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yielding place to the new." If the big
type of cattle could not maintain its
established lead over an almost un-
known competitor, laboring under the
handicap of prejudice, and this is a sec-
tion where nature is far more bountiful
in her offerings than in New England,
what inducement is offered us to at-
tempt to restore a fallen idol, or be
numbered among its followers?—Will
Kinman, in *The Breeder's Gazette*.

Fitting Show Pigs

Selection for the show herd should
commence several months in advance of
the show, and the animals for the aged
class should be chosen first. The aged
sow should be roomy, with plenty of
stretch, a good strong back and even
side lines, and she should stand up well
on straight legs and good, strong feet.
Her appearance should show that she
has been a good breeder. The aged boar
should be of the same general type, ex-
cept of course, he should show the mas-
culinity of a good breeding boar. The
senior yearlings are next in order to be



Pure-Bred Shorthorn Bulls on the farm of J. H. Barron, Carberry, Man. Mr. Barron
is holding the Roan Bull, the noted "Oakland Star."

selected, and so on down the line to the
under-six-months class. Throughout
all the classes, the animals should be of
as uniform type and conformation as
possible.

With the problem of selection over,
the work of fitting the hogs begins.
The one big question is how to so plan
the fitting that the hogs will be in
bloom at their best on show day. This
requires careful timing with proper
feeding. If started too late, they will
have to be rushed so fast that the
proper condition cannot be arrived at,
and if started too early there is danger
that they will be at their best, in bloom,
before the date of the show. And like
an old-fashioned rosebush, they are at
their best but once in the season, and it
lasts but a short time. If the fitting
is not so timed that they are at the
height of their preparation at show
time, then the breeder falls short of the
possibilities of his hogs if shown to best
advantage.

When a breeder starts out to fit a
show herd, the matter of expense must
in a way be forgotten; at least it
should not be over-emphasized, for the
hogs must have the best of feed to put
them in the right condition to show all
there is in them. And a man cannot
afford to compromise and only half fit
his herd because the price of feed is
high. For the animals over a year old
I use equal parts of corn, oats and bar-
ley, ground fine and with an addition
of old-process oil meal. This is mixed
in a thick slop and allowed to soak for
an hour each time before feeding. Care
is to be taken that it does not stand
long enough to sour. This slop is fed
twice a day, and I consider that as good
as three times a day for the aged ani-
mals, though I feed the under-six-
months pigs three times a day until the

weather gets extremely hot, and then
they are fed only at night and morning.
These under-six-months pigs are fed a
good grade of white middlings, barley
and a little oil meal, mixed in a thick
slop. The best results will be obtained
by the use of sweet skim milk in mak-
ing the slop if it is to be had at a
reasonable price. I have tried using
whole milk fresh from the cow and find
it the worst thing to feed a pig. It is
the surest way possible of "overdoing"
an animal and will cause it to become
more or less wrinkled and to break
down in the pasterns. But skim milk
will not cause this trouble if fed in con-
nection with the ground grain to bal-
ance the ration. As well as these
rations, I always keep, as a conditioner,
a mixture of ground limestone, slaked
lime, charcoal and salt where the hogs
can have access to it at all times.

Exercise of Great Importance

But the very best of feed cannot win
a show alone. Of almost equal impor-
tance is the exercising of the hogs. I

find it better to give them their exercise
early in the morning before being fed.
This is continued until three weeks be-
fore the fair, and then I begin to take
them out in the heat of the day to get
them accustomed to the hot sun. This
is important, for the show hogs are sure
to have to get out in the hot sun when
out on the circuit. We have all seen
the result of the lack of exercise on
hogs in the show ring. While they may
be in the best of flesh, the unexercised
animals do not show well because they
cannot walk with ease.

Another factor that sometimes inter-
feres with the hog's ability to walk
well is improperly cared-for feet. Pro-
per trimming can work wonders with
the feet and pasterns of a show hog.
If one is a good hog man and has
handled the herd properly, the hogs
will lie down and give no trouble when
their feet are being trimmed. A good
sharp knife is the best tool to do the
trimming with. Take the foot in the
left hand and trim the lower edges
of the hoof, and then shape up the toe
nicely. All of this work should be done
well in advance of the show date.

These suggestions as to the feed and
methods to be used in fitting the show
herd are not to be considered as iron-
clad rules, for no two hogs feed alike.
The breeder should study the disposi-
tion of each individual hog and learn
to depend upon himself. While it is
well to take advantage of the experi-
ence of others, if one continually leans
upon other people's judgment, he will
fail to develop as a hog man and will
never become a competent feeder. It
is always better to study a matter over
and reason out why a certain method
is better than another one, if it has
proven to be so.—Isaac Oberton, Poland
China Record.



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