

**OUR FARM OF FOUR ACRES:
HOW WE MANAGED IT, THE
MONEY
WE MADE BY IT, AND HOW IT
GREW INTO ONE OF SIX ACRES**

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Our Farm of Four Acres: How We Managed It, the Money We Made by It, and How It Grew
into One of Six Acres by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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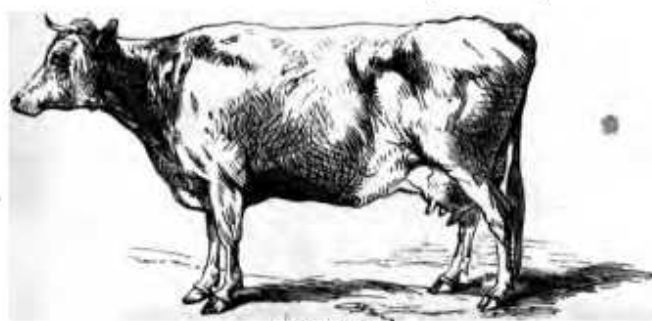
Improved Hampshire Pig.



Cochin China Hen.



Improved Dorking Hen.



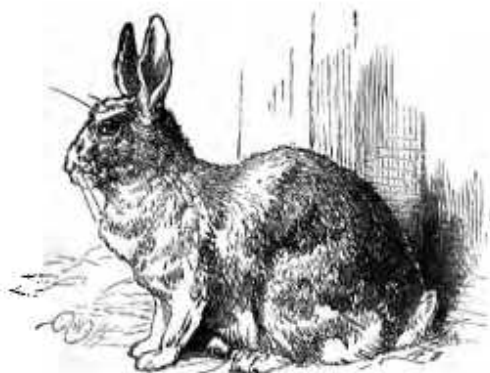
Ayrshire Cow.

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TENTH EDITION,
ILLUSTRATED, CAREFULLY REVISED, AND GREATLY ENLARGED.



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PREFACE.

"OUR FARM OF FOUR ACRES," as originally published, was a charming picture of suburban rural life, with all the difficulties and perplexities attending the change from town to country life. These were painted somewhat *couleur de rose*, but they carried conviction to the reader that the author's impressions were conveyed with perfect good faith. It was received, moreover, with so much favour, both by the public and the press, that the author was called upon more than once to express gratitude for the kind reception the little book had met with.

In the present edition the personal experiences which gave a charm to the book have been preserved intact; but many years have elapsed since the events narrated actually took place. The world has advanced in knowledge and experience since then, and some few corrections have become necessary, but it also occurred to the editor and his advisers that there were deficiencies in the book which more knowledge and riper experience might supply with great advantage to that portion of the public interested

in such subjects. The management of the garden was very briefly dealt with, and certain failures were related which greater experience would have turned into successes. Under this impression, the whole work has been very carefully revised, and large additions made to it, many chapters absolutely new being added in order to describe processes which might have been adopted with advantage on such a farm as it is intended to describe. Among these may be mentioned the management of poultry, so strangely neglected by British farmers on either a large or small scale. This subject has been greatly enlarged, and its usefulness will not be disputed by the economist, who remembers the many millions of eggs, poultry, and rabbits we receive from France and Belgium in the course of each year.

Our chapters on Gardening will be found full, informing, and wholly new, and written with the thorough knowledge of an adept. The writer's strictures on farmers' gardens throughout the country are unfortunately too true. They are, taken as a whole, disgraceful to men who ought to know better, whose daily occupation should be the study of vegetable physiology, whose gardens should be fields of experiment. Our little book will bring joy and happiness into many a rural home, without adding much to its expenditure, if it directs attention to the improvement of rural garden culture.

Every farm garden should be furnished with such choice specimens of vegetables, fruits, and flowers as would rival those described in this little volume, and even those grown in much more pretentious gardens, for their owners have the means at hand, and their occupation should supply the necessary knowledge.

We have enormously increased the capabilities of "Our Farm" by adding to it a water meadow. Without this our increased stock must have starved; with it we might have doubled our stock with advantage, as everyone who possesses such a meadow must confess. Such meadows, even without the sewage arrangement, yield a profit of forty per cent., according to the soundest agriculturists on the large scale.

Previous to this general revisal, the writers of "Our Farm" had adopted many useful hints thrown out by their early critics. Some rather acrid banter had been directed against them in reference to their money-making; they were asked if their servants worked for nothing—if their landlord kept everything in repair? Well, they paid their servants liberal wages—this is always the best economy; they did not bring them into their farming account, because they must have had them under any circumstances. The landlord was bound by agreement to uphold gates and buildings; they had no hedges; a stream runs round the meadows and forms the boundary for the greater part on one side; on the other, a good wall