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## About the Farm.

### Breakfast, Dinner and Tea.

What do I want for breakfast, dear? My wants are all in my mind quite clear.  
You—with your cheerful morning smile,  
And a pretty dress, my thoughts beguile  
Into thinking of flowers; an earnest word  
That will all through my busy day be heard,  
And make me sure that my morning light  
Beams strongly true, e'en while dancing bright.  
Be certain to give me these, all these,  
And anything else you can or please.

But dinner—what will I have for that? Well, dear, when I enter, doff my hat,  
And turn to the table, I want to see you,  
Standing, just as you always do,  
To make me lose all the forenoon's fret,  
And cheer for the afternoon's work to get;  
Tell me all your news, and I'll tell mine,  
And with love and joy and peace we'll dine.  
Be certain to give me these, all these,  
And anything else that you can or please.

And what for tea? Have I any choice? Yes, dear, the sound of your own sweet voice,  
And your gentle presence. I always feel  
The cares of the day, like shadows, steal  
Away from your soul light; and evening rest  
Come just in the way I love the best.  
So, when you are planning our twilight tea,  
With a special thought in your heart for me,  
Be certain to give me these, all these.

### POULTRY.

Hungry fowls never roost early.

February awakes to the call of the Hen.

Clear the premises of mites and lice and rats before the chicks arrive.

As the poultryman sows in March, April and May he will reap in October, November and December.

In raw, damp weather, when fowls are liable to colds, a little coal oil in the drinking water, one drop to a pint, relieves the colds and prevents infection.

With a fifty-acre farm, one-half devoted to poultry raising and one-half to the raising of grain, a man can make more money in a year than he could had he worked a section of land for all it was worth, says the Metropolitan and Rural Home.

Every poultryman should own a good bone cutter. It will pay for itself in a short time in the increased egg production and growth and general health of the flock. Fresh bone, well ground, should be fed to the hens twice a week; about an ounce to each fowl.

Applying kerosene oil once a week to the roosts and the egg boxes will keep the fowls free from lice. If the fowls are already infested with vermin, smear the perches with a mixture of grease and kerosene oil and to prevent further increase burn sulphur once every two weeks in the house where they have been confined.

Much of the profit of poultry raising depends upon the number of eggs obtained during the late fall and early winter months. One dozen fresh eggs at this season are worth more than twice that number in the spring and summer, but it is not as easy a matter to obtain the same quantity of eggs in November and December as it is in April and May. Everything depends upon the housing and feeding of the fowls. It is claimed that a small, low building facing the south, where the animal heat can be easily retained, is preferable to any other.

One poultry raiser fed his hens all the oats they would eat and complained that they did not lay satisfactorily. Another gave wheat shorts and with poor results, and the third gave corn and they became too fat. Green food of some kind should be given, two or three times a week, meat scraps, furnishing them at the same time with plenty of gravel, as well as a constant supply of shell forming material and all the fresh water they can drink, then, if the hens are kept well protected from the chill of the fall and cold of the winter, a generous supply of eggs may be expected.

A popular poultry writer warns her readers against removing the cock bird

from his mates when not needed for breeding purposes or even during the moult, and gives as her proof one instance where a cock that she had kept alone for several months proved almost seless in the breeding pen. This lady should consider that one swallow doesn't make a summer. Neither does one case prove anything. Her bird may have outlived his usefulness as a breeder. In the enervating life of yarded fowls, it is not safe to trust any cock after the second mating season until the product of his pen has been tested. The male bird wears out much sooner than the female, and best results come from one and two-year-old cocks for breeders. Probably it is not well to keep the cock too long from his mates; but always during his own moult he should be removed therefrom; indeed, such birds in heavy moult show a distaste for the company and crowding of the hens.

### Meat for Layers.

One of the best foods for making hens lay is lean meat. When the supply of eggs fails stop all other foods, and feed lean meat or liver (any cheap meat will answer), and it will be found superior to anything that can be used. Green bone, containing a large proportion of lean meat, is even better, provided the fat portions are removed from the bone. It will be found cheaper than grain because it will make eggs. One reason why the hens fail to lay when they have plenty of grain is that they require a change, and meat supplies the needful. If the hens are fat, give one ounce of lean meat each day, allowing no other food for a week or two, and watch the results.

### IN THE DAIRY.

The three-minute churn is a delusion.

Keep few good cows rather than many poor ones.

You cannot afford to use cheap salt in your butter.

Keep the cow's hide clean and free from barnyard filth.

A scrub bull at the head of your herd means ultimate failure.

The wastes in dairying come from apparently slight causes.

The cow which will not eat abundantly will not produce liberally.

The milk scale is as essential to dairy education as the keystone is to the arch.

The value of a calf depends upon the treatment it receives, as well as upon blood.

Don't let the cow run with the herd while in heat. She disturbs them all. Confine her.

The greatest leak in the dairy business is the lack of a knowledge of essential requirements.

Use a good disinfectant about the stables, especially when calf cholera is prevalent.

Never put off the work of washing the dairy utensils. Everything should be first rinsed in warm water in order to remove all milk before it has dried.

At the end of a week skim milk may be gradually substituted for the whole milk. Always have the milk sweet and blood warm—no more, no less. The young calf can't stand sudden changes in quality or temperature of milk.

Dehorn the calf as soon as you take it from the cow. The new born calf seems to be in a sort of stupor and does not feel the drug as keenly as after it gets frisky. Of course, the cow must not be allowed to lick the head or abortion are manifest.

Too much cannot be said in favor of the farm cream separator. The arguments for its use are many and conclusive.

If for no other reason, the dairy farmer should have a separator because he will get it all, and the skim milk will be greatly increased in value for feeding purposes. The calves and the pigs may have it while fresh and warm, when it is not only more palatable but digestible.

Never put off churning when the cream is ripe. Gilt-edged butter cannot be made from over-ripe cream. No amount of fussing will reclaim butter that is off flavor—poor quality. The churning is not all of the butter-making. It is being made from the time the milk is drawn from the cow.

### Cows Pay for Kindness.

It certainly pays to be kind to the cows. If they love the man who cares for them and are made happy by kindness, warm, cheerful quarters and abundant wholesome feed, they are bound to do their best and to yield lots of good milk. An observing man can tell whether a dairyman is successful or not just as soon as he has a chance to see him among his cows. If they are afraid of him and quickly move out of his way, they cannot do well, for they are constantly in fear, they are nervous, easily excited and fret for fear of a blow or harsh word. This cuts down the yield and quality.

If they love the master you will see them approach him to be petted. When you see that condition it is a sure sign that a partnership exists which is bringing profit to the owner.

It is many years ago that a herd of cows averaging 125 pounds of butter a year per cow was considered a good one. But dairy cow development, brought about by selection and breeding, has raised the standard and any enterprising farmer can now own a herd capable of producing 300 or more pounds of butter per cow.

Improvement in the methods of breeding and feeding dairy cows have been and are being made such as were never dreamed of by the dairyman of thirty years ago. Let us hope that this improvement will continue until poorly conducted dairies are the exception and not the rule.

### THE HORSE.

Get the horses in shape for spring work. Give them work if possible, but plenty of exercise at all events. Overhaul the harness, fit up the collars, and see that the feet are in good shape. Don't jump into spring work without some sort of preparation, or there will be a lot of sick, sore shouldered, lame, or otherwise disabled horses. It will save loss of time and veterinary bills if you make preparations, and don't expect the horses to be hardened up for work all at once, after a winter of idleness.

### Clipping Horses.

The prevalence of pneumonia and colds in the spring of the year reminds us of a decided advantage in clipping horses. The long coat of hair that has been so needed for winter protection becomes the greatest nuisance in the spring. The long coat gets damp with perspiration and takes hours to dry. When cold air or a draught strikes the overheated animal the next thing in order is a case of pneumonia, a severe cold, or an attack of rheumatism, to say nothing of discomfort to the animal. The clipped horse is clean, easily groomed, feels well, and works well. But it is well not to clip too early, and the clipped horse must sometimes be protected for a few days in case of unseasonable weather.

### Gas Manufactured from Farm Wastes.

For several years past a Chicago inventor, J. R. Coult, has been at work with the idea of utilizing the waste products of the farm—straw, corn cobs, etc., for the manufacture of illuminating gas. Success finally crowned his efforts and the first plant has been successfully established at Beatrice, Neb.

The new gas plant is not an experiment on a small scale, but a full fledged gas manufactory and its product is lighting the streets of the city in addition to furnishing gas for heating and lighting hundreds of homes. Instead of paying out hundreds of dollars every day to coal mines and railroads for material from which to make the gas which it sells, the Beatrice plant buys straw and corn stalks, etc., throws them into the retorts, and the result is a splendid gas with 10 per cent more heating power than the best coal gas known. Ton for ton, the straw and cobs make 60 per cent more gas than does the best coal.

The Beatrice plant looks more like a gigantic feed store than a gas plant. On every side, instead of cars of coal and tanks of oil, are piled bales of hay and corn stalks and cribs of corn cobs. In making the gas, the straw and corn stalks are first baled and then thrown into the retorts. Cobs are simply shoveled in with scoops.

One ton of the best gas producing coal, laid down in Beatrice, will cost \$6 and will produce 10,000 cubic feet of gas. But one ton of common old corn cobs, straw or corn stalks, treated in the new plant, produce 16,000 cubic feet of a better grade of gas than does the coal. And after the gas is extracted, there remains 600 pounds of the best coke obtainable. In the case of the wheat straw, almost pure carbon remains. And this coke is burned beneath the retorts, thus producing the heat necessary to make gas and more coke.

The Beatrice plant cost \$30,000, including the eighteen miles of gas mains laid. This is about the same cost of an ordinary coal gas plant of the same capacity. But the ordinary gas plant can be made into a corn cob plant by expending about \$2,000. The burners and other fixtures are the same for both gases.

The new gas sells in Beatrice at \$1 a thousand feet, but it is said that where straw and cobs can be secured at nominal prices, the gas can be sold for 25 cents a thousand feet—and the seller gets rich.