

Social Forms and Entertainments



For Commencement Day.
I find that many of the schools have commencement exercises very late in June and I have so many requests from teachers of small district schools who are remote from large towns and yet are more than anxious to have creditable closing days. This little scheme is very pretty and not difficult to work out. It is called "Childhood's Happy Year." Select four girls about the same age and size to form each "season." Make the costumes from crepe paper and represent "Spring" by green frocks with wreaths of green about the head; "Summer" with white frocks and crowns and roses, either real or artificial, and gowns trimmed with garlands of small roses; "Autumn" should have brown dresses with fall leaves in red and brown tints, and "Winter" all white with holly wreaths and mistletoe, or red dresses trimmed in cotton.

"Spring" should enter first and march to the front of platform and sing the first verse of the following song, which is easy to sing to the tune of "Swinging 'Neath the Old Apple Tree." At the end of the lines, two of the girls turn to the right and two to the left and march down the sides joining at the back in a line. "Summer," "Autumn" and "Winter" follow, a group at a time sing their verse and march as did "Spring" and take their places at the back behind the preceding "season." This retains "Spring" at the front, and then all join hands, forming a circle, and sing the chorus through and march off in single file, "Spring" leading. It is really very effective.

Happy Childhood's hours,
With the budding flowers,
With the warbling songsters
In leafy trees;
When the earth rejoices,
Glad we join our voices,
Happy in the spring we are.

CHORUS.

Happy Childhood! Happy Childhood!
Singing all the day right merrily;
Happy Childhood! Happy Childhood!
Happy all the year we are.

In the summer weather,
Glad we are together,

Chasing little butterflies
While on the wing;
Ringing 'round o' roses,
Gathering sweetest posies,
Happy in the summer as in spring

CHORUS.

When the winds are sighing
And the leaves are dying
Opening prickling burrs
'Neath chestnut trees—
Merrily we're racing
In the air so bracing
Happy in the autumn breeze.

CHORUS.

When Jack Frost is nipping
Still we're gayly sipping
All the sweetness stored throughout
the year—
So, with cheeks aglowing
Welcome we the snowing
Winter brings us all good cheer.

CHORUS.

A Spinster Shower for "Polly."
"Polly" had at last succumbed to Cupid's wiles and the spinster club to which she belonged resolved to do the proper thing in way of a shower. The invitations were on green cardboard, lettered in yellow. They were so pretty that it was some time before the recipient realized they were supposed to represent jealousy.

Each guest took a jainty tea cup and saucer, the hostess providing the pot. All were asked to bring their thimbles. The work provided by the hostess was a variety of tea towels. Then the hostess requested the bride-elect to make a cup of tea as a farewell to the other spinsters. The maid brought in a tray with the cups and saucers, each cup bearing a black cat shaped card on which the donor's name, and a sentiment were inscribed in white ink. I forgot to say, these cat cards were enclosed with the invitations, and the cups were all sent to the hostess the day before the shower. Every one said it was a most unique way of giving a shower.

An "S" Supper.
Some years ago this "S" supper was given to vary the monotony of the ordinary church supper. It was a success, and I copy the menu for others who may like to try it. The card at the top said, "Supper Schedule":

Sumptuous! Substantial! Satisfying!
Slimly Sliced Sandwiches, Stylishly Shaped.
Selected Seafruit, Somewhat Seasoned.
Scalloped Sea-Fruit,
Savory Salmon Salad,
Scrumptious Salad, Small, Sleek Sardines,
Square Sallines.
Sundries.
Shapely Spiced, Slender Sweet Pickles.
Sour, Stringing, Stimulative Sauce.
Scrapple Sweet-Cakes.
Silver Spiced Sponge, Snow Sweetmeats,
Small, Succulent, Sacharine Slices Sweetened.
Soldified Strawberry Syllabub.
Soft, Smooth, Snowy, Slippery Sherbet Sips.
Sisters' Special Steeped Slip.
Steaming, Soul-Stirring Stimulant.
Sentiment Souvenirs, Suitably Selected.
Supper, Six-Seven-Sixty.
Several Sweet Sisters Sedulously Serving.
MME. MERRI.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Ventilate all stables.

Cull all pure bred animals.

Keep the little pigs growing.

Provide the chicks with shade.

Pasteurization is universal in German cities.

Wash the calves' pails as well as the milk pails.

Corn silage produces a very rapid finish on the cattle.

Equal parts of lard and kerosene is effective against lice.

Have everything ready beforehand and start your hatching operations.

Do not uncover roses or other plants until their new growth makes it necessary.

Put your thinking cap on and don't let other work crowd out the chicks.

Don't allow broody hens to remain on the same nests that are used by the layers.

Farms that are lacking in natural timber should be producing an artificial grove.

There never will be too many good poultrymen, but we can strive to be among the best.

A sow can be kept too long, and often many of us keep some old thing a year too long.

Do not give nitrate of soda to plants until well above soil, and then apply very sparingly.

Grass seed is quite the opposite of clover, so the mixtures are very apt to contain more grass than clover.

Imagine what could be accomplished in the way of community breeding with fifty herds in the same community.

If you have windows in the hen house keep them clean, as the hens need all the sunlight they can get these days.

Lay your plans to grow the bulk of the feedstuffs on the farm this year. Buying much high-priced feed cuts into the profits.

If a hog misses a feed watch him; if he misses the second feed, remove him from the herd and thoroughly disinfect where he has been.

Better run a dairy without a dog than have one that is irritable to the cows. Many kicking cows are caused by the dogs nipping at their heels.

If you have a real love for the poultry tribe, and do your best by them in any and all ways, you are certain to come out the winner in the long run.

In mating be sure and mate even-colored birds. For instance, not a dark male to a lighter hen. This kind of mating produces mottled chickens.

It has been proved many times that the large, plump, well-formed seed will give the best and quickest crop returns. Moral: Plant only large, well-developed seeds.

The three-year rotation is probably the best for average purposes, but the dairymen may find the four-year rotation more convenient, on account of the pasturage it provides.

The man who catches a sheep by the wool wouldn't like to have his hair pulled every time a neighbor meets him. Hurts a sheep just as bad as it would a man to be handled that way, though.

It takes from fifteen to twenty ears of corn to plant an acre. If one ear falls to grow, about 6 per cent. of the stand is lost. About fifteen minutes of time are required to test enough corn, by the ear method, to plant an acre.

Where it is difficult to obtain a stand of alfalfa, it is quite possible that sowing sweet clover a year or two before seeding to alfalfa would prove advantageous. Sweet clover will inoculate the soil and put it in good condition for seeding alfalfa.

If thoroughly rotten manure is available at least a part of it may be used to advantage as a top-dressing after plowing and before harrowing. This plan is preferable to the use of all the manure before plowing and this is especially true when shallow-rooted crops are to be grown, such as onions and celery.

Spray for insect pests.

Many gardens need lime.

All chickens delight in the sun.

Never mix chicks of different ages.

The perches for fowls should be low.

The sire is the mainspring in the dairy works.

You cannot afford to overlook the health of your fowls.

Early hatches are nine times out of ten more profitably than late ones.

It's no longer possible to farm successfully if you depend upon guesswork.

The sheep is just as efficient a manure spreader as he is a manure maker.

Hens suffer from a damp hen house, so it is well to keep the floor covered with litter.

Grow your peach trees so that a six-foot ladder will be long enough for harvesting.

If applying nitrate of soda sprinkle around the plant and then stir or rake into the soil.

If you intend to use hens for hatching set them in a dry place where the ventilation is good.

If you do not intend to use hens for hatching break them up at once and get them to laying again.

Remember all kinds of stimulating fertilizers should by no means be allowed to touch the leaves of a plant.

Red raspberry rows should be about six feet apart, plants spaced two feet apart in the row (3,630 to the acre).

Start the brooder a day or two before putting in the chicks to see that the heating apparatus is working properly.

Heroic pruning measures are needed to bring many old trees into bearing; but it need not all be done the first year.

In cool weather 10 to 12 chicks are sufficient for one hen, while in warmer weather 15 to 20 can be cared for successfully.

A pound of clover seed to the bushel of small grain helps to give one's land the clover habit, and prepares the way for a good stand.

A 200-bushel yield of potatoes per acre removes from the soil 46 pounds of nitrogen, 21 pounds of phosphoric acid and 74 pounds of potash.

An apple tree that has been properly pruned from the time it is set needs comparatively little attention when it reaches bearing age.

The scratching hen will have better vitality, and a better laying record than the lazy hen that waits by the gate for the next feed to be doled out.

There is this to say for incubator hatching: Mites and other pests are not waiting outside the shell ready to pounce on the helpless chick as soon as it emerges.

High fertility is exceedingly important for cabbage. This crop must have an abundance of quickly available plant food. Application of nitrate of soda usually pays.

A pig must not be allowed to stop growing. If it does, the loss is not confined only to the days of unthrift, but all the food consumed afterward is likely to give less profit.

For a straight hog fence it has been found that twenty-six inches is not high enough. If there are to be no barb wires on top of the hog fence should not be less than thirty inches high.

Plants send their rootlets a surprising distance in search of food and water, and these rootlets show almost human intelligence in traveling around stones and other obstructions to gain their end.

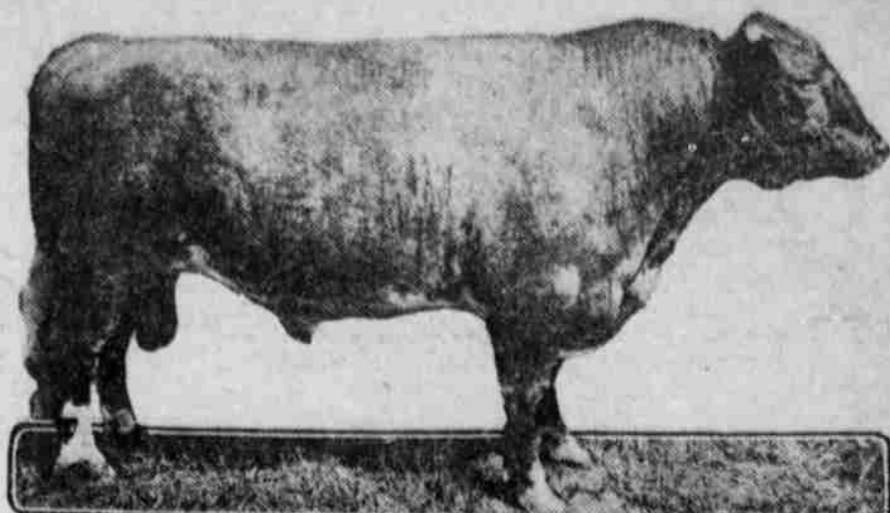
When plowing the land for parsnips and other deep-growing root plants, plow deep and keep the manure down deep; otherwise you will have a lot of surface roots instead of the long, straight roots desired.

The silo will help you meet the feeding problem, enable you to save about 40 per cent. of the feeding value of the corn plant and make it possible for the farm crop to maintain more animals. The silo is a good investment.

Fall plowing is to be preferred to spring plowing. This applies also to land for corn that is to be manured during the winter and spring. A reasonable dressing of coarse manure may be disked in without difficulty, and is in better position to aid the crop than when plowed under.

To hold a sack open for filling it with potatoes, beets, turnips, or anything to be sacked, use a 50-pound lard can with the bottom removed. Place the can in the sack and let the sack come up to the top of the can. Fill the can, raise it and the sack; let the can remain and fill again until the sack is full.

STOCK RAISING IS QUITE PROFITABLE



Has Produced Many Prize Winners.

We can get larger returns from our corn through our cows, steers and hogs, than in any other way. For three years the writer has been selling his corn to grade Holstein cows for a dollar a bushel cash, besides the fertility returned to the field, says a writer in the Farm, Stock and Home. The same is true of that which has been fed to poultry. The remark is often heard: "The dairy cow is too much work. I don't like to milk, and I can't get hired men that will do it."

That is no doubt true where one tries to do two times as much work as he ought, and when the dairy is cared for in a haphazard way—where men are expected to work hard in the field and do the milking in a filthy barn. It is not uncommon to see barns where the cows and horses have to sleep on dirty and hard floors without any bedding, while tons and tons of straw are every year being burnt.

Under such conditions is there any wonder that our hired men do not want to milk? In communities where the most of the farmers have good, clean barns, with cement floors, and use plenty of bedding, they have little trouble in getting their men to milk. But if your conditions outside of these mentioned are such that you can't help, and don't like to milk, there are good opportunities for you in beef or pork raising.

Fit a carload or two of steers every winter to put onto the market in the spring, when prices are high. It is no doubt true that the work with fat stock is not so particular as that with the dairy cow. It does not require such expensive buildings nor so much help excepting in the winter when it is easy to get. Owing to the high prices of beef during the past two years cows and young calves that should have grown into beef have been rushed onto the market by the thousands.

Indications are that there will be a shortage in beef supply, and prices will be still higher in a few years to come than they are at present. So there will be good opportunities for any one who wants to do something besides growing grain. There is good money in stock when it is cared for in

the right way, and when good stock is kept. The fact that it pays to keep a cow that merely pays for her feed because of the fertility she returns to the soil is no reason why we should not keep a good cow.

A good cow will bring us just as much fertilizer, will cost very little more to keep, will bring the owner a much larger net return. The same is true of good beef, and good hogs, and good poultry. We cannot afford to waste time and money on poor stock, for the best is none too profitable.

The buyer of pure-bred live stock must get away from the idea that really good registered animals may be wisely sold for the market price of beef, pork or mutton. Breeders complain that a large number of their inquiries are for \$75 bulls or for \$20 cows. Such are plain scrub stock prices.

Often times the breeder has a scrub pure-bred on hand, and the temptation to sell is great, so he puts on a price a little in excess of the stockyard's valuation, and ends up by shipping the animal and mailing the pedigree. The buyer thinks that because he is getting a pure-bred he is getting a superior animal, when the chances are that the best of his stuff at home is better. Naturally, he becomes dissatisfied in time, and tells his neighbors. Thus prejudice grows.

Blood lines mean nothing unless accompanied by superior individuality. The breeder has a heavy investment. His advertising charges, his showing, the extra care and attention he must give the high-class stock make it necessary for him to charge prices which seem unduly high to many of us; but which are really low when the value of their good stock as sires is considered.

They cannot breed high-class pure-bred stock merely for fun. The castrating knife should be used more than it is; but so long as the farmer asks for pure-breds at an advance of a few dollars over the cost of grades, some breeders will continue to supply them, to the detriment of themselves, the buyer, the breed and of the whole live stock business. A scrub pure-bred causes more damage than a grade and \$75 mature bulls cannot be anything more than scrubs.

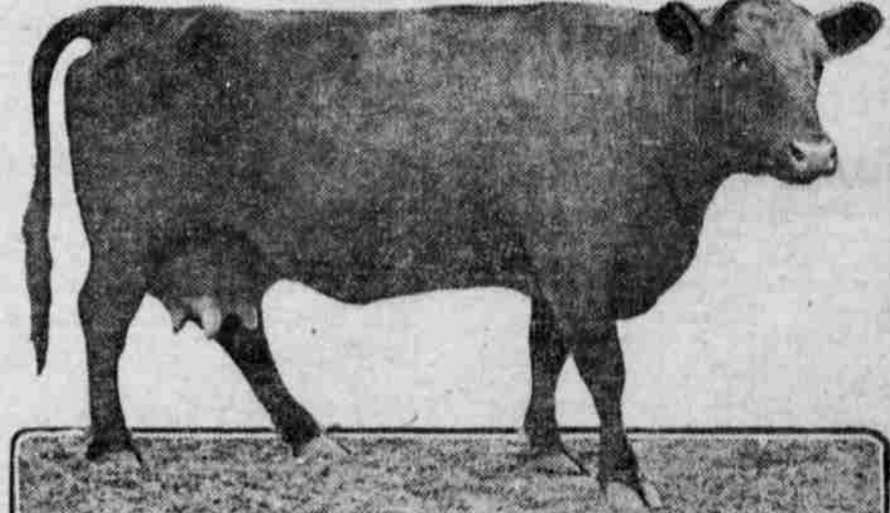
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Red Polled Cow—A General Purpose Breed.

Two Costumes Just Right in the Light of Fashion



Walking Costume.—Our model is in mole-colored face cloth. The skirt is quite novel in cut, and is prettily trimmed at right side with satin-covered buttons. The coat has a slightly high-waisted bodice, with a long basque attached; there is a cape of satin, over which is a collar of the cloth; satin cuffs and buttons trim the sleeves. Hat of light grayish blue Tegel, trimmed with mole ribbon and osprey.

Materials required for the costume: 5½ yards 46 inches wide, 19 buttons, ¾ yard satin 46 inches wide, 5 yards lining silk 20 inches wide.

Garden Party Dress.—White crepe-de-chine and imitation Irish crochet lace are combined in this very pretty dress. The skirt, which is of the crepe, is tucked at foot and has a short tunic of lace.

The bodices is of lace with tucked crepe-de-chine each side front; the sleeves are also of crepe, with lace insertion running from neck nearly to elbow; the elbows are gathered into insertion bands. A band of soft old rose satin, with jeweled buttons, finishes the waist.

Hat of old rose Tegel with soft satin crown, trimmed with a wreath of small pink flowers.

Materials required for the dress: 3¾ yards crepe-de-chine 44 inches wide, 1½ yards insertion, 2½ yards lace 18 inches wide.

SCARCITY OF PURE BRED STALLIONS

Some of Specimens of Horses Used for Public Service Are Remarkably Poor.

The situation abroad is very much better than in this country. In fact practically no scrub, grade or non-registered stallions, are used for public service.

In investigations of this matter carried on by Dr. A. S. Alexander of Wisconsin it was found that there were in one state 60 per cent. grade stallions and only 40 per cent. pure bred.

Some of the specimen horses used for public service are remarkable exhibitions of wretchedly bred, run down and diseased animals.

The effect of breeding from such stock is apparent in the very low grade of horses produced. Water cannot rise above its level neither can a grade stallion raise the blood level of his progeny above that of his own veins in quality.

The use of such sires, therefore, means a retrogression and a great damage to the farmers of any state.

Care of Palms.

Set the potted palms out in the yard in partial shade, and don't forget to water them, root and foliage. Shower the tops morning and evening.

EXPERIMENTS IN STEER FEEDING

Silage Can Be Used as Roughage Even in Coldest of Winters—Other Tests Made.

Experiments in steer feeding at the Pennsylvania Experiment station showed that in cattle feeding the profit secured from the by-product of feed lots may amount to more than the direct financial gain on the cattle. The test shows conclusively that silage can be used as roughage even in the coldest of winter when fed in an open shed; that there was a considerable saving of corn by the exclusive use of silage during the first part of the feeding period and that the value of feeds utilized in the production of beef during the winter of 1911-12 was much greater than their market value.

The results of this and other tests at the Pennsylvania station indicate that beef can be finished profitably in the state, where due attention is paid to the growth of crops equally adaptable to the soil and to feeding purposes.

Plant Columbine Seeds.

Plant a package of mixed columbine seeds; they germinate readily and you won't be sorry that you did it when they bloom. The columbine blooms the first year.