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## FEEDING YOUNG PIGS

Practical Hints for Dealing With the Junior Hog.

Begin With the Mother—Wean When Eight Weeks Old—A Good Ration Suggested—Winter Feeding and Quarters.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Liberal feeding on a well-balanced ration suited to the needs of the sow previous to the birth of the young is very essential if the little pigs are to be worth rearing and the sow in condition to supply ample milk for them. With the sow well nourished and given opportunity for exercise, she is the best equipped individual to undertake the task of rearing a litter. After the little pigs arrive, everything should be done for their comfort and safety if they are to succeed as feeders. Clean, light pens; dry yard or grass lot; abundant sunshine and a well fed mother, usually mean success to the little pigs. When the young learn to feed at four weeks, provision should be made whereby they can feed at a small trough in an enclosure away from the sow. Small quantities of sweet skim milk in which wheat shorts have been mixed should be fed in small quantities and often, feeding a little less than the pigs will actually take. Pigs that have been feeding from the trough for two weeks or more can be weaned without a very serious setback. The longer the pigs can remain with the sow the better it is for them, but such practice is not always profitable, so it is usual to wean the pigs when they are eight weeks old. Since pigs are hunting the ground surface or rooting for morsels of food, it is good practice to encourage such by scattering plump grain on the floor of the pen or yard. This causes the pig to take the exercise necessary to thrive.

### Treatment at Weaning Age.

When the pigs have reached the weaning age of eight weeks, they should be completely separated from the sow. It is better to remove the sow and leave the young pigs in the pen that they have been used to for a week, that their troubles may not all come at once. When the pigs have quite forgotten their mother, an ideal home for them is a colony house situated in an alfalfa, red clover, rape or blue grass pasture yard, where water, a wallow hole and shade are amply supplied. If the young pigs must be kept in the pigery, then everything should be done to provide dryness, protection from insects, a living temperature, ample room, cleanliness, comfort, sunshine and a ration suited to their needs. Green feeds should form a fair percentage of the total ration for pigs whether fed as a selling crop or as pasture. The following mixed grain ration has proven very satisfactory: Wheat middlings 25 pounds, shorts 25 pounds, finely ground oats 50 pounds, oil cake meal 5 pounds, meat meal 3 pounds. Pigs eight weeks old will require a pound or more per day. The quantity required for each day should be set apart and soaked for twelve hours or more, using no more water than is required for the soaking process. When ready to feed use five pounds of skim milk to each pound of meal. Feed sweet skim milk until the pigs are well weaned, then change to sour skim milk and continue to use such as long as possible.

### Handling Them at Three Months.

After the pigs are three months old, buttermilk can be used instead of skim milk with equal advantage. A change in the grain ration is also desirable at this age, and is most easily provided by adding a more fattening grain to the mixture already suggested for the eight weeks' old pig. The following is very satisfactory: Corn or barley 25 pounds, shorts 50 pounds, wheat middlings 25 pounds, finely ground oats 50 pounds, oil cake meal 8 pounds. Soaking to soften and thereby increase digestibility should be practiced. The corn or barley portions of the ration should be increased gradually after the fourth month has passed to give the pig an opportunity to fatten during the last two months of its life should it be designed for the block. If intended for breeding purposes the feeding is practically the same up to the fifth month. "The intended for breeding purpose" stock should be developed on a ration carrying more bone and muscle forming material than the standard fattening rations. More alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover, rape or blue grass should be used.

### Winter Feeding.

The success attained at pig feeding in the winter depends to a greater extent upon the skill of the feeder than does summer feeding when weather conditions are favorable. Comfortable quarters which may be under the strawstack or in an elaborate pen, some place that is dry and will stay dry, is the first necessity. A well balanced ration suited to winter conditions in that it will supply in so far as possible something to take the place of grass and clover and "on the soil" conditions. Roots and sods are the most easily supplied substitutes. Room for exercise, and inducement to take such by scatter-

ing whole grain in the litter or feeding ear corn are advised. The well supplied conditioner box is much more necessary during the winter than it is when the pigs are running on the land.

Dampness is the great trouble to overcome. In the modern pigery this is accomplished by abundant glass space in the roof and walls, and elevated platform for sleeping quarters, and ventilators to carry away damp foul air. The pig will keep itself cleaner than any other domestic animal if given freedom to do so.—L. Stevenson, Sec., Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

## CHEAPER LOANS HELP

How the Ontario Loan System Helps Farmers.

An Interesting Illustration Given—Helping the Tenant—Some Applicants Disappointed—Inspectors Are Carefully Selected.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

To help young men of farming experience, farming inclination and inadequate capital to get properly settled in farming was one of the reasons for the new farm loan legislation now being administered by the Agricultural Department Board. Already it is possible to point to cases where monies have been advanced for this purpose.

### How It Worked In One Case.

In one of the best Western Ontario counties two loans were placed which illustrates the finest development in Ontario farm life. A father, for many years a progressive and successful farmer, was anxious to get his two sons comfortably located. Both boys were in their twenties and both married. Both had been brought up on the farm, and of the older it was said he "worked on the farm all his life except while away at the war." With the aid of the father and loans, only about half the value of the property, both boys acquired farms. One has a farm of 185 acres, valued under \$20,000, with excellent buildings and full equipment of stock and implements. Adjoining, the other boy has two hundred acres, not valued quite so high because the buildings are not quite so good. He also has a full equipment of stock and implements. The properties are registered in the names of the boys respectively, and they are responsible for carrying on operations and making payments on the mortgage. They are settled down as full-fledged citizens, with a splendid opportunity for happiness and success, and enough responsibility to act as a steadying influence. At the same time, the father remains in his home nearby to give the boys the benefit of his experience and maturer wisdom.

### Helping the Tenant.

It should be the ambition of every man who works on the land to own the land he works. That many tenants entertain this ambition there is no doubt, and it is only a question of accumulating sufficient to finance the 35 per cent, not advanced by the Board. The tenant has the necessary stock and implements and is all ready to go ahead. There comes to mind a case in one of the Central Ontario counties. The man was living on a rented farm of 175 acres. He knew the soil, he knew the local conditions, he knew exactly what he could do. The owner of the farm had it mortgaged and the mortgage fell due. He could not pay it. The holder of the mortgage insisted and was about to foreclose. The owner went to the tenant and offered to sell at a pretty reasonable price. The tenant came to the Board, and the loan he was able to get with his own savings enabled him to buy, and his annual payments on the loan will be less than the annual payments he was making in rent.

### The Disappointed Ones.

Not all the loans asked for are granted. The loans thus far asked for and refused by the Board aggregate \$384,000. At one Board meeting nine applications were passed and thirteen refused. Undoubtedly the great bulk of these were declined because they did not come within the purposes permitted by the Act. In the first place no loan can be made except on the security of first mortgage. Before the legislation of the recent session, application for loans to discharge mortgages had to be declined because they exceed 40 per cent. of the value as determined by the inspector. Not infrequently an applicant who comes within the 40 per cent. limit wants an additional thousand dollars to discharge "a note at the bank," and thus consolidate his indebtedness. But an "encumbrance" under the Act must be "a registered encumbrance," and the bank note does not qualify, however deserving the applicant or unquestioned the security. Sometimes an applicant wants a few thousand dollars to buy cattle for feeding, but the same negative must be given. Then there are the cases which are rejected because the Board is not satisfied with the personal or material security offered. When such conclusions are reached they are reached with much regret, for the Board is genuinely anxious to promote agricultural development by means of these loans wherever it can possibly be done with due regard to reasonable security to the Province.

### Inspectors Are Carefully Selected.

In view of the importance of having this information complete and accurate, great care has been exercised by the chairman in selecting inspectors. The plan followed is to utilize local men very largely, not necessarily one in each county, but at least one in a district of two or three counties. Already a list of fifteen or twenty men of integrity, good judgment and good knowledge of farm values based on long experience has been secured and payment is made on a basis of the number of days actually employed in the work. Moreover, steps are taken from time to time to check up the work of inspectors by information from other sources, and if an inspector is found to be extravagant in his valuations or influenced by considerations other than the strict merits of the case, his services are no longer utilized.

The George R. White medal of honor of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for 1921 was awarded to Mrs. Francis King in recognition of her services to horticulture by increasing the love of plants and gardens among the women of the United States. This is the first time the medal has been awarded to a woman.

### How Fruits Ripen.

The place which fruits are assuming in the dietary of man is one of growing importance. Certain species like the apple and pear, the plum and the grape, have long enjoyed a deserved popularity; others which were once among the rarities in the United States are now in great favor.

The ripening of fruits plays so important a part in their availability, and some of the problems of transportation on this subject is much to be desired. Some fruits, like the apple, may be allowed to ripen almost fully on the tree, and may be kept in the ripened condition for relatively long periods, if proper attention be paid to their manipulation and storage.

The physical changes, like the variation in color of ripening fruits, are familiar, since they are evident to the senses; but these alterations are merely indicative of changes in the chemical make-up of the fruits under the conditions which determine ripening. Heat, moisture, air and light may all participate in determining the characteristic changes that ensue. Laboratory reports of statisticians' investigations in recent years have given clearer indications of what takes place. Among the changes are the transformation of the starch into sugar, the conversion of soluble tannin compounds into their astringent properties into insoluble forms, the actual lessening of the quantity of acid, or the masking of the acid flavor by the accumulation of sugar, the softening of woody tissue, and the increase and storage of juice.

With the growing knowledge of what the ripening of fruits really involves, we are certain to acquire better ideas of what a properly ripened product should really be. The fact that unripened (winter) apples are unfit for consumption in the early fall, because instead of sugar they contain a large amount of raw starch, which will disappear with the "mellowing" process, will be understood in a more intelligent way than has usually been the case.

### Shade Trees on Highways.

Our highways would be much more attractive if lined with shade trees. These trees could be set 50 or more feet apart and would do little damage either to the adjoining property or the roadway. They would make the road pleasanter to travel over and also to live by.

Go through the grain fields with the object of removing impurities and noxious weeds.

Cauliflower is handled in the same way as cabbage. If cauliflower gets a severe setback in transplanting to the field, it will tend to cause it to go to seed instead of to form a good head. More especially is this so with the early crop in the warm summer weather. In many small gardens it is generally grown as a fall crop. The plants are slower growers than cabbage and will do better if started about two weeks earlier if we wish a maximum number of good heads. When the cauliflower shows a head about two inches in diameter the outer leaves should be drawn together and tied so as to exclude the light, thus giving a pure white head. Cauliflowers that have not fully developed may be dug up, roots and all, and hung in a cool cellar. There they will continue to grow, giving a delicious head after the ordinary season of cauliflower is over. Fully developed heads may be cut off, wrapped in oil paper and stored in a cold room at 32 deg. F. to 34 deg. F. Here they will keep well till Christmas time.—A. H. MacLennan, Vegetable Specialist, Toronto.

### The New Farm House and Trees.

When planning to build a farm house it is well to select a location near good trees, so that their shade may be used and enjoyed by the family every day during the summer. It takes so long to grow good trees that existing ones should be cherished and utilized to the fullest extent. If trees must be planted they should not be placed directly in front of the farm house, but should be put somewhat to each side so as to make a frame through which a view of a portion of the front is obtained.