

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Don't crowd the pigs.
Keep the hen house clean.
Give the chickens green feed.
Treat the bull kindly, but never pet him.
What the farmer wants from a milk cow is results.

The fattening mill will pay for itself in one season.

While over-fat hens may, over-fed hens will not, lay eggs.

A lazy person has no business mixing up with the dairy business.

Keep up your feeding experiments, and note down the results for your own profit.

What makes a finer breakfast for laying hens than wheat warmed in the oven?

Egg production is not measured so much by the quantity as by the quality of the food.

As a general rule, the larger the number of fowls kept the smaller the expense in proportion.

The farmer who knows how to raise a good draft colt always has a buyer ready when he wants to sell.

The chickens that get bone meal and oyster shells in their feed will have few cases of leg weakness.

The dust heap is very important where fowls are confined. If free they may find the dust bath for themselves.

Cow testing allows more discrimination in feeding, apportioning the grain according to the yield of butter fat.

Coal tar cannot be beaten for keeping out the peach tree borer, but it will not kill him once he has become established.

If you have any arsenic on hand feed it to rats and mice and not to your swine. It causes temporary bloat, not good flesh.

Hogs should always have a yard of their own away from the other stock, for it is always found that returns are better in the end.

The beginner with sheep will do well to invest a little money for a good sheep book. One lost sheep will pay for several books.

Be sure that your horses and colts are free from worms. A horse afflicted with worms is never thrifty, and feed is only wasted.

Any feathers or down on the shanks or toes of clean legged varieties of poultry disqualifies the specimen and the bird should be marketed.

It is the fellow who burns the lantern that saves the early lambs. Being right on the spot on the dot will prevent great loss during lambing.

The agitation for laws protecting sheep from dogs is getting broadly scattered. From coast to coast the one drawback to sheep raising is the dog.

The better the sire you have at the head of your herd, the better the offspring will be and that means the greater milk checks you will have in later years.

Do not plant more apple trees unless you are taking good care of what you have. A few well cared for give better returns than many given over to insects and disease.

The majority of the bad habits in dairy cows can be traced directly to handling, or to abuses in handling, that have been exercised in bringing up the calf or developing the heifer.

The people of western cities are paying \$1 each for hens for eating, 30 cents and above for fresh eggs not always fresh, and still they eat more eggs and chickens than some farmer's families.

It is generally conceded that the tendency to large egg production is transmitted by the males, rather than the females. If you are breeding for a "bred-to-lay" strain, carefully keep this in mind. Buy no males except sons of large producers.

We don't think much of any kind of aslms on the floor of the hen house. The hens are so apt to get their feet wet and then walk in them. You know what comes next—of is apt to—sore feet. We would far rather have good earth or dust.

Get a fanning mill.
Plan for a home garden.
Give the hens some charcoal.
Filth and health are arch enemies.

Poultry and egg checks swell the bank account.
Are the rabbits and mice skinning your young trees?

A good breed permits the farmer to convert labor into profit.

Skim milk is one of the best supplements to corn now known.

Do not plant elm or other large trees less than forty feet apart.

The oily nature of the old duck's feathers prevents their getting lice.

Clean utensils have much to do with the quality of the cream they contain.

The one best thing to start improvement in a dairy herd is a pure-bred bull.

Variety of feed is one of the things that will keep the chickens in good condition.

In poultry breeding utility should be the first consideration; beauty should follow.

Starved, stunted chickens are the first ones to catch colds. Thus roup often gets a foothold.

Take care of your poultry and eggs, and the grocer will owe you more often than you owe him.

The farmers' insidute in your locality is for your benefit. Don't miss it, even if you do know it all.

Dairy cows kept in a comfortable condition insure less feed, thrive better and give more milk.

Ten pounds of hay and a few quarts of grain each day are much more economical than stuffing with hay.

Overfeeding should be recognized as a very serious matter, since digestive disturbance is fatal to quick growth.

We do not need manure or commercial fertilizer on our orchards as much as light cultivation and perfect care.

Breeders should look for quality, depth, length, width and form regardless of whether the breed is black, red or white.

Making every acre more profitable, making every acre yield a larger crop, is the solution of increasing the size of the farm.

Good horses and mules will always be in demand, and it costs no more to raise a good one than it does to grow a scrub.

Squashes should be stored in a dry place at a temperature of about 50 degrees. Do not lay more than one deep on shelves.

The poultry products of the United States are worth half a billion dollars annually, and a million dozen eggs are imported every year.

About all the chamols skins on sale nowadays are oil tanned sheep skins. But they are just as good. The sheep need not be ashamed of it.

In 100 parts of the white of an egg about 80 per cent. is water, 12 1/2 per cent. albumen, one per cent mineral matter and 2 1/2 per cent. sugar.

Don't fall to keep the chicks and layers active, clean and happy. Like people they do their best work under pleasant and healthful conditions.

A colt wants to be kept eating and growing and exercising and anything except fattening, as long as he has a time assigned him by nature to grow.

The successful swine breeder needs to have a thorough knowledge of the value of sanitation, also an intimate knowledge of all the requirements of his animals.

Keep the houses clean. Clean up the droppings daily if possible. Cleanliness in winter will mean less vermin in summer. Disinfect the houses at least once a month.

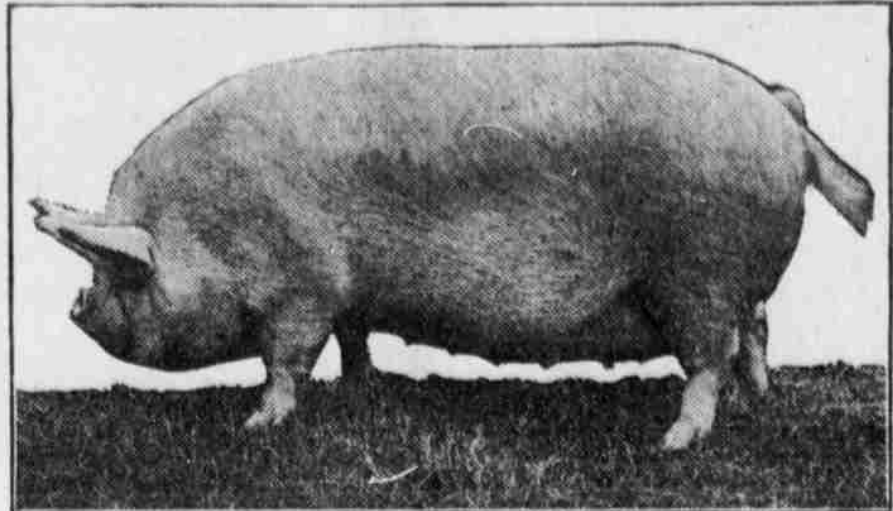
It takes patience, grit and pluck to succeed with poultry this kind of weather. Failure is generally negligence, or judgment passed by some one who does not know.

No cow should be classed as a dairy cow unless she gives milk in profitable quantities. Sometimes the cow, however, is not to blame because of lack of proper feed and care.

There is no other branch of farming which if conducted with a reasonable amount of care and attended to systematically will respond so readily and with such profits one year with another as stock raising.

Many of the troubles that the calves of this country are heir to can be traced directly to unclean surroundings. The calf should have a clean, dry stall, clean pails from which to eat and clean, dry bedding all the time. Filth breeds disease more quickly in the calf pen than anywhere else.

ENDEAVORING FOR THE BEST BACON TYPE



Excellent Bacon Type.

The style of animal which best meets the bacon curer's ideal has often been spoken about, but the desired standard is not always reached, and this in many cases is due to faulty breeding.

To consider briefly one or two of the indications as to what is really a good bacon pig, we might start first from the head.

Here, length of snout, which partly includes length of jaw and the absence of loose flabbiness so frequently seen there, indicates as a rule a lengthy animal. The idea has been to reduce the cheap parts of the animal and to increase those which are dearer. On that account a light forehead is necessary, but it must not be at the expense of width of back or depth in the pig.

As a rule a pig narrow at the poll (between the ears) is not the widest on his top, nor is he the thriftiest of feeders. There may be exceptions to this rule, but it can be applied generally. The advantages of a prominent eye and a smooth unwrinkled jaw or cheek, as well as width between the eyes, are that they invariably indicate a smooth, lean-fleshed animal.

A short heavy head is invariably associated with a very round body and a wide and very fat back, altogether a very wasteful carcass. The neck should not be too long, otherwise it indicates weakness and a short neck generally goes with a short side, which from the bacon point of view of course is not desirable. It is im-

portant to note the character of the middle piece.

The ribs should spring from the back, but they should not be entirely round. They should rather spring well and allow the animal to be turned out slightly flat from the sides. There will then be less wasteful fat on the top without decreasing the depth of the pig.

What is wanted is a pig that contains a maximum of lean meat and an undercut with as much streaky as possible. The loin should of course be covered and muscular, because so much depends on good development there? The rump should not be too straight, otherwise the hams will invariably be short. There should be no flabbiness about the hams and a well-carried tail puts finish to a pig, which helps it greatly at the time of sale to the butcher.

The quantity of bone should also be accompanied by strength of bone, because it is not possible to carry a heavy weight of meat of very fine quality without substance. Round bone should be avoided as it indicates lack of breeding and is invariably associated with a fat carcass.

The pasterns should not be weak and the pig should be straight on its legs. This is likewise of great importance for exercise is necessary in the production of the best class of carcass. These may seem small points yet they all indicate particular functions which the bacon pig is supposed to fulfill.

PROPER FEED FOR LAMBS PAYS WELL

Sudden Change in Ration Creates Dietetic Disorders and Consequent Loss of Life.

(By GEORGE H. GLOVER, Colorado Agricultural College.)

A small percentage of loss in lambs in the feed lot is to be expected, but this loss in some instances is far greater than it should be. When range lambs are placed on a fattening ration the change of feed is so sudden that dietetic disturbances cause a general disorder and several dead sheep are found in the pens each morning. This invariably leads to the suspicion that they are dying of some infectious disease.

In some cases the ration is not well balanced to secure the best gains and the conditions of care and handling might be better, but these things will account for only a nominal loss.

The change from grass to alfalfa, corn, barley, molasses and straw, ensilage, etc., must be made gradually and herein lies the secret of the heavy losses of lambs in the feed lots in the early fall. The desire to get the lambs on a fattening ration as early as possible and failing to appreciate the danger of too heavy feeding and change of ration has helped to make lamb feeding an unprofitable business in some instances. A sudden change of feed or overfeeding must be guarded against in the domestic animals, especially in this true with the horse and sheep.

FATTENING PIGS ON SHELLED CORN

Experiment Conducted at South Dakota Station Shows Advantages in Using Milk.

Ordinarily, with all ages of swine, a bushel of shelled corn will produce an average of ten pounds of pork. In an experiment at the South Dakota station, on an average for the two years of feeding period of sixty-two days each, a bushel of shelled corn yielded 11.9 pounds of pork. But when an average of 163 pounds of milk was fed with a bushel of shelled corn, an average yield of 17.7 pounds of pork was produced.

This was a difference of 5.8 pounds in favor of the milk lots; or, in other words, the milk was equal to 5.8 pounds of pork. However, it must not be understood that this quantity of milk fed to a pig without the corn would yield this amount of gain, but when fed in combination, as above stated, similar results are to be expected.

Healthy Poultry.
Clean quarters and wholesome food are worth more to keep poultry healthy than all the fancy condition powders you can give them.

PRACTICAL HINTS AROUND THE FARM

Ration for Idle Horses Should Be Reduced—Get Cows Into Good Condition.

A Pennsylvania man had a fine young horse die from nothing in the world but overfeeding when not in work. If he had cut the ration down to one-half while the animal was standing in the stable, it would not have had asoturia, a disease that is almost always fatal.

When your horses take cold, a few drops of oil of tar dropped into the feed will do a lot of good.

When you put the horse in the stable, wet from hard work or driving on the road, rub down first with dry straw, then put on a light blanket, later following with a heavier one. A horse cared for that way will rarely take cold.

Scrape the snow and litter off your shoes before going into the house. Your wife is an awfully good woman, of course, but she often feels tired when you come in bringing a load of perfume on your shoes and sit down at the kitchen fire and perhaps in the nice clean sitting room. Be thoughtful of these things.

If your cows come through skimping, it will take you several weeks after they get to grass to get them up in condition to do good work. That will cost you a good deal more than it will now to give them plenty of good feed to bring them up into good condition.

A good sled is a nice thing to draw manure out on if you do not own a manure spreader. Have it about ten feet long, made of good strong stuff and furnished with a good bottom and sideboards. By putting the manure on day by day as made, you can keep your yard clean all winter through, and in the bargain have your manure all drawn out when spring comes.

Water runs down hill. Think of this if you draw manure in winter. If you spread it on the side of a hill when the snow comes, it will carry off a good share of the goodness of your fertilizer in the spring. You can't afford that. If you can, few of us can.

Hardy Alfalfa.
We do not think that the value of the acclimated Montana or Dakota seed is as well known as it should be. Scientists in the past have not always agreed as to the influence of environment upon plants, says a writer in an exchange. Some have thought that both plants and their offspring were affected by soil and climatic conditions, other that they were not so affected and that hardy strains would retain their hardiness, no matter where planted, north or south. Of late they seem to be reaching neutral ground on this question.

Lazy Hens.
Lazy hens cannot now offer the moulting period as an excuse for not laying.

POULTRY



PROPER HOUSE FOR TURKEYS

Too Much Care of Fowls Will Result in Poor Success—Confinement is Always Hard on Them.

I have a neighbor who has been trying to raise turkeys for five years now, and has never made a success of it. He insists that they should be housed every night in the same type of shelter that he uses for his chickens.

I have grown turkeys for ten years, and the only kind of exposure that I know will hurt turkeys is allowing the little fellows to wade through wet grass and weeds. Where they are running in a woods lot even this does not seem to hurt them, says a Tennessee writer in the Farm Progress. My turkeys are out of doors practically all the time.

I never had a turkey to "catch cold" and go around with head and wattles all swollen. The wild turkeys



Profitable Specimens.

manage to live through the bitterest weather, and I think the nearer the domestic bird is left to himself, the better he will do.

A close house is not so good for chickens as one where there is plenty of ventilation. Of course, I would not want to expose any bird to a wind that would freeze combs and feet, but the open shelter seems to be enough to keep the turkeys from suffering any such troubles from exposure.

From one end of the year to the other my turkeys roost in the open. In the spring they desert the shed as soon as the weather moderates, and take to the trees and higher fences. They lay well, and start nesting at once. I lose a few young ones when they get out in the wet fields, but most of them grow up hardy and vigorous.

In nearly every case where I know of turkeys becoming unthrifty and dying off, they have been kept housed up through the winter and most of the summer. The confinement is hard on them. They are naturally a bird of the open.

I have had a few broods of turkeys hatched under the Plymouth Rock or Brahma hens that liked to roost in the inclosed shelters. They never did very much good. Their plumage was never bright and clean looking, and their wattles and heads always looked sort of bloodless and unhealthy. It was easy to pick them out from birds that grew up and roosted out of doors.

The turkey is only a little way removed from his wild forbear. He is not nearly so domesticated as the chicken. The nearer the turkey is permitted to live to nature, the better he will grow, and the more money he will be worth when cooped for the winter markets.

HOUSE FOR DUCKS AND GESE

Birds Will Stand Low Temperature if Sheltered From Wind and Snow and Given Dry Bedding.

(By C. E. BROWN, Poultryman, Crookston, Minn., Experiment Station.)

Ducks and geese will stand rather low temperatures if they are sheltered from the wind and snow and the floor is well bedded with clean, dry straw. They should be given their liberty whenever they choose to go outside. Their shelter should open toward the south. A house of this style is a splendid shelter for ducks and geese and costs very little to build. The ducks and geese run together in the house except at feeding time, when the ducks are fed at a separate trough.

Supplying Fresh Air.

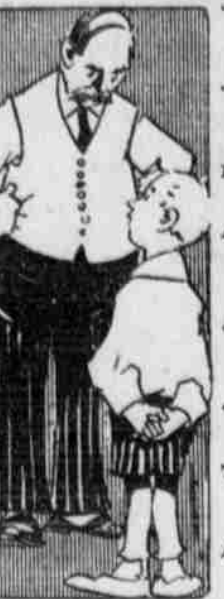
In supplying hens with necessary fresh air there is no necessity of exposing them to draughts. The modern method of keeping a hen house properly ventilated is to have what is commonly called an open front. The old method was to make them as airtight as possible. To obtain what was then called ventilation, various forms of ventilators were made, some from the floor and others from the top.

Feeding Mash.

The damp mashes, if fed at all, should not be fed hot, but simply warm. If they are fed hot they overheat the hens and the reaction makes them likely to catch cold.

The ONLOOKER

HENRY HOWLAND
MIDDLE AGE



"Oh, father, what is middle age?" asked little Richard Roe.
"I've asked at least a dozen men, but no one seems to know."
"I've seen it printed many times, but never have I met a person who acknowledged he or she had reached it yet."
"I'll tell you what it is, my son," young Richard's pa replied.
"It is the age at which a man of fifty turns aside to give his friends to understand that he is just as keen and gladly boyish as he was when he was seventeen."

"It also is the age at which a man of sixty-five pretends that he expects that he will presently arrive."
The age the man of eighty thinks he reached yesterday—
The age at which a woman throws her powder puff away."

The Genius and the Poor Stick.

Once there was a man who had two sons. One of them was a genius. All the neighbors said he was. The other was totally different. He never got into any kind of trouble. He would sometimes work in the garden. He was known to refrain from doing foolish things because he knew his parents would not wish him to do them, and he grew up without getting either of his legs broken or even losing a finger or an eye. He attracted very little attention, and nobody laughed at ordinary things that were said by him.

Did the boy who was not a genius become the president of a bank or the head of a railway system? We are compelled to admit that he did not. But it can be truthfully said that he is decently supporting a good-sized family and occasionally furnishing ball for his broiler.

Stormy Weather for Pa.

"Why, ma, where are you going in such a hurry?"
"To your pa's office," replied Mrs. Allrocks. "I just tried calling him up by telephone, and heard him tell the office boy to say he was too busy to talk to me. I'll show him what I let him have a telephone in his office for."

Not Disposed to Take a Chance.

"I haven't seen you out with the beautiful young widow lately."
"No. I proposed to her one evening when we were watching the moon cast a silvery path across the water, and she wanted me to put my offer in writing. I'm afraid she has her mind too firmly set on business."

No Trouble at All.

"Mary, did you break this cup?"
"Yes, ma'am."
"Oh, Mary, how could you!"
"It was as easy enough, ma'am. Wan little knock against the edge of the sink done it."

An Open Question.

"Do you take this woman for better or for worse?" asked the preacher.
"That will depend on whether her father is going to loosen up or not," replied the absent minded bridegroom.

SIZING HIM UP.

"It's my opinion," said her father, "that your friend, young Neverdrop, is a false alarm."
"He's worse than that, pa. He's a powder-
less fuse."

Resented Cares.

Jennie kissed me when we met. Jumping from the spot she sat in; Jennie's kiss was cold and wet; With the hand I held my hat in it repulsed her—pushed her back.
If you like, you may put that in; Jennie did not mind my lack of enthusiasm. Twist me on the wheel if it was folly I exhibited. I jolly well defy you to, by golly! Jennie was an eager colle— Jennie kissed me.

Not Necessary to Look.

"Why didn't you quit trying to live on charity and look for work?"
"Gee, ma'am, I don't need to look for work. It's staring me in de face wherever I go."

Englewood English.

"Him and you are good friends, ain't you?"
"Not any more. We was till busy-bodies got to circulating lies about he and I being engaged."

The Flight of Time.

"How time flies."
"Yes, doesn't it! James Garfield Smith has a son who is old enough to shave and Grover Cleveland Miggles is bald-headed."