

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

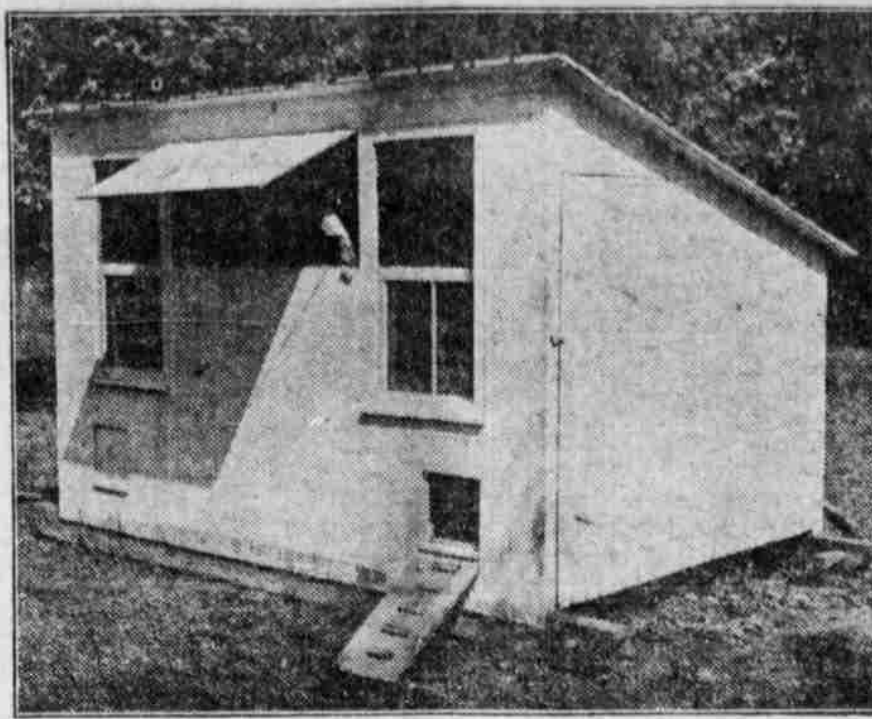
William Pitt



Move chicken coops often.
Whitewash the chicken coops.
Keep the chickens busy and hungry.
Why not corn, clover, cows and cash?
Be sure the horses have good, deep, clean beds.
In preparing the land for alfalfa it is best to go slow.
Pasture and forage crops are needed to make cheap pork.
Work the butter just enough to distribute the salt evenly.
Good pastures are essential for profitable beef production.
It takes a mighty good cow to hold her own with 25 average hens.
Rutabagas are a good rooting crop for the hogs to harvest next fall.
Do not cover fine seed deeply. Put on just enough dirt to cover the seed.
The selection of the sire is a very important factor in building up a dairy herd.
If sows are kept near the male hog they can usually be bred at about the same time.
Exercise, alfalfa, a little corn, and slop will keep the brood sow in excellent condition.
Exercise the greatest cleanliness in all your work in connection with the rearing of small chicks.
The increasing demand for milk products indicates that there is money ahead for the wise dairyman.
In curing alfalfa hay, the main aim should be to save all the leaves and to keep the plants from bleaching.
San Jose scale appeared and caused much destruction of fruit trees in California more than thirty years ago.
A clean coop and plenty of fresh air and exercise will do much toward keeping chicks healthy and growing.
For forage purposes the sweet sorghums usually produce a greater tonnage to the acre than either kafir or corn.
If the young sows are fed as liberally as they should be to properly develop them, the old ones will become too fat.
Keep the pigs growing rapidly, by feeding through the sow, and by inducing them to eat in an inclosure by themselves.
Before turning the young horses and colts to pasture, have the teeth of each one examined by a competent veterinary surgeon.
As a general rule, the best milking ewes are the ones to suffer from the low nutritive food value of spring and early summer pasture.
The kind and amount of commercial fertilizer to use should be determined by the value of the crop grown and its power of acquiring food.
Sitting hens should be kept free from lice and given a chance to eat all the whole corn, grit and charcoal that they want at least once every day.
The litmus paper is an absolutely reliable test for the presence of acids, but when applied as a soil test it does not indicate all that we need to know.
Both soybeans and cowpeas are highly nutritious feeding stuffs and by reason of their high protein content are especially valuable for feeding with corn.
To obtain the full value of crimson clover as a fertilizer, the entire green crop should be plowed under, thus adding to the soil a large quantity of nitrogen and humus, or decayed vegetable matter.
Nothing beautifies a home more than hardy vines. Remember this in making up the nursery order. Half a dozen different vines planted about the dwelling can be made to produce a shower of flowers throughout the summer and fall.
See that the young sow raises the right number of pigs (from eight to ten, according to her capacity and milk flow) or none at all, as otherwise her udder will be poorly developed and she probably always will raise small litters.

Keep the chicks growing.
Feed the chicks for growth.
Rape is used as a soiling crop.
There is money in raising apples.
Plant pasture grasses over the waste lands.
Handle the colts carefully and intelligently.
Any check in a calf's growth is a loss to the owner.
Study individual tastes in the cows, and feed accordingly.
Young pigs need plenty of exercise, sunshine and dry beds.
It is an established fact that young cockleburs will kill hogs.
A good lawn and garden will make the home brighter and better.
Remember that sheep like a short bite, but don't let it be too short.
Green rye and alfalfa, equal parts, will make a fair grade of ensilage.
A sore on the breast or shoulders of a horse is a rebuke to the driver.
Sheep must have shade in the pasture. They never graze in the hot sun.
A dozen sheep are more effective weed destroyers than a man and a hoe.
Nearly a million women in the United States are either farmers or farm laborers.
It is a waste of time and labor to plant corn on rough, badly prepared, thin ground.
If the butter is to go on the market it should be put in neat, attractive packages.
Thin steers when put on pasture make larger and cheaper daily gains than fleshy ones.
If beginning in the poultry business be sure you get healthy stock or eggs from healthy stock.
The more milk a sow gives after her pigs are old enough to take it, the faster they will grow.
Don't burn the straw. Use it for bedding for the stock and return it to soil to renew fertility.
At this time of year a good sized hen, like a Plymouth Rock, can cover 15 eggs if given a snug nest.
Try to give the chicks, chick-size grit and charcoal in such a way that they cannot help but find it.
There is no excuse for stacking alfalfa, for one can make big interest on money that is invested in barns.
For every cherry that a robin eats, he should be credited with destroying perhaps thousands of injurious insects.
Rye straw makes the best bedding for stock. Do not be too economical with it. Place a foot deep under the stock.
Hogs should have plenty of clean, fresh water to drink. They prefer clean to muddy water and it is more healthful.
Rape is used in a small way only as a soiling crop to grow near the barn and cut for hogs or other stock when pastures are dry.
More than in any other branch of farming, success in poultry raising depends on regularly and faithfully doing the little things.
Weed seed and small grain will never produce a profitable crop when run through the seeder. Look out for your seed before sowing.
With a pair of tinsmith's shears remove all the black teeth that are present in the young pig's mouth as soon after farrowing as possible.
Frequent change of pasture and the feeding of supplemental forage and grain are excellent means of assisting in keeping the ewes in good flesh condition.
Weeds should be killed as soon as they begin to grow, but the primary reason for cultivating is to maintain the proper proportion of air and moisture in the soil.
There is a growing interest in saving and improving old neglected orchards. Do not cut down a single tree until convinced that it is wholly useless. If necessary, consult an expert orchardist.
Hogs should have warm, dry beds during the chilly nights of late spring and early fall and during cold, wet weather in summer. This will prevent many cases of pneumonia, probably a greater hog-killer from year to year than cholera.
Brooder chicks require less heat during the late spring and summer than the early batches. Ninety and 95 degrees for the first ten days is a good temperature, but after this it should never go higher than 90, and with it plenty of fresh air.

COLONY HOUSES FOR POULTRY ARE HANDY



Colony House Used at Government Farm at Beltsville, Md.

(By J. W. KELLER, Copyright, 1914.)
After the brooder, before the laying house, what then? The colony house is the answer. Chicks are generally ready to leave the brooder at about six weeks of age—that is, when fully feathered. They are then able to take care of themselves during the daytime, and, except on cold, rainy days, the question of artificial heat is not vital.
There are several types of colony houses, but all should have the following features: Perfectly dry, freedom from drafts, well ventilated, easy to clean and move (this latter should be done every season), and, lastly, they should be attractive, but inexpensive.
Don't crowd the chicks in the colony house. Remember, they will be almost grown before they are moved again. Have perches removable, and do not allow the chicks to roost until their bones have hardened up considerably, or they may have crooked breast bones. When roosts are given, have them at least two inches wide.
For small flocks suitable colony houses may be made from large store boxes by covering the top and three sides with tar paper, the other side being made of cellar window wire extending six inches down from the top, which should ordinarily be left uncovered, but there should be a curtain to drop over it in bad weather. The balance of the side should be hinged so it can be thrown open during the day, admitting sunshine and fresh air.
The "A" shaped colony house is not so easily cleaned as some of the others.
Most colony houses average about 6 by 8 feet in size, with shed roof and a large wire covered window with curtain in front. This type should be built on skids, so that they can be easily dragged to new ground with the aid of a horse, and, if tightly built, houses of this sort can be used for layers and also breeders in the winter by the addition of nests, hoppers, etc.
A word about placing the house. Choose well drained ground that is covered with a heavy, sweet sod. An old orchard is almost ideal, as the trees furnish shade during the hot summer days. Clean away any brush piles or thickets which might harbor vermin, and if the same ground must be used year after year lime it, plow it down each fall and sow with some suitable crop which will afford green pasture for the growing birds.

How to Tell Sex in Geese
Male in Most Cases Is Larger Than Female—Never Look for Curled Feather in Tails.
(By N. A. BARTLETT.)
It is not an easy thing to tell the sex in geese.
When they are six or seven months old one can usually tell by observation the geese from the gander.
The male in most cases grows larger than the female.
The female has a deeper body, slimmer neck and smaller head.
The call of the gander is long, loud and shrill, while that of the goose is merely an answer to it.
It is a good plan to divide the flock part on one side of the fence and part on the other when trying to distinguish the sex when you can distinguish most of the ganders by their calls.
Never look for a curled feather in their tails or other outside marks for there are none.
The male is bolder and vicious and if cornered in some small place will show fight to protect his mate.

POOR PRACTISE OF FARMERS

Department of Agriculture Investigators Recommend Incubator Eggs Be Used at Home.

The mixing of incubator eggs with the fresh spring eggs leads the egg packers, who get their principal cold storage supply in the spring, to cut the price they pay the farmer, department of agriculture investigators find.
The spring eggs designed for keeping for winter consumption must be absolutely good. Moreover, the egg packers in the spring do not candle eggs, but hold them three at a time in the hand and click them to discover any crack and then judge their freshness by their fresh powdery look on the shell.
The mixture of infertile incubator eggs with fresh eggs interferes seriously with this clicking and forces the packer to candle the eggs. He then deducts this added expense from the price he offers to the producer. Eggs which have once been subjected to the heat of the incubator cannot be stored, even though frozen.
The farmer who sells incubator eggs to the dealer, therefore, is very liable to injure his own market for fresh eggs. When dealers find a percentage of low-grade incubator or other eggs in their fresh spring egg supply they lower the price for all eggs so that they will be certain that they have covered themselves against losses from this cause. The department's specialists advise farmers to use any infertile eggs they may take from their incubators for home consumption and to send only fresh eggs to market.

START IN POULTRY BUSINESS

Select Good Foundation Stock and Erect Comfortable Buildings—Fowls Need Free Range.

A few things to remember in starting, if a living is to be the objective point in keeping poultry, are: Select a good location, as to ground conditions, markets, etc. Choose good foundation stock. Build well, though this need not be expensive; but poorly constructed buildings are a loss in the long run, and false economy. Start slowly and work up gradually. Have enough cash on hand to carry the poultry operation for at least two years. Don't purchase a place with too small acreage. At least five acres should be purchased, although many successful poultry plants are operated on three. It takes more care to keep the land in condition. Free range for growing stock is essential in the long run. Rather have too much room than too little. Study carefully the incubator and brooding systems. This is one of the main items in the business. Study the poultry situation at least a year before commencing. Visit the leading poultry operations that have been in the business for at least five or six years. One can learn a good deal by visiting the successful poultry keepers, and will be less liable to make mistakes in poultry house construction. Carefully entering the business in a safe and sane way will do much toward the success of the venture.

HOW TO TELL SEX IN GEESE

Male in Most Cases Is Larger Than Female—Never Look for Curled Feather in Tails.

(By N. A. BARTLETT.)
It is not an easy thing to tell the sex in geese.
When they are six or seven months old one can usually tell by observation the geese from the gander.
The male in most cases grows larger than the female.
The female has a deeper body, slimmer neck and smaller head.
The call of the gander is long, loud and shrill, while that of the goose is merely an answer to it.
It is a good plan to divide the flock part on one side of the fence and part on the other when trying to distinguish the sex when you can distinguish most of the ganders by their calls.
Never look for a curled feather in their tails or other outside marks for there are none.
The male is bolder and vicious and if cornered in some small place will show fight to protect his mate.

EFFECT OF FEED ON FLAVOR

Hens Fed Nitrogenous Ration Produced Eggs of Disagreeable Taste and Small Yolk.

Some years ago the Cornell station, in the effect of nitrogenous vs. carbonaceous food for poultry, reported observations on the different rations on the flavor of eggs. One lot of fowls was fed a mixture of wheat, shorts, cotton-seed meal and skim milk; another lot cracked corn and corn dough. The former ration contained much more nitrogen than the latter.
The hens fed corn laid fewer eggs than those fed the nitrogenous ration, but the eggs were larger. The eggs produced by the nitrogenous ration were of a disagreeable flavor and smell, had a small yolk, and did not keep well. The flesh of the poultry fed this ration, however, was darker, more succulent and tender than that of the fowls fed the carbonaceous ration.

TAKE CARE OF THE BROODER

Material Used for Floor Covering Should Be Changed Every Other Day—Prevent Crowding.

Brush out the brooders every other day, changing the material used in floor covering. This may be of bran, sand, sawdust or paper, but must be dry. Damp bedding induces disease every time.
When it is necessary to wash the brooder choose a warm, sunny day, so that the chick will not need it, and it can be thoroughly dried before returning them at night. If these conditions cannot be complied with, a temporary brooder may be used for the day by means of a box and one or two jugs of hot water well wrapped in flannel, the latter serving the double purpose of holding in the heat and preventing a chick being crowded up and burnt.

GOOD CARE AND FEEDING OF WORK TEAMS



Fine Work Teams—The Requisites for a Working Horse Are Good Size, Quick Action and Strength.

(By R. A. GALLIHER.)
Perhaps no subject is of more importance to the average farmer than the proper care and feeding of the teams that are relied upon to do the farm work; and as a rule, we do not believe that these horses receive the care and consideration that they should. A good horse used in commonsense manner, should live to an old age and be in condition to perform good work at all times.
The essential requisites for a working horse are good size, quick action and strength. A high-spirited animal or one of great value is not the most desirable animal for the farmer.
What we need is a good walker, as much of the usefulness and efficiency depends upon that quality. This faculty is quite as much a matter of education as inherited qualities.
Under ordinary circumstances it is judicious to use mares for working teams upon a farm. Except for a short time, the period of parturition and immediately after, they are fully as well adapted to farm work as geldings. They also possess the advantage of annually bringing colts, and in event

of their being incapacitated by accident or labor they may still be kept with profit as breeders.
Horses employed for farm work should not be pampered, but should be fed generously, so as to sustain vigor and good spirits.
A team ill fed, and consequently in poor condition and feeble, will not accomplish much real hard work, and it is a waste of labor to hire an expensive hand to drive such a team.
The harness, and particularly the collar, should be accurately adjusted to the horse. If the collar is either too tight or too loose it galls him and seriously affects his breathing.
The workhorses should be fed early in the morning, and they should have a liberal feeding. The comfort and rest of the team will be vastly promoted if the harness is entirely removed at noon while they are feeding. Rub them down carefully and cleanse from dust and sweat.
Allow them plenty of time for a good meal and partial digestion before they are put to work for the afternoon. It is poor policy to put them to work right after eating a hearty meal.

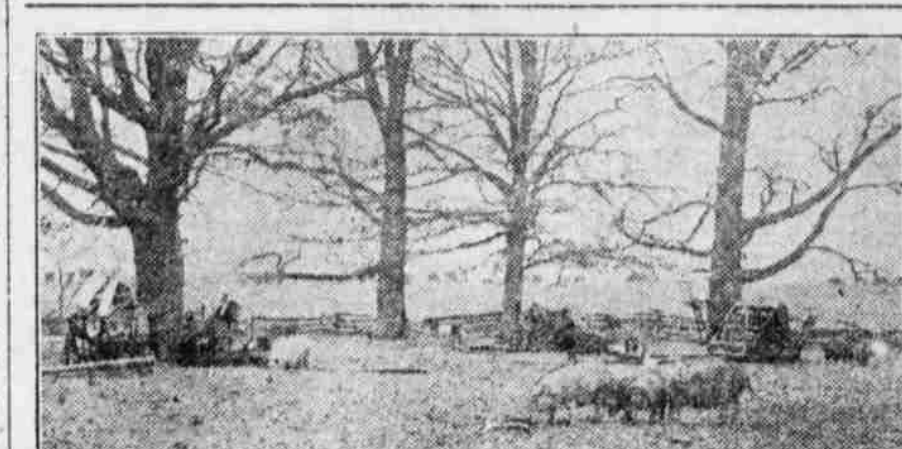
PRACTICAL HINTS FOR THE SHEPHERD

While Dipping the Sheep Just Dip the Lambs, Too—Keep All Good Breeding Ewes.

Do not let anyone deceive you by telling you that buck lambs will bring you as much money as wether lambs, for they will not do it.
Castrate all male lambs at eight days to two weeks of age, and any good operator will not lose one out of 100.
Dip all your sheep as soon as shearing is over. While you are at it just dip the lambs too, as the ticks will leave the shorn ewes for the woolly lambs.
Just as long as a ewe "holds her teeth" it will pay to keep her for a breeder, as ewes breed lambs up to quite an advanced age.
That old ewe might have brought \$2.50 last fall and the two lambs trotting at her side will bring \$5 or \$6 in July.
An old ewe or two may die during the winter, but you can lose one out of three and still make it pay to keep them at \$2 to \$3 per head.
The sheep get uneasy as soon as the hot weather comes on unless they get out on the ground. It is a good plan to let them out every day for a while. If the pastures are not high enough so that they can get all they want to eat, bring them down at night and give them a nice, bright look of hay and a little grain. The ewes need this if the lambs are to be kept growing.
If the coarse hay in the mangers is given to sheep they will nibble a great deal of it away.
The sheep is a dainty feeder and will not eat musty or unclean hay or fodder. Neither will sheep drink unclean water.
It is strange that some men will insist on raising a scrub ram when a thoroughbred costs so little in comparison to the improvement he will make in his flock.
Sheep will sometimes eat weeds, but it is generally because they have nothing better.
The reason why so many men fall in the sheep business is because they do not study it before they begin.

Sheep raising means something more than buying a flock of sheep and turning them into a bare pasture without shelter.
Our sheep farmers are beginning to learn that they need permanent pastures increased yearly in productivity by high fertilizing.
The hit-or-miss plan of raising sheep has never yet proved profitable.
Never feed sheep heavily on one grain alone. Give them a variety and don't forget the roots.
English shepherds believe that people who eat mutton and leave pork alone will never have indigestion.
Arrange your fields so that the sheep will have good shade during the coming summer.
It is an easy matter to provide a narrow trough filled three or four inches deep with solution through which the sheep can pass from the pen to the pasture every morning. This will not cure bad cases of foot rot but it will prevent new cases.
One of the necessary things in the care of sheep is the paring of their hoofs at least twice a year. Nature provided a rapid growth of hoof to stand the wear and tear of stony ground but soft pastures will not wear down the hoofs fast enough and the broken hoof often results in disease.
If you have any old sheep, they should be separated from the rest of the flock, and if they are to be fattened, corn should be cracked for them.
Do not make the mistake of starting the sheep business with a large flock. You will have your hands full for the first year or two with a dozen.
The most profit to be made in sheep is on the farm where small flocks can be handled to better advantage than by wholesale.
Ever try smoked mutton hams? They are cured just as easily as pig hams and are good eating.
If sheep and lambs are fed grain together, the lambs will fare pretty slim. Have a hole in the fence near the barn through which the lambs can slip and get away from the old sheep. Have a good trough out there for the grain you feed the little fellows and they will get their share and grow like weeds.
Make it a rule to see the sheep and lambs every day. Count to see that nothing has happened to them. If one is sick or otherwise in trouble, get it out of the flock where you can give it a little extra care.

FENCE REVOLUTIONIZING HOG INDUSTRY



Pigs Find Money in Waste Land.

(By W. M. KELLY.)
The woven wire fence is revolutionizing the hog industry in the whole country, and when farmers learn to utilize every bit of waste land for pasture for their hogs the herds will be healthy and the cost of production will be decreased many dollars.
It won't do to allow the pigs to lie in the shade of the corn cribs or to allow them only a run of pasture. I

believe in feeding a little corn all the time that the pigs are running in the pasture.
The grass-grown pig does not appear so attractive with his working clothes on, but when he is well-developed and ready to be fattened he makes the pampered pet look like very little. He makes a fine appearance in society and is a credit to his owner and feeder.