

Grade breeding has as its chief advantages : First, that less capital is required to purchase foundation sows than is the case with pure-bloods; second, less care and judgment are required in the selection of breeding animals; third, it is the quickest possible means of securing improvement for the first few generations at least.

The chief objections to grade breeding are : First, that animals produced in a grade herd will not attract high prices as breeding animals; second, no matter how good they may become or how like pure-bloods they may come to appear, they can never be registered and sold as pure-bloods.

HOUSING

Whichever type of breeding the farmer chooses to follow, the principles involved in the care, feeding and management will be very similar. The amount and kind of hog houses and fencing that will be required will depend largely on the number of sows bred each year, and whether the policy of one or two litters per year is to be followed. There are two main systems that may be followed in housing hogs. The one might be called the "Colony System," and the other the "Centralized System." The colony system implies the keeping of hogs in small groups in small, movable houses, each house having its own pasture lot and constructed large enough to accommodate one or two sows with their litters. The colony system is particularly suited to Southern conditions. Where only one litter per year is raised, hogs might be managed by the colony system quite successfully in Manitoba. If this system is used, however, the sows should be bred not to farrow before May 1st, or there is a likelihood of too great losses of young pigs from the cold in the spring of the year at farrowing time. The young pigs will then be ready for market in the fall before the rough winter weather sets in, and the brood sows can be wintered over in the small cots.

By the centralized system is implied a large central hog house in which all of the hogs are kept either in winter or throughout the year. Where fall pigs are to be raised in Manitoba, the centralized system must be used. When one has a suitable large central hog house there is no reason why two litters per year can not be raised with considerably more profit than when just one litter is raised. It is not the intention in this Bulletin to discuss the construction of hog houses at any length. There are many types of central hog houses that will be found satisfactory, and there are many types of the small colony house also. The chief essentials in the construction of a large hog house are that it be built with the floors high enough above the ground level so that they may be well drained and kept dry. It must be fairly well lighted and the windows should be arranged so that the sunlight will strike nearly all parts of the interior at some time during the day. Thorough ventilation is another essential and can only be provided