

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Keep the colts growing.

Keep dairy utensils clean.

Put some sheep on the farm.

Give the hens shell-making material.

Wheat bran in the ration is helpful to digestion.

Plenty of good pasture adds to the profits of the hog business.

Keep the old hen and her brood away from all other fowls.

The value of good feed is wonderfully increased by good care.

The hen that lays lots of eggs needs lots of grit and oyster shell.

Generally it's mice and not moles that get the seed corn at planting time.

Five times a day is not too often to feed chicks during the first week of their lives.

Converting the corn crop into silage clears the land and leaves it ready for another crop.

A great many farmers that are raising poultry pay little attention to the question of rations.

Feeding moldy and musty grain to chickens often means losing both the grain and the chickens.

The wise poultryman will not put a hen and chicks into a coop this spring without first disinfecting it.

Most eggs of plant lice and other insects hatch about the time the buds are opening in the spring.

In nailing apple boxes or barrels, what are known as "cement coated" nails hold much better than the ordinary kind.

Water the horses as often as possible; but let the horse that comes in hot drink a few swallows only, until he is cool.

With the spring pigs, especially of the seven to nine months' required to send to market, five can be spent in the pasture fields.

The gasoline engine is the ideal power to run the separator because it can be depended upon to maintain a uniform rate of speed.

In buying seeds for spring planting it is well to remember that poor seeds are always dear seeds, and that the best are by far the cheapest.

Very early hatched chicks or those that have no grass range should have sprouted oats, a vegetable to peck at or even some alfalfa or clover hay.

Put horses of equal strength in the same team, and if this cannot be done, even up by giving the weaker one the advantage in the long end of the double tree.

Good blood is essential to the producing of good horses, but not any more so than the material that forms the food for feeding the animal when once started in life.

Plan to make the farm produce all that it is capable of producing and then do not attempt to keep more stock than can readily be kept in a good, thrifty condition.

It is not well to try to mate over two geese with one gander. He will usually mate with two, but if more are placed with him he is likely to select one and pass the others by.

Some of the fall-bearing strawberries are becoming of value. A few varieties bear well in autumn, especially if the flowers are kept picked in the spring, forcing them to fruit in autumn.

If stock is kept for profit and to make the greatest possible amount of money out of it, then it is absolutely necessary that a regular system of feeding be adopted and adhered to closely.

Take pains not to have any traps about the hog yards where the hogs may get caught and hurt in any way. They are worth too much money, and we ought to be too good farmers to permit any such thing.

As a general rule the finer the manure and the more evenly distributed the more accessible it is to the crops grown. It is an item then to get distributed as evenly as possible, and the manure spreader will do the work much better than is possible by hand.

Sheep will clean the farm.

Feed calves in stanchions.

There is a profit in a draft colt.

No effective treatment for corn smut is known.

A half-starved cow cuts a big hole in the bank account.

Put the chicken coop where the earth is dry and warm.

A slow milker is a nuisance in the dairy, a dirty one is worse.

Get the sows and little pigs out on the ground as soon as possible.

Leave the chicks in the incubator until at least forty-eight hours old.

If we have fowls we want to fatten, we need a ration very heavy in starch.

Ewes that have lambed and pregnant ewes should never be kept in the same pen.

More stock can be kept on a given area of land when silage is the basis of the ration.

The hen lays a larger egg than the pullet. To keep up the size of your stock breed from hens.

Crops can be put in the silo during weather that could not be utilized in making hay or curing fodder.

Grind about one-third of the hen's feed for her and she will be more helpful in filling the egg basket.

An acre of corn can be placed in the silo at less cost than the same area can be husked and shredded.

Flax will do well on any good land provided it has not grown flax until the land is infested with flax wilt.

There is less waste in feeding silage than in feeding fodder. Good silage properly fed is all consumed.

It is a mistake to try to force a cow to make milk out of food that does not carry milk making qualities.

Next to grass the most important thing for live stock on the range is water and plenty of it well distributed.

Avoid sloppy feeds for young chicks; dry, cracked grains are much safer for a couple of weeks after hatching.

Keep the floors heavily littered so that the hens will be busy the whole day. A busy hen is always in the best of health.

Brood mares are preferable to horses because the colt often pays the year's keep and furnishes us the year's work without cost.

Turnips may flavor the eggs, so it is best not to feed them if some other vegetable food is available. Hens like mangels better, too.

When fattening chickens have a tendency toward looseness of the bowels feed middlings, shorts or low-grade flour in the ration.

Calves should be fed in a stanchion so constructed as to prevent them from sucking each others' ears after they have drunk their milk.

There are many advantages in having fruit trees so labeled that one can tell the name of the variety and the date of planting at any time.

The man who raises live stock should look into the benefit to be derived from keeping a small flock of sheep in addition to his other stock.

Hens are better than pullets for breeders. Hens lay larger eggs than pullets and I have noticed that the chicks hatched are stronger and more vigorous.

Laying hens must have bread or milk; eggs cannot be produced without nitrogenous material in some shape. Keep a supply of bone meal or oyster shell convenient.

When pigs get too fat from lack of exercise and begin to pant and lie around, get them out on the ground where they must exercise or they will die of the thumps.

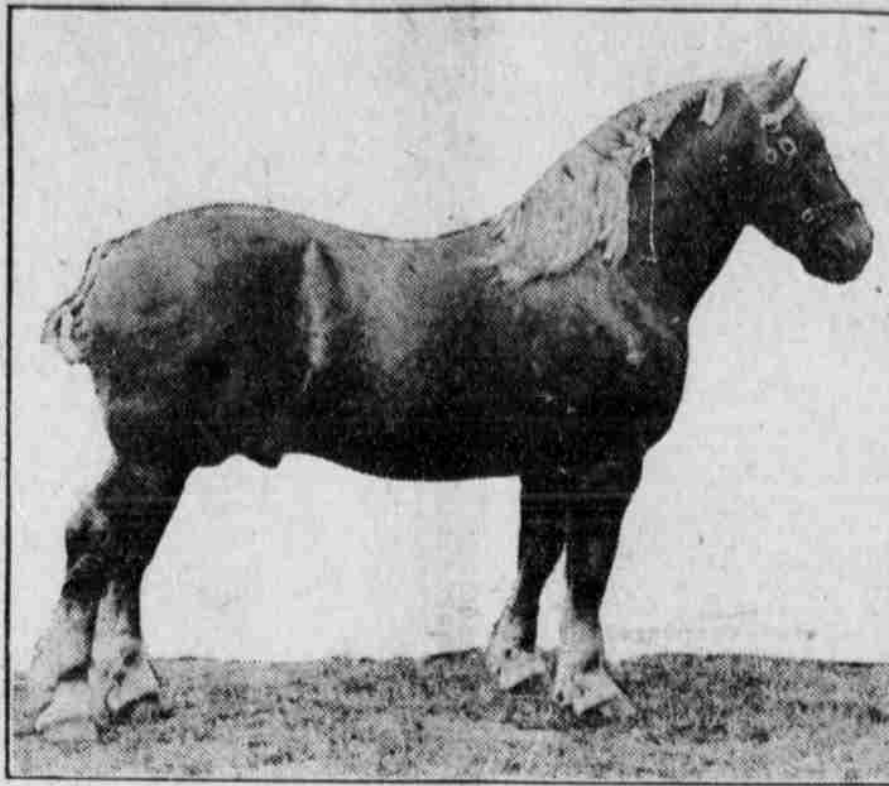
The dairy utensils must be carefully washed and thoroughly scalded. It is the only way to keep them clean and if they are not clean they cannot produce a good quality of milk.

For a horse to endure long continued and violent exertion, it is absolutely necessary that he should have arrived at that age when all his powers are fully matured and developed.

Reject a horse which is straight in the shoulder and long from the point of the shoulders to the upper part of the forearm. This formation places the fore legs too much under the horse and makes him unsafe to ride.

Never breed to an animal that has a bad disposition. The meekest and quietest sow in the herd will rear the finest lot of pigs, and they will, if properly handled, have as good dispositions as their mother. A vicious sow will, as a rule, produce pigs having the same faults.

TIMELY HINTS ABOUT HORSES AND MULES



A Fine Type of Draft Horse.

(By E. S. MILLER.)

A hat is a great protection to a horse's brain in hot weather. They can be bought at any store for 25 cents.

Sore shoulders are caused by ill-fitting collars and nothing else.

A man who will work a horse with a sore shoulder and make no attempt to cure it or change the collar ought to be compelled to wear ill-fitting shoes that would raise a new crop of blisters every week.

If the horses are taken off dry feed, allowed to run to grass, and work hard on hot days, look out for colic.

Work teams ought to be allowed to run in the pasture at night. It is cruelty to confine them in hot stalls.

The horse that sweats freely is in good condition.

During heavy work in hot weather, horses ought to be watered between the regular resting periods.

It does not make much difference whether horses are watered before or after eating. It is largely a matter of habit, and experiments show that one time is about as good as another.

A horse that bolts his food cannot

have perfect digestion, any more than a man who eats in the same way.

Five minutes vigorous work with a rough cloth on a horse's hide after a hard day's work, will do him a lot of good.

A team that works in the fields all week should never be put on the road Sundays or holidays.

A cool bran mash Saturday night is to a horse what mother's pie is to a boy.

Mule colts are easy to raise and they are as good as money in the bank, because always salable at fair prices.

Always use box stalls whenever practicable. A horse tied in a narrow stall is never quite comfortable and is in more or less danger of being cast.

A mule is no more prone to kick than a horse unless he is taught to do so by bad treatment.

Horses very often lose their eyesight through dust and hayseed falling into their eyes from the loft above.

If the horses must be kept in the barn during the hot weather, keep all the doors and windows wide open.

GOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SHEEPFOLD

Mistake of Turning Animals Out on Young Grass and Stopping Grain Is Expensive.

If you find a lamb apparently dead from cold, souse him in a pail of water as hot as the hand can bear. If he does not revive before the water becomes cool, heat it again and he will likely come around. Wipe him dry, give him some hot milk and in an hour he will be as fit as ever.

Lifting or dragging a sheep by its wool is just as humane as dragging a child around by the hair of its head.

The wise shepherd will treat his ewes with the creosote solution for stomach worms before turning them out to pasture.

Salt is medicine to a sheep, and it is cheap medicine at that.

With spring lambs bringing from \$7.50 to \$8.50 in the markets, who can say there is no profit in the business?

The mistake of turning sheep out on young grass and suddenly stopping the grain feed is nearly always very expensive. It is likely to set the sheep back several weeks.

It is a fact that sheep can be raised on the least expensive of foods and return a better profit for the little care that is given them than any other farm animal.

Never keep an unthrifty ewe on the place. Fatten her as quickly as possible and get rid of her.

When breeding stock is selling away down low by discouraged flock masters that is the time to buy a few good ewes.

If you have plenty of alfalfa and barley, with some sound turnips, your young sheep will lay on fat amazingly fast. Don't need corn when you have these rations.

Do not allow the sheep to lie around in fence corners or huddle in underbrush. The best shade is a shed on open ground where there is no grass.

A little bit of shelter is fine for sheep. Even if it be nothing more than a high board fence on the side toward the sunshine it will help a lot. The sheep can snuggle up near to that and escape the direct rays of the sun.

Better than such a fence is a piece of woodland. We have a cluster of little hemlocks in our pasture, up on a side hill. The sheep run up into that and escape not only the heat, but also the miserable flies that hurt them so.

It is a queer fancy with some men that sheep can get enough drink by eating grass when the dew is on in the early morning. Stop and think how very, very little water a sheep could get that way. Give them a good spring or a trough to drink from.

Use Pure-Bred Stock.

If you are determined to get the most out of your business you will not feed mongrel stock. Nothing pays so well or is so satisfactory as the best.

TOMATO CANNING IS QUITE PROFITABLE

One Advantage Is That Industry Offers Employment to Young Folks During Vacation.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The canning of tomatoes has in recent years grown to be an important commercial industry, according to the department of agriculture. In 1909 there were 12,800,000 cases of 12 cans each packed in the United States. This immense pack exceeded the combined aggregate of any three other vegetables. Only tomatoes used in commercial canning and not those used in home canning figures in this total.

It is estimated that the area devoted to tomatoes in the home garden is equal to or greater than that employed in their field culture. Of the quantity grown in the garden a considerable surplus goes to waste and brings no return to the cultivator. To insure plenty of fruit for home use it is customary to set out about twice as many plants as are actually necessary.

In order that the canned product of the garden may find a ready market it must be put up in attractive form in containers suitable for commercial purposes, and should bear a trademark which is distinctive and which will tend to hold the trade for the product as it gains a reputation in the market. One advantage of the home-canning of tomatoes in comparison with other employment open to young people in the country, is that it occurs during the vacation period. The large return in canned goods derived from a single acre makes the industry remunerative and, since the canning can be done during the vacation season it can be carried on without interfering with school work. It is surprising how many tomatoes can be raised on an acre, and what little expense is involved in raising and preparing them for market.

Weaning Pigs.

Our experience is against weaning pigs other than to let nature take its course; by this method we get better pigs, says a writer in an exchange. It is almost impossible to prevent them from receiving a check if weaned at seven or eight weeks old as some advise. You not only check the growth of the pig, but it seems great injury would result to the sow. No one would take a calf from its mother, refrain from milking her, and then expect the cow to escape without injury, and surely a sow must be something like a cow.

Corn as a Feeder.

Corn is not cheap and the feeder should make the most of it. The way to do this is to feed a little tankage, oil meal or middlings with it. Don't feed cottonseed meal to hogs. The hog pays the highest price for corn when he has some protein feed along with it.

POULTRY



BROODER FOR LITTLE CHICKS

Mother Hen Should Be Given Nice Light Place, Dry and Warm—Comfort Is Great Thing.

The hen with early chicks is given the poorest chance in the world for caring for her brood. She is generally confined with the little ones for a few days in a coop with bars where they can run out and in. The coop is only a small thing, rather dismal and dark. She is hardly ever given a nice, well lighted place, dry and warm, and with chaff and straw on the floor where the chicks can scratch and work without freezing the life out of them. Some folks will say that the hen is always there to warm them up when they want warmth; but what would you think of an artificial system of brooding that would keep a close little Hoover in reach of the chicks all the time, but without any warm place where the chicks might work and eat?

Every year you see the old hens clucking around the place with the little brood with her, crying and cold, and begging the old brooder to stop. In early spring the weather is



The Silkie, Called the "Nurse Maid" Hen of Japan, on Account of the Way She Mothers the Baby Pheasants—Large Exhibits Were Shown at the Recent Poultry Show in the Grand Palace, New York.

very unpleasant for chicks. They are miserable in the chilly air and on the damp ground, and don't feel like working and following the old hen.

A hen with chicks should have a little brooder house just the same as if she were an artificial brooder. The room where the chicks might work and scratch ought to be sunny and dry and warm. The old hen's company is not warmth to the chicks when they are out from under her; and they must be out from under her a great deal of the time if they are to make large thrifty birds. A little brooder house or large sunny coop with artificial heat in it will save many of your chicks this spring. Keep in mind that comfort for the chicks is a great thing.

SPADING UP FEEDING PLACES

Practise Tends to Purify Ground and Encourages Exercise on Part of Fowls in Flock.

On most farms feed for the flock is scattered about on the ground, and the chickens are continually fed within a small space. The surface of the ground soon becomes foul with the droppings of the flock. True, sunshine acts as a germicide, and if the space is at all sloping, the washing of the rain helps some, but generally the spot is level and often muddy.

The ground quickly becomes contaminated with the continual tramping of the flock, and if there be one sick fowl the whole flock may soon become infected. This is especially true with small chicks and young turkeys.

The spading up of the feeding places once or twice a week will bring good results. It will tend to purify the ground. It will induce exercise on the part of the flock, which is always desirable. Especially is this true when the flock is confined in yards, and green feed, so necessary, is difficult to obtain.

If grain is scattered as one spades up the ground, much will be buried so deep that hens will not scratch it out and it will be thrown up at the next spading with green, succulent blades that are greatly relished by the flock.

Vermin on Setting Hen.

Setting hens that have a few lice will soon have a great many unless their plumage is filled full of lice-killing powder at least three times during the three weeks that they are setting.

Feed for Setting Hen.

Never give mash food either dry or damp to setting hens, but provide plenty of clean, whole corn, free from mustiness and moldiness.

The ONLOOKER

BY HENRY HOWLAND

The CALL of the FIELDS



Come, little comrade, let us go Out yonder where the wide fields are, Where lazy breezes softly blow O'er wooded hills that stretch afar. The paths are fair and free out there, The turf will soon be growing green; Come, little friend, let's turn from care, And gladly stray o'er yonder scene.

In every little hollow place A sky-blue lake lies, smooth as glass, Where you may see your smiling face Reflected as you pause or pass. And here and there a cawing crow Will slowly flap from tree to tree As if he did not care to go, But went, just so that you might see.

I long to play a while with you Out there where tiny rivers wind— Out yonder where the sky is blue And there is peace of heart and mind; I will forget a little while That childhood's faith is mine no more, And we will bridge some stream and pile Up fortresses beside its shore.

Come, little comrade, let us claim The joy awaiting us out there, Where no one suffers wrongful blame Or adds to any other's care; With hopes that shall be sure and strong We'll cross the pastures, hand in hand, And you shall lead me back along The ways that wind to Boyhood Land.

Distinction.

"Did any of your ancestors come over with William the Conqueror?" she asked.

"Not that I know of," he replied.

"Are you a descendant of anybody who was on the Mayflower?"

"I'm afraid not. I have never investigated the matter."

"Surely you had an ancestor who was an officer in the Revolutionary war?"

"No. My great-great-grandfather was a common soldier in the Revolutionary war, but—"

"Harold!" she cried, flinging her arms around his neck, "can it be possible? I have often wondered whether there really was a Revolutionary army, and now I learn that I am loved by a descendant of him. I am so proud and happy, dear."

Still Thoroughly Feminine.

"I had an idea, when I heard that she was going to study medicine, that she would cease to be womanly."

"Hasn't it had that effect upon her?"

"No, I happened along the other day when her runabout had broken down and she was busy trying to fix it with a hairpin."

Faith.

Oh, for your faith, dear little one! You kneel beside your mother's knee, And pray that wrongs which you have done May be forgiven graciously.

You feel that Some One hears somewhere, That Some One, gazing from above, Will not ignore your simple prayer, Nor scorn the proffer of your love.

You have not learned to sit in doubt; You think that He who lights the sun Will hear and blot your sinning out— Oh, for your faith, dear little one!

LUCKY.



"I have consented to dance in my bare feet for charity."

"How lucky it is that there is such a thing as charity."

"Lucky?"

"Yes. If it were not for charity you might not be able to find any excuse for showing your pretty feet in public."

Taking No Foolish Chance.

"No," she said, "I can't be your wife. Why will you not be satisfied to let ours be a case of platonic love?"

"Because I don't believe in getting into trouble if there's a chance to keep out."

If.

"It seems to me it is so lovely for a man and a woman to grow old together."

"Yes, it's beautiful, but how much more so it would be if the man only grew old."

Expedient.

Artist—Sorry, sir, but I cannot paint your full length portrait. You are very tall and I have no canvas long enough. I could get all in the picture but your feet.

Patron—Well, just paint me with my feet hanging over the edge of the canvas.

Their Method.

"Why is it that around this time of year so many men wear about a week's growth of beard on their chins, and go with heads bent forward as if in deep thought?"

"They are wearing out the ties their wives gave them for Christmas."