperity to the farmstead more readily than good paint on buildings and fences.

There is nothing like spring sunshine for the cows. Their quarters may be ever so comfortable but the sunshine does them good.

Did you forget to trim the trees? Say, go out in the orchard and do a little trimming some day and give the team a little extra rest at noon.

A few hours of work "grounding" the wires of the fence about the pasture may save the best cows in the herd from destruction by lightning.

It is just as necessary to plow or otherwise cultivate the peach orchard, when it bears not a peach, as it is when the trees are to be loaded with fruit.

A Colorado fruit grower has patented electric massage for fruit trees. The object is to enable fruit trees to resist frost when they are budding and blossoming.

A mixture of salt, ashes and salt-peter raked into the soil when preparing the onion bed, stimulates the growth of the onions and tends to banish the onion maggot.

Work a little slacked lime into the soil where your cabbages are to be grown to prevent club-root. A garden well fertilized better resists the attacks of pests than one meagerly fed.

In starting a new hedge begin it as soon as the ground is workable from receding frost. It pays to dig out the soil and enrich it as for making a garden bed or border. The digging should be to the depth of two feet.

Trim the colt's feet.

Spraying is insurance.

Use care in setting plants.

Spray the orchard thoroughly.

Alfalfa makes a fair grade of silage.

The gardener is no better than his tools.

Overworking will make butter look like lard.

Test all vegetable seeds as soon as they are received.

Has the seed corn 90 per cent. or better germination?

The best time to apply ground limestone is after plowing.

It always takes pounds of feed to make pounds of butter-fat.

A weed is a plant out of place. Too-thick sowing makes weeds.

Beans are good for sheep, the long vine varieties being preferred.

Better a nose ring for the young bull than an accident afterward.

The digestive powers of the hog are the feeder's foundation of success.

It is bad policy to sell a cow just because she will bring a good price.

The silo is a land-mark that points you to the best farms in the community.

On many farms the garden is the most neglected spot. It ought not so to be.

Don't skimp the garden. A good garden is money out as interest. "Get a plenty."

It's a poor policy to jerk the horse and then speak the command to it afterward.

The dairyman with a bunch of shoats this spring has a good market for his skim milk.

Work in the potato patch may begin as soon as planting is finished. Use the harrow first.

Go over the tools, put them in repair, and order any new ones needed for the summer's work.

If the cows or calves get lousy, try an application of strong brine thickened with strong soap.

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

The good dairy cow not only pays for her own feed, but she pays for food for the whole family as well.

Putting some lime in the wash water occasionally will keep the churn from taking on that offensive smell.

New potatoes very early in the summer are just as appetizing and palatable for farm folks as anybody else.

One still finds people who do not think a garden pays. Such people patronize the storekeeper and the druggist.

Keep your hogs clean, feed them on pure and wholesome food, and you will not be very likely to have any disease among them.

Did you go after the borers in the peach tree roots last spring? Well you certainly will get busy with the knife and wire now.

Slobbering in horses is supposed to be caused by eating white clover blossoms. A little experimenting is needed to make sure.

Disk the fall plowed land before the corn is planted. Kill the weeds so the corn will have at least an equal chance with them.

Helpers should not be bred too young. Give them a chance to get some size before you tax their vitality by the process of reproduction.

It is the clean wool that brings the best prices. There is nothing to be gained by handling anything but first-class wool. If dirty, it pays to clean it.

The creamery is the greatest nucleus about which to build a prosperous community. It always makes it possible to establish business on a cash basis.

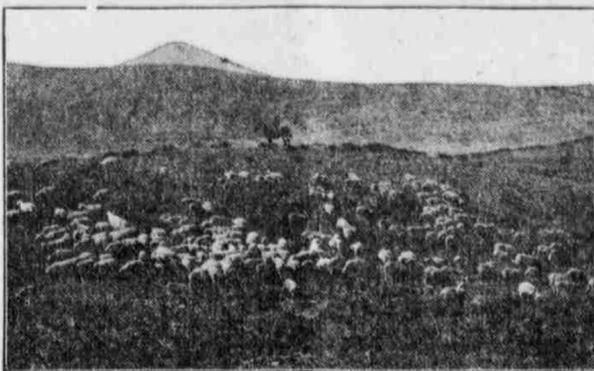
The corn belt has its champions, and so, too, have the cotton and the wheat belts, but the leather belt is universally popular in the good old summer time.

The best time to destroy the weeds and grass is when they are small. They are easier to kill at that time, and have not taken so much moisture and plant food from the soil.

Every man who makes a profit on his place should plan to use some of that money in making the home more convenient and attractive each season. This is the only real progress.

Abundance of succulent feeds containing the proper materials in right proportion for producing milk, plenty of mild water, some salt, mild temperature, and comfortable surroundings generally are the conditions for making a dairy cow do her best.

## SHEEP ARE EXCELLENT WEED ERADICATORS



Western Sheep Ranch.

There are many reasons why farmers should keep more sheep, writes Prof. Thomas Shaw in *The Homestead*. The relatively small number that is kept on the average farm is one of the remarkable things about the live stock industry in the United States. The totals of this class of stock are not much more than they were 50 years ago. This is all the more remarkable in view of the tremendous expansion that has been going on in almost every line of agriculture.

Sheep should be kept on the average farm to aid in keeping down weed life. When weeds are young and sappy the sheep are in a sense insatiable devourers of the same. There are but few kinds of weeds that they will not trim down and consume and turn into good mutton if they have access to the same at a comparatively early stage in the growth of the weeds. When other pasture is not overabundant this cropping down of weeds will be more complete than under other conditions. They will even keep down, at least in a considerable degree, the growth of Canada thistles when thus managed. They are equally ravenous also for the seeds of the weeds. When these have been formed and even when mature, and when weed seeds have been devoured by them, they are so finely ground that they do not grow again when dropped upon the ground. I have watched sheep when first turned into a grain pasture to see what was their first choice. When such weeds as lambsquarters were present and quite young and succulent, they would take these first in preference to the grain.

They should be kept to consume the waste products. On every farm these abound more or less. They abound not only in the form of weeds, but in the form of grasses of various kinds. These are found numerously in the

grain fields after the grain has been reaped. They are found in the high-ways, beside the farms, and they are found along fence borders whatsoever may be the build of these. The sheep that are given access to these will virtually clean up everything and in good form. The food thus eaten would otherwise be wasted, at least it would in large measure.

They should be kept to supply meat for the household. The farmer is much prone to confine his meat diet to salt pork, and largely for the reason that in this form meat is most easily kept. Where sheep are kept upon the farm the farmer may have fresh meat and of a delicious character by killing and dressing occasionally a mutton from his flock. With a good place to keep such meat, as an apartment in an ice house, he may enjoy such meat in warm weather. But even in the absence of such a place he may partake of such food during much of the year—that is, during all portions of the same when the weather is cool enough to enable him to keep such meat in a good condition. In this way much of the meat may be grown to meet the needs of the farm from products that would otherwise be wasted.

Sheep ought to be kept because of the influence which they exert upon fertility. No class of animals kept upon the farm will equal them in the favorable influences thus exerted. This arises first, from the readily available condition in which the droppings reach the soil; second, from the scattered condition in which they reach the land, and, third, from the general distribution of the dropping over the land. In this way sheep leave the land richer in available fertility when they graze upon it than it was when the grazing began. Thus it is that the proverb has arisen that the sheep has a golden hoof. And it is founded on the truth.

## INJURY DONE IN REMOVING WEEDS

Most Beneficial Method Is to Burn Them Where They Are and Scatter Ashes.

The usual thing is when the weeds have been loosened to remove them bodily. Now, in doing this it is almost impossible to avoid removing a part of the upper surface of the garden. It may be only an inch or two, but that inch is just the best of the ground. This is the height of folly.

One reads of the thrifty French gardeners removing so many inches of their soil when they have to quit out. There is an agreement to that effect. The soil that they have improved with years of labor and care is a "tenant's fixture," so to speak, and they take it with them.

What goes on in too many of our gardens is just the reverse. Instead of going away and bringing the soil with us—that is the wealth of our gardens—we stay and the soil goes, thrown out on the rubbish heap to form part of an eyesore and nuisance to the rest of the establishment.

These things should not be so. In the Utopia of well-managed farms and gardens, of which we now and then have an inkling, there will be no rubbish at all, for what is rubbish? Burning is wasteful; when it is consumed, it is another matter in dealing with such things as old stumps, roots and bad weeds that preserve their vitality over the winter. For them there must be the cleansing fires. But why make them away to a rubbish heap? Why not rather burn them where they lie, at once and scatter the ashes there. This plan acts beneficially in more ways than one. It saves two cartings and it is always easier to do a job of this sort at once. Beside, rubbish, even if left for but a few weeks, will be found to have afforded free quarters to an appalling, if interesting extent, to slugs and other garden pests.

These rubbish heaps! What troublesome, unlovely things they are. At a certain old homestead that I have in my mind's eye, the practice is in full swing. All ashes and conditions of things find their way, not alone from the garden, but from the dwelling, to a hollow just out of sight of the house and garden. Here are "pegged out" any amount of extraordinary things—broken pottery, papers, sardine tins, tin meat cans, probably in their virgin state, and old hats, and there they lie until someone finds time to set fire to the heap, a blot of unsightliness amid so much natural charm.

## BIRDS EXCEL AS WEED DESTROYERS

Some Songsters Depend Almost Exclusively on Weed Seeds—Crow Kills Mice.

Weeds, as well as insects, are enemies of the farmer. Most weeds are short-lived and depend for their continuance on a prolific seed production. There is a class of birds that, in maturity, feeds almost exclusively on weed seeds, among which the grosbeaks, goldfinches, native sparrows, quail and doves are the more important. Probably the greediest seed-eating birds, according to Mr. Pratt, are the native American tree sparrow and the chipping sparrow. Their cousins, the English sparrows, however, can by no means be included in the list.

Rats, mice and snakes are the prey of a numerous class of birds, many of which are often hunted and branded as great destroyers of property. If it were not for owls and hawks the country would be overrun with rodents, according to Mr. Pratt. The crow has his place for good as a destroyer of field mice and the farm owl is the night watchman who hunts gophers, mice and snakes.

Not all hawks are useful. Those that circle around in the sky and swoop down with stealthy movement on their prey are great boons, but the darter, those that take their prey on the wing, are ruthless destroyers.

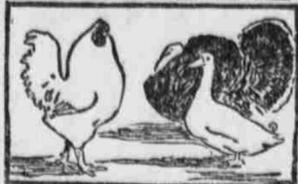
**Early Spring Pigs.**  
After being weaned, early spring pigs may be run on alfalfa, rape, clover or grain pastures with a supplemental feed of grain until some crop is ready to hog off. During the summer, mature crops of barley, wheat and peas, with alfalfa or rape pasture, will carry them until the main crops are harvested.

They then glean the stubble fields and feed on standing corn in the field, roots, pumpkins, etc., until late in the fall. They may be sold directly from the cornfield or may be fed for a few weeks before being marketed.

**Feed for Dairy Cows.**  
Dairy farmers are seeking a more economical and dependable source of feed for their cows, and gradually experience is directing them to a more liberal production of silage and alfalfa hay.

**Plant in Spring.**  
Peaches, plums, cherries and all stone fruits are to be planted in spring.

## POULTRY



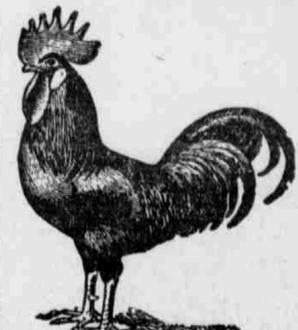
### CURE FOR BROODINESS

Two Methods Given for Breaking Up Setting Hens.

Strenuous Measures Must Be Adopted to Dissuade Fowl From Her Purpose—Leghorns Are Most Popular for Eggs.

(By PROF. JOHN WILLARD BOLTE.)  
Contrary to general impression, broodiness in hens is not a fever and we have no evidence to show that it is contagious. The ailment, if we may term it thus, appears without warning. The fowl may have been laying steadily and acting in a perfectly normal fashion, when suddenly she becomes imbued with a great distaste for active pursuits. She betrays a very crabbed disposition, rushing at her erstwhile friends and pecking them viciously whenever they approach her. Her plumage sticks out at right angles, making her appear about twice as large as usual. With head drawn deep into her backle feathers and wings and body taking up as much space as possible, she mounts guard over her chosen nest and defies all comers.

The hen becomes broody because nature prompts her with a sudden desire for a brood of chicks. She probably does not know why she does it, as she will take to potatoes or door knobs as kindly as to eggs, but she



Excellent Egg Type.

sets when the time comes just the same, and she will keep on setting until you break her up or let her hatch out a brood of chicks.

This pertinacity would not be so important if it were not for the fact that she quits laying and stays quit. She has decided upon a vacation and she refuses to work during this period. The loss of a couple of months of a hen's time is not to be thought of at any period, and especially during the spring, which is the natural time for setting and heaviest egg production as well.

If we do not wish to set the hen on eggs we will have to adopt strenuous means to dissuade her from her purpose and start her to laying again. There are a number of successful ways of doing this, and conditions will indicate the most favorable. The main thing is to act promptly and be thorough.

Remove the broody hens from the nests each night, as they are most easily detected then. They stick to the nest instead of going to roost. Dust them thoroughly with insect powder and confine them in an open slat crate or cage in a cool, light location. Keep water before them and give nothing to eat except a little whole wheat and green stuff once a day. This will not hurt the hen and about three days of this "water cure" will convince her of the error of her ways.

Another good way is to have a separate pen with absolutely bare floor and walls, and no possible place to nest, and place all of the broody hens in it, in the company of two or three vigorous male birds. This scheme is frequently used on large poultry farms.

The heavier breeds are especially addicted to broodiness, the Asiatics being the worst offenders and the Plymouth Rocks and R. I. Reds leading in the American class. Leghorns and Minorcas and Hamburgs set so rarely that they cannot be depended on to raise their young. For this reason the Leghorns are the most popular breed for large egg farms, as they waste no time setting and the young are easily raised artificially.

**Most Fertile Eggs.**  
The eggs from mature hens will hatch better and produce stronger chicks than the eggs of pullets. They are usually larger, too.

**Discarding Setting Hen.**  
The old setting hen is gradually going out of business, with several hundred manufacturers of incubators and brooders as competitors.

**Don't Change Its Mind.**  
When once set, the incubator does not have the privilege of changing its mind as does old Biddy.

## The ONCOOKER S. E. KISER UNENVIABLE



Most men would gladly take his place And shoulder all his obligations. Though there are lines upon his face And he has few and brief vacations; Most men would gladly, if they might, Be where he is and have his money; But nothing fills him with delight, Not his there's nothing that is funny.

His look is solemn, in his eyes There never lurks a merry twinkle; Among his lines of care there lies Not even one mirth-given wrinkle; With sober looks he goes his way, By one grim purpose animated From him, hard-featured, bent and gray, No jest has ever emanated.

Yet there are men who watch him pass, Permitting envy to possess them— Men who are hated by no class, And who have few ills to distress them— Men who sometimes forget a while That only money is worth getting, Who watch the nibble clown, and smile, Too glad to waste the moment fretting.

His wealth is great, his station high, But, by one purpose driven daily, He has no time to ever try, To let his solemn tones ring gayly; Yet there are men who envy him Who, even while he piles up money, Remains hard-featured and as grim As death and just about as funny.

**Consulting His Taste.**  
"Mary," said Mrs. Willikins, "did the lamb chops and the beefsteak I ordered for breakfast come all right?"  
"Yes, ma'am," the girl replied.  
"And did the boy fill that order for sausage that I gave yesterday?"  
"Yes, ma'am."  
"We have ham and eggs in the house, too, haven't we?"  
"Yes, ma'am."  
"And bacon?"  
"Yes, ma'am."  
"Let me see. Yes, Mr. Willikins will sigh for a good old-fashioned mess of mackerel tomorrow morning. That's the only thing I couldn't think of."

**Clear Case.**  
"So," the lawyer said, "you wish to break your father's will? What's the matter with it?"  
"Well, he left nearly half of his fortune to colleges and charitable institutions."  
"H'm. Did he ever show any evidence of being weak-minded?"  
"He was accepted as a juror in a murder trial once."  
"Oh, this'll be dead easy!"

**Willing to Try.**  
"The man who marries my daughter," said the old gentleman, "must demonstrate before he receives my consent that he can earn his own living."  
"All right," the boy replied, "just make me vice-president of your company for a little while, and I'll show you."

**His Elegant Language.**  
"How careful that Mr. Plimley is about his language. He seems to be so anxious always for fear he may not use the right word or give his a's and r's the proper sound."  
"Yes, he is very fastidious in that way. He even pronounces it 'catapilow!'"

**His Experience.**  
"Have you ever played football?" she asked.  
"No," he replied, "but when I was a cowboy I was once run over by a herd of stamped steers."

**Odds Against Him.**  
The bravest man may be the one Who is always telling what Blood-curdling wonders he has done, But the chances are his not.

**The Way Up.**  
Life's path has many a hidden pit And many steps and bowlders, And they fall hardest there who sit On other people's shoulders.

**Pa's Idea of It.**  
"Pa what's a barren idealist?"  
"A drink of water the next morning after a fellow has been at a stag dinner."

S. E. Kiser.