

EXPERIMENTS IN PORK PRODUCTION.

BY J. H. GRISDALE, B. AGR.,

AGRICULTURIST, CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Pigs were introduced upon the Central Experimental Farm in 1890. The breeds invested in were Berkshires, Improved Large Yorkshires and Essex. Since that time, Chester Whites, Poland-Chinas and Tamworths have been secured, while the Essex is no longer bred here. Owing to limited accommodation not many animals of each breed are kept, usually two sows and a boar.

Experimental work in breeding for hogs of a certain type has been carried on. As no other part of this bulletin will deal with the characteristics of the breeds and their crosses, it might be well here to say a few words upon this work.

The Yorkshire-Tamworth cross has proven to be a most excellent one. It is eminently fitted to suit the market of the present day.

The Yorkshire-Berkshire cross has also proven to be a growthy pig and well fitted for general use.

The Berkshire-Tamworth cross seems to be an excellent pig where quick growth and early maturity are especially desired.

Where these breeds have been crossed with the Chester White, the Poland-China or the Essex, the get, in most cases, has proven to be of a rather short, blocky type. They have, as a rule, exhibited a strong tendency to lay on fat rather than develop muscular tissue.

CARE OF BREEDING STOCK.

A few general statements might be made in this connection which would prove of some use. To begin with, the boar should be kept in fairly good flesh, care being taken to avoid fatness and some plan adopted to insure considerable exercise.

Brood sows likewise should be kept in fairly good flesh. The best method of keeping these animals is upon pasture in summer and in a large pen in winter feeding them upon roots very largely, with bran, shorts or oats added. As farrowing time approaches, care should be taken by the attendant to get on friendly terms with them, so that there may be no undue excitement at that critical juncture, should any assistance be necessary.

To prevent the sow crushing her young, a board, about eight inches wide placed flat horizontally about eight inches from the floor will prove of great value. A small enclosure in one corner of the pen, kept dry and well littered will also prove of great service in protecting the little ones as they will naturally go there to sleep.

The sow should be fed a plentiful ration of bran, shorts or oats, and milk while suckling her young.