

SWINE DEPARTMENT

Our readers are invited to ask questions in regard to swine. These will be answered in this department. You are also invited to offer helpful suggestions or relate experiences through these columns.

Summer Management

The management of the spring litters from now till fall will depend on whether the hogs are intended for market or for breeding purposes. With the market hogs the object is to put on flesh of the right kind as cheaply as possible. The management of hogs intended for breeding on the other hand should be such as to produce a strong, vigorous pig with a good constitution.

Green feed should enter largely into the rations of hogs during the summer months. Green clover or alfalfa, rape, mixtures of peas, oats and vetches, and pasture all tend to keep the hog healthy, and in the very best of condition to make rapid gains and good use of the mill feeds and dairy by-products fed.

The ideal place for the hog intended for breeding purposes is on pasture. The hog here develops good bone, and the constant exercise gives it vigor and constitution. The market hog, however, would waste too much energy wandering over a large pasture. The preferable plan in this case is to keep the hog in pens and feed the green feed there. These pens should be out of doors with a shed to protect from the weather, or closed pens that have an outside run. Here the green feed

can be fed in such quantities as they will eat, and no energy and consequently no food is used in walking around. The breeding swine on pasture can be depended upon to graze a larger portion of their food, only enough mill stuffs being fed in addition to keep them growing vigorously and not fat. The market hog, however, should be kept quite fat from the very first as the younger the hog the more economic use will be made of the food fed.

Comments on Hog Profits

Wm. Jones, Oxford Co., Ont.

The profits from feeding hogs depend on the relation between the price of feeds and the price of pork. It will take about 5 lbs. of grain foods, middlings, and so forth, to make one lb. of pork, that is, when the feeding is conducted under proper conditions. If feed is 15c a lb., it will cost 75c a lb. to produce pork. Where feeding is carried on in connection with dairying, and the by-products fed to the hogs, it is probable in almost all cases, where the number of hogs carried is in accordance with the product of the dairy. In my opinion this is the one sure way to raise hogs, and have a reasonable profit on them.

I occasionally test my finishing hogs for two weeks or a month, but have no figures of my own of recent date that have been secured through testing a lot of feeding hogs from weaning time until finished. I have long ago found that I can grow a hog cheaper than I can finish it for market. There is therefore no necessity of testing them during their growing period. I like to know, however, what it takes to finish them.

Some Types of Modern Farm Gates

N. Ralph Steet, Guelph, Ont.

A poor gate is the "weakest link" in a fence. Sometimes the link is so antiquated and weak that it is practically missing.

One of the virtues of a good farm gate is the quickness with which it may be opened and shut. If it cannot be operated in a jiffy it invites a serious objection. This is a fast age. We do things in a hurry. Gates must work almost electrically. Even the best ones are exasperatingly slow when time is precious. But the supreme limit is one that requires a long minute and the strength of a Hercules to lift it out of the mud or its rut, and laboriously drag it back. Many a man has lost some of his religion and his head during this work. In wet weather wooden gates get waterlogged and mired; in the winter snow interferes seriously with opening and closing them. Unless they are kept in perfect repair, they cannot be easily or quickly handled in any season. Whatever this type of gate is (and its defects are well known) the steel gate is not. The difference amounts to almost a perfect opposite from a practical point of view.

HOME-MADE GATES

Any farmer handy with tools can make his own gates; but that is not a sufficient argument in favor of making them. Doing them is figuring. How long will it take to build a plank of a wooden gate of the type generally used? Assign the time a cash value. Then add the cost of nails and lumber. Include in this the cost of the expense of hanging. After the job is finished make an estimate of the durability or usefulness of the gate including also inevitable repairs. It will be found that, considered on this critical basis, in 10 years' time the gate will prove more expensive than a well built steel gate. Lumber is high in price and the best grades made into gates are very short-lived, indeed. But the ephemeral nature of wooden gates is not their only drawback.

They are unyielding and clumsy, soon get out of plumb, sag and drag, and are often so dumb to operate that they take more time and patience than most men can spare in that way. Every fixture on the farm should be permanent. Whatever it should have lasting qualities, its durability can be combined with a service efficiency the result is a good investment of time and money. Next

Prize Farms Entries

Entries in the Prize Farms' Competition closed on Thursday of last week. At the time of going to press, however, there were still some entries in connection with which correspondence was in progress and consequently we are unable to publish a full list of the entries in this issue. These will be published next week. Apparently there will be about 30 entries in this year's contest as compared with about 40 in the contest held two years ago.

But few entries have been received from districts 4 and 5 in Westchester Ontario where in the last contest there were about 20. It is possible, therefore, that in accordance with the rules of the competition, some of the entries in district No. 3 may be included in districts No. 4 and 5, making one strong division. Even then there will still be more prizes offered than there will be farms competing in those districts.

The names of the judges will be announced in next week's issue. A striking feature of the competition this year is the fact that nearly all the competitors are men who did not take part in the last competition.

Among the entries received last week were the following: John Brown and John W. Logan, Howick Station, Quebec, District No. 1; Wm. Wightman, Lancaster, Glengarry County, and W. F. Bell, Britannia Bay, Carleton County, in district No. 2; C. Howison, Keene, W. Telford, and C. & E. Telford, of Bridgton, Peterborough County; E. Budd, Precious Corner, Northumberland County, R. E. Gunn, Beaverton, Ontario County; J. S. Gay, Frankford, Hastings Co.; George W. Anderson, Rossmore, Prince Edward County, and J. C. Bales, Lansing, York County, all in district No. 3; Villiers James, of Newmarket, district No. 4; Wm. Jull, Norwich, Oxford County and A. S. Turner & Sons, Ryckman's Corners, Wentworth County, district No. 5.

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