left a clear profit of $52.50 on eggs alone, say nothing about the young chickens.

Remove the sick fowls from the healthy ones. By allowing them to remain, they will vitiate the air of your poultry house with the germs of disease. You may as well think of keeping your flock healthy by permitting the sick to mingle with the healthy, as to think of improving your own health by continuously remaining in the sick room. A laying hen has a bright red comb and wattles. A hen that does not lay has a pale comb. If you find any such in your flock, keep watch of them. Try to determine the reason why. You will find that there is one of three things, either she is sick, over-fat, or naturally a poor layer. In either event it will not in all probability pay you to keep her.

As the breeding season approaches, separate your flock into pens of from ten to twenty-five according to the variety—of the large varieties, ten to twelve, and of the smaller varieties, fifteen to twenty-five. As these are the numbers, you can rely upon for one male to fertilize, all the eggs, for a non-fertilized egg is set at a loss, both in losing the eggs and the loss of the hen’s time as a setter and brooder. In each of these pens put a strong, vigorous male bird, an early cockerel or a yearling cock. When you set your hens, make it a point to set two or more at the same time, as many times a hen can care for more chicks than she will hatch out. If you do not wish to raise chickens, keep the male birds away from the hens, as a non-fertilized egg will keep much better and longer than one that has been fertilized.

Economy of the Barnyard.
[By Barney Sheridan, Byron.]

The title of this paper is “The Economy of the Barnyard.” The four important factors that are essential about this are, first, proper stabling; second, good and suitable fodder for the different kinds of stock you keep; third, plenty of good water conveyed to the barnyard, if you can possibly do it, by adopting the method of piping it from wells or springs. For no farmer can afford, in my opinion, to let his stock of any description run over his land without that freedom being detrimental to both stock and land.

When a man forms an opinion that his cattle, sheep or horses can subsist on frozen grass, he makes, if I am right, a great mistake. They may keep up an outside appearance; but the tallow that they have been putting on all summer is rapidly decreasing.

The time of year that some farmers neglect their stock is in the latter part of the fall. Stock should not be allowed to remain out during cold rains, they should be taken up, stabled, and a little feed given to them.

Dairying is one of the most essential points for the prosperity of the farmer, if properly managed. The farmer should not rely on old meadows of long standing for summer pasture, and timothy for winter feed. I do not think there is much money in that. In order to make dairying a success in these days (and I would especially speak of our clay-ground farmers) we must change our pastures as often as possible; not let them stand over three years at most. For I believe one acre of new seeding to clover and timothy will produce more feed than two acres of meadow of long standing. Plant plenty of corn and fodder, for these are better substitutes for feed than any hay. No farmer is liable to get overstocked with corn fodder, if it is of good quality. In order to have it this way do not stack your fodder when it is in such a condition that it will heat in the barn or stack. The result in such cases is, the fodder is spoiled and injurious to any animal that is obliged to eat it. I recommend, if there is any doubt of fodder being dry enough, stack it out in small stacks. I cut the fodder for my horses and cattle and feed it whole to my sheep. I find that to be the best way of feeding it.

There are a great many farmers who say there is no money in raising so much corn, but I find no trouble in raising a good crop. But my experience is that the first thing to be done is to put the ground in proper shape. Some farmers will plow their sod, harrow it a few times, and call it good; but I believe it should be pulverized thoroughly with a good pulverizer. I use the disk harrow, and I can recommend it to be one of the best implements on my farm. It leaves the ground in such a condition that it is easy to keep clear of weeds. I cultivate my corn as often as possible, especially in dry weather, as it helps.
to hold the moisture in the ground. Some farmers think they must not stir their ground in dry weather—that it will injure the crop; but we have had a good chance to experiment on that the past season. I notice those who were afraid to stir their ground had but little corn among the weeds, and their ground is in poor condition for a crop next year. Therefore, taking all in consideration, I believe corn as profitable a crop as the dairymen can raise.

What I mean by the dairymen is the man who sends his milk to the cheese factory; for, if I keep cows, I want to send away all the milk every day that I can. I do not want to make a pound of butter when I can have it manufactured into cheese with less trouble, and, I believe, more profit.

Some men form the opinion that they cannot raise calves nor pigs if they send their milk to the factory; but I believe at the end of the year my calves are about as good as my neighbor’s skim-milk calves. But in order to have them so, I find it necessary to have my calves come about the middle of March, and then they are old enough to wean when I get ready to send my milk to the factory.

When my calves first come, I tie them up in small stalls and feed them in individual troughs. I have a small box of middlings in a convenient place and drop a little in the milk at first, and in a short time they will eat all they should have. Then, at the time of weaning, you will have no trouble teaching them to drink. At that time I get some white middlings or export flour, which can be bought for $7 per 100 pounds. I mix it with equal quantity of bran and mix all with water. And give no whey to your calves, give it to your pigs, as it is a very good substitute for souring swill.

In the fall when the feed begins to get short, I feed my calves a small quantity of oats, and continue so until spring, and by so doing I raise about as good calves as my neighbors who do not send their milk to the factory.

When I enclose my stock in yards I have a separate yard for my calves, for I think they do better. I make my yards as small as possible, leaving room enough for the cattle to get out of each other’s way. The smaller the better for manure, which is a very important point for the farmer to look to. I do not believe in using a five or ten acre lot for a yard, as some men do; I believe the yard should be small and as near level as possible, in order to get the full benefit. If it is convenient I think it better to mix the horse and cattle manure together, as it will not freeze so hard, and you will be enabled to draw it out in the winter or early spring before the substance is all soaked out, which would be much better on the land than run off in streams.

As we have said so much to the dairymen, why not say a word to wool growers. This is a point worthy of notice. There was a time when Wisconsin butter and cheese laid down in Eastern markets was marked inferior or low grade. To-day they grade equal, if not superior, to any made in the United States. It has taken no small amount of labor to bring it to this point. Similar steps should be taken to advance the quality of wool, not only to equality, but to a point of superiority over any in the United States. A man cannot keep his wool in good condition when letting his sheep run to the straw stack and pitching straw down on top of them, or keep them in straw-covered sheds where the water will leach through. The result is that your wool is chaffy and stained, and becomes clotted, and you get a reduced price. You should arrange your sheep yards and stables so as to feed them out of racks, and not waste feed by throwing it on the ground. Racks should not be filled at any time. Little and often is a better way to feed sheep. You should be cautious this year as the straw is full of chaff. My racks in the stable are picket racks, and I find by feeding straw in them that some of the sheep will stand along side of the rack and others eating over their backs will cause chaff to work in the wool. To prevent this I find it necessary to nail a board ten or twelve inches wide along the bottom of the racks, so as to form a part of a trough which will catch the chaff; and prevent sheep from getting close to the rack. I divide my sheep so as not to have more than ninety in each flock, and water them every second day and salt them often. I feed my sheep corn fodder, except in warm weather, then I feed them clover hay; and I find it in no way difficult to bring them through in good condition. I keep my sheep in the yard from the time I take them up in the fall until the grass is fit to eat in the spring.