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Swine in Canada

A FIRST-CLASS HERD OF SWINE

Two essentials in successful swine keeping are good management and good feed. Keep the herd built up by using and keeping the best old sows and boars. Of course, we cannot keep the same sows all the time. Two litters a year are raised from part of the sows, selecting from the fall litters the best ones for future brood sows. None are kept except those that have a good head and ear, good heart girth and deep, long body, well ached back and stand up well on the feet. Boars are kept in pastures away from the sows. They have a range of clover and timothy pasture. We feed them such food as is raised on the farm—

waste products, such as apple and potato peelings, table scraps, etc., that can be utilized to good advantage. Corn stands at the head of hog rations, being the cheapest and best feed available. Feeds rich in protein should be fed with it, for corn contains an excess of carbohydrate. Skim milk and grass, especially the clovers, are excellent sources of protein. The young growing pig needs proportionately more nitrogenous food than the mature hog. When hogs reach the fattening stage corn can be fed almost exclusively. Clean waste scraps of fruit and vegetables may be fed with the foregoing feeds, but it should be borne in mind that the digestive apparatus of no

the ground. He was narrow in body, coarse in bone, had very large ears, and took a long time to mature.

Little was done to improve the breed until about 1760, when Robert Bakewell, the famous stock improver of that time, is said to have applied the principles by which the English Leicester sheep was evolved from the old type. This was to perpetuate only the smaller, finer and more compact animals, which he found had a greater aptitude to fatten than the more rangy and coarser types. Some authorities claim also that the Yorkshire was much helped by the introduction of crosses of the White Leicester, a breed of swine of a finer and thicker type than the Yorkshire was at that time.

FEEDING PIGS IN SUMMER

The right place for growing pigs this time of the year is pasture. It may be either clover or alfalfa, or just ordinary pasture—anything so long as it is pasture, and the pigs have to exercise to get a large part of their living.

One of the best pastures is alfalfa pastures. When people know how to handle an alfalfa pasture properly they get very enthusiastic over it. Alfalfa is very rich in protein, which is very necessary for growing pigs. It is surprising the number of men who ought to know better who still persist in keeping their pigs closed up. Seventy-five per cent. of the ills that the pig is heir to are caused by insufficient exercise. Pigs that are out on pasture, although they may not fatten so quickly, do not go lame and produce a much better quality of bacon.

Even when alfalfa pasture is available the pigs should get a supplementary grain ration. The idea is to have the pigs weigh about 180 to 200 pounds at six or seven months old. The bacon hog that we raise here in Canada does not require such liberal feeding as does the lard hogs of the States, but still all the same it should put on about one pound increase per day. When pasture is relied on alone, instead of the animal weighing 180 pounds in the fall it probably won't weigh more than seventy or one hundred pounds. Such hogs if sold will fetch anything but good prices, and if kept and fattened inside, by the time they are ready for the market the price has probably gone down. As a rule the best month in the fall to sell hogs is in September.

The hog requires food for maintenance first of all, and what it gets after that goes to put on fat and flesh. By keeping a hog longer than is necessary simply means that the food that is required for maintenance during the extra period is wasted. In the old days, when the pigs had to be driven to market on foot a distance of perhaps thirty or forty miles, it was necessary to have the animals fully mature before they were fattened, but those days are now past, and the early matured and early fattened animals are the most profitable.

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SWINE RAISING IN B. C.

ground oats and wheat with tankage and a little oil meal added. We do not feed much corn. This makes them strong and vigorous. At breeding time a record of every sow bred is kept, so as to tell whether she will farrow. In cold weather we care for the pigs by putting them in a basket in which is a jug of hot water, which soon dries them off. They will come out fighting for the first dinner.

The individual hog house beats all others in cold weather. This type can easily be warmed by hanging a lantern or small oil stove in it. After farrowing, we feed the same kind of feed as the sow has been used to getting, but not so much or as rich a feed at first. As soon as the pigs get old enough to eat, we make a place for them where they can eat by themselves, giving them some milk at first to get them started, adding a little shorts as they get older.

Some farmers are deceiving themselves when they think that hogs are fitted by nature to subsist entirely on waste products. They do their best on a clean, well-balanced ration. There are, however, some kinds of

animal is fitted to assimilate soap-suds and other chemicals of a like nature, which are sometimes thought by the poorly informed to be excellent hog feed.

SWINE IN CANADA

The breeds of swine most common in Canada are the Yorkshire, the Tamworth, the Berkshire, and the Chester White. The Poland-China, the Duroc-Jersey and the Hampshire are also bred to some extent. The Yorkshire and the Tamworth are recognized as being especially suitable for bacon production; while the Berkshire, the Chester White and the Hampshire of the improved type occupy an intermediate position between the bacon and the lard types. The remaining two belong to the fat or lard-producing class, very popular in the corn belt of the United States.

The Yorkshire hog of today is claimed by historians of the breed to have descended almost directly from the old English hog common in the northern counties of England as far back as the beginning of the eighteenth century. This hog was long in the head and body and stood high off