

SHEEP AND SWINE

Fatality in Pigs

I HAVE a litter of little pigs five weeks old. They are fine pigs, and everyone who sees them remarks on their fine condition. Two of them died this week, however, and upon opening them we found a quantity of yellow water, the insides floating, and the heart in a big bag of bloody water and eaten full of holes like a sponge. The liver is about the size of an ordinary hen's egg. They seem to be very bright, but next morning they are dumpy, and are dead by the following night. Is the trouble a disease and is it contagious? Will the catch it as some of the pigs are in the same stable as the cattle? The pigs pens are cleaned every day and the pigs given a dry nest of oat straw.—Mrs. D. K., Nipissing, Ont.

The disease is not contagious, hence there is no danger of the cattle contracting it. The trouble is doubtless due to want of proper ventilation and lack of exercise. See that the pens are well ventilated, and also see that the pigs have plenty of room to move about. Any day that is fine enough allow them to run for a few hours in an open shed or out in the yard.

Making the Most of the Spring Litter

(Continued from page 2.)

is necessary in starting the pigs on oatmeal siftings, but once started they do exceptionally well on it. A substitute for skim milk that is now coming into favor in this country is tankage. This is a feed very rich in protein, and should be fed in small quantities in conjunction with shorts or middlings. The proportion of tankage to meal should not be more than one to ten. With a good supply of skim milk, shorts or middlings may be added, gradually increasing the meal as the pigs grow older. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the importance of having skim milk for young pigs. It is extremely valuable at this period of the pig's life, and it is hard to successfully substitute as a feed for growing pigs.

The castration of all male animals not intended for breeding purposes should be performed when the pigs are from four to five weeks old. Weaning may be done when the pigs are from six to eight weeks of age, depending upon the condition of the sow and upon how well the litter is coming on. If the sow is in good condition the pigs may be left on until they are about eight weeks old. If the sow is getting rather low in condition it is usually advisable to wean the pigs a little sooner. It is a good practice to gradually wean them off, keeping the sow away for a few hours the first day, gradually increasing this period for a few days. If the little pigs have learned how to eat there will be no difficulty in weaning and they will not be hindered in their development."

A Dip for Sheep

WHAT kind of material is used for dipping sheep, and where could I buy one of the commercial brands?—R. C., Quebec.

Dips can be classified according to the nature of the poison they contain, as carbolic, arsenic and tobacco. Most standard proprietary dips will produce effective results providing the directions of the manufacturers are carefully followed. A good dip is "free-dip" manufactured by Farke-Davis Co., of Walkerville, Ont. Cooper's is a standard Old Country dip. A lime sulphur combination may be prepared at home. The dips containing the least lime and sulphur have been found to be effective and produce no noticeable effect upon the wool. The Colorado dip consists of 25 lbs. of flowers of sulphur, 11 lbs. of unsulphated lime and 100 gallons of water. United States Bureau of Ani-

mal Industry recommends the following proportions: 24 lbs. of flowers of sulphur, 8 lbs. unsulphated lime and 100 gallons of water. The objections urged against lime and sulphur dips based upon the injuries done by a very strong dip, cannot be applied to these.

To make a lime and sulphur dip requires more time and care than is usually given and for this reason the standard brands are preferred. The lime and sulphur should be weighed and the exact quantity of water measured. The given quantities of lime and sulphur are taken and water added

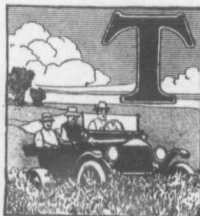
until it can be rubbed into a creamy paste. This mass is now boiled in from 25 to 30 gallons of water for two and one-half hours and stirred occasionally during the boiling period. The mixture is now allowed to stand overnight so that all the solid matter may settle and the clear liquid be drawn off. It is important that only the clear liquid be used. This is diluted in the dipping tank with sufficient warm water to make 100 gallons and is ready for use. Where only a few sheep are to be dipped it is doubtful if this mixture would be economical.

Prof. W. T. Connell, Provincial

Pathologist at Queen's, is making an analysis of cheese which poisoned some residents of Osgoode township in Carleton county two weeks ago. A Kingston dairy school student made an investigation and forwarded a piece of cheese. Suspicion is raised because chemical action does not poison cheese as it does milk.

When the wool is delivered at Guelph, Ont., the grower will be paid 50 per cent. of its estimated value and the balance when the wool is sold. The wool will be insured to its full value by the association.—Live Stock Branch.

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