

or soiling crop feeding be commenced early in the season so that the cattle will not be quite so hard on the pasture, which, in some cases, has had a poor chance on account of lack of moisture. It is too late to wait for the corn crop to come on, because the grass will be pretty well gone before the corn is ready to cut. Alfalfa fills a big gap right now. It may be cut and fed from the field at any time. Red clover may also be utilized for this purpose, but those who have sown some grain mixture for this purpose will have it coming on just at the season when it will be most needed. All these things aid in convincing the stockman that he can profitably use some of his land for the raising of soiling crops or for corn for the summer silo.

### Feeding Young Pigs.

Large shipments of Western hogs are being made weekly to Toronto and other leading Eastern markets. They are said to be good hogs too. Evidently the West is becoming faster than we may think a live-stock country or a mixed-farming country. And perhaps Eastern feeders may learn a little from Western methods. A writer in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, Man., describes his methods of feeding young pigs thus:

Of course, feeding young pigs is really begun in the feeding of the sow while she is carrying them. If she has been properly fed the rest is an easy matter. If she has been wintered on wheat or barley or corn or any heating and fattening feed there is likely to be trouble. If she has had vegetables, clover or alfalfa and oats there will be no difficulty in starting the pigs properly. The sow should be fed nothing the first day unless it is a handful or two of bran or shorts in her drinking water, which should be warmed enough to take the chill off. She should have water, but it should not be cold. Granted that her feed has been right during the winter, she should be fed sparingly at first for two or three days. A few whole oats thrown out on the ground so that she cannot bolt them, and a few vegetables are about as good as can be given her. Of course, judgment and experience are what tell in feeding, and there is nowhere that they are more needed than in starting a sow off with her pigs. The pigs need enough milk but too much is as bad or worse than not enough, for it will scour them, and if their digestive system goes wrong at the start it is difficult to get them into condition again, and a stunted pig is the most hopeless of all farm animals.

It is the first few days that count most, once they are a week old and in good condition, they are as good as raised if their owner knows his business. Skimmed milk, ground oats, vegetables and green feed are the things to give a strong flow of milk when the pigs are old enough to take care of it. Until the pigs are several weeks old one should give his attention to the sow's feed entirely if he wishes to push the pigs along. Encouraging them to eat grain and other food while very young retards rather than helps them. The practice of putting a small trough where the pigs can get at it while the sow cannot is a detriment to the pigs. Though "piggie" is a small model he is nevertheless a hog, and will gormandize if he has a chance. Given a chance to gorge himself he will proceed to make himself pot-bellied and ill shaped, in which condition he will not grow as fast as a pig which has depended on his mother's milk and what feed he can get out of her trough while she eats. What he can eat with the sow is enough feed in addition to the milk till he is weaned or, at least, till he is very nearly ready to wean.

After he is weaned he can easily be over-fed. All the skimmed milk he will drink is not good for him; when he first leaves the sow, he will drink too much. He must be a good-sized shoat before he is trusted to eat all he wants of appetizing grain or strong feed of any kind. This is where the pasture should come in. If he is used to it from the start, he may eat all the green growing stuff he wants and enough grain to keep his ration balanced. Here as everywhere else in stock raising extremes are to be avoided. Those who let their pigs shift for themselves have them weighing from 100 to 150 pounds at marketing time when they should weigh 250. They must sell them under weight or take a good deal of unnecessary time and go to expense that might just as well have been avoided in fitting them for market; while the man who is too anxious to make them grow fast on the start may retard their growth by overfeeding before the digestive organs are sufficiently developed to stand heavy feeding. This can more easily happen with pigs than with any other farm animals.

This is the best feeding rule: Watch the pigs till you know by their actions and appearance what they need.

### Calves Sucking.

We recently have received several enquiries asking how to prevent calves from sucking one another, or in some cases, yearlings from sucking the cows at pastures when they are running together. This is quite a common trouble during the summer months, and mechanical devices, such as halters having a nose-piece filled with tacks or nails have often been recommended. Some time ago a correspondent of "The Farmer's Advocate" advised us that he had very good

luxuriant growth of clover there is some danger of digestive troubles, especially if this clover be wet from dew or rain. All pigs being allowed the run of a paddock or clover pasture should have shelter provided in the corner of the field or should have access to their pens. In this shelter a comfortable, bedded sleeping place should be provided. Pigs are often noticed very badly sun-burned when first turned out, and this condition is aggravated when they have no covered sleeping quarters. It is well to have the sides of these sleeping

pens fairly open to allow free circulation of air, as a pig if he has no wallow in which to cool himself suffers greatly from the heat. The cover shades him from the sun and leaves him open to the breeze. If possible in commencing the pigs on the clover pasture start them on cloudy days, or as previously suggested, just before evening when the sun is not so strong. After their digestive systems have become accustomed to the clover they might be left out evenings and nights for a time. This will prevent to a considerable extent sun-burning, which very often causes a cracking of skin and scurf on the pigs. Clover or other pasture should

always be provided, as it affords a means of getting exercise besides forming one of the cheapest possible rations for summering hogs.



Mischief.

Champion Shorthorn bull at the Bath and West Show.

success by rubbing the teats with aloes. As is well known aloes are very bitter and pungent, and the calves or young cattle do not care for the taste of them. According to our correspondent he succeeded in breaking the habit. Where a milk cow is being sucked by a yearling or perhaps a calf which happens to be running with the cows, it is necessary to apply the aloes after milking, and thoroughly wash them off again before the next milking. Three or four days should be sufficient to convince the young animal that the dish prepared for him is not very tasty. With calves that are being pail-fed this sucking after feeding sometimes becomes a nuisance, as the habit once formed seems to grow on the youngsters, and they do not forget it until separated and tied up the following winter or until they have been weaned and sometimes not then. The aloes might be tried on these as well, as they can do no harm if they do no good.

## THE FARM.

### Value of a Farmer's Club.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

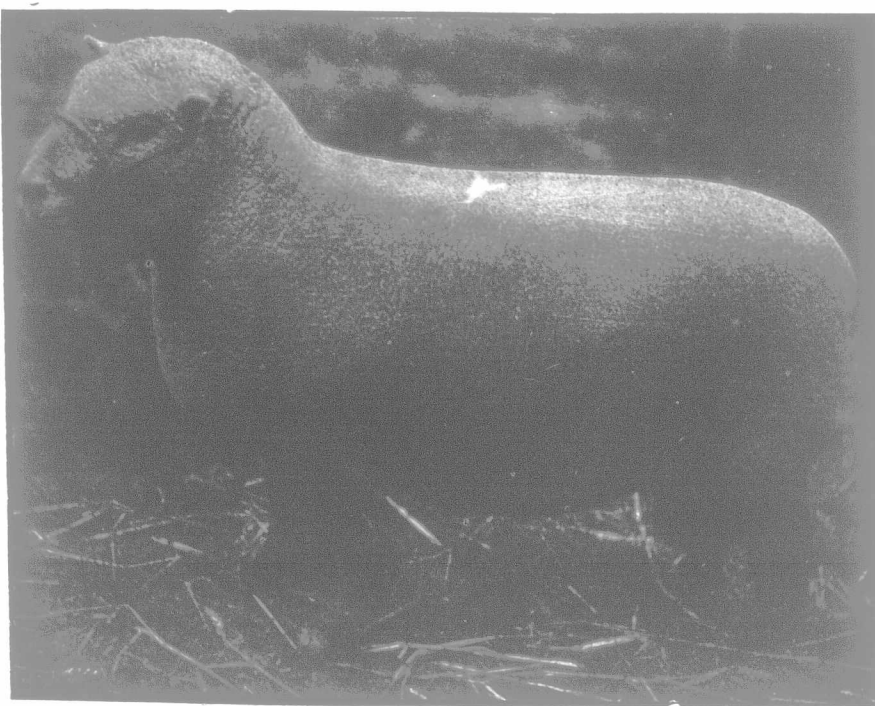
One of the best societies that have been organized to benefit the farmers of Ontario is the Farmers' Club. It is to be regretted that one does not exist in every rural community. One great aim of the present day is to place farming on a more scientific basis, and to arouse an interest in its various branches among the young men and women of our province, and hence encourage them to remain on the farm. Newspapers, magazines, etc., are devoting much more time and space to farm subjects, and are encouraging farmers to give their ideas and experience to the public.

The government is also aiding in placing farming on a much better basis by offering liberal grants for the production of high-standard crops, for improving the live stock, and for teaching of agriculture in our rural schools. Hence a much broader knowledge of the subject is being gained.

Now why should farmers themselves not meet at least once a month to discuss agricultural problems and difficulties, and also profit by the experience of one another? These meetings enable farmers to discuss and make arrangements for specializing in some kind of grain or stock. When these experiments have been carried out a much better standard has been reached. This tends

to command higher prices, as it brings in buyers who are prepared to pay a good price to obtain a sufficient supply of this grade of the product. It saves the purchaser both time and money to be able to secure it in one district.

In some rural communities farmers apparently work against one another's interests. The Farmers' Club aids greatly in improving this condition, as a better friendship exists, and the tillers of the soil feel that they are brothers in this great industry of agriculture, and their interests are common. Frequently farmers who have had



Two-shear Southdown Ram.

Champion at the Bath and West Show, 1914.

### Pigs in Clover.

Just at this season many pig raisers are turning their young and older pigs out on clover pasture. A little care should be exercised in this practice. It is better under all conditions to turn the pigs on the clover gradually. Let them out for an hour or two toward evening when the clover is dry, so as to get them accustomed to the green feed. If they are turned out in the morning and left and there is a