

Milk Strains Among Hogs.

Too little attention has been paid by breeders and farmers to the milking qualities of their brood sows, and yet of all things to be taken into consideration in selecting broods sows this characteristic is the most important. Maternity is the function of a brood sow, and failing in good milking capacity, she fails to fulfil this function. Did you ever note that the sow that is the kindest, most careful mother, is always the one that gives the biggest flow of milk, and the sow that gives frequently, and she most gladly responds to the call of the little fellows for a lunch as often as they want it. She is careful and grateful to them for the relief they give her. The other sow finds no such comfort from her litter, since she has no need for that kind of relief; on the contrary, the frequent demands of the half-starved pigs are unpleasant to her. She becomes irritable and cross at their persistent calls for more. She would rather be let alone, go off by herself, eat her fill and lie down undisturbed while she converts it into pork on her own back instead of on that of her pigs. So, at weaning time, you will find her in pretty good shape, while the pigs are all runts. But the other sow and her litter, how do they look? Just the reverse.

The United States raise about 56 per cent. of all the hogs in the world. The statistical report shows over 122,000,000 in the world, of which the States produce 69,000,000.

The hog is the most economical vehicle yet produced in which to carry the products of the farm to market in a condensed form and at the same time yield the producer a profit above the price such grain thus fed would sell for in the open market.

It is a well-known fact that pigs are very fond of charcoal, especially while fattening, and experiment has shown that they make more rapid gains if they have access to it. Half-burnt wood out of a stove, if not given till it is safe from danger of setting fire to the bedding, is charred enough.

Keep a record book of the time your sows come in heat. As they come in heat every three weeks, or twenty-one days, you will know then when to expect them, a second time, if you do not wish to breed them when in heat the first time. It pays to keep a memorandum book and enter in it. Don't trust your memory. Be positive.

In selecting our sows we always choose one with the greatest number of teats, say 12 to 14, and one possessing a long, round body, a short head, small ears and large bone. We do not care how big they are so they do not run to legs. In selecting a male pig for a breeder we follow the same idea and find it proves good. We also look closely to the hair of a hog. We want a good, fine, sleek coat, but a rough coat will not prevent us from using a pig of either sex if it fills all the other points.—Points from a Breeder's Experience.