

FARM.

Fattening Hogs in the Winter.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE, OXFORD CO., ONT.

The genus swine may be truly said to be omnivorous animals, for when hungry enough they will eat almost anything that is not too hard for their teeth to break. We are not to consider what they will eat or what they will not eat, but what sort of food we can feed to them so that we can produce a pound of good pork at the least possible outlay. I do not think it is profitable to keep pigs in winter and feed nothing but shorts or grain, whole, ground or cooked. I think that pigs, to be healthy and kept at a profit, should be fed a considerable quantity of roots, either pulped or cooked. A great deal has been written both for and against the cooking of food for pigs. We cook roots in a large vat, described in the ADVOCATE of 16th March, 1896. The vat will hold nearly twenty bushels, and can be cooked with a small quantity of dry wood; and the food will keep warm for two days, and can be kept warm longer by putting in any rotten stick to simply keep a few coals under the vat. We like carrots as well as any roots, and we take cooked roots and juice to feed one pen in one large pail or keg, and mix chop in it when hot, mashing and mixing it well together. This is prepared at least six hours ahead, or the morning feed is prepared in the evening, and when fed it is mixed and thinned out with a little separated milk, whey or swill, and makes a very inviting dish for piggy. When we run out of cooked food we pulp mangolds, and mix with chop or shorts. We generally give a little dessert of a few ears of corn for each pig, which they relish very much. I think the pork produced from a mixed diet is much more healthy for human food than if the pigs were fed an all-grain ration. I believe sugar beets are even better than mangolds, and I intend to try some; but mangolds and carrots are good, and turnips do very well. Of course, to the old sows we feed the mangolds whole, but for the young pigs they are pulped. I think the best chop is made from oats, barley and peas—say two parts of peas, three of barley, and four of oats, ground by these composite emery-cement stones. I feed three times a day, and keep seven pigs in one pen. Oh, yes! about the amount of exercise required. I sold a pig to a man who kept a cow. He put the pig in a very small pen, for when the pig was full-grown it did not have much more than room enough to turn round. The balance of the litter I kept in a nice roomy pen and allowed them to run out a little. They did pretty well, but the one pig that was kept in the little pen did far better. At the end of seven months it was far heavier than mine. Was it the small pen? No. It was, I think, the quantity of milk and swill and mixed foods that it got that made it thrive so well when growing. This man had a handsome profit from the feeding of his pig after paying for all the grain he bought for it. I think that there is a good deal in keeping pigs clean and comfortable. Some parties were advertising a condiment they were putting on the market for farm stock, and after enumerating what it would do for horses, cattle and sheep, brought the ad. to a climax by saying that it "made pigs happy." Now, I believe that there is a great deal in that. We all know that a man would not be happy or healthy if fed nothing but beef, neither a horse if fed nothing but oats, and piggy is no exception to the rule. Our pens are about 10x12 for seven pigs, and when they feel like it they take a nice run round the pen, chasing and playing with one another; but it would be a very easy matter to give them enough grain to cripple and founder them and put them off their feet. A man to feed pigs successfully must make a study of their tastes and requirements, and give them what they require in suitable quantities. As we finish off we give a decreasing quantity of pulped or cooked roots and an increasing quantity of corn or peas. I think it a good plan to give a half-shovelful of ashes to each pen about once a week, or, better still, take a stick of wood when it is more than half burnt up and put it in water and then give to the pigs, and they will soon eat all the charcoal off it, and I think it does them good. About the quantity of food? Well, I think piggy ought to have enough to fill his stomach comfortably, as then the process of digestion goes on better.

To summarize, I think it does not pay to keep pigs in winter unless you have a warm, comfortable pen (at least above freezing), and have cooked or pulped roots to feed. It does not pay to cook food in the old way in a cauldron kettle. It does not pay to keep mongrel-bred pigs. One cross is not right enough, but more than that is not good. Berkshire and Tamworth or Berkshire and Yorkshire make very good crosses for pigs for the pork factory.

I am sorry that the packing establishments do not give the farmers a little share of the large profits they are deriving from the business, as they might easily afford to give us a cent or two

more per pound. The late Prof. Drummond, in his wonderful book, "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," has a chapter on environment, in which he shows clearly how we are imperceptibly influenced by our environment and surroundings, so I suppose that the pork-packers, spending all their time amongst hogs, cannot help getting a little hoggish.

An Experienced Feeder's Methods of Feeding.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Assuming that I have just the right quantities of clover hay, well-saved straw, oats, peas, corn ensilage and roots, I would first cut my fodder, as I think that you save enough in cutting to pay for the extra labor, then I would pulp my roots, and mix fodder, roots and ensilage all together, and if I were feeding only one kind of stock I would mix my grain at the same time (grain to be ground or crushed); but in feeding cattle that require different quantities of grain, would add it in the manger after they had been fed their mixed feed, and give all a stir with the hand to mix it together.

For cows or grown cattle I would not care to feed more than about 30 or 35 pounds of ensilage, and about the same of roots, with what hay or straw they will eat up clean. By watching their feeding you will soon know about what quantity to use. If cattle have good clean oat straw or chaff they will do nicely without hay until within two months of grass time, when a little hay will be an improvement. To dry cows and two-year-olds I would give no grain, and by substituting clover hay for the straw yearlings will winter all right.

After the feeding cattle have been stabled about a month I would commence giving them some grain, say two pounds a day at first, equal parts peas and oats at first, and two parts peas and one of oats at finish; and would gradually increase the feed up to about six pounds per day, with a little more to any that are behind. In increasing the



SITTITON HERO = 23313 = AND 54TH DUCHESS OF GLOSTER; A PAIR OF SHORTHORNS, SIRE AND DAUGHTER; FIRST PRIZE TWO YEAR-OLD BULL, AND FIRST PRIZE HEIFER CALF UNDER SIX MONTHS, AT TORONTO EXHIBITION, 1898; THE PROPERTY OF JAS. I. DAVIDSON & SON, BALSAM, ONT.

feed I would be governed by the condition that my cattle were in, and the time that I wanted to market them.

We feed our nursing cows about the same as fattening cattle, only not too much grain and more rough feed. We feed mostly turnips, but cows kept in the dairy should have mangolds. I like them to have access at all times to salt and water.

We have had very little experience feeding ensilage to horses. Last winter we fed a few brood mares with about half the quantity of ensilage and turnips that we fed the cattle, and rough hay and chaff, with a little bran. The mares came out in good shape and our foals never were so little trouble. We will give them the same treatment again this winter.

RUSSELL CO., ONT.

J. W. BARNETT.

Plowing Match at O. A. C., Guelph.

The annual competition in plowing sod by the first and second year students of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, was held on Nov. 19 h. There were forty entered in the competition. The following are the names of the successful competitors:

- 1st—W. G. Cowle, Ontario County.
- 2nd—A. Stewart, Middlesex.
- 3rd—R. Wilson, Huron.
- 4th—M. Switzer, Wentworth.
- 5th—G. Humphrey, Wentworth.
- 6th—J. R. Hutchison, Leeds.
- 7th—S. W. Ling, Wellington.
- 8th—H. Williams, Dufferin.
- 9th—J. A. Sangster, Glengarry.
- 10th—C. Kidd, Simcoe.

The above received badges. The following six were highly recommended, in the following order: W. J. Black, Dufferin; J. A. Hall, Parry Sound; J. Hilborn, Wellington; J. R. Shields, Lanark; T. L. King, Oxford; and G. A. McIntyre, Renfrew.

Read our important Christmas Number and Premium Announcement in another column.

Experience with Ensilage Feeding.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I may say my experience with ensilage has extended over a number of years, and I have had opportunities of judging of its value as a cattle food. I have never fed it to either horses or sheep to any extent, so I shall leave that for someone else to answer.

From the analysis of ensilage, we know that it is not a perfect food for cattle, containing as it does too large a proportion of carbohydrates. This is borne out by practical experience in feeding it. Although, no doubt, cattle would live on it anything like as well as when some food such as clover hay, bran, oats, peas or oil-cake meal is added to balance the ration. I believe a good deal of the prejudice against ensilage has arisen from the fact that some farmers thought when they had provided ensilage for their stock that they did not require anything else until they began to run down. So to get the best results from ensilage it must be fed in conjunction with other foods, preferably those of a flesh-forming nature, known as protein foods. In my own experience I have found that pea meal is an excellent food to balance ensilage. We on an average feed from six to ten pounds of pea meal to mature animals per day. Oats are also very suitable, so are bran and oil cake. I never liked barley as a cattle food, although I believe some farmers claim to have had good results from feeding it. A mixture of two or three kinds of grain, I think, is better than any single grain for feeding. When feeding ensilage we have always found that the addition of some dry fodder, such as clover hay, oat straw, corn fodder, etc., was greatly relished by the cattle. As we generally have a considerable quantity of dry cornstalks from which the corn has been husked, we have found by running them through the straw cutter and mixing them with the ensilage, in the proportion of one bushel of dry stalks to two of ensilage, that they were eaten up very clean. The two should be mixed about twenty-four hours before being fed.

Wheat straw or inferior hay may be used in the same way. One of my neighbors followed this plan last winter, and he told me recently that he had never had as good results from his cattle before. As to the feeding of roots when you have ensilage, we find that the ensilage largely takes their place, although we still grow some roots, more for the sake of giving the cattle a variety of foods, as every feeder knows how cattle relish a change. For the feeding of dry cows and young cattle: If I had plenty of ensilage from well-cared corn I would not feed anything in addition except clover hay, uncut, say once a day. I might add that we feed mature animals about forty pounds a day of ensilage, besides what dry fodder and grain they may get. Of course, some cattle will not eat that amount, so we must be governed by the individual animal. I have not found ensilage a good food for calves getting milk; I thought it gave them indigestion; probably the acidity of the ensilage was the cause. Brant Co., Ont.

R. S. STEVENSON.

Good Book Premiums.

We have made special arrangements with the publishers for a supply of the following valuable works, which we offer on very favorable terms: "Feeds and Feeding, by Prof. W. A. Henry, for 3 new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE at \$1.00 each; "The Domestic Sheep," Hy. Stewart, 3 new subscribers; "Horses, Breeds and Management" (heavy and light breeds) 3 new subscribers each; "Cattle, Breeds and Management," by Wm. Houseman, 3 new subscribers; "Pigs, Breeds and Management," 3 new subscribers; "Sheep, Breeds and Management," by John Wrightson, 3 new subscribers; "The Fertility of the Land," by Prof. Roberts, 2 new subscribers; "The Soil, its Nature and Management," by Prof. King, 2 new subscribers; "Milk and Its Products," by Prof. Wing, 2 new subscribers; "Testing Milk and Its Products," by Farrington & King, 2 new subscribers; "The Silo and Ensilage" (paper cover), 1 new subscriber, or in cloth, 2 new subscribers.

The Canadian Bacon Trade.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In your issue of October 1st, I read that one large dealer in the British metropolis expressed himself as having fought out the battle between Canadian and Danish bacon, and having downed the Danes in that which they most excelled. I would ask what does this salesman mean? He must either be trying to be funny or to mislead Canadians and thus check them in their most laudable endeavors to continue to improve their bacon pigs. I have to-day a letter from an eminent London salesman, in which he writes: "Danish bacon is now actually being quoted on the London market above Irish bacon." This does not look as though the Danes were downed.

SANDERS SPENCER, England.