

a small quantity of oil cake, and no doubt it is beneficial in the mixture. The heavier grains should be fed very sparingly, if at all; and barley should be omitted, as it is not a good milk former.

After the pigs are weaned, the food should be cut down to check the secretion of milk. Dry oats are a safe food for a few days after the pigs are taken away. If the udder gets very full, it is a good plan to turn the sow in with the pigs once a day for a few days.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG PIGS.

When the little pigs are born, the attendant should be on hand and see that they are placed on their mother to suck as soon as possible. Some prefer to put the pigs in a box or basket, for the first day or two, taking them out at short intervals to suck. If the pigs are strong, however, and the sow is a reasonably good mother, it is better to leave them with her.

By the time the pigs are three weeks old, they will have learned to eat. If at all possible, they should be given access to another pen, in which is kept a small trough. Here they can be fed a little skim-milk, with a very little middlings stirred into it. The quantity of middlings can be gradually increased as the pigs grow older. If they can be taught to nibble at roots during this time, all the better. A little whole wheat, or soaked corn, scattered on the floor of the feeding pen, will cause them to take exercise while hunting for it. Exercise is very important for young pigs; and every possible means of securing it, should be adopted. If they are kept in a small pen with the mother, some of the best of them are apt to become too fat, and are likely to sicken and die. Pigs that come in the spring, however, or early fall, are more easily managed than winter litters, as they can be given outdoor exercise. If the sow is turned out with her pigs, it is not well to give her a large range, as she is likely to travel too far and tire the pigs too much.

The pigs may be weaned at six weeks old. If skim-milk is not available, it is generally better to defer weaning until eight weeks old. If they have been taught to eat as described, they will go right on eating and suffer but little from weaning. Skim-milk and middlings make about the best food for young pigs at this time. The middlings should be soaked a few hours before feeding, or, better still, scalded. If fed freshly mixed, they are likely to cause indigestion. A few finely ground oats with the hulls sifted out, make a good combination with middlings. When the pigs are first weaned, it is better to feed four times a day, feeding only what they will eat up clean before leaving the trough. When well started, they may be changed to three feeds a day.

When the pigs are three months old, a little ground barley may be added to the meal mixture. At first, the barley should constitute not more than a fifth of the total ration; and it can be gradually increased as desired, or other foods added as indicated under notes on foodstuffs.

It is important to teach young pigs to eat a few roots as early as possible; or, if it is too late in the spring for roots, some form of green food should be supplied every day.