

Housing Feeding Cattle.

In many sections of the country the idea is prevalent that in order to get results in fattening cattle warm quarters must be provided. This supposition has not proven to be exactly correct. On the contrary, cattle have made exceptionally good gains when quartered in open sheds, thus demonstrating that expensive stabling is not essential for fattening stock. With dairy cattle it is different. Experiments have been under way at the different experimental farms, under the supervision of E. S. Archibald, Dominion Animal Husbandman, Ottawa, comparing warm versus cold quarters for feeders. At the Ottawa Farm a bunch of steers were fed in open sheds last winter—as severe a winter as we have had for some time—and the gains were from one and three-quarters to two pounds per day. Racks and mangers were built along one side of the shed, and were filled from a wagon on the outside. The results showed that expensive buildings are not essential to the making of satisfactory gains.

This year Prof. Archibald purposes continuing the experiment, and is planning to compare the feeding qualities of choice Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn steers. Another experiment under way is that of comparing light weight cattle on light grain ration with heavy or short-keep steers on a heavy grain ration. Last year the light or long-keep steers on light rations proved the most profitable. Of course, the markets are an influencing factor. While long-keep steers may make

the most money one year, the short-keep may do better the next. However, the lighter steers are growing into money on a comparatively inexpensive ration, while the heavy steers require the heavy, expensive grains for putting on flesh. They are older cattle and usually have their growth before the heavy grain feeding is commenced. Much valuable information to stockmen will no doubt be obtained from experiments under way at the Dominion Experimental Farms.

Currie's Shorthorns Bring a Good Figure.

The sale of Scotch and Scotch-topped Shorthorns, held on the farm of R. Currie & Son, Florence, Ont., was a big success. The weather was ideal, and the crowd was large. Messrs. Currie had the cattle in excellent condition, which without a doubt was a factor in making the sale a success. While exceptionally high figures were not realized, the general average was very gratifying to Messrs. Currie. Ten of the best lots averaged \$346.50. The entire twenty-five lots brought a total of \$6,460. The highest price was paid for a two-year-old Clipper heifer, which went to the bid of \$515 from E. Brien & Sons, Ridgetown. One of the sweetest things offered was the Mayflower calf, Mayflower Beauty, which went to the bid of E. Robson, Denfield. Captain T. E. Robson was the auctioneer, and was assisted in the ring by G. H. Attridge, G. E. Brown, and

W. J. Sinclair. The following is a list of the animals sold, together with the names and addresses of the purchasers:

Clipper of Arner, E. Brien & Son, Ridgetown.....	\$515
Hill Brae Stamford, H. Wright, Florence.....	275
Scottish Belle, W. Lasby, Rockwood.....	310
Lady Earle, Walter Annett, Alvinston.....	300
Rose Mary, A. J. Burgua, Sombra.....	340
Rachel Lass, E. Robson, Denfield.....	220
Pretty Clara, T. Henderson, Glencoe.....	270
Fannie 12th, Wm. Walsh, Oil City.....	315
Barrington's Beauty 5th, Mr. Oakes, Alvinston.....	330
Fannie 2nd, D. J. Mitchell, Glencoe.....	370
Minas Bloom 2nd, W. B. Annett, Alvinston.....	370
Lauretta, Ed. De Gex, Kerwood.....	310
Barrington Beauty 8th, J. Tinney, Thamesville.....	100
Mayflower Beauty, E. Robson.....	280
Barrington's Beauty 2nd, J. H. Powell, Inwood.....	235
Jealous Jane, W. B. Annett.....	305
Barrington's Beauty 7th, C. Heath, Tupperville.....	170
Fannie 13th, A. J. Burgua.....	205
Fannie, Mr. Walker, Cairo.....	105
Bull calf, Peter Campbell, Alvinston.....	120
Mina's Lady, W. B. Annett.....	130
Fannie Frantic, John Avery, Thamesville.....	115
Scottish Rachel 2nd, Wm. Walker.....	120
Scottish Rachel, Wm. Walker.....	155
Augustine Sort, D. Buchanan, Thamesville.....	270
Sir Rodger, John Miller, Bothwell.....	105
Creekland Chief, A. Butler, Florence.....	100

Rearing and Feeding the Bacon Hog.

BY PROF. WADE TOOLE, B. S. A.

To a large extent the profits to be made in the hog business depend upon the skill of the feeder, the amount of home-grown feeds he produces, the by-products available, the class of breeding stock used, and the good judgement of the man in the business. The farmer who grows his own feed is in a position to get the grower's profit and the feeder's profit as well. If he has skim-milk, butter milk or whey he can use them to good advantage, but, of course, under all conditions he must rely upon well-bred, good feeding stock otherwise his work and feed are likely to be to some extent wasted. With all this, it is necessary to study markets and be careful to attempt, at least, to distribute the finished pork over the year. It is generally found that the price drops around that season from the first of October to well on into November when many farmers have money to make up and consequently rush their pigs to market. The same is also true around the first of April. Hog breeders should endeavor to so distribute their litters throughout the season that the market is never glutted and a fairly uniform supply is always going forward. For the average man, operating on a mixed farming basis, plunging into pigs is rarely advisable. Hog breeding on the average Ontario farm is not a major operation, but each farm that is known as a mixed farm generally carries a brood sow or two and from it spring and fall litters are marketed. A fair number of hogs can generally be carried to good advantage on the average farm.

It is not necessary at this time to emphasize again the importance of the bacon hog in Canada. True it is, however, that farmers should not be led away by the fact that under present conditions they have been getting almost, if not quite, as much per pound for thick fat hogs, and all the grades between the thick fat and the choice bacon hog as they have for the latter. It is well known that in the future as in the past we must depend upon Great Britain to take our surplus hog products. That market demands the Wiltshire side produced by the bacon hog. We cannot compete with the United States in the production of the lard hog so Ontario hog feeders must stand by the bacon hog and insist upon getting a premium for producing that hog.

The Breeding Stock.

Before good hogs can be produced care must be practiced in selecting the breeding stock. The average farmer does not keep a boar but he should be particular if a suitable sire is not owned in his neighborhood to go some distance in order to procure the services of the

right kind of hogs. If it is decided to purchase a boar, it is generally wise to select one from eight months to a year old rather than a young pig. Be sure to get a long, smooth pig devoid of coarseness and roughness and with plenty of constitution. With this he should show strong masculine character.

It is not wise to put the young boar to heavy service until he has reached a fair degree of maturity. The boar should at least be eight months old before he is used and then he should be allowed to serve only a few sows. Exercise is absolutely essential to the breeding sire. An outside yard should be provided, and the boar should have the run of a paddock in which some feed is growing during the summer. The grain ration of the boar should not be too heavy. Ground oats and middlings are valuable to lighten up the heavier grain such as corn. The boar should be kept in good thriving condition and where roots are available or skim-milk these prove valuable.

Breeding sows for pork production whether grades or pure-breds should be of good bacon type and should always be mated with a pure-bred sire. Every sow selected for breeding purposes should be known to be the daughter of a prolific mother and be sired by a boar of a prolific strain. Under ordinary circumstances it is wise to select sows from mature dams and good sows should be kept in the herd as long as their period of usefulness lasts. Sows should not be bred too young. Many breeders favor from eight to twelve months according to size and development as the best age to be first served. On the College farm well-grown sows are bred so as to drop their first litters when from a year to fourteen months of age.

A well-grown sow of good breeding and under good management should raise two litters a year and April is a good month for the spring litter and October for the fall litter. This prevents cold-weather farrowing which means loss. There should be warm pens on the farm and breeding and feeding should be so arranged that the supply of pigs going forward to market should be kept fairly gradual.

The measure of success with the litter depends somewhat upon the feeding and management of the sow during her period of gestation. Very thin sows rarely give good success, and an over-fat condition is dangerous. Equal parts of ground oats and wheat middlings make a good grain ration. A little corn may be added to this and

roots and skim-milk are valuable. In summer clover or good pasture should form the bulky part of the feed. The sow should have out-door exercise at all times.

As farrowing time approaches the sow should be moved to the farrowing pen which should be warm and dry, free from drafts and a guard rail should be placed around the pen. A fairly liberal amount of short bedding should be used, and the sow fed carefully on sloppy feed until after farrowing which should take place under the quietest conditions possible. Finely ground oats and wheat middlings with skim-milk or butter milk and a few roots make a good ration for the sow nursing a litter and after farrowing her feed should be gradually increased until it reaches all she will take when the pigs are about ten days old.

The Young Pigs.

The young pigs generally come on well if they get a good start. The attendant should be on hand until farrowing is safely passed and the pigs have had their first nurse. It is generally safe thereafter to leave the sow to do the rest. At about three weeks of age the pigs will show a tendency to eat and if skim-milk is available they will do better to have access to another pen where a trough of this is supplied with a little middlings stirred in. Keep the pigs exercised by turning the sow out in a small paddock. Boar pigs should be castrated some time after four weeks of age and before they are weaned from the sow.

As a general thing it is not wise to wean pigs before they are six weeks of age and from that to eight weeks is a good time to take them away from the sow. When first weaned the young pigs should be fed at least three times a day and preferably four times. See that they clean the trough out each time. There is no better feed than skim-milk and middlings, or skim-milk and a mixture of middlings and finely ground oats. Do not be in a hurry to get the pigs on strong feed. They should not get heavy meal until three months old and then the proportion of heavy grain to middlings and finally ground oats should be increased gradually. Finely ground oats is one of the best grains for growing pigs. They develop bone and muscle, are easily digested and make a very satisfactory feed when used as part of the ration. As the pigs grow they may be gradually put on a fattening ration. At the present time a standard hog feed is on the market and is giving good results. We have also used, in addition to the commoner grains, such as oats, barley and corn with middlings, western screenings to good advantage.

Winter is approaching and generally speaking it is more difficult to feed pigs in winter than in summer, however, the feeder should attempt to approach as nearly as possible summer conditions. Pens should be warm, dry and free from draft, and opportunity to exercise should always be provided. Then, to take the place of green feed pulped roots are found valuable, and skim-milk and butter milk show to even better advantage in winter than in summer. The feeder should watch his pigs closely and give them just what they clean up at each meal. It matters little whether the pigs are fed twice or three times a day during the fattening period so long as regularity is practiced. Watch the pigs carefully to see that none go off their feed or their feet. A good mixture to have in the pen is one made up of one part salt, one part sulphur, and ten parts wood ashes. Put this in a box in the corner of the pen. Charcoal is also a good corrective.

With careful feeding and the best management the pigs should be ready for market at about six months of age. Under average conditions it is found profitable to sell when weighing around one hundred and ninety to two hundred pounds as the cost of production increases with the pig's age. The market should be studied carefully that the greatest profit may be obtained from the entire transaction.

Occasionally it pays to hold until the pigs have



A Bunch of Bacon Hogs Growing into Money.