

Profitable Pork Making

On every real farm somewhere or other provision is made for the accommodation of a larger or smaller number of pigs. Sometimes these animals are kept cooped up in a small, dirty cot or portion of a lean to the barn, fed whenever the hired man doesn't forget to empty the swill bucket and never cleaned out from the time of their sentence to "penal servitude" until the time comes for them to pay the supreme penalty, figuratively speaking, and be offered up on the family altar to perpetuate the never ceasing diet of fried pork that has come to be recognized as the staple diet on the ordinary farm. In other cases the pigs are allowed free license to roam wheresoever they will. Nothing is safe from their inquisitive visits. Neither garden nor granary, neither hen house nor stable are exempt from their foraging expeditions. They are looked upon perhaps as a necessary evil, kicked every time they are not nimble enough to get out of the way, but tolerated because they are recognized as a valuable asset when the inroads upon the pork barrel have made it necessary to cast around for fresh supplies.

Attention to Detail

Expediency is the word which most fittingly expresses, in the majority of cases, the methods which have been and still are being employed by the farmers thruout the West. That there is much justification for such methods is in a large measure true, due to weather conditions, the short season and the natural advantages directly at the

the sow and young pigs. With the necessity for increased flow of milk required to feed the youngsters, the sow should be fed largely concentrated foods. It is important at this time that there is no stinting of the food, because the subsequent development and gains of the young pigs will in a large measure depend upon the manner in which they grow during the first few weeks sucking the mother. If skim milk is available this will form a very valuable addition to the ground oats which will provide the larger portion of the ration. A little linseed meal, barley meal and bran mixed with the oat chop will add to the nitrogenous and carbohydrate portions of the ration, and some good hay, preferably alfalfa, or, better still, some soiling crop, will give the necessary bulkiness to the ration.

Sheaf Oats Good

The writer has found that green sheaf oats give good results fed to brood sows, the pigs eating a portion of the sheaf and the remainder being useful in forming good dry bedding for the sow and litters. One sheaf a day is in no way expensive and will be found to be very much appreciated by the sow. All concentrates should be fed in the form of a thin slop, and it is important that the sow obtains sufficient water. Carrying water is one of the objections offered by the hired man when discussing hog feeding, and it is very often the case that the pigs generally, and sows in particular, do not get sufficient water. Sow's milk is made up of about eighty per cent. water, so that it is



A Good Bunch of Money-Makers

disposal of the farmer, but at the same time it must be remembered that in farming, just as in every other business, strict attention to detail is the only way in which the utmost can be made out of the investment. And so, while the two instances described above may perhaps be somewhat exaggerated when applied to the average farm, yet it must be admitted that too little attention is being paid to "stopping the wastes" by the majority of farmers. It stands to reason that an animal which has been provided with legs presumably as a means of locomotion cannot be expected to develop to the best advantage cooped up in a stall or place in which it has not any more than enough room to turn round. It is also equally true that the best results will not be obtained from an animal which, after having been developed from the wild state along definite lines by careful attention, selection and breeding with the object of attaining some special, desirable qualities, is allowed to run loose, made to hustle for its food and incidentally hounded away from everything which it most desires and which its bringing up has led it to naturally expect. Neither condition is normal, neither is economical, but a right combination of care on the one hand and exercise on the other will work wonders and will make the difference on the right side between actual profit and loss, a consideration which too few farmers at the present day enquire into.

The Brood Sow

At this time of the year most of the sows have farrowed, and the question arises as to the best way to care for

evident that if the flow of milk, which is so necessary to the development of the young pigs, is to be as full as possible, the sow must have as much water as she will readily consume. Usually in spite of all a careful feeder can do the sows lose flesh when nursing the litter, but the amount of loss will depend to some extent upon the care which is given in the selection and choice of foods and the manner in which the young pigs are handled. If a pasture is available the sow should be turned out away from the young ones for an hour or so during the first couple of weeks. This will give her exercise and the green stuff will aid the milk flow and keep the sow in a good healthy state.

Weaning Time

At weaning time, usually when the pigs are about ten weeks old, the best plan to follow is to keep feed away from the sow on the day that weaning is to take place, allow the youngsters to suckle the sow dry in the morning and turn her out into a dry lot or field some distance from the pig pen where the young pigs are. Do not feed anything on that day, but give free access to all the water needed. On the following day a little feed may be given, and in this way the sow will dry up in a short time. Then, if it is the intention to have two litters a year, the sow should be fed well to aid the approach of the period of heat, because at this time—directly after weaning—it is found that a sow will breed more readily than at any other period. In this Western country, however, it is doubtful whether it is economical or even

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