

Handsome Profits on the Right Stamp of Hogs.

The most suitable age for a sow to farrow should be determined by the condition of development. If she is well grown ten months would not be too young, but, generally speaking, from twelve to fourteen months is preferable, and if the sow be well cared for she should produce two litters per year. Spring litters are much more desirable than fall pigs. I have frequently seen pigs farrowed in March that would be fit for shipment almost as early as pigs that were farrowed in November. If fall pigs are produced it is well that they come early enough to attain a good size before cold weather. During winter I allow my sows as much exercise as they are willing to take, by giving them a good-sized yard to run in, and with warm, dry sleeping quarters. They are fed upon raw turnips, with a small quantity of mixed grain chop. When managed in this way the offspring arrive healthy and vigorous. Breeding sows can be fed during the summer by having access to clover pasture, with the addition of the product from the dairy. Great care should be taken that the young pigs arrive in a warm building; if chilled they seldom recover, and the sow is more liable to destroy her young when she hears them squealing from the effects of cold. The sow should only receive light rations until the pigs are from eight to ten days old. I have known many cases of serious results caused from full rations to the sow immediately after farrowing; rich food at this time has the effect of stimulating the flow of milk to such an extent that the young pigs become too fat. This is more likely to occur when the litter is not numerous, and the young pigs frequently die of apoplexy, or what is commonly known as "thumps." This difficulty may be prevented in two ways: Feed the sow judiciously when the pigs are young, and cause the pigs to take exercise. Allow the young pigs to remain with the sow until seven or eight weeks old, and I think it is economical that the pigs should be kept in the pen—if it is possible to have an outside yard to the pen so much the better—but I fail to see the economy of allowing pigs that are intended for the market to run at large. Put them in a pen, feed liberally, and get them ready for sale in as few months as possible. In the summer time endeavor to have some green food, such as clover, oats or corn, that may be cut and given to them. In winter, ensilage or roots of some kind. This is most important, as the good health of the pig depends upon a variety of feed, and some vegetable food must be given. One often hears the expression that "feeding for pork does not pay." I am fully aware that a large percentage of the hogs are kept at a loss, but this is usually caused from a want of knowledge in feeding and managing. If the right stamp of hog is bred there is no reason why a handsome profit cannot be realized, especially at the present price of coarse grain and mill feed. I do not think that there has ever been a time when the prospects for hog breeding were brighter than at the present, particularly when they are kept in conjunction with the dairy. Hogs are now very scarce and are in great demand, and farmers who are fortunate enough to have a number on hand will realize good paying prices for them. The most profitable age to sell is just as soon as they attain the weight that is most suitable for the export trade, viz., from one hundred and eighty to two hundred pounds (180 to 200 lbs.), and this should be attained at the age of from five to seven months of age, but in order that this may be accomplished no time should be lost, but keep them steadily growing from farrowing time to time of selling.

J. E. BRETHOUR.
Brant Co., Ont.

Hogs in Rape—How to Maintain Good Health.

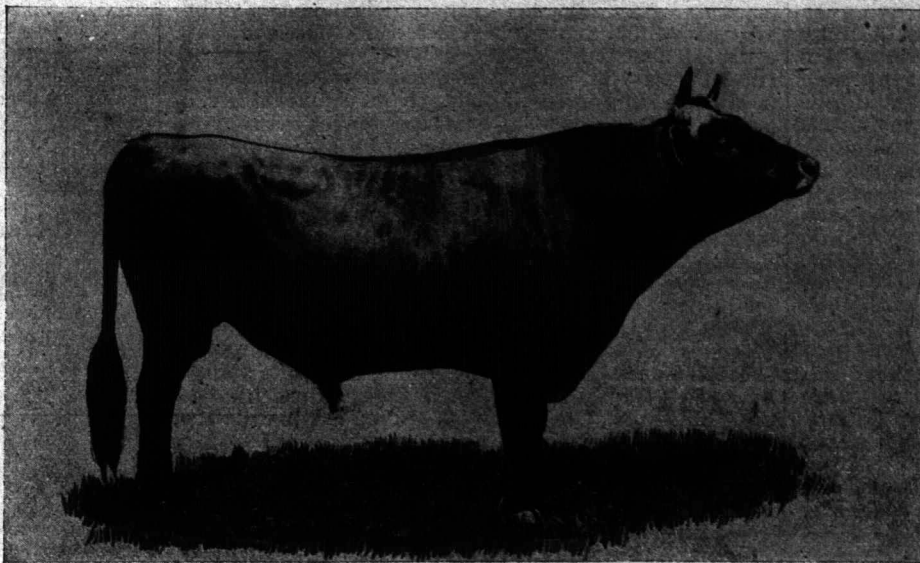
- 1.—I try to have my sows farrow at eleven or twelve months, and want two litters each year.
- 2.—I find most success with spring litters, on account of there being more demand for them as breeders, but for slaughter only I don't find much difference. The fall litters sell for a higher price when fit for market, which pays for the extra labor. I let the sows have their liberty. Feed a few roots, with an occasional feed of grain. By giving them a comfortable place to lie, and access to water, they will take no harm until within two weeks of farrowing; they then require to be put by themselves in a quiet place, and fed liberally on soft, easily digested food.
- 3.—I let the brood sows have the run of the pasture and nothing else (as we have no by-products from dairy) until the pasture fails, then feed any green grain, corn, etc., until the rape comes in, after which they are no more trouble, for I think a hog in rape is far more at home than "in clover."
- 4.—After farrowing, I give the sow little or nothing for two or three days but house swill, then

commence giving a little bran and shorts, with a few boiled potatoes, gradually adding a little boiled peas, which you can keep on increasing until they form the greater part of the feed. At three weeks I castrate the hog pigs. I prefer letting them run with the sow until seven or eight weeks old, but in spring our object is to get them weaned as soon as possible, so as to get the sow bred again. We like the fall litters to arrive as early as possible.

5.—We have our pen convenient to the horse stable so that we can mix the manure of each together, which I think is an improvement to both. I don't think there is anything particular about housing of pigs, only to be sure to have them dry and comfortable, and not crowded. It is a wrong idea to think pigs will thrive in a dirty, crowded pen. When I wean young pigs I feed three or four times a day for the first month on warm milk or house slop, with shorts $\frac{1}{2}$, oat chop $\frac{1}{2}$, pea chop $\frac{1}{2}$ added. I then separate barrows from sows. Spay sows; in a few days they can be allowed to join the barrows again. In winter season I boil roots (pulp) and mix with meal (a mixture of grain), feed twice a day, and mix one meal ahead. In summer season I let them run at twelve weeks old in clover, and throw them a few peas; just let them pick the peas off the ground. Pigs need exercise every day, and if allowed to run each day they will require no medicine; but if severe weather and the ground is covered with snow, they must have salt, ashes, lime, sulphur, charcoal, and earth from the root cellar; mix all together, and let them have their will of it; even then they require exercise to keep them right. Exercise is just as necessary as feed, for they can't be kept growing and healthy without it.

6.—I market them at from 160 pounds to 200 pounds, live weight, and 120 pounds, dressed weight. At those weights we get the best prices.

A Sweepstake Jersey Bull.



(PRINCE FRANK 33972).

Sweepstake Jersey Bull at the Western Fair, 1896. Owned by Messrs. Humpidge & Laidlaw, London, Ont. For particulars see Stock Gossip, page 94.

7.—I think the only way to get profit out of pigs is to keep them constantly gaining. The food is all lost that they consume while not growing, besides the pig gets into a stunted, deranged state which it seldom outgrows. To obtain the best results they should be kept in good condition all the time, and then if the market takes a jump you are sure to have some that will go.

8.—The most profitable ration to feed the last few months is to feed as I have stated above; if fed in that way they want no extra finishing touches; they are ready on call. The demand is not for fat hogs; nowadays they want what they call long, lean fellows.

9.—I have made no accurate calculation of the cost of production, but I think that if a farmer can manage without hiring extra help on account of keeping hogs that pork can be raised at 3c. per pound, live weight, especially now when coarse grains are so cheap. Just now there is nothing a farmer can devote his attention to that will pay like pork, owing to pork selling well at this season of the year and coarse grains exceptionally low.

JOHN BELL.
York Co., Ont.

Roots for Wintering Brood Sows.

1.—I prefer to have young sows ten to twelve months old before farrowing their first litter, so as to give them a chance to mature, but I do not see any reason why she should not suckle two litters each year after, until she ceases to breed good, even litters. Perhaps breeding while young has a tendency to increase the milking qualities.

2.—I find spring litters the most profitable, as there (a) is the greatest demand in the spring for breeding stock, but from the standpoint of producing bacon for the export trade I believe early fall litters the most profitable, if fed plenty of roots, with some corn and the by-products of the dairy. Not only is the price higher, but the manure is made much better use of than is generally done in

summer. (b) I am wintering my sows almost exclusively on turnips and mangels.

3.—My brood sows in summer keep fat enough on pasture, unless I want them for exhibition.

4.—I feed my sows while suckling their young on mangels, shorts, swill, milk, etc. As to weaning the young, it depends largely on how they are thriving. If they begin to show signs of unthriftiness I would wean them, but if they continue to thrive I would let them suck seven or eight weeks and occasionally longer.

5.—I would recommend a comfortable place to lie in out of the sun and storms, but believe in a small range of clover (especially for pigs that are easily kept), along with a limited quantity of grain or meal, with free access to ashes, salt, and water.

6.—At from six to eight months old, sometimes six to eight weeks old.

7.—There is no good reason for letting pigs halt in thriving between weaning and marketing, if they have outdoor exercise.

8.—That will depend largely on the market prices of grain. Peas, barley or corn are, I believe, the best finishers.

9.—No. As you are aware, any person exhibiting hogs always has more or less heavy boars and sows that are not profitable as feeders, but they are fed from the same bin as the younger animals.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

R. H. HARDING.

The Cost of Producing Summer Pork.

1.—At ten months. If a sow has the first litter when she is about ten months old she can have two or more litters after that.

2.—Spring litters are the most successful. We have a good large pen with boiler in it. We boil roots and mix with middlings. Give them a good dry bed. Let them run out in a small yard.

3.—We let them run on clover pasture, giving them a little swill, milk, middlings, and a small quantity of peas.

4.—After the first few days we feed them on middlings, milk, and swill. We prefer to wean them when eight weeks old.

5.—We house them warm and dry, letting them run on wheat, pea, and other stubble. When that is done we then house them.

6.—If littered in April, we market them in Oct.

7.—From the time of weaning we keep them gaining, but do not feed peas till four months old.

8.—As to rations, we feed chopped peas, with a little middlings in water for drink.

9.—As to cost, we have found for a summer litter it would be 3c. per pound, live weight; a winter litter costs a little more. We do not know of any further suggestions to make except that it is essential to keep them clear of insect vermin. Keep pens clean and bedding dry.

COWIE BROS.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

Swine Rearing at the Central Experimental Farm.

1.—A sow in good condition may have her first litter at twelve months old, give her a chance to grow, and have the second litter at two years, and you may have two litters each year successfully.

2.—Spring litters are preferable for many reasons. Give the dam roomy, well-ventilated, comfortable quarters; six weeks before farrowing give her a pen by herself. She should get a liberal ration of succulent, nourishing food, such as roots, skimmed milk, bran, ground oats, or small quantities of any other ground grain that may be on hand. Turnips or potatoes should be cooked. During the first two months roots should be the larger part of ration.

3.—We give them roomy, clean quarters, protected from the cold or dampness. We have not got a clover run for them, but room enough for exercise. With a clover run and fresh water, skimmed milk, and the refuse from thinning root crops and other unmarketable stuff, sows can be summered very cheaply with success.

4.—Provide absolute protection from cold or damp or drafts. Feed the dam clean, fresh, rich food composed of a small quantity of roots, skimmed milk, shorts, ground oats, and well-boiled barley. In no case give her sour food. When the litter is two weeks old place a small, flat trough where the little pigs can reach but the mother can not. Give them a little fresh milk, and after a few days add some shorts. They should have access during the daytime to a run where there is sunshine. At six weeks old the mother should be removed each day for a short time at first, when the pigs are two months old remove the dam altogether.

5.—A careful, intelligent caretaker; also clean, dry quarters to sleep in; clover paddock for exercise and food. Feed them three times each day, such quantities only as they will eat up clean each meal. The following makes a very good ration: Skimmed milk, roots (cooked), ground barley and peas soaked about thirty hours, with ground corn soaked the same time, the corn to be fed sparingly