

that grass, clover or rape help to reduce the cost of making gains. From thirty to forty-five hogs should be turned off annually from two or three females, and this is only an average of fifteen for each dam per year, which is low for a good breeding sow. However, a number of pigs like this demand some outdoor run on grass, or an outdoor yard with green feed according to the soiling method.

There is a lack of system about pig raising on many farms. It is not looked upon as an important branch, and its management is more haphazard than that of the cattle herd. There is not so much money tied up in breeding swine and equipment as in the case of cattle or horses, but the details should be just as carefully studied, for the rent or interest, and taxes, are frequently paid from the hog cheque. What is required is a specific interest in the production of pigs accompanied by a well-thought-out practice of breeding and rearing, and attention to all the details of feeding and managing. If the business were studied farmers would see the advantage of keeping their breeding stock up to strength all the time, and with proper methods of breeding and rearing they would not be feeding at a loss when prices were low, and when prices were high there would be a fair profit.

Advantages of Pasturing.

The advisability of pasturing is based on conditions or facts. In the first place the breeding stock are healthier and more vigorous when allowed to come in contact with clean soil and plenty of vegetation. A pregnant sow which runs on grass up to farrowing should be in first-class condition to deliver a healthy litter of pigs. There is no place superior to a pasture with a portable pen for a farrowing sow. If they are fed wisely and sufficiently, there appears to be considerable luck connected with pregnant sows when they have the freedom of a pasture field, and can derive from the soil itself those substances that satisfy the cravings of the animal system. Exercise and abundance of green feed are conducive to thrift in young pigs. They develop bone and muscle, so when the finishing period approaches they have a frame to add to, which tends to cheaper gains. The quality of bacon produced in this manner is of the best, so no raiser of swine need worry regarding the character of the product he may have to offer for sale. It is claimed by those who have adopted the system, and by experimentalists, that grass or forage crops reduce the amount of grain required to produce 100 pounds of pork. This is an important item, and a factor that should be remembered by those who pay any appreciable attention to the hog in their farming operations. Additional words in favor of pasturing are seemingly unnecessary, for it is felt that the practice is generally considered a good one. The extra or initial labor involved is an influencing factor governing the extent of its adoption. These are not insurmountable obstacles, however, in such a cause.

Pasture Crops.

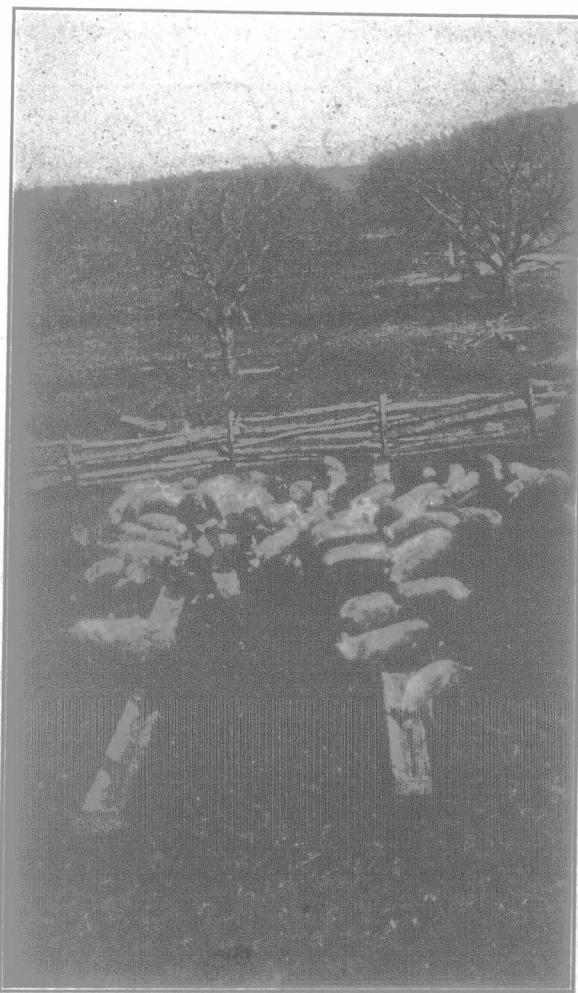
Alfalfa is almost universally conceded to be the best pasture crop for swine, provided it will stand in the land. On many farms it will not endure pasturing, and even when cut for hay it often succumbs to the inclement winter weather. When it can be grown successfully there is nothing better than alfalfa on which to run a herd of swine. The stock should not be allowed on it too early in the spring, neither should it be allowed to get too far advanced, for then it will become woody and unpalatable. The hogs will relish it almost anytime up to the blossom stage. As a perennial crop this type of legume is supreme in its effect on the herd, but it is not the most popular crop on account of reasons already mentioned.

Among the biennials red clover receives the majority of votes. It can, if managed wisely, be made to serve two years. As with most crops, it often becomes pastured close, and should be allowed sufficient time to recuperate and grow up again. A portable or temporary fence to divide the field will solve this problem. The system recommended by Prof. G. E. Day, of the O. A. C., is very commendable. The method is thus: Sow a field or strip near the buildings to oats or barley, early in the spring, and seed to red clover with this crop at the rate of about 8 or 9 pounds per acre. Cut the grain for green feed, or for hay, late in June and turn the pigs on the clover, which will grow up rapidly, about the middle of July. Fifteen or twenty pigs can be pastured per acre on this seeding.

A correspondent once reported success with rye and clover, but this requires previous preparation and cannot be adopted this spring. In this case, winter rye was sown in the fall. The next spring 10 pounds of red clover per acre were sown, and it was given two or more harrowings. The season was favorable and the rye furnished abundance of pasture, and there was a fine stand of clover. In August the herd was changed to another field to prevent the clover being destroyed by pasturing too closely. On this occasion the one seeding lasted for two years. In another instance the tramping of the hogs destroyed the clover, but under such circumstances the rye could be harvested and the stock turned on later. It would not be a mistake altogether to sow red clover without a nurse crop on a small field near the piggery, and turn the hogs on when it became ready, but an annual, such as rape, is more adapted for speedy growth and early use.

Of the annuals rape is perhaps the most popular as a hog pasture. It can be sown either broadcast

or in drills and cultivated. The latter method is preferable under most conditions, for the pigs do not tramp it so much and the occasional cultivation will force it along in good time. Prepare a good seed-bed and sow from 2½ to 3 pounds of Dwarf Essex rape, in drills 24 to 28 inches apart. A farmer who makes a practice of pasturing his swine, recently told the writer that he has narrowed his drills to 21 inches and finds it satisfactory. About 5 pounds should be used when sowed broadcast. For the first season a good coat of manure will help the crop, but subsequent applications should not be required if the field is pastured. Rape should be allowed to attain to



Making Pork on Grain and Grass.

10 or 12 inches in height before admitting the stock; yet, on the other hand, it should not become coarse. A temporary fence, or a permanent fence between two fields can be used to good advantage in the pasturing system. By alternating the herd between the two lots, neither crop will be destroyed by excessive tramping or grazing.

Some experiments were conducted at the Missouri Experiment Station to determine the value of different forage crops for hogs. Corn was used chiefly as grain, and according to Missouri valuations the different feeds ranked as follows: corn and skim-milk, cheapest; corn and alfalfa, second; corn and red

in the fields. Where plenty of pasturage is available this may work to advantage, but in many cases the supply is not adequate, so it is wise to develop the young pigs in the pens for some time. Prof. Day advises confining the young hogs till they weigh in the vicinity of 100 pounds, and then turning to grass with from ½ to ¾ of a full meal ration.

Grass is good but it is not sufficient to produce adequate gains. Some meal is necessary, and the grass should be considered as an adjunct to the regular ration.

Fatalities from Ptomaine Poisoning.

The attention of "The Farmer's Advocate" has been called to the loss of several valuable cattle lately in Western Ontario herds from eating defective, frozen silage scraped down from silo walls or from feeding old silage held over from the previous season. An appearance of unthriftiness with harsh, staring coats was followed by purging and brain affection ending in death. Too great vigilance cannot be exercised, keeping out of the mangers feed of an unwholesome nature, or decayed fodder of any kind.

Rise in Live Stock Prices.

Without the occurrence of the great world war upsetting all human forecasts and calculations as to food supplies and prices, it has been long regarded as inevitable because of the actual and relatively diminishing supplies of live stock, that a higher level of prices would prevail. This had already been reflected in the higher cost of living, felt more keenly in the cities and towns, though in like manner it affects the bills of the country home. There must now be an enormous falling off in the live-stock production of all European countries in proportion, as they are involved in this conflict. The demand on animal products for army maintenance is something enormous. Few know or realize yet to what it really amounts. Just to illustrate, a newly-arranged company of Canadian and Americans, projected in Toronto, had their calculations based to begin with on a contract for no less than 12,000,000 cans of meat and vegetable rations. Not only is the consumption vast, but the probably unavoidable waste is very great. The absence of a man or two from a home will not greatly lessen the call for meats, etc., there, and money as yet being in plentiful circulation the domestic buying goes on about as freely as ever, so that the extra call is evidently immense. Then these army and other contracts have to be filled with rapidity and regularity, so that the demand is unprecedented, and whether borrowed or not it matters little, the money is forthcoming, and with limited supplies of live animals prices have been bound to rise with startling rapidity. This has been reflected in the course of the hog market by quotations never before equalled in Canada, and this has been followed to some extent in the cattle market. Sheep and lambs never sold higher, and veal sells high.

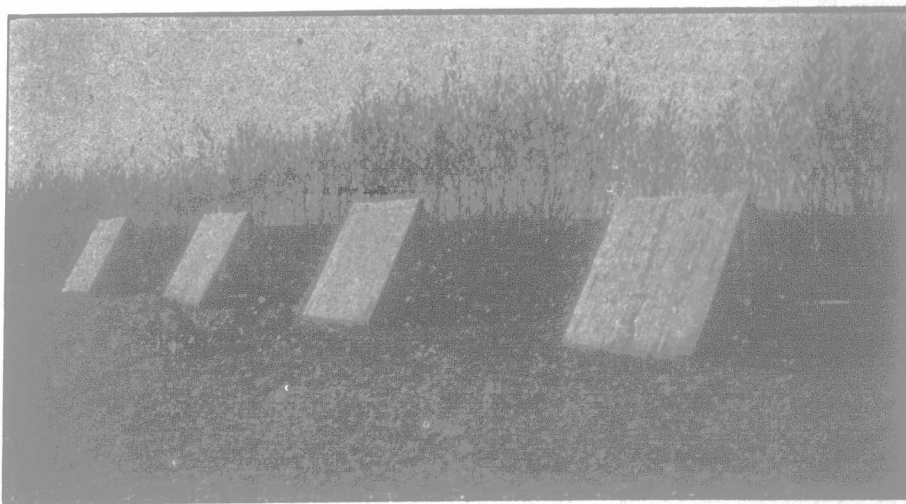
Notwithstanding the absence of foreign competition at the great London wool sales recently, prices at the end went up instead of down. It is conceded that the trend must continue in that direction for a long time to come and that even the end of the war would not serve to bring about reductions. The flock owner will likewise be paying more for his clothing.

THE FARM.

The Automobile on the Farm.

The automobile has come to the farm to stay. Only a few years ago these "gas wagons", as they were commonly called, were believed to have been created simply to give increased pleasure to the rich, and to allow them to race through the country destroying roads, frightening horses which in some instances caused loss of life. Perhaps there was a reason for the farmer and his family detesting the sight of a car. For a man to be run

off the road he had labored hard to build, by reckless, inconsiderate chauffeurs, who knew not what it was to handle a frightened horse or build roads, was enough to raise the ire of the most patient man. The fault was in the driver, not the car. However, customs, likes and dislikes change rapidly in this twentieth century. The once-despised automobile has won its way into the heart of rural Canada. The automobile is no longer an experiment; it has been thoroughly tested and has proven that it is capable of being an asset to the farm if properly used. It has become indispensable to the city business man, and present indications point to the fact that it is also indispensable on many farms



Farrowing Pens for Sows on Pasture.

clover, third; corn and blue grass, fourth; corn and rape, fifth; corn and ship stuff, sixth. A saving of 75 cents a hundred in the cost of grain was effected by using green clover instead of fresh blue grass. A saving of \$1.00 a hundred was effected by using alfalfa instead of blue grass. The investigators recommended a succession of crops for profitable hog pasture.

Turning to Pasture.

Some farmers are so partial to grazing hogs that the sows and their litters are turned out early in the season and are obliged to spend the entire summer