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raise all my calves, and sometimes buy one or two extra, so there is none for the pigs. I feed my sows through winter six beets per day each, and about a gallon of oat chop, so I think \$20 a fair estimate. While suckling, they get three gallons each of chop per day; after weaning, the sows get nothing but grass. The pigs eat about one ton of barley chop till harvest; then they go on stubble for about a month, which, with lots of young clover and grass, brings them to September, when I begin feeding again.

I notice someone inquiring about feeding turkey hens over winter. Well, the best thing is pulped roots; they will not starve with them. Simcoe Co., Ont. T. F. GAVILLER.

### Preparing Corn for Hogs.

The increasing growth and use of corn in Canada invests with special interest the methods of feeding it to hogs. It has long been shown that cooking is not only a waste of time and fuel, but an actual detriment to the nutritive qualities of the grain. An exclusive corn ration has not been commended in Canada, being considered unfavorable to the production of fine, lean bacon, but, at the same time, corn has so many advantages that its use in connection with other coarse grains, or on clover pasture, will continue to increase, and would undoubtedly do so more rapidly were it not for the popularity of the silo, which absorbs so much of the whole corn crop. Iowa is the State in which corn-feeding to hogs is of the greatest interest, because it produces more than 3,000,000 hogs above any other State, and, at a conservative estimate, her 7,908,000 hogs in 1908 consumed 100,000,000 bushels, or one-third of her corn crop. To have shelled and ground it would have cost at least \$3,000,000, and the hog-feeder naturally asks would it pay? For two years past, the State Experiment Station has investigated the question of grinding and soaking with 312 hogs of all ages, from young, weaned, spring pigs, to old, thin sows. The results are given in Bulletin 106, by Prof. W. J. Kennedy, B. S. A., the Canadian who holds the chair of Animal Husbandry there, and an assistant. The cost of grinding corn meal was found to be 2 cents per bushel; corn-and-cob meal, 6 cents; and shelling corn, 1 cent per bushel. The animals were all of the fat-hog breeds. Corn-and-cob meal proved so unsatisfactory the first season that it was ruled out of the experiment, and feeding dry corn meal was found the most wasteful of feed. In a general way, the experiment proves that the fastest and most economical gains were secured by feeding dry ear corn until the hogs were about 200 pounds in weight; above that weight, soaking proved advantageous. The reason given is the more thorough mastication by the younger hogs, with their smaller jaws and perfect teeth, permitting a more perfect action of saliva on the corn. (Moral: Let the hogs grind their own corn.) The feeding was done in 32 lots, on .9 of an acre grass pasture plots, with small, movable houses for shelter and shade. The four principal rations used were dry ear corn, soaked shell corn, dry corn meal, and soaked corn meal. In case of one lot of 40 hogs fed for the whole period of 133 days, the cost of 100 pounds gain was: Dry corn, \$4.78; soaked shell corn, \$5.07; dry corn meal, \$6.08; and soaked corn meal, \$5.71; or, as a selling price of corn per bushel, hogs selling

at \$5.75, the results were, respectively, 80 cents, 75 cents, 61 cents, and 66 cents. In the other lots the returns corresponded approximately with these. The Duroc-Jersey spring pigs fed won first prize and reserve championship at the International Live-stock Exposition. The average results for two years showed that, for spring pigs, during their first summer and fall, there was a saving of over 6 per cent. of the corn by feeding it in the ear, instead of soaking and shelling, and of 18 to 24 per cent. saving, compared with shelling and grinding. For hogs over 200 pounds in weight, soaked shelled corn, while giving a trifle slower rate in gain than soaked corn meal, made the most economical gains of all the forms in which corn was fed. When fed in the form of meal, beside other expenses, troughs must be provided, whereas whole corn is fed on the sod.

### Silage for Sheep.

H. P. Miller, a noted farmer and sheepman, of Ohio, who has been in Canada since the middle of January investigating our sheep industry for the United States Government, has given "The Farmer's Advocate," in the form of an interview, the benefit of some observations casually formed while travelling through the country. With the buildings, improvements and general thriftiness evident upon Canadian farms he was most favorably impressed, while the men whom he met appeared prosperous and intelligent. His principal criticism of feeding methods had reference to the way the feeding cattle are tied or stanchioned in dirty stalls, from which, in many cases, the manure is laboriously wheeled out in barrows. On his own farm, he years ago adopted the practice of never moving manure except when loading it on wagon or spreader to be hauled out to the field. All his cattle are fed loose, both beef and dairy, and are kept much cleaner than the majority of cattle confined in stalls.

The sheep business is not nearly so large or important an industry as he would have expected to find it, judging by the prominence attained by Canadian exhibitors of pure-bred sheep at the leading shows. In Ohio, it is not unusual for a man in the sheep business to have one head to the acre, besides a certain amount of other stock. He himself keeps more than one breeding ewe per acre.

His farm of 366 acres is stocked with 20 head of horses (all ages), 25 to 30 head of Jersey cows and heifers, all bull calves being vealed; 8 to 10 brood sows, raising two litters of six or seven pigs each per year; and 350 to 400 breeding ewes of Dorset and Merino breeding. He had started with delaines, but introduced Dorset blood and is making a specialty of "hothouse" early lambs. One octagonal silo, 12 1/2 x 26 ft., is used altogether for the sheep, being filled with Leaming and Clarage (a yellow dent) corn, sown usually in drills for convenience in harvesting with corn binder, but not thicker than if planted for husking. When planting in hills, they take care not to have over three stalks to the hill, hills 42 in. apart. The corn for silage is cut at the same stage as for husking. Of this silage a hundred-pound ewe may be fed about four pounds per day, in two feeds, with a little cottonseed meal sprinkled on it, not to exceed one-quarter pound per head per day, usually less. In addition, the

sheep are fed clover hay, to the amount of perhaps 1 1/2 pounds per head, and Mr. Miller is getting into alfalfa, of which he now has nine acres. He has also grown and fed soy beans, which correspond in feeding value to peas, though somewhat richer.

When he first began feeding silage to sheep, fifteen years ago, he lost some sheep, and also some horses one winter from allowing them to eat bad silage, but now he has no more fear of feeding sheep good silage than of feeding oats and hay. He also feeds silage in moderate quantities to his horses, considering it pretty safe to feed half a bushel to a feed twice a day.

That, even under the present very unsatisfactory conditions of wool-marketing in Canada, there is some reward for painstaking effort, is indicated by the experience of the well-known flockmaster, John Campbell, of Victoria Co., Ont., as mentioned at the Dominion Sheep-breeders' meeting, Toronto. Mr. Campbell reported having consigned his wool to a Canadian manufacturing establishment, and after some delay while the firm was seeing how the wool would scour out, he had received a report complimenting him on the quality of the wool, and remitting him two or three cents above the current price for Canadian wool.

## THE FARM.

### Maple Sap Pail-covers Essential.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I always have at least a year's supply of good dry wood on hand, as it does not pay to try to boil with wet or green wood. When it begins to look like sugar weather, I distribute my buckets to the trees, with the bottom up, so as to keep the snow out if it should happen to storm. By doing this, I put all my help to tapping when the right time comes, so as to get the first run, as it is always the best. I use all large tin buckets, ten quarts being the smallest, and up to fourteen quarts, as with the small buckets there is too much waste in the case of a big run. The spout I use altogether gives me more sap than other kinds. I tried 100 spouts a few years ago, with good results; so much so, that I sold all my old ones for what I could get, and bought the new ones. They do not injure the trees nearly so much as the old metal ones, are easy to put in and take out, and do not leak the sap, and the buckets do not blow off easily. I have a 6 x 20-foot evaporator, which gives me good satisfaction. Last year I boiled for 2,350 trees in daylight; did not have to boil any at night, as I always had to do other years with a 4 x 16-foot evaporator. I use galvanized storage tanks, and strain all the sap from the gathering tank into the storage; then it is all strained into the evaporator. I use a four-barrel gathering tank on sleigh while snow lasts, then put it on a low-truck wagon for the rest of the season. I always try to gather the sap every day, as I find that the sooner it is boiled after it leaves the tree, the better flavor and color you have. I have a few covers for some of my buckets, which I find to be a good thing, as in bad weather there is no waste of sap from the rain running down the trees and dropping in the buckets, and coloring the sap so



Commencing to Gather Sap.