



NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM
By William Pitt

The colt needs exercise.

Divide the hog pastures.

Have a sharp steel cutter on the plow.

Rich buttermilk means a poor butter yield.

Provide some succulent food for ewes in winter.

Thorough and constant spraying is the price of good fruit.

After pruning clean up and have some bonfires right away.

It has never seemed advisable to sow alfalfa in the fall with rye.

Provide the tomatoes with a support of some kind—trellis or stakes.

A little pig loves sunshine and needs it almost as much as he needs food.

Better sires, better cows, better care and more prosperity is the inevitable result.

The gospel of clean milk is not a strainer gospel, but a gospel of prevention.

Sows are always in better condition to raise fall pigs than they are in the spring.

Wash all parts of separator at end of separation and scald, leaving in the open air to dry.

In keeping cows never be without clover. It is one of the foods essential to good dairying.

In preparing either walnuts or butternuts for planting, the shucks should be left on over winter.

The late hatched chickens should have a grass run to themselves and be given extra feed and care.

A chill brought on by the udder coming in contact with the frosty ground may ruin your best cow.

The individuality of each horse should be studied, and the feeds supplied to meet individual requirements.

Don't let the buck run with the does when the breeding season is over, but confine him in a pen by himself.

Are there any old apple trees in your orchard, bearing desirable fruit? Easy to graft good varieties upon them.

With good fence wire as cheap as it is today it is an easy matter to divide up the hog pasture into convenient lots.

All ewe lambs that are not desirable to raise as breeders should be given extra feed and sent back to the block early.

Systematic training is of value in handling young colts; teach them one thing at a time, have them learn that one thing thoroughly.

Cold, exposed sleeping quarters that compel the sows to pile up in order to keep warm are usually responsible for the dead pigs at this time.

Fruit trees should be planted in regular rows in the orchard, or fruit garden, so thorough culture can be given both ways of the orchard.

Give the ewes the best possible chance to get them in high condition before breeding time. It means more and stronger and thriftier lambs.

Maple and ash posts will last about three or four years; excepting the very best quality of yellow ash, and it is too dear to be used as fence posts.

Mighty easy to feed new corn to the hogs, stalks and all, but you will find that if the corn is first run through the shredder the animals will eat it up clean.

Shocked corn accustoms cattle to the taste of ear corn, but compels them to eat so much roughage in connection that there is very little danger of over-eating.

When a farmer thinks of buying a dairy bull to improve his herd, he should look to the individuality of the bull, also the backing, not the "cheapness of the price."

If a pig is grown right and fed right there is no time in the life of a pig when he will make any more pork than between 8 weeks and 3 months in proportion to feed consumed.

Sell the poor cow.

Ewes need succulent feed.

The fall colt is nearly clear gain.

Fattening cattle should have plenty of salt.

Frost-bitten grass has no food value to speak of.

Both oats and barley are good feeds for young pigs.

See that the coops and henhouse is free from lice and mites.

Well cured ensilage corresponds with the nature of the cow.

The chief characteristics of the rooster are speed and stamina.

Horses that have a light hay diet are seldom affected with heaves.

Cleanliness and fresh air will usually prevent epidemics of any kind.

Testing is the only method by which we can cut out the robbers in the herd.

The brown leghorn or the houndan feather quickly and soon reach maturity.

The colts and unused horses should spend most of each pleasant day in the paddock.

Have no hesitation in disposing of the unprofitable cows. They are a mistake.

Sheep do not drink much water, but what little they drink must be absolutely clean.

Corn fodder that is shredded or split, and ground fine, makes a very satisfactory feed.

Have an orchard book and keep a record of the trees planted and also the variety of fruit.

Free range for hogs does not mean that they should be allowed to run over our neighbor's farm.

The late hatching eggs from some of the small quick-growing breeds can be raised at the least cost.

Do not sell all the best. If anyone is entitled to the best fruit produced on the farm, it is the family.

Pumpkins are a valuable succulence for cows, holding much the same place in the ration as silage and roots.

If you think of setting out an orchard and have had no experience, better hire a good man to show you how.

The practice of turning the cows out rye and winter barley that is sown for early spring feed is not a good practice.

The cream should always be strained into the churn through a fine wire sieve or a dipper, with a perforated tin bottom.

Well-bred heifer calves may often be purchased cheaply of people who live in town and keep but one cow for family use.

Ensilage is not considered good for sheep, and if it is fed at all it should be fed very sparingly and at intervals of two or three days.

Each cow's udder should be thoroughly cleansed before milking and the hands of the milker should be absolutely clean and dry.

Clean sound oats make an excellent ration for the pigs. If this is fed to them regularly during the fattening period the pork will be superior.

Stone fruits, such as peaches, apricots, plums and nectarines, should be planted the latter part of March, before the buds commence to swell.

Farmers who undertake to grow in any section of the country what nature does not intend them to grow soon find it out, and usually by hard experience.

It pays to have the farm fenced hog tight and cross fenced into small fields and to have plenty of yards to keep hogs of different sizes and ages separated.

If a yearling ram is used watch him when first admitted to the flock. Sometimes they are not breeders. It is well to look after the old ones too. They sometimes quit.

The horse population of the world is estimated at more than 111,000,000, of which about 43,000,000 are in Europe, 28,000,000 in North America and 11,000,000 in Asia.

Plow up your old, worn-out orchard this fall and put some manure, compost, ashes and bones in the trenches. You'll be surprised next year at the quick response of your trees.

A daily record should be kept of each cow in the stable. In a year's time a dairyman will then know by practical demonstration what cows are paying him, and those that are not.

Pumpkins will freeze if you don't watch out, and frozen pumpkins are of no good to anything. Good, ripe, sound pumpkins are enjoyed by the cows, and help the milk flow very much.

DRY LAND EXTREMISTS

Some Unknown Quantity Governs the Returns.

Men Who Spend Much Time in City Office Not Competent to Write on Intricate Subject as Those in Close Contact.

To see thirty or forty bushels of grain on dry land with but fifteen inches of rainfall, and then drive for miles through fields that will not give back the seed with the same tillage, and possibly slightly more rainfall, ought to convince our dry farming enthusiasts that the natural moisture of the soil or subsoil, or the moisture-holding capacity of the soil, or some other quality seldom evident at first, largely governs the returns from dry farming.

We have recently come across even more extreme differences than the ones noted. We have seen good to abundant crops on seemingly as dry land as could be found—with but little attention given to dry farming methods; while not far from it almost total failure where every mechanical detail of dry farming had been carefully carried out, says the Dakota Farmer.

These things convince us more than ever that men who spend most of their time in a city office—or who visit but one or two strips of country—are not so competent to write upon this intricate subject as are some of those whose every working hour brings them in close contact with the soil and possibly with the mortgage.

All too many jump at conclusions which every-day facts will not justify, and make assertions altogether too general, and that are not only misleading, but that we know are not true.

We are glad to note that there is a more frank admitting, by very many of these teachers and experimenters, that it takes a certain amount of moisture in all soils to grow a crop, and that moisture has to come from the heavens, from the subsoil or be conserved by accumulation, and that moisture cannot be created where it does not exist.

They must admit, too, that there are soils and much of them, that will never make anything but very uncertain returns where there are but fifteen inches of rainfall. It is easy to make glowing assertions, that are true enough with many soils and subsoils, but to get onto a dry, hard-baked prairie, with an almost impervious subsoil—unless it does hold that peculiar quality which responds so quickly to culture—and make it produce at all worth while, is quite another thing. There is much dry soil which will never do it, unless with an expenditure of time, tillage, horse flesh and patience not one man in a hundred possesses, and then in many, many instances it will not.

We know it is much easier, and very much more popular, to join with the extremists in this thing, point to the almost everywhere-to-be-found individual successes and shut our eyes to the discouraged, misled and possibly ruined, and assert that this, that and the other system will bring enormous and certain yields from any and all dry or desert lands; but we know there is another and larger side to it all, and our sympathies go out to the man who must experiment long and patiently at his own expense before he knows whether his land will respond to dry farming methods or not; whether yields sufficient will come to him on his own particular piece of dry land to pay for every other year tillage, and the extra labor and expense he must go to before he can hope to equal ordinary farm land returns.

In the great Golden Valley, stretching north and south of Beach and Wibaux on the North Dakota and Montana line, we are told that the yields compare favorably with those of the Red River Valley. This we know to be true, at least for some seasons, for we have rode over both valleys from end to end more than once; but dry farming is not practiced by one farmer in a hundred in Golden Valley.

"But Judith Basin," we are asked, "doesn't that yield?" True, but one can ride for miles there without finding a man who even knows what dry farming means, much less practices it.

Those sections have a soil peculiar to themselves, and when combined with slightly greater, and usually more seasonable rainfall than the country on either side of them, have brought forth excellent crops with the most inexcusably haphazard farming we ever saw. It is distinctly dishonest to point to these sections, or others like them, as proofs of what dry farming will do.

We take second place with no man for the high regard in which we hold dry farming and most dry farming teachers; but do say that the sweeping assertions made by many, who from actual and wide experience and observation, are not competent to write or speak on the subject at all, is dangerously and wrongfully misleading, and is doing as much to hinder the cause of dry farming as all the blundering of the beginners.

Fresh Eggs.

An egg to belong to the strictly fresh egg class should not be over three days old, in summer weather, and a week old during winter. But in either case they must be kept in a cool temperature. Heat very quickly stale eggs. Crates of eggs allowed to remain in the hot sun for several hours will quickly change the air conditions.

DRY FARMING IN THE EAST

Method Is Called for Where There Is Lack of Subsoil Moisture, Coupled With Dry Weather.

The lack of subsoil moisture, coupled with excessive heat and dry weather, calls for dry farming methods. For several seasons I have been practicing a modified form of dry farming with good results. My plan is to plow for all crops as early as possible, while the ground contains the moisture from spring rains. Harrow each day's plowing. Waiting until one has finished before harrowing is allowing as much moisture to escape from the furrows each day as would fall in a good day's rain. Harrow immediately after each rain till the crop is in. While the crop is under ground choose your own weapons—either harrow, weeder or cultivator; but don't fail to stir the top soil if it rains, writes N. Glennon in the Country Gentleman. When the crop starts stir the topsoil to the depth of an inch after each rain, and do it quickly if you have to use every horse and man. Start at 4 a. m., and keep it up till the crop covers the ground. Keep the ground level. A ditch between the rows dug by deep cultivation and handhoeing of the loose earth round the crop, would perhaps be all right if one had a river to turn into the ditches; but without the river or a dash of rain one must hold the moisture in the soil by keeping the ground level and leaving one inch of unbaked, loose, dry earth on top. Last season my potatoes yielded at the rate of 400 bushels to the acre on dry soil, though other crops hereabouts on the same character of soil, after being ditched below the level of the roots and laboriously "hilled up," yielded less than 100 bushels to the acre. Of course, to raise potatoes by this method they must be planted deep and the furrows gradually filled, as one cultivates after each rain. My soil is a gravelly loam; but after four weeks of dry weather there is under the top inch of dry soil sufficient moisture.

Some may object that level culture for tobacco will not do, as the wind will blow it over. Exactly the reverse is the case, as I have had ample proof by trying level culture and hilled-up rows side by side. The level rows stood up; the hilled tobacco, with brace roots either cut off by deep cultivation or kept back by not being able to grow out of the hill into the open gutter, blew down badly. As well attempt to keep a tree standing by digging down until all its roots were cut off and expect the loose earth thrown round the trunk to hold it up. In loose soil—and damp soil will be loose, though no amount of deep cultivation will loosen baked out soil—I have washed out tobacco roots three feet in length, and in no place more than four inches below the surface. Leave them uncut and they will hold the tobacco up. I have followed corn roots for over four feet.

Garden Suggestions.

Cut away the stalks of all the plants that have completed their flowering, like the Iris. This for two reasons—to prevent the formation of seed and to remove unsightly features. Large clumps of Iris foliage alone are very pleasing, but the same clumps with old flower stalks showing among them are not at all attractive.

To make chrysanthemums bushy and compact pinch the branches back from time to time. If this is not done you will be pretty sure to have straggling, awkward shaped plants for which there is no salvation by late pruning. The proper time to train a plant is while it is developing.

Raising Cattle.

When a farmer raises cattle and feeds them alongside of a neighbor under the same general conditions and gets from one to two cents more for his product it is pretty safe to say that the other fellow does not know how to feed right.

POULTRY NOTES.

Indian Runner ducks begin to lay when they are about six months old. It is the abuse, and not the use of corn that condemns it as a poultry food.

Don't waste much time on sick fowls. Separate them from the others immediately.

Feeding the hen turkey makes a wonderful difference in the number of eggs she lays.

Some poultry men have found that magnesia relieves the sour condition of the birds' stomachs.

New York state raised 10,678,836 fowls in 1910. This crop of poultry was valued at \$7,879,000.

It is advisable to select a large part of the winter's flock from the pullets hatched in April or earlier.

The clean, dry and well ventilated houses which get plenty of sunlight seldom are badly infested with mites.

Correct feeding is the first step toward profitable poultry keeping. There is no set rule to follow except to study your fowls.

Plan to raise a flock of general purpose fowls next season. They will yield much more satisfaction and profit than a mixed flock.

Only a few more weeks and all the feed the fowls get must be provided for them. They will need grain food, green food and animal food.

You cannot afford to keep the old hens and cockerels, but be careful about selecting the ones you keep. Your flock ought to continue to grow better each year.

The south is fast coming into the ranks of poultry raising territory. Last year there were 221,482 farms in the state of Alabama upon which some kind of poultry was raised.

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