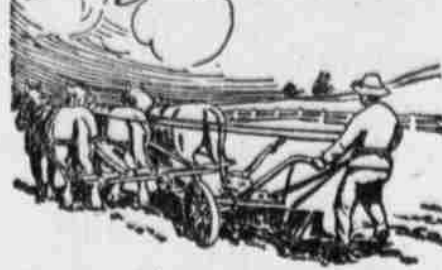


NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Swine relish milk.

Look after all details.

Watch all farm implements.

Experience is a valuable asset.

Let the poultry have a share of the sour milk.

It is no easier to keep poultry than any other stock.

In housing the little chicks give them plenty of room.

Always test the hen on china or nest eggs before setting.

In fighting weeds, starting early is three-fourths of the battle.

For strong fertility there should be a change of male birds once a week.

If several hens are set in one room, it is desirable to confine them in good nests.

If a cow is not worth good feeding she is not worthy to be a member of your herd.

Gather and burn the brush; and plow the orchard not deeper than three or four inches.

Toe-mark the chicks as soon as they are hatched. This enables one to tell their ages later.

A paste of cow manure and clay bound on the wound of a girdled tree will often save it.

First-class fruit in first-class shape will probably create an inquiry for more of the same kind.

Don't shut the chicks too closely at night, as they must have air and lots of it in order to do well.

Young chicks should not be fed wholly on concentrates. They should have generous allowances of green foods.

Some exercise is necessary to the raising of chickens, but do not give too much, as that is worse than not any at all.

A chicken that ceases to grow in the growing period has disease waiting on it at every point, which will soon attack the weakest spot.

Keep a flock of hens, a good cow or two, prepare for a good garden this year, and you won't have to complain of the high cost of living.

Take great care when manuring raspberries not to fork too deep, as the raspberry, being a surface rooter, its roots can be easily damaged.

Better feeding means the growing of more home crops. The palatability and nutritive value depends largely upon the way in which they are cured.

It is very foolish to go to the cost and labor of shocking corn then leave it out in the field until wind has blown dirt into it and weather has ruined it as a feed.

Breed from the hens that retain their color after molting. By this means you will finally get even colored chickens. This applies to all buff and red breeds.

With veal at its present high price there is a big temptation to let some of the dairy helpers go. But the careful dairyman does not let this temptation get the better of his judgment.

Good farm implements are necessary these days for successful farming. It is not economy to make out without implements that are badly needed on your farms. Invest in needed equipment.

Sweet clover does the best when sown upon sod, but any soil, unless acid, will grow sweet clover. Sweet clover likes a limestone soil. In fact, it will grow upon gravel beds which are rich in limestone.

There are a few soils in the United States where an application of a complete fertilizer—one containing nitrogen, potash and phosphorus—will return so much profit as the application of just the elements that are needed. Few soils are exhausted in all three elements.

According to Professor S. J. Hunter of Kansas, the best way to get rid of grasshoppers in the alfalfa fields is by the use of the disk harrow. Professor Hunter has been carrying on experiments for several years to eliminate the destructive hoppers and from the results of those experiments he has learned that disking is not only fatal to the grasshopper, but that it also greatly increases the yield of alfalfa.

Keep the weeds down.

A hen can be kept too long.

Clean up and burn the rubbish.

Don't confine the chicks closely.

The dust bath is a natural enemy to lice.

A female fly will deposit 150 eggs at a laying.

Filth in the summer months should never be allowed.

Broody hens should be moved to the permanent sitting nest at night.

Do not depend too much upon the ram for improvement; select your ewes as well.

Foliage and fruit diseases are usually controlled with little difficulty by spraying.

Poultrymen should select their breeding stock carefully and then take care of it.

When spraying, if showers come and wash off the poison, spray those trees a second time.

Eggs saved for hatching purposes should not be subjected to high or low temperatures.

Setting hens should be placed where the rest of the flock will disturb them as little as possible.

If you have no trees in your chicken yards plant some corn to make shade while the trees are growing.

Be sure to keep plenty of fresh water before the hens. A great amount of water is used to form the egg.

Do not let the ambition for keeping all the new breeds you hear of cause you to make a failure with poultry.

Before any new chicks come see that there are no scales on the hens' legs—no mites or lice in the poultry quarters.

In seasons when drought prevails a better stand of clover can be secured by sowing the seed without a nurse crop.

If chicks have no stamina, get stunted, or are diseased, it is the careless, ignorant or lazy caretaker who is to blame.

Calves can well be fed corn ensilage as soon as they are old enough to be fed solid food stuffs, but they must not be overfed.

Tools and implements in their places and in good repair when not in use save lots of time when those busy spring days come.

A record should be kept of each hatch, showing the date set, number and kind of eggs, number tested out, and the chickens hatched.

The bill of fare should have a variety. Fowls do not wish to be confined to a single article of food any more than men do, and it is not good for them.

Light plows are all right for land that is free from stone; but look out for your ribs where there are many stones. For such land better get a heavier plow.

Potatoes planted in old land or rich garden soil are apt to be scabby and worm eaten; a teaspoonful of sulphur thrown onto the tubers when dropped will prevent both evils.

It is muscle and bone that are required to withstand hardship and inactive colts never develop either like those which have the advantage of plenty of exercise every day.

Chilled eggs are responsible for a good deal of "bad luck" with incubators, but as a general thing eggs in the process of hatching will stand more cooling than many people think.

Use labor-saving devices. The high price of labor and importance of prompt planting, cultivating, spraying, etc., make it absolutely necessary to use effective tools and farm machinery.

Lambs should be docked when they are from 8 to 10 days old, according to the advice of the Minnesota experiment station. At that time the young animal receives practically no setback.

Fresh bones contain a small quantity of animal matter which is useful for food. They are in their best condition when fresh and unburned. Burning or charring consumes the animal matter and makes them just so much less valuable.

The roots of the small grain crops, as wheat and oats, are more fibrous than the roots of such crops as corn, and the great mass of the roots of these crops is confined to the furrow slice. For this reason a well prepared seedbed is even more essential than for the coarser feeding crops.

In shoeing horses it should be remembered that some horses have so strong a development of the horny structure of the foot that a considerable portion needs to be removed at each shoeing, while others require, if it were possible, horn to be added, for in them the wear is greater than the growth. Bear this point in mind in getting horses shod.

MANY VALUABLE ANIMALS RUINED DURING FIRST SEASON BY LACK OF PROPER CARE

Sheep Owner Who Wishes to Make Profit Out of His Flock Should Stand by and Help Nature in Case of Trouble—Best Ewes Usually Suffer From Congestion of Udder.



Profitable Flock of Ewes.

Of course, nature may be relied upon to pull most domestic animals through the stress of birth, but the man who wants to make a profit out of his flock will stand by to help out in the case of trouble.

Many valuable young ewes are ruined during their first lambing season by lack of care, and this is especially true of those that happen to suffer from congestion of the udder.

The aggravating part of it is that it is the freest milkers, those that would make the best mothers, that always suffer from the caking and inflammation of the udder that may unfit them for anything save mutton. When a ewe gives a great deal of milk, her lamb is apt to suckle but one side, leaving the other to distend, harden, cake and inflame. Within a day or two this hardening may result in the loss of half the udder.

I spend several days during and after the lambing season going from one ewe to another, and examining them for traces of caked udders and inflammation. If I find a large amount of milk in either side, I milk it out in order to equalize the pressure on the tissues. I try to teach the lamb to nurse both sides. Of course, all this takes time and a good deal of patience, but it is worth the trouble.

Several years ago I learned that reducing the amount of feed a day or two before lambing time would help to prevent caking of the udders. This reduces the supply of milk that is being created, and helps to make the inflamed and caked udder a great deal less threatening. Of course, as soon as I see that the danger of such disturbance is over, I start feeding the full rations again.

When the lamb is taking practically all the milk furnished from the first.

It is safe to stimulate the flow by stronger feeding, says a writer in the Farm Progress.

Local treatment may aid in saving the usefulness of the ewe. In case I happen on an ewe already suffering from caked udder, I get her up to the barn as quick as I can, and give her the hot water treatment. This consists of setting her back on her haunches and freely applying hot water to the udder. This relieves congestion by sending a stronger flow of blood through the udder.

Following the hot-water treatment a thorough rubbing, kneading and massaging of the udder should follow. I have used ointments and salves to correct this trouble, but I find that rubbing is just about as effective without the salves and ointments as with them. I use hot or warm lard, and find that it is as effective as mercurial ointments, blue ointments or any of the rest of them. Warm vaseline is just as good, but apparently no better than ordinary lard. The careful rubbing and twisting of the udder is the thing that helps.

Frozen ground, wet bedding and general exposure at or about lambing time helps to bring on these udder troubles. There should be plenty of warm, dry bedding between the ewes and the damp earth or a cold cement floor. It is dangerous to the ewes, young or old, to allow them to lie with newly distended udder on the wet earth where the frost is still lingering.

If the caked udder runs its usual course it destroys the milk-producing ability of half the udder, and unfits the ewe for anything except the mutton pens. This may be caused by lack of attention within the two weeks around lambing time.

ATTENTION NEEDED FOR SHEEP FLOCK

Animals Are Dainty Eaters and Will Not Touch Hay Mussed Over by Other Stock.

Sheep are dainty feeders. They will not eat hay that other stock have mussed over, and they will refuse grain taken from a ratty crib. Sheep should have a well ventilated shed, high and dry. In dry weather, says a writer in the Practical Farmer, they should be allowed their freedom to run out and in at their will. Nothing will feel or show neglect as quickly as sheep. Place the unthrifty ewes by themselves and give them a little extra feed. Perhaps they are suffering from the greed of the bosses in the flock, and are not getting a full ration. Oats, wheat, bran, linseed meal and clover hay should be provided for ewes. Dip the sheep immediately after shearing and again in about three weeks to destroy the ticks that may have escaped at the first dipping.

GOOD TREATMENT FOR "GREASE HEEL"

Trouble Usually Comes From Excessive Dampness, Due to Filthy Stables.

(By E. T. BAKER, Veterinarian, Idaho Experiment Station.)

Scratches, often called "grease heel" or eczema, often becomes a chronic disorder, with thickening of the skin around the fetlock, leaving a decided blemish.

This trouble usually comes from excessive dampness, due to muddy roads and filthy stables. Another cause is currying off dry mud with all the strength of an athletic arm, irritating the skin. Sometimes the system is in poor condition and needs building up, and, again, some horses seem predisposed to the disease.

Do not regard it as a trifling trouble, but promptly attend to the condition. It is often cheaper in the long run to consult the local veterinarian, who will advise the proper treatment.

Clipping the fetlock and applying some bland ointment is often all that is needed in a mild case.

SWEET PEPPER IS MOST PALATABLE

No Vegetable Produces More Table Enjoyment if Given Little Care and Study.

Your garden ought to be well supplied with that most palatable vegetable, the sweet pepper. Many people imagine that all peppers are too hot to be eaten with comfort, but this is a great mistake. The only hot portions are the seeds, and they can be removed before the cooking. Green peppers are cooked in a variety of ways and there is no vegetable that produces more table enjoyment than these vegetables, if a little study and care are given to their growth and preparation for the table.

Perhaps the earliest variety is the Neapolitan. If well-grown plants are set out early they will produce fine fruit in June. The fruit first turns to a light yellow and then to a brilliant scarlet.

The Ruby King, the Bull Nose, or Sweet Bell are fine peppers. They are blunt-nosed, round, and about two or three inches long. The Ruby King is a little larger than the Bull Nose and its flesh is very mild and sweet. These plants grow about three feet high, and are not easily blown down.

The largest variety is the Chinese Giant. The flesh is thick and sweet, and can be eaten raw.

Peppers require rather light, well-drained soil, and they must be kept growing from the start. If growth is checked by cold weather or lack of moisture, they will not mature well.

When the plants show two or three leaves in seed bed, transplant into small cans or flower pots and again transplant when all danger of frost is past and in fact not until the weather becomes quite warm. Place a shovelful of well-rotted manure in each hill.—L. M. Bennington.

Japan's Appreciation.

Japanese cherry trees are due to decorate one of New York city's popular resident sections next season. Subjects of Japan who live in this country have presented 1,200 trees to the city as a mark of appreciation of the city's hospitality to foreigners. The trees are being cared for by the imperial agricultural department in Tokyo.

POULTRY FACTS

ROOSTER LOWERS EGG YIELD

Interesting Tests Made at New York Experiment Station on Presence of Males in Flock.

The belief used to be general many years ago that hens would not lay without the presence of a male bird in the flock. And even today there are a few people that contend the male stimulates egg production to a greater or less extent. Men who have raised poultry for years still cling to this notion and persist in keeping a lot of males hanging about where only eggs are wanted.

The New York Experimental station made up four pens of pullets, two consisting of pure-bred stock and two of mixed stock. With one pen of each class cockerels were kept, while with the others none were allowed. The cockerels were put with the two pens two months before any began laying. Some pullets in each of the two pens in which no cockerels were put began laying a month before any in the two containing cockerels. The fowls were of the Asiatic breeds and rather persistent sitters. No attempt was made to discourage any of the hens from sitting, and there seemed to be no difference in the relative number of sitters in the contrasted pens. Of the cross-bred pullets the lot without males laid better throughout the season and also during the best egg season. Of the other lot the one without males began laying earlier and did better than the one with males during the first part of the season, but it fell slightly behind for the latter months, though during that period they kept even with the lot which was accompanied by males. It was thought that the vice of feather eating which broke out in this pen had much to do with the falling off in egg production.

From these experiments it would seem that the presence of males has a detrimental influence upon the egg yield. This is also the theory advanced by many in recent years, and it is now pretty generally accepted by prominent egg farmers.

HINTS ON DUCKS AND GEESE

Newly Hatched Goslings Weigh About Four Ounces—Turkeys Are Slow at the Start.

A Pekin duckling weighs about two ounces when hatched and should take on weight as follows: Three to four weeks, 1 pound; six to eight weeks, 4 to 4½ pounds; and at ten weeks,



White China Geese.

5½ to 6 pounds. Ducklings should be marketed from nine to twelve weeks of age. After that they take on weight slowly, and it is not profitable to keep them longer than twelve weeks.

Geese grow about as rapidly as ducks. Allowance of course must be made for the original difference in size—newly hatched goslings weighing about four ounces. Turkeys do not grow rapidly at the start, but develop much quicker after three months of age.

POULTRY NOTES

It is hard to fatten a stunted chicken.

Boys and girls should be encouraged to raise poultry.

Wet feet are just as bad for hens as they are for folks.

The hen that lays 150 eggs in a year is doing mighty good laying.

For the city market there is nothing between the broiler and roaster. Every week there should be a fresh supply of clean, fine earth in the dust box.

No wonder some men's hens never weigh anything. The lice have just about carried them away.

Nobody wants to buy a dirty egg, and the only way to keep the eggs clean is to keep the nests clean.

Middlings and cornmeal wet with skim milk make a fine forcing feed for culis that are to be marketed.

Spraying a chicken house with 1 to 20 solution of lime-sulphur will effectually destroy all nits and lice.

An unruly or greedy rooster has no place in a chicken yard; the dinner table is the safest roost for him.

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

There is no such thing as egg laying type. There is but one true test of the layer, and that is by the aid of the trap nest.

The ONLOOKER S. E. KISER HAPPY DAYS for PA



Pa is feeling rather chipper; every day he wears a smile. Though he has no public office and keeps working all the while; They have not increased his wages, and they never will, I guess. But his look is always cheerful and he's full of hopefulness.

His overcoat is seedy and his pants bag at the knees; We are not among the people who can travel over seas; The price of living's higher than it ought to be, 'tis true, But pa's clinging to his courage and he takes a hopeful view.

The folks next door have lately had to cut expenses down; It seems they've been unlucky—it's the talk all over town; They have sold their new electric—ma pretends it was too bad— So it seems pa needn't buy one, and it makes him mighty glad.

The Point of View.

"People talk about thirteen being an unlucky number," she said, "but I can't say that I have found it so. A year ago New Year's day I sat down to dinner where there were thirteen at the table."

"And didn't anything happen?" her friend asked in amazement.

"Oh, yes, considerable happened. The hostess and two of the guests have died since then."

"Well, for goodness' sake, how can you say, after all this, that you don't consider sitting at a table where there are thirteen unlucky?"

"Possibly it was unlucky for some of them," she said, "seeming to reflect, 'but it was my turn to entertain this year, and you see there were only ten to be provided for.'"

Not Merely a Matter of Choice.

"No, sir, you can't convince me that he is a real poet. His attempt to look like the traditional bard is too obvious. If he were not masquerading he would not feel called upon to let his hair hang down over his shoulders and wear a soft shirt thrown open at the front. He would let his work instead of his make-up speak for him."

"But you must remember, my dear fellow, that his long hair and open shirt obviate the necessity of wearing clean collars."

When She Wan't.

"The Dribblesons have always been well off, I believe."

"No, not always. I saw Mrs. Dribbleson once when she wan't."

"Why, I thought her father inherited his money."

"Perhaps he did. The time I refer to was once when she had removed herself from a car by stepping backward."

Unappreciated.

He had a kind and gentle heart; He grieved to see men sad; He tried to play a noble part And sought to make men glad.

He came with stories day by day And told them o'er and o'er To make men happier, and they Groaned: "Heavens, what a bore!"

His Liberal Spirit.

"I never knew him to refuse to give aid in what he considered a deserving case."

"Did you ever know him to see what he considered a deserving case?"

"Well, no, I don't believe I ever did, now that you mention it."

Big Job.

"I read somewhere the other day that the German emperor has a hundred and eleven different residences."

"Goodness! I wonder if the poor empress has to find the help for all of them?"

Not Just What She Meant.

"It is my aim in life," he said, "to do something every day that will make men happier."

"Ah," she exclaimed with great enthusiasm, "that must be why you keep so secluded."

S. E. Kiser.