

WHEN THE PIGS ARE FARROWED.

The pen is provided with a railing on the wall, about ten inches up from the floor, under which the young pigs can escape to avoid being crushed by the dam. The sows are sparingly fed for the first week, and get little more than a warm drink of thin

till the fourth or fifth day after the pigs are weaned. She is then allowed to rustle on cheap feed until time to put her in for farrowing again. She is always in good vigor, but never fat nor approaching it, so that she is always in first-rate form for her maternal duties.

THE GROWING PIGS.

At all stages of the proceedings, the chief aim is to keep the pigs contented and happy. A discontented pig is not being properly treated in some



FIG. I.—Tamworth sow in working form, the dam of David Lawrence's ideal bacon pigs.

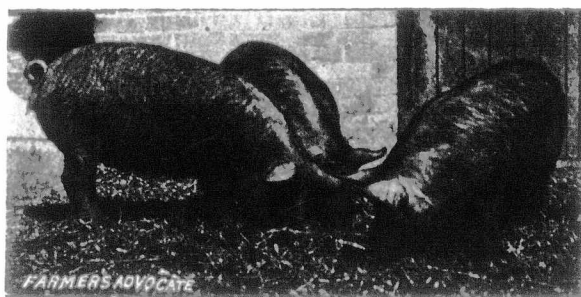


FIG. III.—David Lawrence's Berkshire-Tamworth cross-bred bacon hogs, almost ready for the packers.



FIG. IV.—Berkshire-Tamworth bacon hogs of good form, but a trifle too fat.

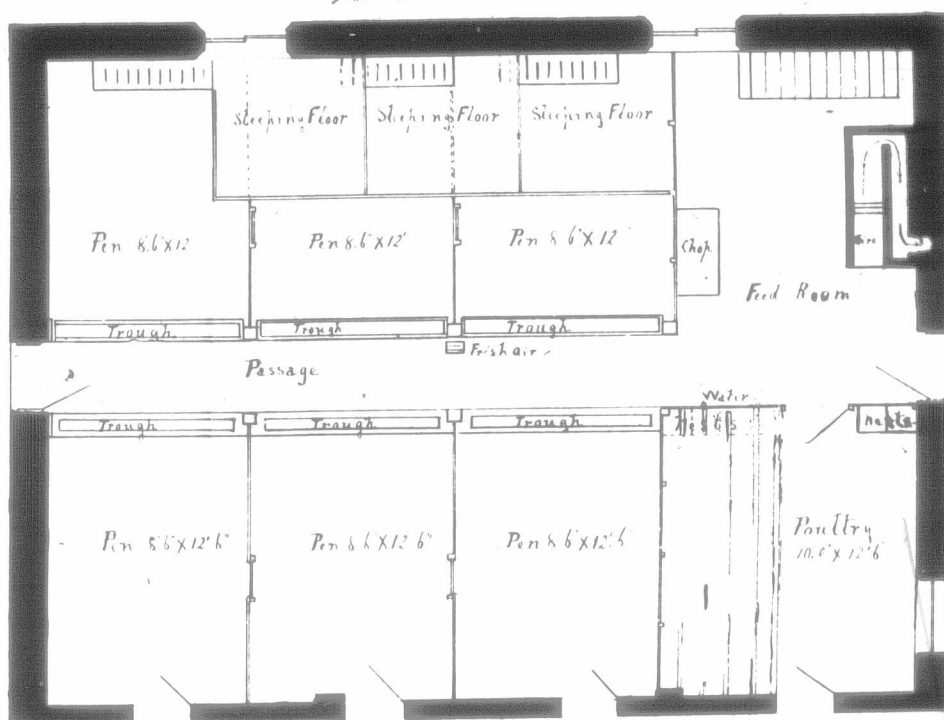
slop for the first three days. When the pigs are ten days old the sow's ration is improved and increased, but she is not heavily fed until the litter is approaching three weeks, when they need a deal of milk, and the sow must be well nourished or she will fail rapidly in condition. Sugar beets or other roots form the basis of her ration, to which chop is added in increasing quantities as the pigs increase in age. She is allowed an hour's run each fine day in the barnyard, and when the pigs can eat they are entertained with some milk, chop, boiled small potatoes or the like. When they have learned to eat well they are given separate apartments, which they can enter away from the dam, and given such foods as milk and slops. The males are castrated at about four weeks old, when they seldom notice the operation. At six weeks they are usually ready to wean, and are, as a rule, eating so well that they go right on thriving the same as before. The sow is turned in with them twice after weaning commences, to draw off her milk and to give them a much-appreciated meal.

FEEDING WEANED LITTERS.

As a rule, it seldom pays to do much boiling of feed for pigs, but Mr. Lawrence finds boiled potatoes, milk, whey, shorts and mixed chops a good diet for newly-weaned litters. It is given them warm until they are about two to three months old, according to the season of the year. When only a small quantity of feed is required, it is cooked on the house stove, but Mr. Lawrence's hogpen, a plan of which is herewith given, contains a boiling vat that cooks feed with economy of fuel. It consists of a plank box with sheet-iron bottom, set on a brick fireplace. The vat is six feet long, about three feet wide and two feet deep, and holding from eighteen to twenty bushels at a time. The fireplace, which is about fourteen inches wide along under half the width of vat, is so arranged that the smoke and fire have to pass back and return to the front of the vat by another flue before escaping into the chimney. Mr. Lawrence does not believe in boiling turnips, mangels or beets for pigs, but pumpkins and potatoes should always be cooked before feeding. When the feed

respects, and his condition should be looked into and improved if he is to thrive satisfactorily. They are therefore divided into small lots (seven or eight) of nearly one size. They have comfortable quarters, including elevated sleeping beds, and each pig has a stall at feeding time. This is contrived by planks fastened edgewise to the swinging front over the trough, about a foot apart. This prevents crowding and the pigs from standing in the trough.

Jersey. Figs. IV. and V. represent a litter of ten that Mr. Bartlett had sold to go to the Ingersoll Packing Company the day after they were photographed. They are about seven months old, and weigh about 220 pounds each. They have been very hearty feeders ever since being weaned, and have been fed well on oat and barley chops and corn. While the highest price for the day was paid for the lot, they were considerably fatter than packers have repeatedly pointed out to us as being ideal for bacon. Both lots are of nice smooth type, but Fig. IV. is a lot shorter than packers prefer.



PLAN of PIC PEN

OWNED BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

On the day of our visit we saw the pigs receive two meals, and this is how it was done: The swinging fronts of all the pens were swung in so as to keep the pigs back and to allow the feed to be put in from the passage. The troughs were first cleaned out of all straw or other material, and freshly-pulped sugar beets distributed along at the rate of about one bushel to fourteen half-grown pigs. On this was poured two pails of rather thin slop, consisting of mixed chop soaked in water. The pen has a tap in the passage supplied with well water by the windmill that pulps the roots and grinds the grain. Mr. Lawrence does not believe in keeping pigs fat while growing, as he finds for best satisfaction to the packer they should be allowed to grow as well as fatten. He therefore feeds little grain until they are about six months old, when they weigh probably 120 pounds each. At that age they are packer's models in form, but need more growth and finishing to reach the weights required. From this time forward the grain is gradually increased, but the hogs are not deprived of exercise, which is allowed almost every day throughout the growing and fattening periods. They are usually

READY TO SHIP

at about eight months old, when they weigh from 180 to 220 pounds, at which time they are ready for the packers, and the packers are ready for them. At no time are they fed pure grain, but roots in winter, and grass, green rye or clover in summer, form the filling portion of the ration, along with sweet whey, water and mixed chops. Pigs fed in this way seldom go wrong in their digestive organs, but in addition to this they occasionally get wood ashes and charcoal, which they seem to relish, and which no doubt goes far to prevent stomach worms or other internal parasites.

A LITTLE DUROC BLOOD.

Mr. Lawrence's neighbor, J. E. Bartlett, raises bacon pigs from Mr. Lawrence's boar and a very good type of Tamworth sow. She is not pure-bred, however, for her pedigree contains a cross of Duroc-

Potency of Pure Blood in Producing Ideal Bacon Hogs.

The article and illustrations, elsewhere in this issue, on the production of ideal specimens of bacon hogs, such as may be profitably raised by the average farmer, naturally raises the question of the sources from which the approved type springs, and incidentally emphasizes the potency and value of pure blood in producing the type that is demanded by the times or the market at any juncture in the commerce in live stock of any class. The average farmer has a very decided fancy for crossing in his operations in breeding stock of any class, and especially hogs. It is this fancy for crossing which so often evokes the question, Which is the best cross for a certain purpose? instead of which is the best breed for the same purpose? But if these men would but stop to ask themselves the question, How could we have the crosses without first having the pure breeds? they would probably have more respect for the latter, and accord to the breeders and the breeds a larger measure of credit than they are wont to do. The evolution of the breeds is the result of long years of patient plodding and applied skill; and but for the existence of pure breeds, the effort to produce the type wanted would end in chaos and confusion. Crossing, to average minds, probably means breeding from grades showing more or less of the distinctive characteristics of the breeds of whose blood they have partaken, and these grades bred together never can be depended upon to produce a uniform type. In this issue we reproduce illustrations of representative specimens of some of the breeds which have proved potential in producing the bacon type of hogs, and any one



FIG. II.—Berkshire boar, sire of David Lawrence's ideal bacon pigs.

is almost cooked, a bag or two of barley or other chop is mixed in with it, and constitutes a palatable ration.

BREEDING THE SOWS AGAIN.

Mr. Lawrence once tried breeding a sow four days after farrowing, but the results were unsatisfactory, and since then he does not have her bred

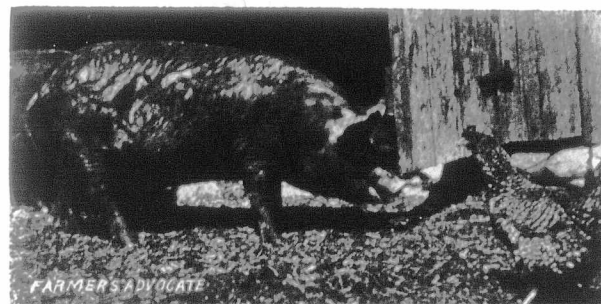


FIG. V.—Berkshire-Tamworth bacon hog, same as Fig. IV.

who has watched the history of the breeds will see that, even in the memory of comparatively young men, great changes and improvements have been wrought in the type of the most approved specimens of these breeds, and this fact only the more strongly emphasizes the importance of maintaining the purity of the breeds, and of continuing to improve them by judicious mating and selection.