

### Selecting a Brood Sow\*

J. H. Grisdale, *Agriculturist*, C. E. F., Ottawa.

In a general way, a man who wants to produce bacon economically must start at the very beginning. He must start right from the moment he buys or breeds his brood sow, because everything you do in pig breeding makes for profit or loss on your finished product. If you buy a sow, keep her a year, and she then gives you five pigs and has cost you \$20 for that year, your little pigs have cost you \$4 a piece, but if at the end of the year she has cost \$200 keep, and has given you 10 pigs, there is a reduction of \$2 a pig right straight. Thus you see you cannot be too careful in starting if you are going to go into the bacon industry.

Start with the right kind of sow. One of the principal considerations in selecting a sow is her prolificacy; see that she comes from a strain that gives large litters. Then again get easy feeding pigs; pigs that are unthrifty are almost impossible as a means by which to make money. We must have good thrifty pigs, and this again is often a matter of strain. Next we want pigs of the right type. Getting unthrifty pigs means two or three per cent. difference in the profit or loss; getting pigs of the right type means a gain of two or three per cent.; getting pigs of the right strain for prolificacy means a gain of 10 or 15 per cent. or in all 20 per cent. on your profit or loss. The importance of starting right seems, therefore, to mean about one-fifth of the whole thing.

In selecting a sow from among your own herd or elsewhere, care must be taken to see that she is likely to be prolific. She should come from a large family, and she should be marked in such a way as to indicate that she will give large litters and she should be from a healthy, vigorous strain since these points decide ultimately whether you are going to make a profit or loss. If you have one that will cost you \$15 to feed for the year, she will likely make more profit for you than one that costs \$20.

Then brood sows must be fed cheaply. You do not want your sow to be kept ready for the block right through the breeding season. She

\*Extract from an address on the Economical Feeding of Swine, delivered at Ottawa last winter.

should be kept in a good, vigorous, healthy condition, with just enough flesh to make her feel comfortable.

### Buckwheat as a Weed Exterminator

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The remarkable lateness of the season in most localities will lay special emphasis on late crops again this year. Buckwheat is worthy of consideration not only from its value for feeding purposes, but also from its utility as a weed destroyer. While last year was an exceptional year for fighting couch grass, yet judging from the large amount of land showing more or less of its growth this spring, it is plain that it wasn't all dealt with, or that it has not been effectually dealt with. On clay soils especially, this spring it has been so wet most of the time that no check could be given the couch grass. In fact working at it would only help to transplant it.

In Eastern Ontario, where there is much land to seed yet, it would be folly to sow oats or barley on such quack infected land. The grain would be almost sure to be choked out, seeing that the quack roots have already got such a start. The perennial sow thistle, too, while later than the quack or couch grass in starting, is making headway now, and unless the soil could be well worked up it would get too much of a start for ordinary grain crops.

#### LATE CROPS NECESSARY

In view of these conditions there must necessarily be a large amount of land devoted to late crops. The very low lying lands will be too late to sow with the early crops. If from now until July 1st, Couch and Perennial Sow Thistle ground, can be kept thoroughly disced, or otherwise worked, so that no growth appears above the ground, it will greatly weaken the underground rootstalks of these two pernicious weeds. Then on this well-worked soil if buckwheat be sown at the rate of three pecks or one bushel an acre, it will go a long way in holding back the spread of these weeds. In many cases buckwheat will smother out most of them. The smothering would be the more effectual if when the buckwheat is ten or twelve inches high, it were turned down and the land bare fallowed from that on or until sown with fall grain.

Buckwheat may be used in another way quite effectually. If the land were worked up now and three pecks of buckwheat were sown to the acre, it would be ready to plow under at the end of the first week in July, which would give time to sow with buckwheat again as a crop, for harvesting. While it is true that buckwheat is a very uncertain crop as far as grain is concerned, yet on weedy soil such as I have described, it acts as a first-class smothering crop to most weeds. It also improves the soil mechanically, especially the heavier soils.

The buckwheat farmer has been held up more or less to ridicule in the past, as the crop is associated with the poorest classes of soils. The farmer on the good heavy soils, however, has a useful friend in the buckwheat plant if he will but try it in the way suggested. If, too, he will mix the grain with other grains, and chop it for feed, he will find that buckwheat has a value other than for buckwheat cakes.

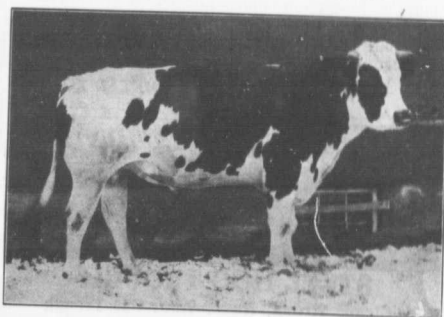
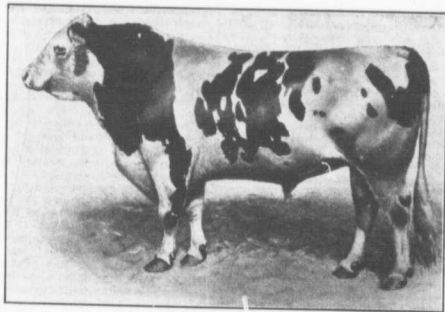
### How to Sow Buckwheat

H. J. Glendinning, *Ontario Co.*, Ont.

Many of us have been disappointed at times after sowing a crop of buckwheat, to find that it came up uneven, being thick in some places and thin in others. This is frequently the case where the land has been worked to a very fine tilth in the effort to destroy the roots of quack grass. As buckwheat is usually put in with the broadcast seeder, the teeth of the seeder go so far into the mellow ground that the seed is covered too deeply, which accounts for it not coming up.

If a field has been worked to a very fine and deep seed bed, it will be found to be a good plan to roll the land before sowing. When sowing, fasten up all the teeth of the seeder except the two outside ones that are left for markers, and sow the seed on top of the rolled land. Then give it a single stroke of a light harrow to cover the buckwheat, and roll again, and an even start will be secured.

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A FAMOUS CHAMPION HOLSTEIN BULL AND HIS CANADIAN SON, TYPES OF BULLS THAT ARE MAKING THE BREED FAMOUS

The great efforts that are being made by Canadian breeders of pure bred dairy cattle to secure only the best bulls to head their herds, no matter what they cost, gives promise of a splendid future for our dairy interests. Some of the best bulls on the continent may now be found at the head of Canadian herds. The animal shown on the left is the noted Pieterje Hengerveld's Count De Kol, No. 23,224, H.F.H.B., claimed to be the champion Holstein bull of the world. Over 80 of his daughters have produced enough milk in official tests to qualify them for the Record of Merit. He is the only sire of 2nd, made Canadian seven day records in May, 1908, and who were illustrated in Farm and Dairy at that time. They were later sold by their owners, whose farm was visited recently by an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy, to transmit his good qualities to his progeny. The young with splendid success. He aims to keep nothing but the best bulls and his females include a number of animals bred from noted milk producing strains, securing much of their stock from him. Mr. Foster informed our representative that his advertisement of Holsteins in Farm and Dairy had secured him sales from the Atlantic to the Pacific and had been so successful he found it unnecessary to advertise in any other paper. Further particulars about Mr. Foster's herd are given in the Gossip column.