

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Study each cow's tastes.

There is profit in broom corn.

For moles in the garden use traps.

As a soil builder clover has very few equals.

Shelters should be supplied in every pig pasture.

A few staples prevents many a breachy heifer.

In warm or hot weather provide shade for the chicks.

We must either put our idle land to work, sell it or lose it.

No place is too small to afford some garden or plant growth.

The safety of a horse depends largely upon his early education.

Putting colts in damp, dark stables is likely to produce rheumatism.

Plenty of salt is vitally essential to the thriftiness of the young stock.

Get the chicks out on the fresh ground and fresh air as soon as possible.

Mix all the cream to be churned in one vat or can at least eighteen hours before churning.

Small white onion sets are the best. If they cannot be obtained, yellow sets should be used.

A stunted calf will never make as valuable a cow as its inheritance would certainly warrant.

The grass and the cattle are both better if the owner is not in too much of a hurry to use the pasture.

The up-to-date farm equipment includes machinery for the housewife as well as for the men outside.

Corn is naturally a hungry plant. If you want it to grow feed it liberally with fertilizer, water and sunshine.

Horses are often whipped for things purely imaginary in the mind of the driver, and it is too cruel for words.

Wash the butter once with pure water at the churning temperature, agitating three or four times, and drain.

Cream that contains from 30 to 40 per cent butter fat churns better than that having only half so high a fat content.

The temperature of churning should be such as to make the butter come in from 35 to 40 minutes, usually 55 to 60 degrees F.

Eggs absorb odors, not so readily as milk, but readily enough that one cannot afford to store onions beside a basket of eggs.

Always offer the horses water before going to bed at night. Never leave the horse thirsty all night after he has eaten his hay.

Keep the harrow coming along soon after plowing. This is the beginning of that good surface cultivation that we hear so much about.

Be gentle and quiet in handling the sow and she will never cause any trouble, unless she is a particularly vicious or ill-mannered female.

Crows will catch young chickens and carry them off and if they get started they sometimes steal dozens of chicks, unless stopped with a gun.

Hogs roaming at large always supply themselves with pure food and water, and do not suffer from disease as do those which are confined and heavily fed.

Probably in no country are commercial fertilizers used to a greater extent than in Germany, and there the yields of crops are upon the average about twice the average yield in the United States.

When the beginner once realizes that the more care used in the selection of the feeds that start the young chickens on their way to maturity there will be less loss, and a better growth. It pays to obtain a good chick grit.

Potato peelings, cabbage roots, celery tops and such things are relished by hens and keep the flock healthy. In summer the hens pick up quantities of insects and worms, and this form of food must be supplied in winter by scraps of meat or cut bone.

Why not mix the crops?

Rape is excellent for hogs.

A chilled chick is a dead chick.

Movable hog houses are convenient.

Feed sour milk to the chicks from the start.

As soon as the chicks crowd they are too cold.

The soil must be fed, these days, as well as its owner.

All old wood should be removed from the rose bushes.

Leave the chicks in the incubator until 36 to 48 hours old.

Silage is the best roughage for fattening any class of cattle.

The chicks should have grain in the litter, so they will exercise.

Driving on one rein is usually caused by a sharp tooth or teeth.

Culling the flock and separating the weak and sick chicks is important.

The fence line makes a harbor for weeds, insects and other crop pests.

The practice of feeding hogs on forage crops alone, is not economical.

Much farm machinery wears out more through exposure than through use.

Use the coarse fodders, straws and the stalk fields for wintering the breeding herd.

When bugs are plenty and hens have free range the beef scrap may be discontinued.

Try topworking a few apple or plum trees. The work is interesting, but not hard.

By drainage, many acres of now idle land could be brought into profitable cultivation.

Don't yank the lines and swear at the team. Find the cause of the trouble and remove it.

Quarantine all hogs you buy for at least three weeks after they are brought on the farm.

Keep a mixture of wood ashes, charcoal, salt, lime, sulphur and copperas before the hogs all the time.

The often repeated reminder to give the young pigs whole oats on a raised platform should not be scorned.

Stop churning when the granules are about the size of peas, varying to wheat, and draw off the buttermilk.

When the soil is loose to a sufficient depth, corn roots penetrate in abundance to a depth of three or four feet.

No mistake will be made in choosing the Senator Dunlap strawberry to grow fruit either for home use or market.

Farm manure is a perishable product which must be handled with intelligence to obtain its maximum value.

Where manure is coarse and carelessly spread part of it is left with out any.

Never keep a sow no matter how good or well-bred she may be if she will not produce more than five strong pigs at a litter.

Harden the chicks while still in the incubator by opening the incubator door for about one-half inch after they are well dried.

As pasture, hay or fertilizer, crimson clover offers itself to farmers at a time when the ordinary summer-grown crops are not available.

When the spreader is used, less manure will be needed to cover one acre and the value and effectiveness of the manure will be increased.

There has too long been an unreasonable prejudice against mules, and yet they may be made one of the most valuable economic features of the farm.

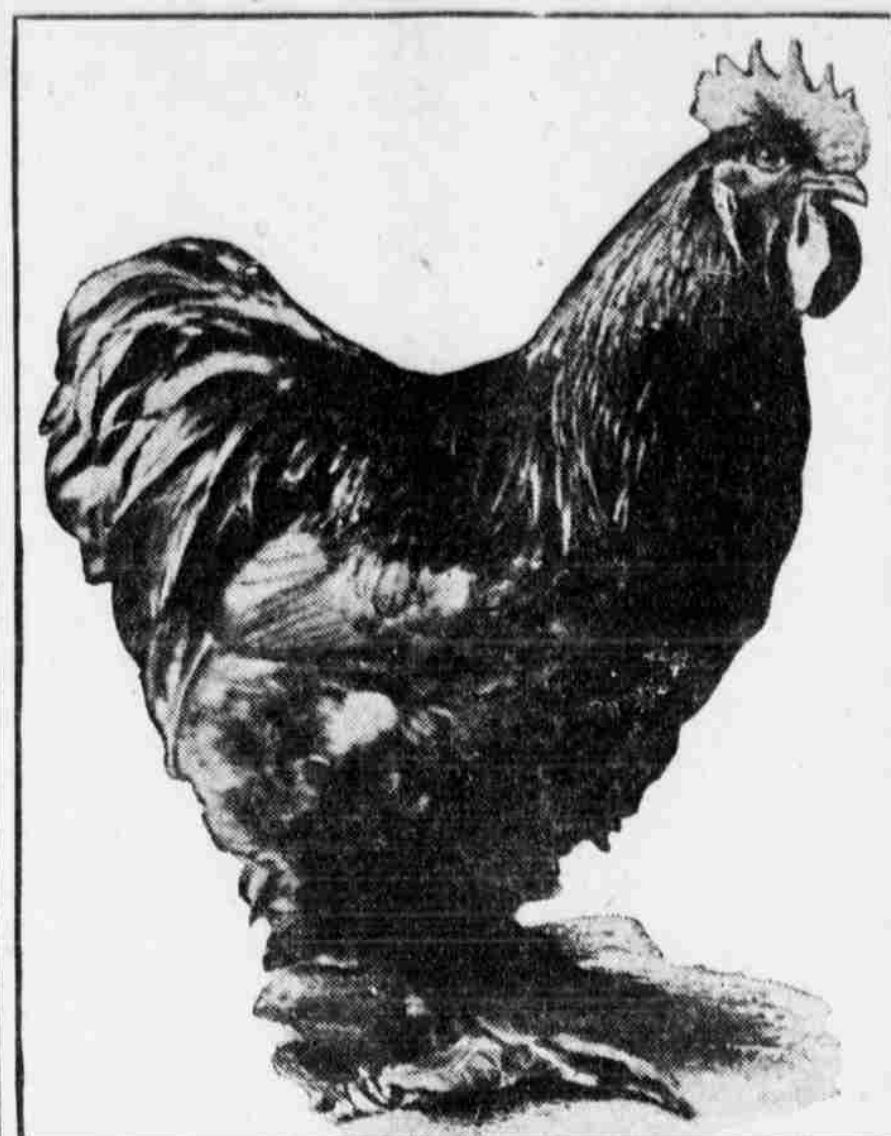
Try putting a pinch of copperas in the poultry watering trough once or twice a month. Better still, scrub out the trough and spray thoroughly with a copperas solution.

Compactness being essential to promote capillary attraction, it is advisable to plow deep as early as possible after the crop is gathered, thereby giving the land time to settle before spring seeding.

Many a flock has been run down by forcing methods from chickhood to maturity and late hatching year after year. Hatch the future breeders early and do not force them at the expense of vigor. Grow size by selection and breeding.

Chickens will eat everything imaginable, no difference how filthy. Feed your poultry well. Give them good grain and food and you will find them disinclined to filthy, strange food. They only eat it when turned out to find what they can or starve.

CULLING THE POULTRY FLOCK IN SUMMER



Single Comb Partridge Cochin China Cock.

(By PROF. J. G. HALPIN, Wisconsin Agricultural College.)

The poultry flock should be culled during summer, so as to take advantage of the comparatively good prices that prevail then. Hens over two or three years old, the small hens, the badly shaped ones, such as those with crow heads or crooked breasts, overfat hens, and hens known to be poor layers, should be sold.

Not only will the price be lower later in the season, but the presence of these undesirable hens will reduce the efficiency of the entire flock. Then, after the flock has been culled, all the remaining hens should be given bands or otherwise marked so that they may later be distinguished from the pullets.

BROODING THE CHICKS

GOOD START IN LIFE IS MORE THAN HALF THE BATTLE.

From Hatching Time Until Feathered and Ready for Colony is Most Important and Vital Period—Laying the Foundation.

(By J. W. KELLAR, Copyright, 1914.)

The brooding period embraces that portion of a chick's life from the time it is hatched until it is feathered and ready for the colony house and is a most important and vital period, for then is laid the foundation of the future.

There are two methods of brooding—the natural, in which the hen supplies the warmth and care, and the artificial. In the natural brooding all that is necessary is a comfortable coop, not too warm, roomy and free from drafts, kept clean and sprayed liberally with a good liquid lice killer, or, better still, poultry disinfectant. Then, given proper feed, the hen will do the rest.

Artificial brooders have two parts—a hover which is warmed and supplies the heat to the chicks, and a nursery or exercising room. In choosing a brooder select one that is well built, easily cleaned and in which the heat is deflected downward on the chick's back. Avoid bottom heat, which causes leg troubles. Buy the brooder plenty large and do not crowd the chicks. Keep it sweet and clean and cover the floor with sand or fine chopped alfalfa or clover.

Watch the Temperature.

The temperature under the hover during the first week should be 90 degrees; then gradually reduce the heat until it reaches 80 degrees. The nursery should be about seventy degrees. As much depends on the lamp in a brooder, keep it well filled, with a clean burner and well trimmed wick. Have a good tested thermometer, take the temperature from near the floor, watching carefully, for overheating or chilling chicks is equally disastrous, and above all follow the directions that come with the brooder.

After the first week or two chicks may be allowed to run about in a small outdoor yard when the weather is clear and mild, provided they can always return easily to the hover when they feel cool. When the weather is bad confine them to the nursery and induce exercise by scattering fine grain among the litter.

The question of brooding large colonies of several hundred chicks in a small room or house by the use of brooder stoves has attracted much attention lately. These small coal or oil burning stoves with large cone shaped metal heat deflectors have been used for many years in California and undoubtedly are great labor savers. The fireless type of brooder, which depends on thick, soft insulation to conserve the natural heat of the chick, as well as portable hovers, are also in quite general and successful use.

Roosts for Young Stock.

Provide ample roosting places for the growing young stock. Beware of crowding. Nothing is so conducive to colds as the overheating that comes of crowded quarters.

GOOD RATION FOR FATTENING

If Fowls Have Their Liberty and Are Free From Lice Cracked Corn Will Make Rapid Gains.

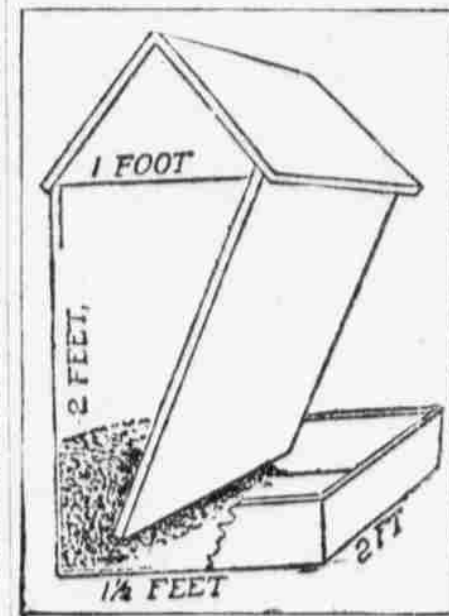
From the many fattening rations and the articles on crate fattening, pen fattening and cramming, the farmer might get the impression that fattening is a different proposition. Such, however, is not the case, says the Farmer. Some of the best poultry we ever saw fattened was fattened by simply giving them all the cracked corn they would eat for three weeks, while they were on free range of the farm. Usually farm fowls are healthy, and, if they have their liberty and are free from lice, plenty of cracked corn will make them gain rapidly, and when dressed for market they get plump and of a bright red color.

Where it is desired to fatten some of the flock and not all of it, that which is not to be fattened can be allowed to run at liberty, and that to be fattened can be put into yards, or even kept in the houses. In that case a different ration is needed. There should be plenty of grit and charcoal within reach, and green food should be supplied every day. In the morning a mash made of three parts cornmeal, one part wheat bran and one part high-grade beef scraps, mixed crumbly with water or milk, should be given, all they will eat up in 15 minutes, and no more. At noon some green food and cracked corn may be given, and at night they should have all the cracked corn they will eat. If they are free from vermin they will fatten rapidly under this treatment. If they do not eat heartily, they must be put out on the range again until they recover their appetites.

SELF-FEEDER FOR CHICKENS

Device May Easily Be Constructed Out of Material Found About the House or Stable.

A good self-feeder for fowls, such as is here illustrated, can be easily made out of material found about the house or barn. The feed is placed in the



Self-Feeder for Fowls.

box from the back and just enough drops into the trough to prevent waste, yet maintaining a continual supply. The feeder shown in the illustration is two feet high.

ADVANTAGES OF THE HOME-GROWN FEEDERS



Two Home Grown Feeders.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

One of the chief disadvantages that most cattle feeders have to contend with is the purchase of feeders from some remote district. If it is possible to select a small bunch of good quality, uniform-sized feeders of about the same age in his own neighborhood they will make a more profitable lot of feeders for the average farmer to finish than the class of feeders that come from some remote district.

Many failures among feeders can be traced directly to the fact that they are not acquainted with the effects of acclimation and domestication of the purchased feeders and fail to get them started off in good condition.

Then again some farmers come to the conclusion that it is unprofitable to keep a herd of cows and believe that they can buy their feeders for less money than they can afford to grow them. These men soon find their mistake, and many who have sold their cow herds are now developing new herds for the purpose of raising their own feeders.

Then again there is another matter that enters into the economy of the feeding question, and that is the matter of selling the cattle before they are finished. There are times when it will be more money in the feeder's pocket to sell the cattle when they are just off grass, even though the price seems small compared with what corn-fed cattle are selling for.

Farmers who are going into the business would do well to raise a high class of feeding animals and feed only what they can handle to the most profitable advantage on their own farms, and sell when the prices are right.

Sell when just off grass if the price is right and grain foods are high. Feed well on a variety of well cured alfalfa, clover and corn stover and a liberal grain ration.

Raise the breeds best adapted for the one special purpose and keep in close touch with the market conditions in relation to both feed and beef.

If the cattle are to be full fed, select the full-fed period with intelligent discrimination and precaution.

EXCELLENT NOTES ON CARE OF SWINE

All of Leading Breeds Are Adapted to Economical Production—Keep Animals Healthy.

The use of corn in hog-feeding should be tempered with judgment. The corn and hog crop go hand in hand. A man starting in farming in the West relies upon this combination. The hog from first to last is capable of getting a large proportion of its feed from grass.

We are apt to make the mistake of feeding grain too freely because the hog utilizes it so efficiently and economically.

No breed enjoys any marked preference in the markets of the country. All of the leading breeds are adapted to economical production.

To have healthy swine on the farm the first essential is to have good, vigorous, healthy, breeding animals.

Sunbeams, crude carbolic acid and lime are the best and cheapest disinfectant.

When hog-waterers are used they should be cleaned frequently and a lump of quicklime dropped in the barrels occasionally will assist in keeping them sweet and clean.

Health and drugs have no affinity in the successful management of a herd of swine.

Health is natural. Disease unnatural. Both are contagious.

If in the fight between health and disease we give nature a little encouragement we will come off victorious.

It is, after all, more our mission to keep our hogs healthy than to allow them to keep themselves in that condition.

We should keep the hogs close company, study their habits and their requirements and then cater to them. Add to this, humane treatment; and we have solved the whole problem.

Mud is not a good thing to feed pigs in, dust is worse. Both should be avoided as much as possible.

A short nose, is good, but a long body is better.

OF COURSE FARMER SHOULD KEEP SHEEP

Profitable Method of Getting Rid of Weeds Is to Sell Them in Mutton at 6c a Pound.

(By C. D. LYON.)

Some men were looking over a weedy pasture and one of them said: "What shall I do with these weeds?" Quick as a flash his neighbor said: "Sell them in mutton at 6 cents a pound."

Every man knows his own business best and can best decide what kind of stock will pay him the greatest profit, but on most farms there is room for a small flock of sheep and at the end of the season the money the wool and lambs will bring will be that much clear profit.

Going back to the first proposition, that of the weeds that infest our fields it may be said that while growing sheep entirely upon weeds, is not a plan to be advised, they will eat nearly every weed that grows upon a farm and will put on good, solid fat upon stuff that cattle and horses refuse.

The most tractable of all farm stock, they can be managed with less trouble than other stock, all that is required to restrain them being a wire net fence of the cheapest grade.

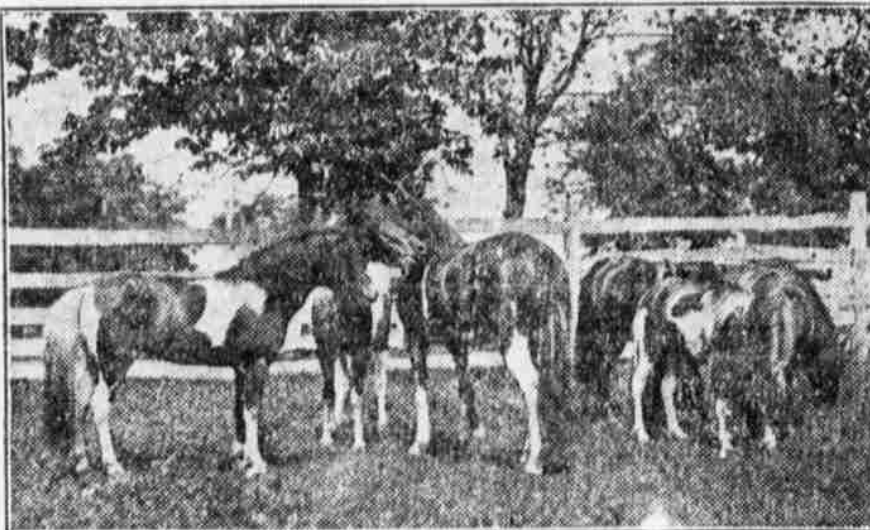
The other day I was talking over the sheep question with some friends and while we did not agree as to breeds, we were unanimously in favor of the breed of sheep that will bring a good heavy shipping lamb with the fleece a secondary consideration.

This is the very season to think of starting a flock as a great many flock-masters sell off some ewes as soon as shearing time is over, and unless a man has plenty of means in these days he will have to start with such ewes as he can buy on the market, thoroughbred being almost out of the question for the ordinary farmer.

Fresh Butter Best.

Butter is better when fresh than is ever will be again.

PROPER TREATMENT OF ALL FARM HORSES



The practice of many farmers of driving a team through cold water to wash the filth from their feet and legs is dangerous, as it causes many diseases that they are subject to.

A warm or overheated team should not be put in a cold airy place, but first exercised and then blanketed and put in a warm stable and after the blankets are removed the horses should be wiped dry with straw or cloths.

When a team has been exposed to

rain they should not be left to become dry, but should be rubbed dry, as chills, fevers and other ailments often result from allowing them to dry by the evaporation of the moisture from their bodies.

If we would allow the teams more rest at noon we should accomplish more work than when they are allowed only time to swallow their food. At evening let them be well groomed and their legs, bellies and feet be relieved from all mud and filth.