

FARM NOTES.

Without protein pigs can not build up the lean meat or grow to any size.

The average market hog should weigh 300 pounds at eight months of age.

For the pig two to six months old protein is the most important feed.

Wood ashes are a good lawn and general garden fertilizer, containing potash, lime and other similar food elements.

The Connecticut Experiment Station recommends that for the best results in hatching, eggs not over five days old be used.

Poultry and dairy products have almost doubled in price in the past ten years. Eggs and milk are still rising in average price.

The Michigan State Agricultural School has added a course of instruction in the use of automobiles, and it is said that Iowa and Kansas will follow suit.

A Scotchman announces a "new method of picking fine fruit." He proposes to pick the fruit "in the height of the sun" and pack it in dry granulated sugar. The sugar may be reused.

A well filled garden, the products of which are used on the table, will save many doctor bills. Don't neglect the garden Mr. Farmer for your family's sake as well as your own.

Pigs should be at least eight weeks old before they are weaned, and if it is not intended that the sow should have a second litter it is best to allow the pigs to suckle until they are 10 to 12 weeks of age.

To prevent currant worms from troubling currant and gooseberry bushes dust them with heliochrome as soon as the leaves appear while wet with dew. Make a second application a few weeks later. Heliochrome may also be used as a spray.

One of the best methods of destroying plant lice on roses and shrubs is by the use of tobacco stem solution. Pour a gallon of boiling water on a pound of tobacco stems, and about 12 or 15 hours later add four more gallons of water. Apply with a sprayer or sprinkling pot.

Some brood sows have a greater tendency to lay on fat than others, and this tendency is kept under proper allowance by using less corn. A sow at farrowing should not be overly fat, but should be put in a good, round condition as soon as practicable after pigs are weaned.

Ducklings usually start to molt when 11 weeks old, and it will require about six weeks for them to finish the process and get into good condition again. For that reason ducklings should be marketed at 10 weeks of age, for after that they are more apt to lose weight than gain it.

The milk goat industry is occupying considerable attention in the east. Seventy-seven goats have been accepted for registration by the American during the year. One hundred and eighty-seven are now on record. Any goat yielding one quart or more of milk a day is eligible.

There is always a temptation to turn the stock on pasture before the grass has had a chance to get a start. At this time the animals will get little good from the pasture and they are likely to do much damage in tramping the wet soil. Let the ground get solid and the grass a good start before they go on it.

It requires some expense and trouble to establish an asparagus bed in the garden, yet every one who owns his land should put in a bed, even if it consists of but 100 roots. A well cooked dish of asparagus is a luxury that must be tried to be properly appreciated, and when it comes the grower will think himself well repaid for all that it has cost him.

Any timber will last quite well if set in this way: Dig a square hole about a foot deep, throwing the dirt well back. Sharpen the post and drive well into the bottom, then put a flat stone against each side and a chunk against the post, the boards holding it the other way. This prevents their rotting at the surface of the ground as they always do.

It is a mistake to allow the colts and calves to go into pasture skin poor. Keep them in good flesh with hay and grain foods. Corn and clover hay are about the best feeds for these young animals, and they will eat them all the year round. Dry clover hay is relished by all cattle and horses even when on good summer pasture, and it is a good thing to give them a daily feed of it.

The silo should be depended upon, not only for winter feeding, but for the entire year, in case pasture is scarce or poor in quality. It is the cheapest way to get succulent summer feed if the land is at all limited in area, or if the pastures are not such as to produce good feed in dry weather. In parts of Massachusetts large milk producers consider that it costs one cent a quart more to produce milk without silage than with it.

Strawberry beds coming into bearing should be cultivated as soon as the land is in good order, and have a top-dressing of 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 400 pounds of muriate of potash applied per acre. This should be spread down each side of the rows, and be worked in with the cultivator. Mulch between the rows to keep the berries clean and conserve moisture, using pine tacks, waste hay or other clean vegetable trash.

The cheapest way to put gains on young pigs is through the sow. She has a strong digestion and can turn coarse grains and pasture into easily-digested milk. Careful experiments show that a pound of weights taken from the sow will make more than one pound of gain on the pigs, the flesh of the young animals containing more water. The sow should be fed to produce a high milk yield, and the pigs should be kept with her until they get to eating a full feed of grain and pasture.

It is easy to make a hand roller for the garden. Get a two foot tile fourteen inches in diameter. Put it on end on an inch board. Place an iron rod exactly in center, passing down through the board about an inch and projecting above tiling the same distance, i. e. two inches. Fill in tiling to top with cement and broken rocks, two parts sand to one part of cement. Face ends with clear mixture of sand and cement. When set arrange a handle upon the projecting iron rod. Just the thing for garden rows. The cost is slight.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

You will see in life just what you are looking for. It depends upon the lenses of your mental vision. If they are black and smoky you will see the shadows, the gloom; if they are clear and crystalline you will see the rainbow of beauty.

Sleeves, if possible, are more varied than ever. For dress and semi-dress they are as tight-fitting as ordained at the beginning of the season. The one-piece, smooth-fitting sleeve to the elbow, finished simply with a band of the bodice trimming, is one of the approved modes for evening frocks, and is undoubtedly attractive in the soft, transparent materials. For daytime gowns, next to the mon-quetaite sleeve and those of similar construction, there are the long models finished to half-sleeve effects. One has embroidery forming the entire upper portion while the gown material makes up the remainder.

Many of the tailormades being brought in for the advance spring trade are of the three-piece kind. The lines are following the fashion and their bodies, like those in cloth and velvet, are frequently almost wholly of net dyed the color of the costume. These bodies have straps, bands or other trimmings which make them one with the suits which they accompany. In all cases, one might say, the bodice and skirt are in one piece, the effect being of the princess order.

But the waist line has dropped in the newest ones and all authorities seem to agree that this drop will be more noticeable in spring fashions when they become known.

To make these fashionable Dutch collars prettily and inexpensively a good way is to purchase a cheap one at a shop, rip it apart and use it as a pattern for a half dozen hand embroidered ones, which may be made from a yard of fine linen.

This is the scheme which some girls have for making spare moments profitable. Pretty collars may be made of allover muslin embroidery if the edges are hand-finished, and many dainty affairs are of printed cretonne with soutache finished edges.

If the cretonne collar is not to be washed and its pattern is a bit too vivid, the coloring may be produced by painting them with white house paint, as is oftentimes done in the case of cretonne dress trimmings.

One great difficulty about the prevalent style of frock, of cloth or other heavy fabric, with the ever-present net yoke, is the fact that the yoke becomes soiled after a few wearings, while the dress is still perfectly fresh. Constant visits to the cleaners are an expensive luxury, and it is not always desirable to rip the yoke out. The spring and summer show signs of presenting the same difficulty, so that one way of cleaning which is simple and practical is still worth telling about. It is so simple in fact that many women have probably already discovered it for themselves. This is to place under the yoke a thick Turkish towel, and scrub it with a nail brush, dipped in tepid water and soap. To rinse, pour water from a cup onto the yoke, holding it up-side down so that the water will not run upon the frock. If this is done carefully, not a drop of water should fly off to spot the goods.

In the matter of correct stationery every woman should try to conform to the requirements of a mode to a certain extent, even in declining to be governed entirely by the very latest, which is often merely the fad of the moment and in exceedingly poor taste.

Of the latter the vivid shades of green and blue that have been in vogue were so flagrant a violation of anything like good style that fastidious women have entirely discarded all such tints and a deep cream is fast becoming the only one used by those who care to remain within reason.

Blue in any shade may now be considered entirely passe. Some tones of gray are noted, but only neutral tints are selected and black ink is used.

As to envelopes, they may be either square or long, but only the pointed flap is used. The long flaps are gone; not used by any one considering the matter at all. Block letters are selected for the monogram, and this is at the left edge of the paper. If an address is added, it is at the top, in the center. Gold, white or silver are for formal occasions, dark blue or a green that is almost black, for every day stationery.

A baby, like an adult, needs water as regularly as it needs food.

The milk that it gets, though a liquid, does not satisfy its thirst.

It should be given water at least three times a day and this water should be nearly, if not quite free from organisms.

The best way is to allow the water to boil 20 minutes.

After that let it cool and store it in clean, well-corked bottles which have been previously immersed in boiling water for five minutes.

It is best drunk out of a thoroughly clean nursing bottle.

Offer water to the infant every four hours and let it drink as much as it wants.

Under no circumstances should this water be kept more than a day.

Cheese Pudding. Mix together in a basin half a pound of cheese, one teaspoonful of four, two tablespoonfuls of bread crumbs, salt, pepper and paprika to taste, add one cupful of boiling milk, one heaping teaspoonful of butter, the yolks of two eggs and the whites stiffly beaten. Mix gently, pour into a buttered pudding dish and bake for 15 minutes in a moderate oven. Serve hot.

Cool, add three cups cream, a cup of sugar, a tablespoonful vanilla and two bars sweetened chocolate melted with a tablespoonful hot water mixed with a little of the cream. Add a half teaspoonful of cinnamon extract to give the cream a rich, spicy flavor.

Frozen Apricots. Cut one can of apricots into small pieces, add one pint of sugar and one quart of water (which have been boiled together 10 minutes), the juice of one lemon and two oranges. When frozen add, if you like, one pint of sweetened whipped cream, measured after whipping. This is delicious without the cream.

Fishes in Dry Streams.

When brooks, streams, and ponds become dry, most fishes die. Some kinds, however, like eels and catfish, are able to survive for considerable time by burrowing into the wet or moist bottom, which may be quite dry at the surface. This is particularly true of some tropical fishes found in regions subject to drought, where it is a matter of common observation that a pond depression that has been baked by the sun's rays for days or weeks will, immediately after a heavy rain fall, afford good fishing. The ability of certain tropical fishes to endure drought and to remain out of the water for a long time in the markets depends on the possession of an accessory gill on the under side of each gill cover, by means of which oxygen may be taken directly from the atmosphere. Failure to notice dead fish after the drying of brooks or ponds simply means that birds and four-footed beasts—often night prowlers—have been there first. One of the most important lines of work carried on by the fisheries branch of the government is the rescue of food and game fishes from the overflooded lands in the Mississippi Valley. After the floods subside, shallow pools are left that are wholly disconnected with the streams, and in these the fishes gradually perish as the drying of the pools progresses. By sending men to save these pools, the government each year saves and returns to public waters hundreds of thousands of valuable fishes.—St. Nicholas.

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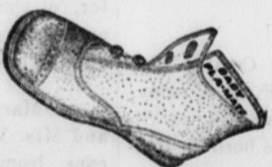
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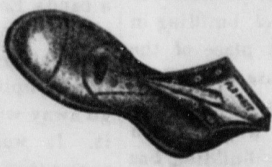


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