

## The Swineherd.

### FEEDING THE PIGS.

Young pigs should be given a good start. Their first meals are taken through the sow, so she should be given nourishing and succulent food in liberal quantities as soon as all danger of milk fever is past. Skim milk, bran, shorts, ground oats, barley and pens form an ideal ration, but pens should not be fed too heavily at first. Each sucking pig at two weeks old is said to take 3 lbs milk per day from its mother. This shows the necessity of feeding her well if she and the youngsters are to do their best.

As soon as the little ones show an inclination to drink, some milk and shorts should be put in a place where the sow cannot get at it. Later on chopped oats can be added. After weaning the pigs, which is best done when they are about eight weeks old, they should be given skim milk or buttermilk with shorts, or a mixture of ground grains, and be allowed plenty of exercise. At this age, green clover is valuable for promoting the growth of lean flesh. They should never be fed more than they can eat clean, and their feed must not be allowed to get offensive before it is given them. In winter, cut clover hay, steamed or soaked for three hours or more, goes a good way toward taking the place of green clover. [F. W. Hudson, Ont.]

### MAKING THE HOG GROW.

From 4 to 4½ lbs potatoes are equal to 1 lb grain in pig feeding.

The pig requires a warm and dry sleeping place. He will stand as intense cold as any domestic animal if the air be still, but if there is a draft across him good-by to all profit.

The floor of the pig house should be made of wood or of cement covered with earth. Pigs should never lie in cold weather on cement, bricks or stone. Cement covered with 6 in of earth makes a capital floor.

Wooden walls for the piggery, with two thicknesses of paper between, will often be found cheapest and best.

Where hogs are confined they should have an allowance of sods where they can readily get at them. A mixture of wood ashes and salt, at the rate of 1 bu ashes to 6 lbs salt, is another good condiment.

Fat hogs are not desired by packers, and all that exceed 1½ inches in thickness of fat on the back will net a lower price than such as are within that standard. The most desirable weights are 160 to 180 lbs.

The big, fat, thick hog, which it was once the aim of every breeder to produce had to give way to a pig of quite a different build, one possessing plenty of length, greater depth than formerly, with a corresponding decrease of width of back, lighter in shoulders and with less weight of jaw. There must be a less amount of fat and it must be interspersed with lean to bring top prices.

**The Pig's Quarters**—The cow, horse and dog have hair; the sheep wool. They require far less shelter than a pig. The pig grows in a bare skin from babyhood. Never an animal lives with a bare skin that does not need clothing or shelter. The pig left shelterless will go back as quickly as possible to the wild hog condition. Even in a mild climate where pigs go wild they run in the sheltered forests and are not exposed to the wind. How much less should a bred-up pig, that has lost its bristles and had its skin made thin, be exposed to winds. The greatest drawback to profit making is leaving pigs exposed to cold winds, want of sufficient shelter in cold weather. Cold weather across a pig's back will give him constipation in a very short time even with laxative food. Shelter costs but little and in warm quarters pigs will thrive.—[Prof J. W. Robertson.]

I consider F & H is well worth its price and I believe if every farmer would take it and read it, that it would be the best investment they ever made, because the paper is full of useful information, which is invaluable to the farmer. I never hesitate to recommend it, but farmers as a rule are very indifferent to such matters.—[A. D. McCormack, Marshall Co. Ia.]

## Dairy and Creamery.

### PAYING BY THE BABCOCK TEST.

All creamery employees should receive a thorough training in the making of the Babcock test, and especially is this true of cream gatherers. Each error in sampling is multiplied and made more glaring by each successive operation, and has an important effect on results. Wherever possible, it is well to have tests made by a disinterested person. The old space system of buying cream should be discarded for the following reasons.

It is based on a wrong principle—quantity regardless of quality; whereas cream is valuable solely for its butter making content, which is obviously the fact.

It makes unjust discrimination between patrons. It discriminates in favor of a poor cream over a rich cream, and the producer of cream with smaller fat content is better paid, thus placing low-grade cream at a premium.

It is not uniform in operation. According to temperature of water, breed of cows, period of lactation, season of year and length of time the milk stands, the cream is thicker or thinner but always variable.

It invites dishonesty. It affords no protection against dishonest manipulation of the cream on the part of the patron to increase its bulk for a given amount of fat.

It is not progressive. While good at the time of its introduction, and the best method known at that time, it is now as far behind the Babcock system as separators are ahead of shallow pans.

It is clumsy, takes cream gatherer's time, increases his load, etc.

It does not encourage improved methods of breeding, feeding and management as the Babcock system does.

The Babcock system is preferable because.

It is based on the correct principle—the fat or butter content of the cream.

It is certain and unvarying in its operation.

It prevents dishonesty on the part of creamery patrons and cream gatherers. By duplicate tests all have a fair show.

It encourages a better quality and larger amount of cream, better cows, more careful feeding, a heavier cream and a more skim milk on the farm.

It gains patrons to creameries where it is in use.

Is permanent wherever tried. No instance is known of a creamery having tried both systems going back to the space as a basis of payment.—[Prof F. S. Cooley, to Mass Creameries Ass'n.]

### FEEDING AND BREEDING.

With the scales and the Babcock tester as a guide, it is quite as possible to have a herd of cows average 250 lbs butter or 600 lbs cheese, as to have one that will average much less.

Many a good cow has gone from her calfhood to bologna whose praises were unheralded and unsung, because her owner did not know of the capabilities of the animal; she was not tested because it took time and trouble.

The separator is a great labor-saving invention for the women, doing away with the drudgery which accompanies the old way of butter making. In a few minutes after milking, the cream is separated and is easily cared for until ripe for churning. Separator cream also churns much quicker than gravity cream. Separated milk can be fed warm to the calves, saving the skimming of milk and its warming.

The cow that does not produce 4000 lbs of milk in a year is no profit maker unless that milk analyzes 4 per cent butter fat and then only in case of receiving an average price of 20c p lb for the butter made.—[President J. F. Hickman, to O Dairy Ass'n.]

**Care of the Heifer**—Perhaps the best age to breed is to have her freshen at 24 to 30 mos; would prefer to have her freshen at 30 mos rather than in the winter, unless she can have good, comfortable quarters and an abundance of succulent food, either roots or silage. As a heifer, she should be handled, petted, if you please, and accustomed to being with the cows and taught to know that you are her best friend. She should

be fed so as to keep a continuous growth, not fattened or stunted, but kept in a vigorous condition, and if pasture is not sufficient for this, would supplement it with wheat bran, ground oats or barley. The wants of each individual is the only guide as to how much to feed.—[A. M. Stevens, to Wash Dairyman's Ass'n.]

**Hard Churning Cream**—When cream which has been properly ripened and warmed refuses to churn into butter in a reasonable time, try scalding. If the milk is set in pans, place the pans on the stove as soon as filled, and heat till the top wrinkles, when remove and proceed as usual. If deep setting is practiced, draw the cream off into pans and scald in the same way. The butter will then come readily and be sweet and firm. If unscalded cream refuses to come at all, stir in a cup of salt and set away, over night, if possible, when it will probably come without difficulty, especially if the buttermilk can be drawn off at the bottom first.—[Me Subscriber.]

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