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About the Farm.

Talking in Their Sleep.

"You think I'm dead,"
The apple tree said,
"Because I have never a leaf to show,
Because I stoop
And my branches droop,
And the dull gray mosses over me grow;
The buds of next May
I fold away,
But I pity the withered grass at my
root."

"You think I am dead,"
The quick grass said,
"Because I have parted with stem and
blade,
But under the ground
I am safe and sound,
With the snow's thick blanket over me
laid.
I'm all alive and ready to shoot
Should the spring of the year
Come dancing here,
But I pity the flower, without branch
or root."

"You think I am dead,"
A soft voice said,
"Because not a branch or root I own.
I have not died,
But I close and hide
In a plummy seed that the wind has
sown.
Patient I wait through the long winter
hours,
You will see me again,
I shall laugh at you then
Out of the eyes of a hundred flowers."

Live Stock Notes.

You can breed a scrub from pure-breds, but you can not produce an animal the equal of a good pure-bred from scrubs.

A mixture of charcoal or wood ashes with a small quantity of salt and sulphur is highly recommended for keeping pigs in order.

John Campbell, the noted Canadian sheep breeder, says Swede turnips are the best for growing lambs in winter. Ewes and lambs should be fed sparingly.

The Yorkshire and the Tamworth, or a cross-bred hog of any of those breeds, will make a profitable bacon hog; but it is not wise to breed from cross-breeds.

How true it is that the bull is one-half the herd. Secure the services of a sire of high breeding and you can soon have a herd of cows that carry 50 per cent. of the best dairy blood.

One gallon crude petroleum, half gallon kerosene oil, half gallon fish oil, one cupful crude carbolic acid, mixed all together and applied in a spray over the cattle two or three times a week, makes a good cure for the horn fly.

The man who now has a good flock of sheep, be they pure-breds or grades, has a gold mine on his farm; and with proper care the crops of lambs this and coming years, will yield the easiest made and most profit of any operation on the general farm. If you have not a flock don't sleep till you get one, is the advice of a successful Canadian sheep keeper.

The old-time four or five hundred pound hog is a back number. The smooth, early maturing hog has taken his place. He is about one-third as heavy, but is making the money. The "baby" hog is most in demand.

It is a mistake to breed a sow too young. It dwarfs her growth and prevents the fullest development of her maternal capacity.

Do not frighten the flock, for sheep have sensitive and nervous natures which demand quiet.

To give the pigs a thorough scrubbing may appear to be labor thrown away, but if two lots of hogs are treated alike in every respect, except that one lot receives a thorough scrubbing with soapuds once in a while, there will be a marked difference in favor of the hogs that are washed when the time for slaughter arrives. A clean bed of straw, with a dry house, so as to afford them comfort at night, will also promote thrift and growth. The hog is naturally a cleanly animal and enjoys a bath. If considered a filthy animal that devours filthy food, it is because of the treatment given. Hogs will select clean and wholesome food if given the opportunity to do so.

Weight is the main object of the farmer in fattening stock for market, and this weight is easiest obtained by feeding grain in order to produce fat. Farmers have long been taught by experience that fat is a desirable quality and that it adds to the attractiveness of a carcass on the stall. It has been demonstrated at the experiment stations, however, that the weight can be secured at less cost, with a greater proportion of lean interspersed with the fat by feeding a nitrogenous ration, which means that, in addition to

A GOOD CATCH



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a liberal supply of grain, an animal should receive a variety of food that is not so rich in oil, starch and sugar as is corn. This fact is worthy of consideration.

The greatest reason for using pasture is not alone in the cheapness of the food which they furnish, but because of the condition in which it leaves the swine feeding upon it. Swine feeding upon a pasture probably require more food than do those in yards, because more energy is required in grazing than in lying around in a yard. But they get more out of the food given them while in pastures than otherwise because of the nature and likely combinations of the food and the greater activity of the digestive organs brought about by exercise. The green food increases the digestive capacity of young pigs and puts them in better condition for later feeding.

A very wonderful physical endowment is the distinctive odor of each and every member of the animal world. A dog will trail its master or mistress through countless multitudes of men and women. The setter will cross the trail of rabbits, squirrels, deer, foxes, grouse, wild turkeys, etc., without pause of its pursuit of the quail. The bloodhound will track a murderer hundreds of miles without losing the scent, though an army may have crossed the trail.

Poultry Pickings.

Hens kept in flocks of thirty or forty, with about two males, produce the best results.

The floor of your poultry house should be higher than the surrounding ground.

The axe is a good remedy for many of the egg-eating hens. It kills the hen, but it also kills the habit.

If you are making a business of raising poultry, keep the males by themselves except during the breeding season.

A feed of rice, either cooked or raw, makes a good change for poultry, both old and young.

"Waiter, can you bring me a nice young chicken smothered in onions?"
"No, sah! We don't kill 'em dat way. We cuts off d'er heads."

Eggs kept sufficiently cold will not spoil. There are records of eggs being hatched after remaining in cold storage for several months.

The old theory, and as good as any, is that pointed eggs hatch roosters, and rounded ones produce hens. Every one can try so inexpensive and harmless a theory for himself.

Purchasers should be cautioned against buying an incubator of large size for experimental or farm work. The so-called 100-egg size is large enough for the beginner. One tray and one egg chamber are enough.

IN THE DAIRY.

Milk Rules.

The cows must be kept clean. Manure must not be permitted to collect upon the tail, sides, udder and belly of any milch cow.

Cow stables must be well lighted and ventilated.

Floors must be tight and well drained.

Manure must be removed from the stalls and gutters before the morning milking and also before the afternoon milking, where the cows remain in the stable all day.

Walls and ceilings must be kept clean. The ceilings must be so constructed that dust and dirt therefrom shall not readily fall to the floor or into the milk.

Stables must be whitewashed at least once a year.

The water used in the barn and for washing milk utensils must be free from contamination.

A milk-house must be provided, which is separated from the stable and dwelling house.

It must be kept clean and must not be used for any purpose except the handling of milk.

No person having any communicable disease, or one caring for persons having such disease, must be allowed to handle the milk or milk utensils.

The hands of the milkers must be carefully washed immediately before milking.

All milk utensils, including pails, cans, strainers and dippers, must be kept thoroughly clean and must be washed and scalded after each using.

Milk from diseased cows must not be shipped.

The milk must not in any way be adulterated.

The straining of milk must be done in the milk house only.

All milk must be cooled to a temperature not above 55 degrees within two hours after being drawn, and kept thereafter below that, and must be cooled to 50 degrees or less if not delivered at the creamery twice daily.

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