

Don't Forget the Dirt Roads

A. D. Simpson, Norfolk Co., Ont.

We have heard lots of macadam, stone, and concrete highways; the world seems to be full of hard road enthusiasts. But how about the dirt roads that the great majority of farmers, in this section of Ontario at least, must use? In the Convention at Detroit, where several thousand road enthusiasts gathered together, dirt roads were mentioned, only to be condemned. At the same time those road enthusiasts admitted that it would be impossible for many years to come to improve any other than the main highways in the way in which they would like to see them done. That being the case, is it not time that our road experts were devoting a little more attention to making common highways passable?

I would like to see road experts take up the split log drag, thoroughly test its efficiency, and then make its merits known throughout the whole land. I have used the split log drag on the road immediately adjoining my farm for three years now and with the very best of results. The drag, which is home-made, stands in the lane right next the road. Shortly after each rain it is no trick at all to hitch the team to the drag, go up and down the road four times, and then go on with the regular farm work.

NO MORE MUD HOLES

The drag fills in the ruts and maintains a perfectly smooth surface. The water then runs off the road readily, instead of sinking down through, making mud holes on top and destroying the foundation beneath as it previously did. So pleased are many of our neighbors with the fine highway in front of our farm lately that they have been borrowing my drag and using it on roads adjoining their own farms.

So far I have been doing this work without remuneration. It seems to me that the County Councils should reimburse all those who drag their roads by freeing them from road taxes. We are doing more than our share towards the maintaining of good roads. I would like to see a great big national propaganda for the wider use of the split log drag.

Methods with Fall Litters

Frank Tensdale, York Co., Ont.

I find it advisable to have the fall litters farrowed in August or early in September; this gives the young pigs a better chance to get a good start before the cold weather sets in.

I always leave the pigs on the sow till the time I want to breed her, as they always do better with the sow than when weaned. When the pigs

are four or five weeks old, or probably less, I have a small trough for them, where they are fed separate from the sow. If any milk is to be had, I give them a little milk (preferably warm), with shorts and meal mixed with it.

Do not have milk standing in trough all the



Something New for the Island Province

Prince Edward Island is often mentioned as the one province in Canada where ensilage corn can not be grown successfully. Mr. Geo. Annear, of Kings county, is one of the Island farmers who are disproving this old theory and growing good ensilage. Mr. Annear's silo may be seen herewith.

—Photo courtesy Mr. Annear.

time or it will become sour, and pigs are apt to scour, which means a set-back. When they get used to feeding give them only what they will clean up in a short time. If a sow has a large litter, and they are rather thin, it will vary the time of starting to feed them.

I always keep the pigs well bedded and dry, but not necessarily in a warm pen, but one free from draughts. The young pigs will not do well in a dirty, damp pen.

The youngsters are the better of a run in a pasture lot; if that is not convenient, let them have a run in a barnyard, and if there is a straw stack, they will enjoy a sun bath until the weather is quite cold.

FEEDING AFTER GRASS

When the pigs are weaned and there is no grass, a few pulped mangels or sugar beets make a good substitute, and will be relished by the pigs. If they should be getting over fat, it is sometimes advisable to feed only roots at noon,

with a sprinkling of meal over them, instead of slop.

My experience with fall pigs is if you get them along to four months old and they are lengthy looking and thrifty, with reasonable care there is very little danger of crippling.

Fall pigs require more attention than spring pigs, and usually do not do quite so well on account of not getting the exercise. In preference to having a late fall litter, I find it more profitable to have an early spring litter and then breed for an early fall litter the coming fall.

Good Calves Comfortably Housed

Well lighted, sanitary, convenient. These are a few of the good points noted by one of the editors of Farm and Dairy in the calf barn of L. H. Lipsit of Elgin Co., Ont. Mr. Lipsit believes that the calves should be provided with a building apart from the rest of the herd, where they can be given better attention and be housed in a more comfortable manner than they would be if crowded in a few box stalls around the sides of the stable as they so often are on the average farm.

Mr. Lipsit's calf barn is 70 x 20 feet with room overhead for storage of hay and straw. The stalls are 6 x 7 feet with a feeding alley down the centre, with stalls on either side. An elevated litter carrier simplifies the cleaning of the calf barn. Large windows open to the south contributing to the cheerfulness as well as the cleanliness of the building.

The floors are of cement and, the most unique feature of all, the partitions between the stalls and along the feed alley are made of steel gates attached to steel posts that in their turn are sunk into the cement floor. This steel construction is strong, obstructs little light and enables prospective buyers to see the calves to the very best advantage. The gates are also most convenient in that they can be swung back or moved completely with a minute's work, thus allowing the larger calves to have two stalls instead of one.

In building a special calf barn, Mr. Lipsit was following in the footsteps of many other breeders of dairy cattle who realized years ago that a special calf barn is a good investment for the dairy calf breeder.

We are feeding, ensilage, 40 lbs., clover hay once a day, and one part corn meal, two parts gluten meal, and two parts bran, one pound to three and one-half pounds milk, to our dairy cows. Results good.—Jos. Smith, Prince Edward Co.



Nature in One of Her Wild Moods. A Storm Passing Over an Ontario Farm