Hogs.

There is danger in overfeeding small pigs.

Never leave any feed in the troughs.

Feed little and often and regularly.

Whole oats should be fed on a raised platform, accessible only to the little pigs.

Sweep the rejected oat hulls from the platform before scattering the oats on it.

Don't neglect the hog pastures. Keep them in order, for a good pasture and a little slop or skim-milk will make pork faster and cheaper than corn.

It is a fact that a pig gains more weight from a given amount of food than any other animal.

With its large capacity for digestion, its wants should be intelligently supplied, as it turns food into cash most economically.

Select young sow pigs for breeders before they are two months old.

Young clover and grass with skim-milk is always proper food for pigs selected for breeders.

Lice will worry off flesh about as fast as you can put it on your hogs. Kerosene emulsion is good for a wash. But clean the pen out from one end to the other. If you don't back the lice will come worse than ever.

It is natural for hogs to root. They find things in the ground that their systems need. Hogs do better when permitted to live naturally.

Ruptured pigs ought to be disposed of while they are still young. They may safely be brought up to roasters, but it is not sure that they would ever reach much larger growth.

Liquid Manure.

Liquid manure, like nitrate of soda, is a quick stimulant. I. M. Angell, New York State, contributes the following experience: "A satisfactory plan for supplying the manure water was to set a large, perforated tin pail into a rack that was fastened across the top of an ordinary wash-tub. A spigot was fitted into the wash-tub near the bottom. Whenever liquid manure was required, a quantity of manure from the stable was placed in the tin pail and enough water poured through it to fill the wash-tub into which it drained. By turning a spigot we drew off into a pail whatever we wished to carry to the plants. This "filter" has been in use several seasons and is entirely satisfactory. The manure is rich enough to supply a number of tubfuls of the mixture before it is necessary to replace it. To apply the liquid manure we turned up a furrow with the hand plow, close to the row, poured in the water, and turned back the soil with the same tool. This method puts the liquid where it will do the most good, and the loose earth that is returned to its place makes the best sort of mulch; and by the same operation the ground receives cultivation. Nitrate of soda may be used in the same way on such a garden.

The Farmer's Profits.

The following is from an article in the Outlook by J. P. Roberts, probably the leading authority on agriculture in America. He was for thirty years Dean of the College of Agriculture in Cornell University.

Those old-time farmers have put up a most heroic fight. They went on these farms with little or no capital; unaided many of them paid the purchase price of the land and put valuable improvements upon it before its productive power had diminished. This they did without having received a single word of instruction in the schools concerning the principles of agriculture. Do we treat the sons of doctors of medicine and of veterinary science who are to follow their fathers' calling as we treat the sons of the farmers? We call the untrained doctor a quack and the untrained doctor of veterinary science a cow doctor. Is it any wonder that the untrained farmer is called a hayseed?

The conservation of national resources is now much discussed, but scarcely a word is said directly about conserving the natural resources of the arable soil, that is, the plant food, or the power of the land to produce abundantly. We cannot go on indefinitely depleting the soil of its humus, its nitrogen, potash, phosphoric acid, and friability, without paying the penalty which follows mining-farming. While we arrest the waste of the forests and reclothe the bare hill and mountain sides with trees, let us not forget that the arable land is suffering far greater depletion than the woodlands. The problem of forest and stream can and will be solved; Government control and liberal appropriations will in time bring about the desired results. But meanwhile almost nothing is being done to arrest the depreciation of the plowable fields. Until this time, when the land began to lose its power to produce paying crops, the farmer had only to pull up, pack his little belongings in a "prairie schooner" and trek westward, where virgin soil still awaited the agricultural miner. But now the pre-emption shanty looks out on the Pacific, and there is virtually no more virgin soil where the uninstructed farmer can ravish Mother Earth. The average yield per acre has only with difficulty been maintained by abandoning—for purposes of wheat culture—millions of depleted acres and substituting for them virgin acres, until we are at last approaching the end. Still we go on raising wheat at a loss and selling the cream of our farms by the ship-load without profit or adequate reward.

The baker has just arrived, and I am wondering how much of my five-cent loaf of bread, which weighs twelve ounces, the farmer gets. When it comes back from the laboratory where it has been sent to determine its moisture content, I will know. However, I can readily see that he gets less than one cent of my five, and how the other four cents are distributed no one but a mathematician could hope to discover. The forests and streams from this time on will be intelligently conserved. The problem of how to conserve the productive power of the fields is far more difficult, for the Government cannot purchase all the farms which are being mismanaged and which are producing crops at a loss. Without question, the first step in its solution is to realize that, were it not for certain specialized crops, such as fruits and vegetables, which require skill in their production and which usually give fair rewards, and had it not been for that vast expanse of virgin soil which until now awaited the migrant cultivator, the American farmer would long since have fallen to the condition of a peasant.

Know Your Cows.

A great essential in the success of dairy farming is to have a thorough acquaintance with the cows of the dairy, whether the herd be large or small. It is well to know every cow of the herd, her peculiarities and habits and her likes and dislikes. In her performance lies the profits. If the owner or tender of the herd knows these things and takes advantage of the knowledge, success and profit are easily possible. It is a good plan to treat the cow just as though she were holding a job and hiring out by the month. If she doesn't earn her wages, she ought to be dismissed, and either sent to the butcher or to some other herd where they want to learn all about her peculiarities. And it is really a comparatively easy thing to learn all about a cow. Mere observation will tell you her habits and the Babcock test and the scales will tell you exactly her performance. It is interesting work and pays well for the trouble. Many a large and profitable dairy herd has started from a nucleus of a few cows, a scales and a testing machine.