

Dairy Notes.

The scrub farmer will keep scrub stock.

Starving the young animals in the dairy saves feed, but that is all.

The savage dog has no license on the farm and especially around the dairy.

A few good rules consistently followed will accomplish greater results than much wisdom and little practice.

It is a mighty poor cow that will not respond to good care and good food. She should be sold to the butcher forthwith.

Milk with dry hands. The man who milks with wet hands is usually very careless as well in the other details of the dairy business.

A man who abuses his stock has about as much chance of reaching the Better Land as the golden rule has of being worked to death.

Its a pretty good plan to have arrangements made so that the stock can get in out of the storm, should one come up while the family is away.

Promptly remove from the herd any animal suspected of being in bad health and reject her milk. Never add an animal to the herd until certain it is free from disease, especially tuberculosis.

The article of commerce which does not have to seek a market always sells for a fancy price. The dairyman who is making butter should produce such fine quality in his product that the market will seek his business.

The "average" dairyman is a very poor dairyman in the true sense of the word, yet a comparison of the methods in use to-day with those of even ten years ago is quite complimentary to this same "average" dairyman. There's abundant room for improvement yet, however.

Feeding for Eggs.

Feed liberally if you want eggs. While some chicks die from over-feeding, I believe that many hens fail to lay eggs during the winter because insufficient food is provided. A great deal of food is necessary to keep a hen alive and warm and also provide egg material during our cold winter.

Feed all grain in litter, and there will be no danger of the hen becoming too fat. Of course there will be sluggishness in every flock that will eat and roost and lay no eggs. One must pick out these drones and kill them in justice to the rest of the flock.

Observation and experience have taught me that the warm mash is a great factor in the winter egg problem. Oats or barley boiled make a good mash if mixed with bran or shorts. If the flock is not large a kettle may be kept on the back of the kitchen stove and all vegetable and fruit parings, meat trimmings, pieces of pumpkin, table scraps, etc., thrown in. This must be cooked until done and salted slightly, then mixed until crumbly with bran or shorts to make an ideal mash.

We have our dinner at six o'clock in the winter time. The kettle is filled as we prepare the meal and after our meal is eaten the contents of the kettle is cooked, either that evening or the next morning, and mixed and fed about nine o'clock a.m. Of course the flock has been at work long before this on grain that was scattered in the litter the previous evening.

Grit and warm water are provided always during the cold weather. Charcoal, too, we find to be good and often char the corn for the flock either on the cob or shelled.

Oats we find to be an excellent food for the last meal on a cold night, shelled, warmed and plenty of it, fed so that no fowl goes on the roost hungry.

Often, especially if very cold, we feed this last feed of the day in troughs so as to be sure of full crops. I have a theory that one may feed chicks or grown fowls all they can eat without their working for it at night.

One poultry woman succeeds by one method of feeding, another woman by another method, but one thing is certain, all work hard. No successful poultry woman, or man either, has an easy life; but while the work is hard it is pleasant for those who like it and success is assured.

Poultry.

The pullet that lays early usually may be depended on to lay all winter, if properly cared for.

If your hen house roof leaks or the wind gets through the wall cover the building, sides and roof, with one of the roofing fabrics advertised for the purpose. This material is not expensive and is easily put on.

If your poultry building stands on low ground a board floor is better than a dirt floor, for the air can circulate under it and keep it dry.

Don't crowd a large flock of fowls into a small house if you expect them to be healthy and productive. Twenty hens in a house twelve feet square will usually be more profitable than forty kept in the same house.

It is safe to remember that fowls must have fresh air to breathe or their combs will turn pale and their strength and productiveness will be diminished.

If the roosts are at the back of the pen and the windows in front, plenty of air can be admitted, and the fowls will not be in the draft. If the rain or snow blows in place a piece of burlap over the opening.

It does not pay to send your fowls to the Thanksgiving market thin in flesh. Give them plenty of corn once a day and a mash made of equal parts of ground oats, cornmeal and wheat bran and half a part of beef scraps, mixed with milk twice a day. This will make them fat in ten days or two weeks if they are healthy and free from lice.

When you build nests make them large enough to be comfortable, but not deep enough so that the hens will break the eggs therein by jumping down upon them when about to lay. It is also advisable to place the nests where the hens can reach them without over-exerting themselves. If they are high on the wall, provide a slanting board with cleats across it to serve as a runway.

A Time For Doing Things.

Why is it that some farmers always have their work well in hand while others are always behind with what they have to do? It depends largely upon conditions under which the farmer labors, but the fact remains that that same farmer is generally responsible for those conditions.

The reader might offer the suggestion that working under those conditions which are unfavorable is quite another thing from telling how conditions should be changed. That is a poor excuse to offer, however. Right in that man's neighborhood will be found the man who is ahead and the man who is behind.

The writer was born and grew to early manhood on a farm and is giving his own observations. He remembers well one season spent as a hired man on a big dairy farm whose owner is one of those farmers who always has his work well in hand. He did not believe in making farm life a life of drudgery either. During the summer and fall months the work was all done by daylight, but we worked while we were at it. At five o'clock in the morning every one began to get busy. Each man had his particular chores to do every day, and my work was with the cows. At seven o'clock we were ready for the field and at 11.45 the dinner call was sounded. Promptly at 1.15 p.m. we were off for the fields again and supper was always ready at six p.m. The chores were done in the early evening. During the hot summer evenings we usually rounded out the day with a plunge into the nearby lake.

The suggestion might be offered that the hired man was fortunate in securing such a place to work, and indeed he was, but I assure you that it was not wholly the interests of the hired man that the farmer had in mind. He knows that it pays to run a farm in that way. Every horse on the farm and every person on that farm felt just like doing his best while at work, and more work was done than could have been done any other way.

It is unnecessary to add that the dairy returned handsome profits to that farmer. The cows received good care, and they were milked at the same time every day.

This man also had the hired help question solved. His hired men did not complain about milking cows, as it was made part of the day's work instead of the night's work. In order to be perfectly fair in my argument, perhaps I should state that this farmer had four good-looking daughters who assisted in milking the cows. A whole chapter might be offered right here about the farm girl, but the writer will leave that for another time, suffice it to say that he captured one of the four.

I have called attention to this experience for the purpose of proving by actual observation that keeping up the work in proper shape on the farm does not necessarily mean long hours and a life of drudgery. Quite the reverse is true. It's chiefly in the man who runs the farm and he can choose for himself.

Pointers.

A very good idea is to have a plain map of the orchard (be it one of long standing or a new one) before the names of varieties and locations are wholly forgotten. This is also useful in case of an exchange of the property, and for the benefit of the coming generation who may wish enlightenment respecting names, age of trees, etc. Such an act would be "doing as one would be done by."

Folks have trouble keeping apples in a cellar that is too warm. This fruit needs a cold, dry temperature. A neighbor has fine success preserving apples in a cellar which is walled with large stones. He claims that the rocks hold the cold and that it is easier to keep the right temperature than if the walls were of some other material. Of course, the doors and windows have to be looked after at this season, and opened and closed according to the weather. Even good-keeping apples won't keep long if the ones beginning to rot are not kept sorted away from the others.

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