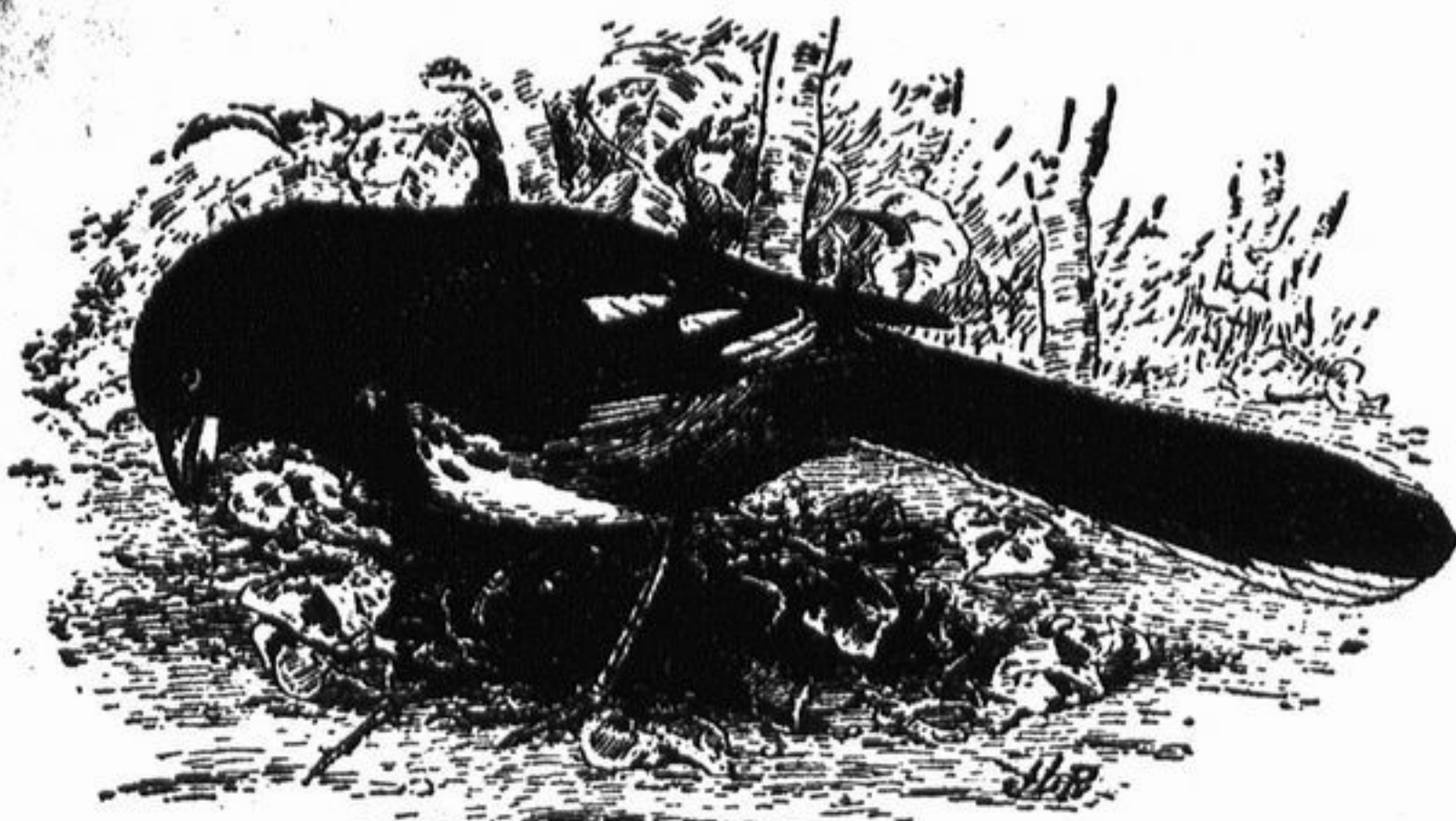


TOWHEE KILLS BEETLES IN EARLY SPRING



"Towhee"—The Upper Part of Body Is Black; the Under White and the Sides Chestnut.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

After snow has disappeared in the early spring an investigation among the leaves near a fence or in a thicket will often disclose the little bird known as the towhee, chowink, or ground robin, scratching for his dinner like a hen. This dinner will consist of beetles and larvae of insects harmful to crops, which have been spending the winter under old leaves.

The good which the towhee does in this way can hardly be overestimated, since the death of a single insect at this time, before it has had an opportunity to deposit its eggs, is equivalent to the destruction of a host later in the year. The towhee has also been credited with visiting potato fields and feeding upon the potato beetle. Its vegetable food consists of seeds and small wild fruits, but no complaint on this score is known to have been made. So far as observation goes, the bird never touches either cultivated fruit or grain; in fact, it is too shy and retiring even to stay about gardens for any length of time.

The towhee breeds from the middle states northward and winters in the southern half of the country. Naturally associated with catbird and brown thrasher, it lives in much the same places, though it is more given to haunting hedgerows along roads and fences.

"Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer" is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 630 of the United States department of agriculture, which describes other useful birds. The pamphlet may be had by applying to the department.

Management of the Sow During Pregnancy.

The breeding season for spring litters has just passed and the time for the sow to give birth to her young is at hand.

During pregnancy two facts must be borne in mind. The first is that the sow is doing double duty. Not only is she keeping up her own bodily functions, but the development of the litter is an increasing drain on her system. Feeding at this time should be liberal, although it need not be so heavy as after the pigs are farrowed. The sow's condition should be "good" neither too fat nor too lean. A very fat sow is apt to be clumsy with her pigs, and some times her pigs are lacking in vitality. The very thin sow will either not do justice to her pigs, or will become a mere wreck herself during the time she is nursing her litter and the chances are that both these things will happen. The necessity of exercise must not under any circumstances be overlooked. This may be provided by a large lot or even driving the hogs slowly for a short distance each day.

In the second place, the main demands upon the sow are those for the building of new tissue. Therefore, the kind of feed is important. The nitrogenous or protein bearing feeds are needed at this time. These are bran, oil meal, peas, beans, oats and barley. The clovers, alfalfa, peas, beans, vetches etc., are also of much value to the brood sow. Special emphasis should be laid on the condition of the bowels during pregnancy and particularly at farrowing, the special danger to be avoided being constipation. The grain ration should be given as slop and toward the close of the period of gestation, oil meal, or a small amount of fax meal should be introduced into the ration.

Corn should not be fed in large amounts to breeding stock, because it does not furnish enough bone-and-muscle-forming constituents to properly develop the unborn pigs. If possible, corn should not be fed at all to any but fattening animals.

Hog Craves Green Feed.
During the winter more care will be needed to keep the sow in good condition on account of the absence of pasture. Not only does the hog's system crave green feed, but more or less bulk is demanded. To offset the lack of green feed, nothing surpasses roots. These may be sliced or pulped and mixed with the grain or may be given whole as a noon feed. Care must be used in feeding roots, as they are laxative in effect, and if fed in excessive amounts, may bring about profuse action of the bowels. Some eastern farmers recommend the use of silage, clover, alfalfa, hay, sheaf oats or corn fodder to supply the bulky requirement of the ration. Charcoal, ashes, lime, and salt should be accessible at all times. These act as a vermifuge and preventive of disease and meet the hog's craving for mineral matter in the feed. During the entire period care should be taken to keep the system well toned. The sow should be accustomed to being handled and

should look upon her attendant as a friend.

The brood sows may run together up to within two weeks of farrowing time; then it is well to separate them, placing each sow by herself in a yard with a small house, which should be dry, airy, and clean. A great deal of exercise will not now be necessary. The feed should be reduced somewhat and if there is any tendency to constipation, a slight change of feed may be necessary.

The farrowing pen should be provided with fenders around at least three sides about six to eight inches from the floor and six to eight inches from the wall. These should be strong enough to support the weight of the sow should she lie on them. They are constructed to protect the pigs from being lain upon during the first few days of their lives. This will go far to prevent a very fruitful cause of loss among young pigs for the little fellows will soon learn to creep under these fenders when the sow lies down.

COMFORT FOR YOUNG CHICKS

Essential Requirements Are Normal Heat, Clean Quarters, Fresh Air and Proper Exercise.

The care of the young chick, from the time it is hatched until it is sold, is bound up in the one word "comfort." The normal amount of heat, clean quarters, good, fresh air with plenty of room and exercise—these are the essential requirements, and they must be supplied. Good breeding has more to do with healthy chicks and normal growth than good incubation. Many persons can hatch large numbers of chicks, but comparatively few can raise them successfully. The experienced breeder begins long before the hatching season to prepare for the management of his growing stock, by the careful selection of breeders.

Labor and feed will avail little or nothing if the chicks do not inherit a strong, vigorous constitution. This quality is entirely dependent upon the age and condition of the breeding stock. Discouragement and failure are sure to follow where immature pullets, diseased hens, or hens of low vitality are used as breeders. Only strong, vigorous hens which have passed their first year as layers should go into the breeding pens. The eggs from such hens which have been mated to large, healthy cockerels, should be gathered carefully and kept in a temperature of not more than 60 degrees, and 50 will not do any harm. The sooner the eggs are incubated after being laid the better.

CLOVER UPON WINTER WHEAT

Practice Found to Have Number of Advantages—Firm, Compact Seed Bed Is Required.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)
Many farmers make a practice of sowing their clover seed upon the winter wheat early in the spring, depending upon the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground to work the seed down into the crevices. I have made it a practice to sow my clover seed on winter wheat in the spring for a number of years and find that it has a number of advantages. Grass and clover seed require a firm, compact seed bed.

In my own practice I prefer to delay the sowing of the clover seed until the ground is dry enough to harrow and apply the seed with a wheelbarrow seeder and give the wheat a harrowing with a light smoothing harrow with the teeth set well aslant. This covers the clover seeds and proves very beneficial to the wheat crop, especially during the dry seasons. Either method is preferable to sowing seed with spring grain crops.

SEED AN IMPORTANT MATTER

Article of Highest Quality Means Several Dollars More to the Acre in Net Returns.

(By LE ROY CADY, Associate Horticulturist, Minnesota Experiment Station.)
Good seed is an important matter with the gardener as well as the farmer. It never pays to buy cheap seed. Experiments were carried on a year or two ago by the Pennsylvania experiment station with some ten or more strains of cabbage seed of the same varieties from different farms. They found variations of yield from 5 to 10 or 15 tons an acre, according to the strain of seed.
The seed of the highest quality meant several dollars more to the acre in net returns, even if it did cost a few cents more a pound.

DAIRY FACTS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE UDDER

Great Deal Can Be Done to Correct Faulty Udder by Method of Milking—Some Good Ideas.

When it comes to the show ring a great deal depends upon the symmetry of the udder and its general development. For simple dairying also a cow with a well-balanced udder is better liked than one with an udder large behind and small in front. With a fault like this a great deal can often be done by the method of milking.

The quickest and best way to develop the fore part of the udder seems to be by keeping on milking the two front teats longer than the hind teats when the cow is being dried. The development of a quarter largely depends upon the amount it is used, and when the hind teats are not used, the rear part of the udder naturally shrinks in size, while the front quarters, being used, retain their size and a better balance is made between front and rear. This is done very naturally at the end of the lactation period and by milking two weeks longer in front than behind quite a change can be made in the shape of the udder when the cow freshens again.

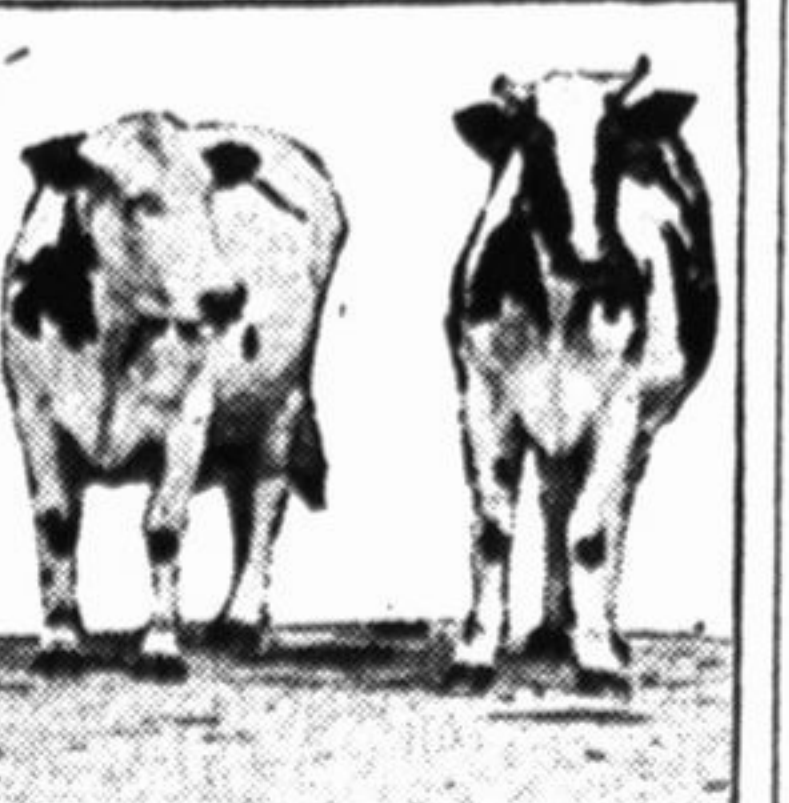
In ordinary times the fore part of the udder can be developed somewhat by milking the front teats out about half, then milking out the hind teats entirely and returning to the front teats again to finish milking, but the most effective method for developing the front of the udder to give it a better balance with the hind part is to keep milking the front teats about ten days or two weeks after stopping milking the rear teats.

KEEPING UP THE MILK YIELD

Almost Impossible to Bring Cow Back to Her Normal Flow After It Has Once Declined.

Butterfat is scarce. The price is high, and is going higher. It will pay to produce more butterfat, but it cannot be done by feeding the cows fall grass, cornstalks and timothy hay, writes P. M. Brandt in an exchange. It is important that the milk yield never be allowed to decline. It is almost impossible to bring a cow back to her normal flow after it has been permitted to decline.

It is important that fall feeding be commenced now before the milk flow is cut down by short grass and scant feed. Those who are fortunate enough to own a silo should give each cow about twenty-five pounds of silage a day. Every cow should have all the clover, alfalfa or cowpea hay she will clean up. This amount will be about ten pounds a day if the silage is fed. If silage is not fed, more hay should be given. It is well to re-



Good Milkers.

member that cowpea hay is one of the cheapest of dairy feeds.
Cows giving over a gallon of milk a day should be fed grain. A good grain mixture is corn chop mixed with bran or cotton-seed meal. Corn and cob meal may be substituted for the chop. A pound of this mixture should be given each day for every three pounds of milk produced.
The best of cows will not produce milk unless fed liberally on the right kind of food.

FEED NECESSARY FOR COWS

Lack of Sufficient Nutritious Food Often the Cause of Shrinkage in the Cow's Milk Flow.

(By T. L. HAECKER, Minnesota Experiment Station.)
It sometimes happens that farmers are in possession of extra good cows, but not realizing the amount of feed required by cows giving a large yield, they are soon allowed to shrink in milk because the feed given does not provide sufficient nutriment. While cows in good condition can, for a time, give more milk than the feed provides, by drawing upon the fat stored in the body, yet if the cows lose in body weight, there will soon follow an abnormal shrinkage in milk flow, and also a decrease in the quality of milk yielded.

Keep Cream Cool.
Keep the cream cool. It should be as near 50 degrees F. as possible, if it is desirable to keep it sweet and check bacteria action.

Keeping the Cow Busy.
Don't expect a cow to put in all her time feeding. Give her credit for working when she is chewing her cud.

FARM STOCK

NOTES FOR SWINE BREEDERS

Success With Pigs Cannot Be Attributed to Luck—Model Farm Should Have Natural Shade.

Progression is the order of the day, and in no direction is there more progress made than in the breeding and feeding of swine.

The time is past when we can consider a man's success in swine growing based upon luck.

Good drainage is essential on the hog farm, and no amount of tile or artificial draining will take the place of good natural drainage.

While hills and valleys make an ideal place for a hog farm, the herd should be kept as near to the source of the water as possible because of the danger of the stock becoming afflicted with cholera and other diseases caused by the stream being contaminated by swine further up stream.

A model breeding farm should be provided with a timber lot or large grove. There is no shade like natural shade, and trees soften the cold winds during the winter. Their value cannot be overestimated when properly utilized by the swine grower.

The breeder who would be successful in this age of close competition must have the closest and keenest discrimination of what is necessary to constitute an animal of individual merit, or more properly he must have firmly fixed in his mind the exact contour of a perfect pig. Then he must have an idea of the kind of breeding stock required to produce such a pig.

There are numerous breeds of swine, varying not only in size, color, shape, feeding qualities and general characteristics, but also in the quality of their product.

It is not the great big fat pig that brings home the money, but the pig that will weigh from 200 to 300 pounds at from six to ten months of age that captures the top prices.

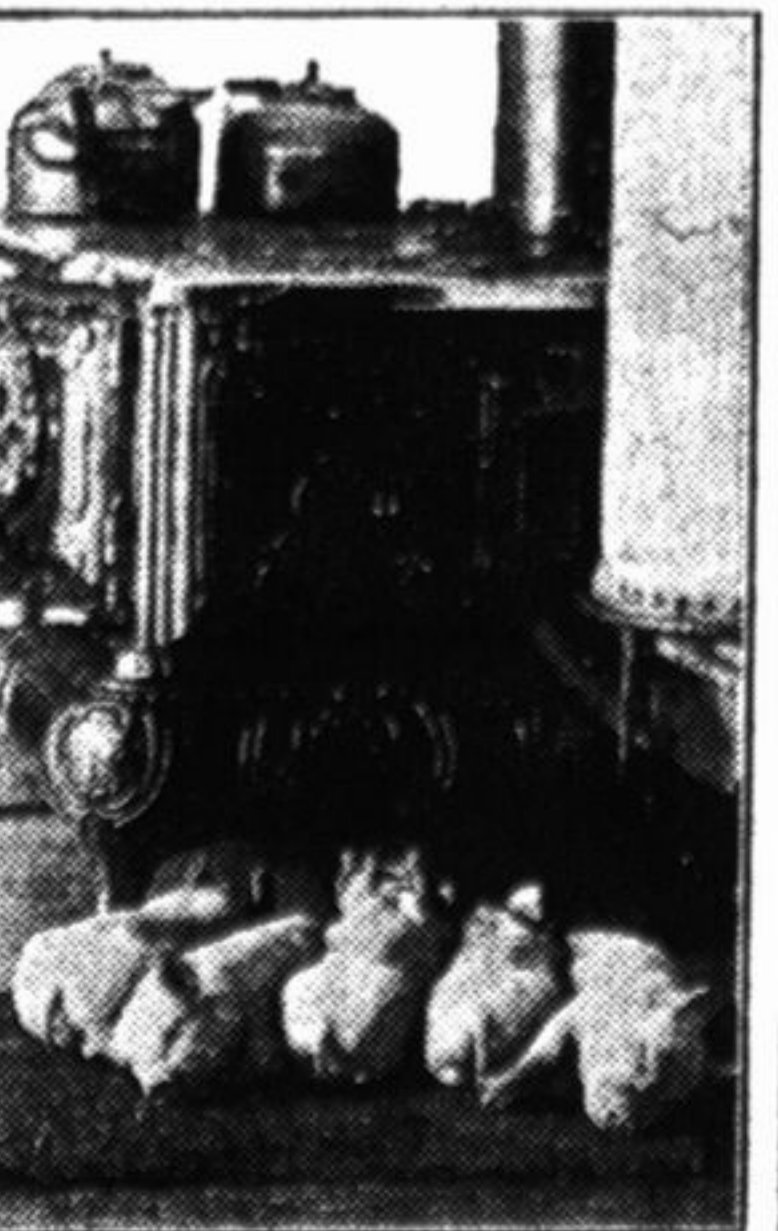
The breeding animals of the herd should receive the very best care and attention at all times, but with all of our knowledge of breeding and feeding, the science of swine growing is yet in its infancy.

KEEPING SWINE IN WINTER

Profit Can Be Made in Feeding Home-Grown Feeds, Such as Clover, Alfalfa and Ensilage.

It is a common question to be asked if it will pay to winter swine. I can see but one way to winter swine at a reasonable cost, and it is to winter them on as cheap feed as is possible, and make home-grown feeds, clover, alfalfa and ensilage, form a prominent part of the ration.

If we can winter an animal in this way and feed out only a small amount of grain I think we can make it profitable to keep a number of pigs through the winter and make fairly good gains, but it is a common occurrence



Winter Comfort for Little Ones.

to go on a farm in the spring and see 100 hogs which will weigh the same in May as they did in December, and all of the corn cribs empty.

Something is wrong when we see that kind of hogs, but no one will dispute the fact that the average feeder either feeds out more feed than can be fed with a profit or else has a bunch of scrub pigs in the spring.
There is one advantage in wintering pigs, we have them in time to feed out and reap the benefits of a good summer market, and in that manner receive considerable more money than we would if we were compelled to market them while the market was overstocked in November or December.—J. M. D.

Packing House Demands.
The demand at the packing houses is for leaner pork and smaller weight hogs. The feeders must cater to these requirements by feeding less corn and more protein feeds and shortening the fattening period.

Give Pigs a Variety.
Feed fall pigs during winter a moderate ration of corn and supplement with bran, shorts and such other nitrogenous feeds as you have on hand to give variety to the ration.

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Daughters of the American Revolution—Hold a monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members. Officers of the chapter are: Regent, Mrs. E. H. DeGroot; Mrs. R. W. Babcock, Secretary.

MAPLE GROVE LODGE No. 329, K. of P.
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Meets the second Thursday of each month in Morris hall. W. E. Chessman, V. C.; A. H. Barnhart, W. A.; R. O. Miller, Clerk.

NAPER POST, No. 468, G. A. R.
Meets the second Thursday of each month in G. A. R. hall. Captain I. E. Rogers, Commander; F. A. Rogers, Senior Vice-Commander; Geo. T. Hughes, Junior Vice-Commander; E. W. Farrar, Officer of the Day; R. W. Bond, Adjutant; Geo. B. Hearty, Quartermaster.

GROVE LODGE No. 84, A. F. & A. M.
Stated meetings, first and fourth Fridays at 8 o'clock p. m., at Masonic hall, Curtiss and Main streets. B. C. White, Secretary; T. H. Stusser, Worshipful Master.

GROVE CHAPTER, No. 230, R. A. M.
Stated meeting first Thursday of each month in Masonic hall, at 8 o'clock p. m. Visiting companions always welcome. John Gollan, Secretary; Delbert Austin, E. H. P.

VESTA CHAPTER, No. 32, O. E. S.
Meeting second and fourth Tuesdays of each month Laura Hinton, Worthy Matron; Walter Chessman, Worthy Patron; Ona Lower, Secretary.

DOWNERS GROVE LODGE No. 750, I. O. O. F.
Meets every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock in Masonic hall, corner Main and Curtiss streets. F. H. Kenison, N. G.; W. H. Beidelman, Secretary.

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