

NOTES OF THE HOG LOT

Pasture and pure water are the perfection of pig feed for summer. Mud holes and wallows have no place in a hog pasture.

Every pig that goes to pasture should have a ring in his nose.

For summer bedding a few loads of clear white sand is excellent. Eliminate cabbage, turnips, etc., a few weeks before butchering time.

Do not let the yards become foul and unsanitary. Plow them often.

Cast-iron troughs are the most sanitary, although plank will do if kept clean.

Fifty hogs in a bunch will thrive better than a large number.

The perfect mother bunches her brood in some corner and settles down a few feet from them.

Never select a young boar with a coarse, homely head and expect results that will be satisfactory.

When a sow is cross and ugly to two litters in succession, sell her.

Prolificacy must not be lost sight of in the general-purpose hog.

The pig's digestive apparatus must be developed to its full capacity before the fattening period begins.

Select sires and rams from large litters.

Excessive flesh produces a crowding of the internal organs that is detrimental to fecundity.

The digestive powers of the hogs are the feeder's foundation of success.

Similarity of breeding stock produces offspring of much greater value.

Do not compel the pigs to lie in wet, muddy nests over night and never allow them to become chilled.

Pneumonia is just as likely to occur with pigs as with human beings, although the pig is more certain to recover, however, it is an unfavorable condition and is not wanted.

Young pigs should have fresh sod thrown into them occasionally if they are not allowed to run out into the large yard.

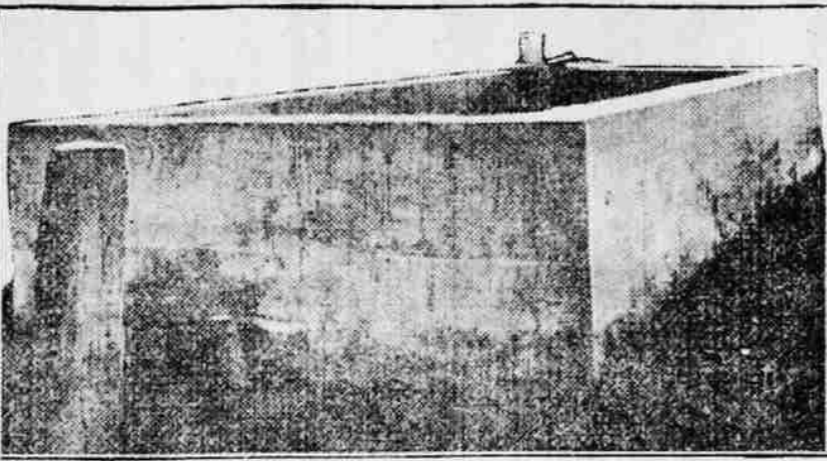
The best thing for young pigs is to get them out on the ground and in the sunshine. It is almost impossible to secure thrifty young pigs unless they have sunshine, exercise and a yard to run in.

The business of breeding pure-bred swine, is a business by itself and it should not be undertaken by anyone who cannot keep records straight and who is not willing to invest good money for improved blood.

The most conservative course is to select the breed most popular in your vicinity and improve upon the common individuals by the use of improved breeding boars.

The idea of perfect comfort should predominate in every building that is constructed for hogs.

As farrowing time approaches be sure that the old sow is in a good pen with a strong rail or plank around the sides standing out some 15 inches



Large Stock Tank on Farm of Illinois Farmer.

and standing about a foot from the floor.

Great care should be taken not to overfeed the sow for the first few days.

The skillful feeder will regulate her feed so that her milk supply will increase about as fast as the demands of her litter for it increase until at about two weeks of age they are taking about all their dam is capable of giving when on full feed.

A large proportion of the growth obtained while the pig is less than five months of age costs only a little actual money and to make the business profitable it is essential that we secure the most gain possible during the first few months of the pig's life.

When pigs are kept eight months, when fully as good weight could have been obtained at six months, the profit is anything but what it should have been.

There are good openings for men in the pig business, who will feed city swill. It is good material for pig feeding, but must be fed with judgment.

Before feeding, it should be heated up and fed before it becomes cold. In many cases outbreaks of disease come from feeding cold swill.

Never use sour or skimmed milk, if you would avoid bowel troubles.

Give clean water between feeds. Let him run in the yard and soon he will be nipping the green grass.

After a while he will be eating dry bran from your hand if you put a little sugar in it.

Soon you will be able to feed him some grain and then your hardest work is over.

Good care must be taken of the pig from which the colt drinks. It should be scalded each time it is used.

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Do not feed the milk at its normal strength, but weaken with one-third water—that is, to two parts milk put one part warm water.

The mixture should be sweetened a little with sugar and given when about the temperature of a mare's milk.

At the end of two weeks, the quantity of water may gradually be reduced and the amount of milk in-

and soda are healing and disinfecting agents.

A little alum and tannic acid, the juice from the bark or leaves of oak or willow trees, will heal and toughen the skin and should be applied with warm water.

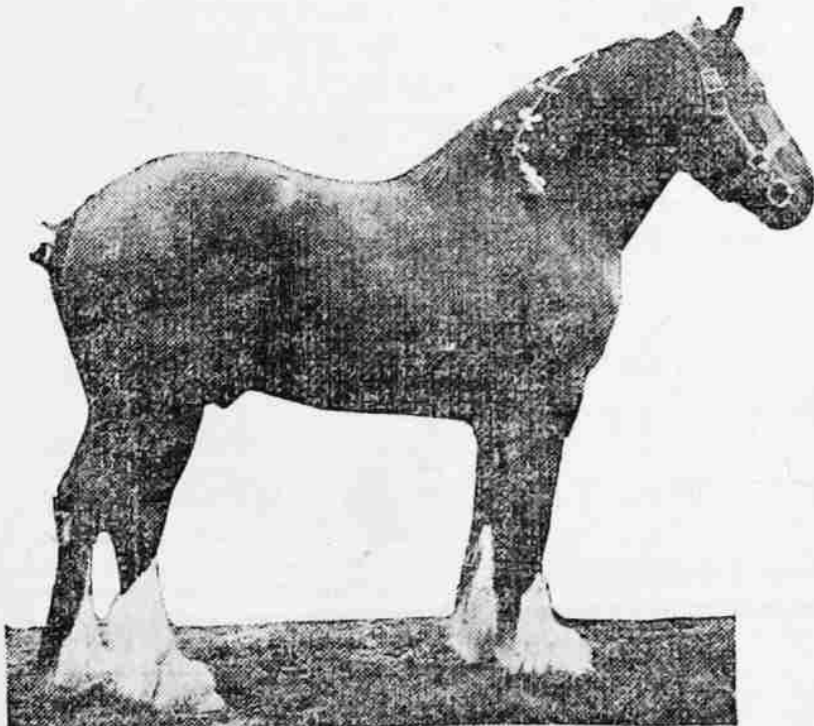
Regularly of work counts in everything, and especially in the handling of animals.

The horse that is worked regularly acquires strong muscles and tough shoulders.

Many farmers allow their work horses to remain idle for several days or even weeks at a time, and then immediately put them into hard service.

A horse that has been idle for several days should be given very light and moderate work for the first day or two so that the muscle and skin will regain their strength and toughness.

It is a better plan to arrange some work for the horses daily. In this way their bodies never become soft and weak, hence they seldom become ill or injured and are always in training for efficient service.



Ascot Chief, First Prize Three-Year-Old Stallion.

WEEDS FROM AFAR

By BELLE P. DRURY.
Many of our most troublesome weeds are introduced plants. It is a curious fact that the migrations of man have often been traced by a study of such plants.

The American Indians, it is said, called plantain the "footsteps of the whites" because it followed the European colonists. It has become naturalized and is remarkable for following civilized man all over the world.

The daisy is another weed of cultivation, as is also shepherd's purse, whose wild type has disappeared.

Purslane is not considered a weed in England, or at least it is used as a pot herb. Its flowers open only in the morning. It is troublesome on account of its prolificacy and rapid maturity. It will live and even mature seed after it is pulled up. It has been estimated that one plant will produce 1,250,000 seed.

Goosefoot, fennel and the nettle follow the European wherever he goes.

Our common mullein is a noxious weed, which some unknown enemy to the plant doubtless keeps in check, as otherwise its large number of seeds would spread with greater rapidity.

There are several varieties. On account of its soft leaves, it is called the "velvet plant" in England.

Why the Canadian thistle is so difficult to kill can be readily understood when its structure is considered. It is called the "curled thistle" and deserves the name, because while other thistles are annual or biennial, this one has a perennial horizontally branching underground runner, so that when the slender, perpendicular root is pulled up, this is by no means the end of the plant, for the runner ramifies and sends up its branches to the surface.

The only way to kill it is to cut the radical leaves. Cattie dislike this weed so much that they will not feed near it.

Some farmers are not vigilant as they might be in waging war upon poison ivy. The task of exterminating so thrifty a vine is certainly difficult, for it clambers over fences, weaves itself into hedges, and from secret places, like an enemy in ambush, sends forth its harmful influence.

Its poisonous properties are exhaled in a vapor, especially on damp days or dewy mornings. The wind seems to bear the poison on its breath, and simply to be in the vicinity of the vine is, to some persons, to be inoculated with it.

It is fortunate that wherever a poisonous weeds grows, its antidote is not far away. Near the treacherous ivy, blooms the virulent nightshade, whose bruised leaves may be used as a remedy in some cases, with good effect; as may be also the leaves of the common plantain.

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ADVANTAGES OF THE SOY BEAN

There are some who really think they have discovered something new, when they find out by actual experience that "corn and beans" form an almost ideal balanced ration for, not only horses, but all live stock as well.

Most people think of navy beans, string beans, or lima beans when the word "beans" is spoken, but this is not the sort we wish to speak of.

Soy beans or soya, as they are most commonly called, are not beans at all. It is well known that the true bean sends up the cotyledons of the seed as the first pair of leaves. Soya do not have this habit of growth, but like peas, send up a pair of seed leaves. In reality soy bean is a pea.

The pea and the bean, however, are both members of that splendid family of plants known as legumes and as such, when given the right conditions, secure their supply of nitrogen largely from the air. This is a second reason why you ought to try a patch this year.

The soy bean is a native of Asia, but unlike most of the Asiatics, it is not only admitted to the United States, but is welcomed as well. This bean (pea) is a strong-growing, erect, annual plant. It grows anywhere from two to four feet tall, is of varying shades of green, but is invariably covered with rusty hairs, both on the stem and leaves.

The leaves are borne in sets of three and the leaflets are large, thin, and broadly ovate in shape. The flowers and beans are borne in the axils of the leaves from ground to top of the plant. The ripened pods, after the leaves have fallen, appear in clusters all along the main stem. In shape this erect-growing plant with numerous branches, resembles a miniature tree.

Soya are adapted to a wider range of soils than even red clover. They do well on loam, on light clays, on any mixture of these, on sandy soils, and on heavy clay. The soil of the corn belt of Illinois, is particularly suited to their production, since they yield both an abundance of foliage (and therefore are excellent for hay when so desired), and also an abundance of seed. This plant seems to adapt itself not only to various soils but to seasons as well. It seems to thrive remarkably well in a droughty season, when other plants suffer for want of moisture, and yet, in a wet season neither growth nor production is retarded.

Soya are not difficult to harvest. Anyone who has had experience with the cow or Canada pea, knows how difficult it is to handle those vining plants. This difficulty is not experienced with soya, since they may be harvested with the regular grain binder and shocked not unlike wheat or oats. The only caution to observe is to bind them into smaller bundles and shock them in smaller shocks.

After shocking they will stand a very large amount of bad weather and be uninjured. We have found that the use of the binder is the easiest, quickest and best way to handle this crop even when cut for hay.

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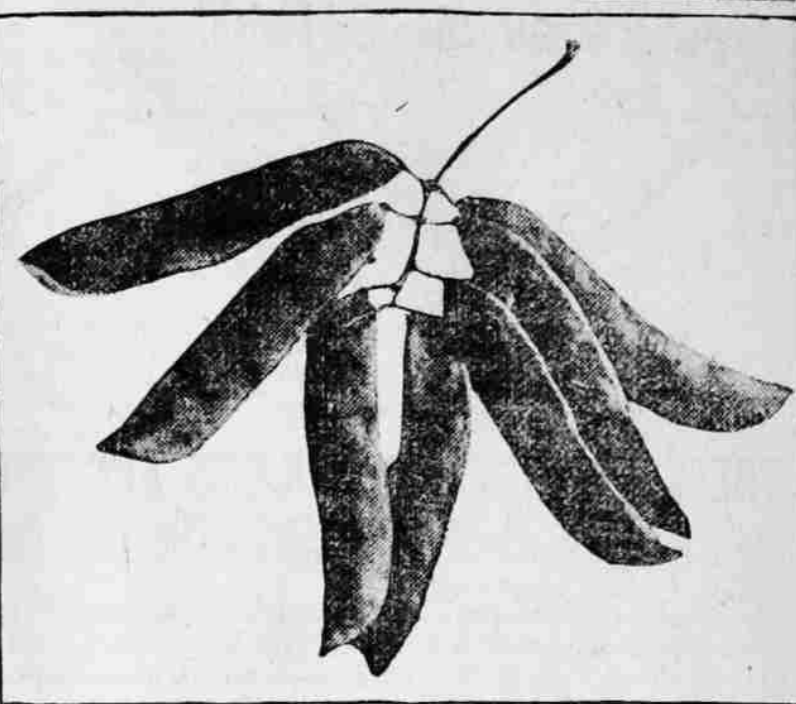
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A Cluster of Pole Lima Beans. Most People Think of Navy, String, or Lima Beans, When the Word "Beans" is Spoken.

What are you striving for anyway—to live rich or to die rich? Better think it over a little and see if you are on the right road. God never means a man to send \$10 to the heaven and then begrudge his wife 10 cents for a scrap of lace. Pretty poor sort of Christian, that. If the boy has a hobby, let him ride it. If you lead it for him, it won't be so likely to run away with him. Get the children a few bright books, the readable sort on botany, geology, zoology and astronomy. "Nature study" books (avoiding the big works). It will make the world seem like a bigger, brighter place to live in, not only for the children but for yourself, for you can't help reading them if they are left lying around handy.

Government statistics tell us that next to the apple, the strawberry is the most universally grown fruit in this country, and that the amount of annual revenue received from the strawberry crop is second only to that received from the apple crop.

Every farm in the corn belt, whether large or small, should maintain a few sheep. They are docile, clean and easily handled.

Compared with the cost of maintaining other stock, the up-keep of maintaining a small flock is quite small.

They do best upon a grass diet, with a little grain in addition. The profit comes, not from keeping them as a main issue, but from a few head of well-bred, well-fed ewes kept to clean up the fence corners, keep down the lawns, graze on the hillsides, and other kindred places.

The keep of a flock managed this way, is practically nothing, for what they eat would otherwise go to waste.

A flock of 10 or 15 sheep, so managed, will yield a very handsome income. Fifteen ewes can easily be depended upon to raise 20 lambs which at even the low price offered by the

country buyer, will bring about \$100. The wool from the 15 ewes should amount to 150 pounds, worth from 20 to 30 cents the pound, say from 30 to 35 dollars, or a net income of about \$135—a very neat little sum, when it is considered that it represents practically a clear gain.

Of course the greatest profit comes to the man who, instead of keeping the ordinary grade sheep, has a flock of high-class pure-breds.

The outlay on these need be no more than that for the ordinary grades. However, by handling them carefully a much greater income may be secured. Ten ram lambs to sell each fall would bring anywhere from \$15 to \$30 each. It is best to keep the choice of the ewe lambs to replenish the flock. The rest could be sold to supply the pure-bred trade, together with those of the mature ewes that for some reason or other are taken from the reserve flock.

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