

# Soils and Crops

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## Fitting and Showing the Hog.

The fitting and showing of swine is an art in itself quite apart from that of breeding. The careful breeder who prides himself on the breeding and typiness of his hogs need not necessarily be unbeatable in the show ring. In large show classes where the competition is keen, the winning individuals must possess other qualifications than true breeding to type alone, and probably one of the most important considerations other than type is what may be called show condition. This show condition is found in its greatest perfection at our larger shows where breeders with years' experience at their backs are in keen competition with one another. For those breeders who are less experienced and who may wish to take a hand in the game a few suggestions at this time may not be amiss. Individuals which it is the intention of the owner to exhibit at this fall's shows should be selected at once. This is important if maximum size and development is to be obtained, and every day that this is delayed means that much more of a handicap for the individual in the show ring.

It is impossible to realize the desired results by forcing at the last moment, it being necessary, in order to obtain full development, to bring the individual along gradually. Forced feeding results in excess fleshing, with retarded development of frame, or on the other hand it may result in grossness and lack of quality.

Pasture, supplied with shade from the sun, and also, if available, running water, provide ideal conditions for the hog during the summer. These, combined with a well balanced meal ration fed in conjunction with green feed and skim milk, form a combination that is capable of giving the most favorable results.

The meal ration which is selected for this purpose should be one calculated to develop bone and muscle during the initial stages of the fitting period, and for the latter stages a somewhat higher percentage of fat producing foods should be supplied.

In order to appear to the greatest advantage the skin of the hog must be free from blemishes or roughness of any kind, and present a clear, healthy appearance. One great source of trouble, more particularly with white-skinned hogs is that of sunburn. This can largely be prevented if some protection from the sun, either natural or artificial, is available where the hog may take shelter throughout the hotter parts of the day. These precautions are not sufficient, however, if the skin of the hog is to appear to the best advantage, so washing must be resorted to. It is not sufficient to let the washing go until the day before showing. Some considerable time before the hog is to be shown, at intervals of a few days, a thorough scrubbing with a soft bristled brush, lincseed soap, and clean water are advised in order to clean the dirt out of the pores. Cleanse with clear water, and carefully remove all soap. Such treatment results in the freshness and bloom that is so attractive and desirable in show hogs.

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Fine powdered charcoal is useful in keeping down digestive troubles in chicks. It can be bought for about five cents per pound at feed stores or made by running charcoal through a feed grinder. If the charcoal is stored it must be in a rather dry place. It soon absorbs moisture and then loses much of its value to the chicks.

Eye troubles and colds among growing chicks result from overcrowding in dusty brooder houses. As soon as the brooders are removed it pays to install roosts. Even if a few crooked breasts should result from early roosting they are less loss than an epidemic of colds.

Most poultry troubles can be prevented. A great many of them are difficult to cure. There is often a tendency to neglect the poultry and then expect to give them a couple of pills and have everything all right. Successful management of hens consists in anticipating trouble and avoiding it before it occurs, by careful management.

Growing chickens need shade where they can rest during the heat of the day. If the birds are in fenced yards it pays to start sunflowers or corn just outside the fence so the shade will reach inside. A double yard is still better. Then a growing crop is easily started on one side and the hens can be turned in when the plants are too large to be injured.

If you provide artificial shade for the chicks be sure it is substantial. They may seek such protection in severe wind or rain storms. If it blows over there may be a serious loss. Colony houses and brood coops can be protected in wind storms by driving down two by fours or strong stakes and spiking to the sides of the houses.

## THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

**How Do You Hoe?**  
Says, how do you hoe your row, young chap?  
Do you hoe it fair,  
Do you hoe it square,  
Do you hoe it the best you know?  
Do you cut the weeds, as you ought to do,  
And leave what's worth while there?  
The harvest you'll garner depends on you;  
Are you working on the square?  
Are you killing the noxious weeds, young chap?  
Are you making it straight and clean?  
Are you going straight,  
At a hustling gait,  
Are you scattering all that's mean?  
Do you laugh and sing and whistle shrill,  
And dance a step or two,  
As the row you hoe leads up the hill?  
The harvest is up to you.

**Katie's Airplane.**  
"I wish I had an airplane," said six-year-old Katie with a sigh.

Katie and her brothers were spending the summer at Uncle Daniel's farm. Her brothers and cousins were all older, and though they were very kind to Katie, sometimes she was a little lonesome at being the only girl among them. The boys' thoughts were so full of airplanes! They talked about airplanes, they drew pictures of them, they made models of them, they talked of what they should do when old enough to "fly" in airplanes, and each hoped for a chance to go up in one while he was still a boy.

That morning the boys were all on the side porch, whittling and sawing and nailing, trying to make a small machine that would fly.

Uncle Daniel, passing through the sitting-room, heard Katie wishing.

"Come out with me," he said; "I'll put you on an airplane."

Katie, with her doll in her arms, ran out after her uncle.

"This will take you up in the air," "Why, Uncle Daniel, this is only just the winging."

"Well, can't you make believe? You make believe that doll is a baby."

"This is my Vangelina," said Katie, hugging her doll. Then she understood, and smiling, said gaily, "Yes, I'll make believe it's a really, truly airplane."

"I'll swing you in it five minutes every day. When you swing at other times it will be just a common swing, but for our five minutes it is to be an airplane, and when you come down you must tell us what you've seen, just as the soldiers do. Now then, one, two, three, here you go!"

Up went the swing, almost to the tree-top, back and forward again, many times, with Katie pleased and laughing.

"What did you see?" asked Uncle Daniel when the play stopped.

"I saw a teenie, weenie, cunning squirrel," said Katie. "He had bright eyes."

The next day she said, "I saw blue flowers by the stone wall, an' now I'm goin' to get 'em."

But the third day, as soon as the swing was high, Katie began to scream: "Uncle Dan!, Uncle Dan!, s-t-o-p!" "Why, what's the matter, child?" asked her uncle as he stopped the swing near the ground.

"You can't see from her, Uncle Dan!, but Snowflake's broke the bars th' other side o' the pasture, an' she's goin'—"

But Uncle Daniel had gone, running. Snowflake was the finest cow on the farm. At the foot of the slope beyond the pasture was the railroad.

Half an hour later Uncle Daniel came back. He waved his hand to Katie as he went into the house. In a few minutes he came out again, and Aunt Lucy was with him. In her hand she had a small box of red, white and blue ribbons.

"Hurry, little aviator!" said Uncle Daniel. "You've done your bit, and we'll decorate you. I was just in time. There was a train coming. Snowflake was frightened, and was heading right for the track. We always set carefully apart the milk Snowflake gives us, and the money that it brings we save for missions. We call her our missionary cow. So you see you saved her to keep on giving milk to help our missionaries in foreign lands."

"I like my airplane," said Katie happily.

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## Your Child's Own Room

By Emily H. West

In our family we have always believed that each child should have a place in the house that belonged to him alone. If possible, he ought to have a room all to himself; if not, he should share it with someone else. But, at any rate, there should be some place to which he could go, and say, "This is my castle," and defend his right to it against all comers. Young people find a good outlet for their overflowing restlessness in taking care of or furnishing their own rooms.

The craving for companionship is a powerful factor in the life of every boy or girl, but a certain amount of privacy and wholesome quiet is just as necessary for the child's development and happiness. I have known families where life was made miserable for everyone because of the constant bickering and quarreling among the children. When the house was enlarged so that each one could have his own room, they suddenly lost their fretful ways, and improved rapidly in disposition, nervous strength, and general health.

It means a great deal to a boy or girl to know that his small possessions are sacred from the unsympathetic eyes and hands of the grown folks. I have always trained my children to respect each other's rights. Even if he hasn't a room to himself, each child has certain shelves, drawers, and other nooks which are sacred to his own use, and neither I nor anyone else may touch any of his little properties without first obtaining his permission.

We all know families where clothes are owned practically in common. Mary buys a new waist, but before she has a chance to wear it she finds that she has nothing suitable, and must wear it "just this once." No one is ever sure of collars, handkerchiefs, or stockings.

**Tastes Change Rapidly.**

If your child has a room to himself, he will take pride in making it beautiful—that is, if you give him full liberty to decorate it as he thinks best. The tastes of children differ widely. You cannot make a boy or an out-of-door, athletic girl love and cherish a dainty pink-and-white room. On the other hand, the room of boyish crudeness and simplicity will chill the heart of a girl whose tastes run to frills and fine needlework.

Then, too, the tastes of a child change as he grows older. A girl may at first show an alarming affection for gaudy posters and sentimental pictures, and may clutter up her dressing table with photographs and useless trinkets, but this is only a passing phase. If she is given a chance she will get over it into the realm of good sense and good taste. A boy whose idea of a good room may be simply a place to sleep and dress will later take pride in turning his "castle" into a comfortable place where he can take his chums and be secure from interruption by the rest of the household.

The fact that young people's tastes change rapidly is a good reason for furnishing and decorating their rooms inexpensively, so that they may frequently be altered to meet the developing ideas of the owner.

I have found that tinting instead of papering is best adapted to meet this requirement in decorating the walls. The walls can be retinted frequently for just about the sum necessary to have wall paper cleaned. One of my sons early showed a decided gift for design, and under the direction of his teacher I permitted him to design stencils to be used to border the walls. The work gave him many

pleasant hours, and the result was very attractive.

In the same way I early learned that curtains and furniture should be simple and inexpensive. Stout, home-made furniture is especially adapted for a young boy's room. It will not be greatly injured by the hard usage it receives at the hands—and feet—of its scuffling, awkward, reckless young owner, and since manual training has been introduced into all up-to-date schools, most boys can make a good many pieces for themselves.

The vogue for painted furniture is one that gives the girl almost unlimited opportunities for making her room different and individual. Even cheap chairs and dressers may be made extremely pretty by painting them, and adding a tiny flower design to give character. French gray, dull blue, or cream are good colors for the solid painting, and combinations of blue, red, and yellow in quaint flower designs brighten it up and lend individuality.

**Not Good Enough For Boys.**

For some reason the half-grown lads of a household are frequently given the worst quarters. Perhaps it is because they spend much less time in the house and in their rooms than do their sisters, or because they are much harder. Perhaps it is because they are notoriously hard on furniture. Whatever the reason, the boy between ten and eighteen is apt to be the one who always receives the most undesirable room and the most unattractive furniture. The dresser minus casters or drawers, knobs, the bed that sags in the middle, the worn and faded rug, are thought "good enough" for Johnny.

This is a bad policy, if a mother wishes to train her boys in neatness, love for their home, and appreciation of beauty—qualities that will go far to make their future homes happy and pleasant.

He should have a plain, white-crammed bed. If the paint is knocked off, he can easily repaint it himself. He should have a plain set of book-shelves, built-in, if possible, and other shelves for the inevitable collections—stamps, butterflies, stones, shells, coins, all kinds of curios. Any mother of a boy will know that it is useless to protest against the introduction of such "trash." Birds' nests, rocks, and messes are messy to the eye, but they are often the dearest treasures of the boy who has collected them. If you want your boy's heart and confidence, then beware how you look upon these cherished trophies.

**Pictures and a Mirror.**

Many people have the notion that while a mirror may be necessary for a girl, a boy has no particular need for it. The mirror is apt to be the poorest part of a cheap dresser, and it is far better economy to make a dressing table at home and buy a separate mirror of fine quality.

A full-length mirror set in the door of a clothes closet or in some position where the light is good is one of the best aids to developing pride in immaculate personal appearance.

When children are small and the mother selects the pictures, good reproductions of old masters are the best choice.

As the boys and girls grow older, they should be permitted to choose the pictures which they wish to hang in their own rooms. They are bound to be influenced by the ones which hang in other parts of their home, or to which they are introduced at school or in the homes of their friends.

A child's room should really be a kind of home laboratory for developing his tastes, helping him to express his own ideas, and instilling in him ideals of order and beauty.

## Annual Agricultural Returns of Canada, 1922.

Farmers throughout Canada are reminded that this month (June) the Dominion and Provincial Governments will make their annual collection of the areas sown to field crops and of the numbers of farm animals alive on the farm. For this purpose, following plans which have been in annual operation since 1918, a simple cardboard schedule, with instructions signed jointly by the Dominion Statistician and the Deputy Minister of other office of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, will be issued to as many farmers as can possibly be reached through the agency of the teachers and children of the rural schools. The returns received, when compiled, will form the basis for the estimation by provinces of the areas sown for 1921 to the principal field crops and the numbers of farm animals alive on the farm at the date of enumeration on or about the 15th of June.

The returns thus requested by the Dominion and Provincial Governments are intended solely for the purpose of estimating agricultural and live stock production, first in the interests of the general body of Canadian farmers; secondly for the information and guidance of other interests allied to and dependent upon agriculture (interests represented by estate agents, economists, bankers, grain dealers, transportation agents and others); and thirdly for reporting to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome (to which Canada is an adhering country) in return for reports on the production of other countries and of world totals which influence prices, and consequently affect the interests

of Canada, now the third largest wheat-growing and the second largest wheat exporting country in the world.

Farmers who do not receive the cardboard schedules for returning their acreages sown and their numbers of farm live stock by the middle of June should make immediate application for same to either the school teacher of their local school district, or the Department of Agriculture of their province (in Quebec the Bureau of Statistics at Quebec), or the Dominion Statistician at Ottawa. Positive assurance is given by the Dominion and Provincial Governments that the returns asked for are not used in any way for purposes of taxation. Only totals are used for the purposes of estimation, and all individual returns are kept inviolably secret. In cases where farmers may prefer to do so, the returns may be mailed free under seal direct to the Dominion Statistician at Ottawa, no postage stamps being necessary.

It is inconceivable that farmers who know the value of milk for their calves and pigs cannot see the application of this to the children. Every child under 15 years of age should drink at least a quart of milk every day, and after that age a pint every day.

From the economical standpoint, a regrettable waste occurs when skimmed milk is fed to hogs, inasmuch as it has been demonstrated by experts in agriculture that 100 pounds of skimmed milk, even when fed with corn, will just produce 4 pounds of dressed pork, while 100 pounds of skimmed milk will produce 15 pounds of cottage cheese, and 1 pound of cottage cheese has as much nutritive value for the human body as 1½ pounds of pork.

## THE SOIL FARMER

Someone has said, and truthfully so, that "dirt is matter out of place." As for instance, powder on a woman's face is perfectly all right, but when it gets on a man's coat sleeve it is dirt, just plain dirt. Also, jam is a material in good standing when it is on bread, but when it serves as a facial decoration for some youngster it lowers itself to the plain dirt class.

Again, in the search for precious metals we wash away and discard the "pay dirt" to get the pure, clarified metal.

Apparently dirt is non-essential. Then perhaps it is so in life; we have to handle a lot of dirt, a lot of non-essentials, before we get to the nuggets of truth. It may be that many of us load ourselves with so much dirt that we do not get to the truth at all.

Then comes the thought as to why we hear the expression, "dirt farmers" so often. The only justification for it that we can find is that it might refer to those farmers who labor strenuously at non-essentials and never uncover the great essentials that make farming a success.

If we need some expression of this sort for the result-producing farmer, we suggest the name "soil farmer" for soil is matter in place and indicates life, fertility and possibilities. This expression would also indicate that this farmer was not engaged in a starved collar activity and that his hands, at least, got soiled in his endeavors.

If this suggestion is accepted we can then put farmers in three great classes: Dirt farmers, soil farmers, and urban agriculturists. The latter never work up a perspiration by their farming endeavors.

## Increase of Cow Testing.

The cow-testing system as a means of establishing the production of individuals in the dairy herd was more generally adopted in 1921 than in any previous year, according to the official returns of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner. The credit for this is due in no small measure to the co-operation of the Agricultural Representatives and provincial dairy instructors with the Dominion Department. As some farmers who undertook the work did not make returns, while others had their milk tested at the cheese factories, the figures given out cannot be said to be entirely comprehensive of the amount of testing carried on. These figures as a matter of fact do not more than cover the returns from the various centres which are under the control and supervision of the Dairy Branch. They show that in Ontario in 1920 there were 446 herds and 4,911 cows reported on, and 20,835 tests made, and that in 1921 there were 767 herds and 9,373 cows brought under the system, and 39,557 tests made. There was a similar increase in Quebec, in which province official cow-testing has made enormous strides in the past three years, the system in 1919 including 1,046 herds and 10,374 cows, and in 1921 no fewer than 3,499 herds and 32,225 cows, the tests made in the latter year at the 473 centres numbering 127,462 against 42,228 in 1919. Manitoba had 176 herds and 1,173 cows under test in 1921 compared with 78 herds and 580 cows in 1920. The totals for the whole Dominion, excluding Saskatchewan, which province has undertaken the entire work itself, were 5,194 herds, 47,895 cows and 194,747 tests last year, compared with 3,776 herds, 32,714 cows, and 136,263 tests in 1920. The work generally is having a beneficial effect in increasing the average production both of milk and fat by weeding out unprofitable cows, using better feeding methods and keeping better sires.

The policy pursued by the Dairy Branch was the same year as it has been since 1918. Farmers are required to supply the necessary equipment for weighing the milk and to keep samples for three days during each month. The Branch, through the dairy promoters of each province, organizes and supervises the testing centres and compiles the records received at the Ottawa office. The report urges the formation of cow-testing associations and also points out that, in order to achieve the best results, along with the milk record, the feed record of each cow should be kept. For this purpose the Branch will supply the necessary blank forms free.

## Wood That Won't Burn.

Enormous sums of money are lost every year through fires. Experts declare now that much of this loss might be avoided if fire-resistant paint were used more generally on woodwork. It costs no more than ordinary paint, and reduces the risk of the article it covers catching fire. It is manufactured from various chemicals, among them being ammonium phosphate and bicarbonate of soda.

These chemicals are also used to protect furniture. They are forced into the wood under an air pressure of a hundred and fifty pounds to the square inch, but the process has the disadvantage of being a costly one. It pays to cultivate friends as well as crops.

Fath and hope now make it possible to give charity next fall.

Carefully selected seed is the "seed" in success.