

PORTABLE FARROWING HOUSE IN FAVOR



Berkshire Sow With Litter.

In order to give the pigs the right kind of a start in life, they must be born under good conditions. If the brood sows can have their way they will slip off to the woods when ready to farrow, pile up a lot of leaves at the side of a stump or in a fence corner and here the pigs will be born in the open air. This procedure is all right in warm weather, but in the spring when cold, wet weather prevails much of the time, a large loss is sustained when the pigs come amid such surroundings, writes W. F. Purdue in *Successful Farming*. Hogs are so poorly protected by nature against the cold that warm, dry quarters are a necessity for the sows that farrow early in the season, or so many of the pigs will be lost that most of the profit is gone in the beginning. The loss of young pigs every spring is enormous, though it is largely preventable. All farmers who are waiting until they are able to build a fine, big hog house, with all modern conveniences, are making a mistake. These men should do the best they can at once and provide such shelter as will be dry, warm and well lighted.

The portable type of farrowing house has rapidly come into favor lately, even with those who are well able to provide more expensive quarters. The A-shaped building is a very serviceable type of the portable house that commends itself to many farmers who are engaged in the hog business on a large scale. It is warm at all seasons and it may easily be kept in a sanitary condition. Two men can move it to a new location in a few minutes and thus it does not become infested with rats or hog house smells. The slopping and feeding are always done outside, hence the floor never becomes wet and filthy. These houses are just the thing for nervous sows, as they can be located so as to be out of the hearing of other sows and pigs.

For the man who rents, the portable house is very advantageous, since it can be readily moved. He can well afford to construct portable houses at his own expense, if his landlord will not provide them, since he can retain them as personal property when he moves. These houses need not cost much. One can be made out of good materials for from four to five dollars. Any farmer who can handle a hammer and saw with any degree of skill at all, can construct these buildings during spare time and thus save the large wages demanded by carpenters.

Houses 6 by 6 feet at the base are large enough for young sows, while they should be made 6 by 8 feet for the large sows. Floors are not essential if the houses are located on a high, dry site that provides perfect drainage. In cold weather a swinging door should be provided; a piece of heavy canvas may be used for this purpose. There is an opening for ventilation at the back of the house.

The sows should be placed in their individual quarters at least a week before due to farrow, in order that they may become accustomed to their new surroundings. Quietness and but little feed are needed by the sow for the first 24 hours after farrowing; water with the chill removed and a little middlings stirred in it is all that she needs in any case. It is not desirable to start the milk of the sow too rapidly, as it might be more than the little pigs would need, and if it is not all drawn out of the udder it is liable to congest and cause trouble, not only to the sow but to the pigs. It requires caution, therefore, in the start not to push the sow with feed that will start the milk too rapidly. If the litter is a small one, more time should be taken in getting the sow on full feed than otherwise. But the demands of the pigs will increase every day and it will not be long until they will be able to take about all the milk their mother will furnish from the best quality of feed. Care must be taken not to overfeed.

A practical method of feeding a sow with young pigs is to allow her at regular times, night and morning, just what she will eat perfectly clean and still want a little more. This method of feeding will retain the sow's appetite and keep her in a good healthy condition. The sow does not demand a fattening feed, such as an all corn ration, but she requires a milk-producing protein ration. The farmer who produces a large quantity of separator skim milk daily, has one of the best feeds for sows with young pigs to be found, when the milk is combined with ground grains and mixed into a thick slop. Access to a growing pasture will help greatly to keep the sow's bowels regular as well

as adding to her appetite and assisting in the furnishing of milk for the pigs.

Clean kitchen slops are all right for the sows, too, but care must be taken that no spoiled fruits or vegetables are put into the slop, for these are pretty sure to result in diarrhoea or scours in the pigs, and there may be some loss before corrective remedies can be administered. One of the best of these, after the error in diet has been corrected, is to give the sow in her slop twelve to fifteen grains of copperas night and morning; if necessary, slightly increase the size of the doses until effective.

Provide dry bedding for the pigs, and in good weather they should follow the sow around in order to get the exercise which they need. In bad weather the pigs will probably remain in their beds, drawing plenty of milk, and they will then become too fat, which condition is likely to be followed by the thumps. Thumps is a condition brought on by a fatty growth about the heart and lungs, and it is fatal in a large percentage of cases. Even though it does not prove fatal, it always results in a decided setback for the afflicted pigs at the time and for a considerable while afterwards. It must be guarded against, first, by not overfeeding the sow, and second, by forcing the pigs to take exercise if they will not take it of their own volition. As long as the weather remains bad, thus keeping the pigs in their quarters, they should be stirred up and forced to scurry around for 15 to 20 minutes every day.

NOT PROFITABLE TO KEEP OLD HENS

Yearling Fowls Considered Superior to the Pullets for Breeding Purposes.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

As a breeder I consider the yearling hen superior to the pullets, as the eggs are usually larger and will produce better developed chicks. In fact, the vigor of the offspring is not decreased if the hen is kept three or four years.

Considered as a breeder alone her value does not depreciate as long as she produces good chicks. But we must judge her value also by the total amount of her egg yield and we know that the older she grows the fewer eggs she will produce.

Experiment station results and practical experience go to show that it seldom pays to keep hens after they are two years old, except for breeding uses.

Notwithstanding the fact that pullets will lay more eggs than yearling hens, I believe it pays to keep as many yearling hens in the flock as pullets. Many who keep a farm flock do not consider the cost of raising the pullets to an egg-producing age while the year-old hens are making a profit for them.

Keeping about the same number of yearlings as pullets enables me to market about one-half of the older birds during the summer when they are in good condition and will bring the highest price.

In this way I have plenty of room for the young pullets early in the fall and get them into their houses and ready to begin laying before cold weather comes on.

By planning my egg-producing flock in this way I am able to supply regular customers and maintain a fairly uniform egg production during the entire year.

After the older birds are marketed the yearlings alone must be depended upon to supply egg customers until the pullets begin to lay in the fall.

I have found it unsatisfactory to depend upon pullets alone to maintain a uniform production during the whole of a year.

Does It Pay?

A good fresh cow is worth \$60 to \$100, depending on how good she is. A heifer calf will sell for veal at \$10 to \$20, according to the time of year it comes and the amount of milk it gets. Does it pay to raise cows? What does it cost to raise a cow?

Test for Tuberculosis.

Are you sure your herd is free from tuberculosis? Not unless you've had the tuberculin test applied. You should not sleep well until you know for sure.

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM



Use hens for breeding.

Alfalfa improves the soil.

Chickens relish sunflower seed.

Separate the breeding sows as they begin to grow heavy.

Continuous cultivation during dry weather means success in the garden.

No farm garden should be considered complete without a bed of asparagus.

When proper care is exercised the life of a peach tree is from twelve to sixteen years.

Cow testing proves that many cows considered the highest in the test are really the lowest.

It is a mistake to discard a good breeding fowl as long as it keeps in good breeding condition.

Land which receives the same treatment year after year rapidly depreciates in its crop-producing power.

A good time now to haul and spread manure on the vegetable garden so that the spring rains can do their part.

If one is obliged to feed timothy hay a good ration of bran and oats will help to maintain the ewes in good condition.

Give the laying hens plenty of fresh, clean water. In cold weather it pays to give it to them warm two or three times a day.

The brood sows must have exercise to be healthy. Bad luck with them can always be traced to ignorant or careless handling by the owner.

Peach trees under four years old which are so badly frozen as to show discolored wood must be cut off below the snow line and allowed to sprout again.

Millet sown along in June, perhaps on a plot of low ground where floods ruined the first crop sown, will furnish you with an enormous tonnage of good roughage.

It is a true statement that too many farmers know how to produce food supplies, but do not know how to find a market, or put them on in an attractive manner.

The determining factor in the yield of a good variety of corn is not the size of the ear, but rather the strength of the whole plant and the percentage of stand secured.

An enterprising chicken raiser who has gone into the business in Alaska, writes to the department of agriculture that he is clearing \$4.00 per year on each hen he owns.

In Syria, recently, olive trees 499 years old are still bearing fruit of fine quality and in great abundance. Their age is proved by the original trust deeds of the land on which they grow.

The fruit and the vegetables that were stored in the cellar last fall before winter came to spoil their keeping qualities are going to yield you splendid returns in comfort from now on.

The motor is placed in the handles of a new electrical horse clipper to do away with much cumbersome machinery and permit current to be taken through a cord from a light socket.

Grape vines are seldom attacked by scale insects, so that there is seldom any need for spraying them with strong lime-sulphur during the dormant season. When in leaf, bordeaux mixture gives the best results.

Prof. Gillette of the Colorado Agricultural college says: "Careful tests have proved that it requires from six to ten gallons of liquid for the treatment of a single large apple tree for the calyx spray. This will enable the orchardist to make a fairly close calculation as to whether or not sufficient material is being used to get the best results."

If you have never used a pure-bred bull in your herd, make the necessary investment or patronize the pure-bred bull your neighbor may own. The results will convince you that a pure-bred sire would be a profitable investment.

Grain is very high this winter and it may be hard to resist the temptation to cut down just a little on the dairy rations. This is poor policy. It is no more profitable to stint the milk cow than to cut short the ration of the fattening hog.

Give the fowls a variety.

Get ready for garden seeds.

Warm cream should never be mixed with cold.

Vegetable and flower seeds should be purchased soon.

To ripen the cream properly, a starter should be used.

All crops have a tendency to deteriorate if the seed is carelessly selected.

Good young apple trees come high, but the poor ones are dearer than any other kind.

It is far easier to destroy one weed this year than a thousand of its offspring next year.

Improper ventilation makes more henhouses cold and damp than rain and zero weather.

In the market, tomatoes are known as "toms," cantaloupes as "cants," and cucumbers as "cukes."

The horse should be hitched up occasionally and put to some work, if only for an hour or two.

Keep the grit, shell and charcoal boxes filled, also fill the water fountains twice a day in winter.

Agriculture is taught in all Hungarian schools and seven colleges maintain experiment stations.

Do not let the sheep drink from a trough half full of ice. Give water regularly and keep the trough clean.

The California citrus crop is estimated at 29,000 cars, lemons being placed at 2,650 cars, and oranges at 26,285 cars.

You can save your wife much labor and anxiety by planting upon your place a home supply of small and large fruits.

All eggs intended for hatching purposes whether under hens or in incubators, should be as fresh as possible when set.

Do not plant many varieties of apples. A few, well-chosen trees well cared for, are more satisfactory than many only half cared for.

Where feather-eating is practiced try giving the fowls sulphur, one teaspoonful in the soft feed of every three fowls, two times a week.

For breeding purposes hens are generally preferred to pullets because they are fully matured and possess stored up vitality after their annual molt.

When trees have been barked by mice or rabbits, but not so badly that the life of the tree is endangered, paint the wounds to protect them from decay.

Sometimes hens will not eat dry alfalfa leaves readily; in such cases try steaming the leaves by pouring hot water over them and letting them stand for a time.

The planting of trees on the village lot or the farm adds to the salable value of that lot or farm many times more than the cost of the trees and the labor of planting them.

The first spraying for the codling moth must be completed before the calyx of each blossom has closed. After that time the thoroughness of the application is made very much more difficult.

Grit should be supplied to chickens at all times, as it aids digestion. Lime in some form must be supplied to the laying hen, to keep up her supply, which is so heavily drawn upon during egg-production.

Fall-plowed land which is allowed to remain rough over winter stores more of the winter rains and snow than unplowed or smooth land. Frequent summer cultivation holds the moisture for the crops during drought.

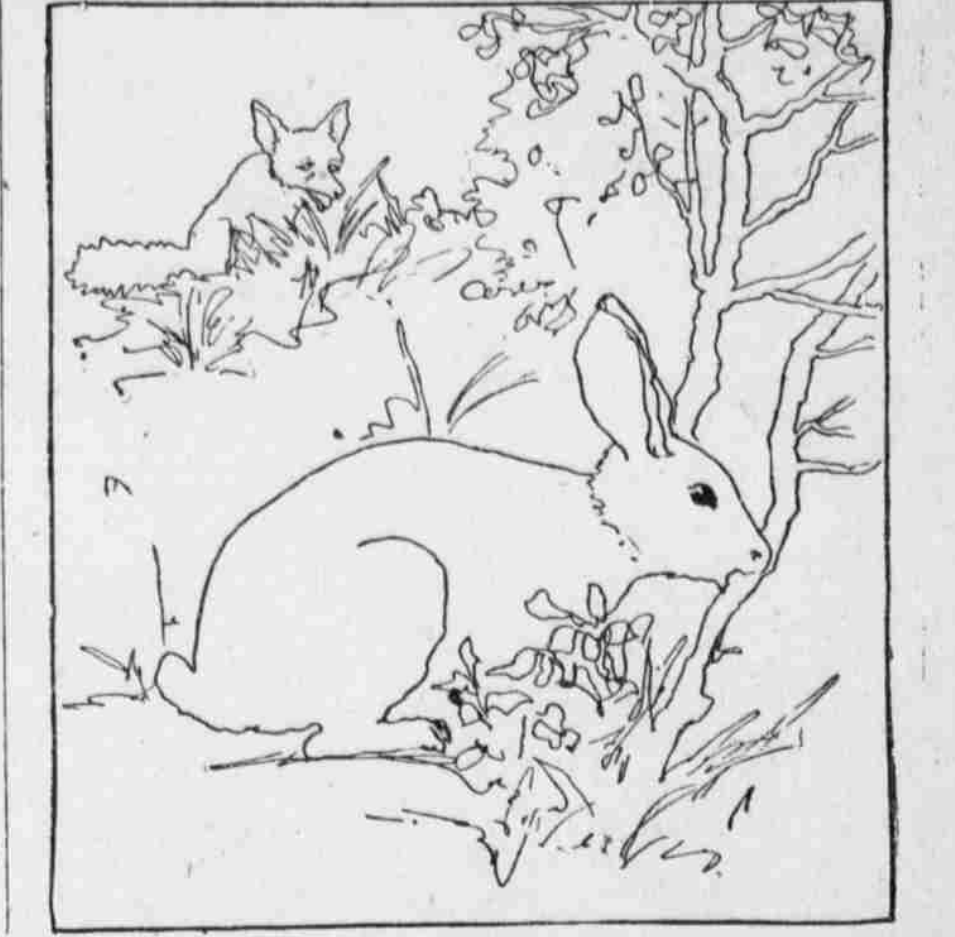
A fruit called durian, grown in the Philippines, on a tree resembling the elm, is as large as a coconut, has a shiny shell and contains a creamy pulp which combines some of the flavors of a delicious custard with those of a fine cheese. American soldiers have dubbed the fruit "vegetable limburger cheese."

The value of the 1913 crops is twice as great as that of 1899; more than \$1,000,000,000 over 1905, and substantially greater than 1912. Of all the crops, however, it is estimated that 52 per cent will remain on farms where they were produced, and that 20 per cent of the animal production will remain. On that basis the cash income is estimated by the department of agriculture at \$5,847,000,000.

There is no rule for watering plants; apply it when they are dry and not before, whether it is once a week or twice a day. Give them plenty at the time, pour on until it runs from the hole at the bottom of the pot.

Fowls like animals, thrive best when given a variety of grains, and the following will be found a satisfactory mixture: Equal parts, by weight, of corn, wheat and oats. When corn is difficult to obtain, we have had splendid results by substituting barley.

New Indian Animal Stories
How the Deer Got His Horns
By JOHN M. OSKISON



Get Out Your Paint Boxes and Color the Animals.

(Copyright, 1914, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Long time ago the deer had no horns, and the top of his head was as smooth as the doe's head is today. He was a good-natured fellow, who liked to show all of the other animals how fast he could run and how far he could jump.

Now, the rabbit was also a great runner and a good jumper, and he liked to tell about what he could do whenever he could get anyone to listen.

One day the rabbit was sniffing around Mamma Bear, as she was taking the last of the corn cakes out of the fire, and begging for some of the hot and crisp pieces off the edge.

"Give me two pieces, and I will show you that I can jump clean over your fire," said the rabbit.

"I declare," said Mamma Bear, "if you don't stop bothering me I'll pick you up and hold you over the fire until all of your fur is singed off!"

"Catch me first!" said the rabbit, and ran away to see what other mischief he could get into. After the rabbit ran off, Mamma Bear sat down and thought out a plan to stop the rabbit from boasting any more of his speed. She folded up her apron and went to call on the Great Beaver.

"I think we ought to fix up a race between the rabbit and the deer," said Mamma Bear, "and offer a grand prize to the one who wins. If we do that, I know that the deer will beat, and I won't have to listen to Mr. Rabbit talk about himself."

"And I know just the right prize to offer to the one who wins," said the Great Beaver. "I will tell my son to whittle out a fine pair of horns, and then I will set them up in front of my house. When the rabbit sees them he will want them, and we can get him to race with the deer."

"So that's settled!" said Mamma Bear, and she went back to her fire. Pretty soon the chipmunk came and told Mamma Bear that Young Beaver had finished the horns, and the chipmunk took a stick and drew in the ashes a picture of a fine, spreading pair of antlers.

Sure enough, the rabbit wanted the horns as soon as he saw them.

"I thought maybe they would look well on the deer," said the Great Beaver. But after he had sat and smoked for a while, he said: "I'll tell you, the thing to do is to fix up a race between you and the deer, and the one who beats shall have the horns!"

So, the animals all got together and fixed it up to have the deer and the rabbit run through a thicket and back. They were to start at the same mark when the Great Beaver thumped his tail hard on the water, "Plomp!" like that, and the first to get back should have the prize.

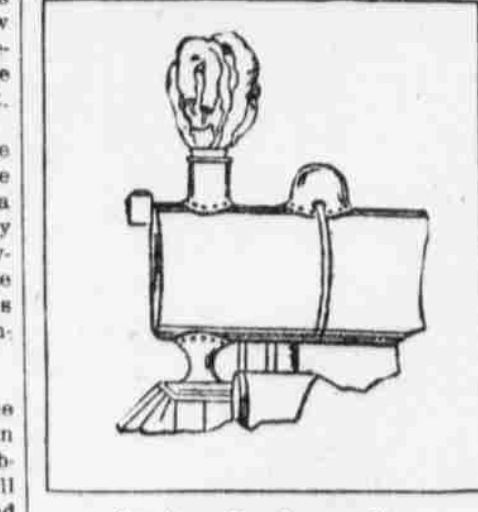
While every one was admiring the horns, the rabbit said, "I don't know this part of the country, so I'm going to take a look through the bushes where we are to run." They said that was all right, but he was gone so long that the fox said he must be up to one of his tricks.

"I'll go and see what he is doing," said the fox, and pretty soon he came back and said that he had found the rabbit gnawing the bushes and clearing a path to run over. When the rabbit came back at last to start the race, the Great Beaver told him that the horns would go to the deer, for they could not allow a tricky fellow like him to try a race for them.

SMOKE ON TOY LOCOMOTIVE

Inventor Has Made an Imitation by Covering of Cotton, Suitably Colored, Over Piece of Wire.

The toy locomotives made for nursery use are so cleverly constructed that, with one accord, we are all prompted to say, as we see them running over the floor, "It only needs a little smoke to make it look like the real thing." So, taking the sugges-



Smoking Toy Locomotive.

tion, the inventor has made an imitation of smoke, which is to be seen bursting with startling realism from the smoke stack of the miniature engine. The imitation is made by a covering of cotton, suitably colored, over a piece of wire, and when this is properly placed in the smoke stack of the engine the effect is astonishing.—Chicago Tribune.

In the Class.

"Tommy, stand up and tell the class who was Atlas."

"He was the biggest thief that ever got away with the goods."

"Tommy Smith, what do you mean by talking such nonsense?"

"Well, Atlas held the world up, didn't he?"

Not a Bean at All, but a Species of Fruit—Queer Antics Caused by Caterpillar.

You may have noticed among articles offered for sale at a bazaar some curious little three-cornered objects that keep hopping about as if alive. They are called jumping beans, though really they are not beans at all, as you can tell by their shape. They are the fruit of a tree growing in Mexico, four of the so-called "beans" forming one fruit, which splits open and divides as it dries.

While the fruit is still young and soft, a tiny caterpillar eats its way through the skin to the inside and takes possession. It gradually eats out the whole of the inside of the fruit, and of course grows larger. Meanwhile the skin has hardened into a thin but strong shell, and the fruit having divided has fallen to the ground. The caterpillar is thus shut into a strong prison.

Mexico being a very hot country, it will make a difference to the temperature of the shell whether it falls into a shady nook or is left out in the open, exposed to the sun. Now, though the caterpillar cannot see through the walls of its little house, instinct leads it to try to get into some sheltered spot where it will not be trodden on or disturbed. The only way it can do this is by knocking its head against the top of the shell and falling forward whenever it feels the warmth of the sun.

It takes a long while to get over the ground in this way, at the rate of a quarter of an inch each "jump," but by dint of perseverance a safe retreat will generally be found; the seed will eventually burst and grow. The caterpillar then turns into a chrysalis, which develops into a pretty little brown moth that lays its eggs on the leaves of the same tree.

Eat only when you are hungry. Leave worries outside the dining room door. Eat slowly and masticate thoroughly.