

Cheap Housing for the Bacon Hog.

Farms, in those districts of Canada where hogs are produced in numbers, are equipped generally for accommodating the required number of horses, a reasonable number of cattle, a variable number of swine and sometimes a few sheep. At this time when the need is great for meat products and particularly those of the hog, because they can be produced with the greatest dispatch, many farmers do not find it convenient to increase the swine herd owing to lack of accommodation

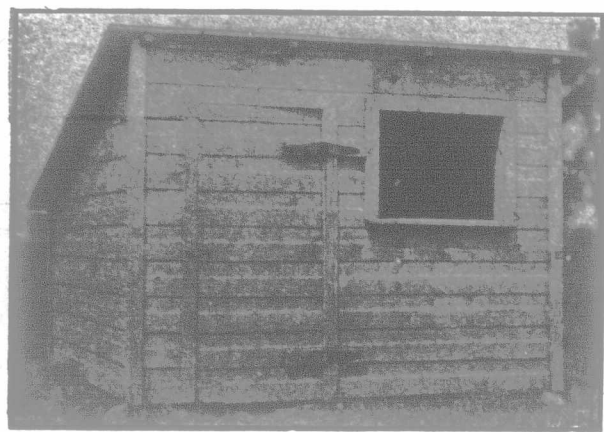


Fig. 1—A Rectangular Hog Cabin.

for them. Very often this is due to an incorrect conception of the requirements for, if a few general principles are adhered to, quite modest buildings will suffice. In view of the fact that the meat shortage must persist for some time, and that hogs can be bred to fill the gap more hurriedly than any other class of live stock, it is reasonable to expect good returns from swine for several years at least, and that an outlay in that department of the farm economy will be returned in short notice. Under these circumstances, and ever mindful of the urgent need for this product, we present herewith a few ideas in regard to hog shelters and houses. Some may deem it expedient to build a permanent and convenient piggery, but in reproducing here a plan and specifications for same we do not wish to impress upon readers that such construction is absolutely necessary in order to meet the extraordinary demands which exist. In dry quarters, well bedded, and with sufficient ventilation, the breeding stock will withstand considerable cold and shotes, under the same conditions, can be made to thrive. However, young pigs and finishing hogs do better when the temperature is not too low. It seems quite within the realm of possibility to adjust things on the average farm in such a way that another sow or two can be housed quite handsly without inflicting any hardship upon the growing or finishing stock.

It seems unnecessary at this time to elaborate on the advantages of accommodation, other than the ordinary piggery, for the boar and in-pig sows. The hog cabin entails extra work, but, generally speaking, stock wintered in these structures are healthier, more thrifty, and produce stronger litters than sows confined under conditions which generally prevail. This has been demonstrated at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, where the temperature is low enough in winter to make the results of the test applicable to a large part of Eastern Canada, in addition to that section of South-western Ontario where climatic conditions are not so severe, and we would naturally expect more favorable results from such a practice. It has been amply proven that the colony-house or hog-cabin system of housing breeding swine the year round is practicable and worthy of adoption. The one exception to this is when sows are about to farrow in cold weather and when nursing the young litter. On many farms there is enough rough or old lumber about with which to throw up a cabin that will accommodate from three to five sows or a boar. A few battens, perhaps, and some building paper would be all the material necessary to purchase.

Some Types of Hog Cabins.

The rectangular house, illustrated in Fig. 1, and the A-shaped house, (Fig. 2), have been common types for some years. One great objection to the latter is that the occupants frequently scratch themselves on the sides of the roof and eventually detach it from the floor. The floor space is 8 feet by 8 feet and each side of the roof is the same. The rectangular building is 8 feet by 10 feet on the ground; 3 feet 6 inches high at the back, and 7 feet high in front; the framework is 2 by 4-inch studding and it is walled with drop siding and roofed with commercial roofing. It is built on 4 x 4-inch runners. A man can construct a house of this kind in one and a half days. The cost of these two houses will depend very much on the kind of material used and the labor. One of the rectangular houses put up in 1914 cost approximately \$20. Since then lumber has advanced considerably and labor is scarcer. The illustrations show the details connected with the construction of these two houses which, under some circumstances, might be erected with very little financial outlay.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture recently published a pamphlet entitled, "Feeding and Housing of Swine," in the compilation of which Prof. Geo.

E. Day, E. S. Archibald, Dominion Animal Husbandman, and G. B. Rothwell, Assistant Dominion Animal Husbandman, co-operated. The latter two authors concerned themselves chiefly with housing problems and from these we quote here quite extensively. Mr. Rothwell recommends a type of cabin, the end section of which is illustrated in Fig. 3.

The structure rests upon three skids or pieces of 6 x 6-inch cedar. For this purpose, dressed cedar poles may be used to advantage. The walls consist of twelve 2 x 4-inch studs, covered outside with 1-inch boarding. At the top of the stud is a 2 x 4-inch plate. The studs are braced by 2 x 4-inch braces placed diagonally between them, as shown. The flooring consists of 2-inch plank laid across the 6 x 6-inch skids. The roof is built with two 2 x 4-inch rafters at each end of the cabin. A 2 x 2-inch, or 2 x 4-inch purlin may be used if necessary to carry the 1-inch roof boards which may be battened at the joints, or the boards may be laid four or five inches apart and the space covered with a second row of boards, on top, thus making battens unnecessary and providing a stronger, more weather-proof roof.

When the cabin is to be used for summer housing, a section on one or both sides of the roof should be hinged, at the peak, as shown. This allows of the section being raised a foot or so, providing a good circulation of air. With a closed roof, the temperature inside the cabin becomes so unbearable that the pigs will lie in the sun rather than in the cabin,—a condition to be avoided.

The door opening is 2 feet 2 inches wide and 3 feet high. A door hinged at the top may be added, or heavy sacking, weighted at the bottom, may be tacked over the opening along the top. This covering the pigs



Fig. 2—An A-shaped Colony House.

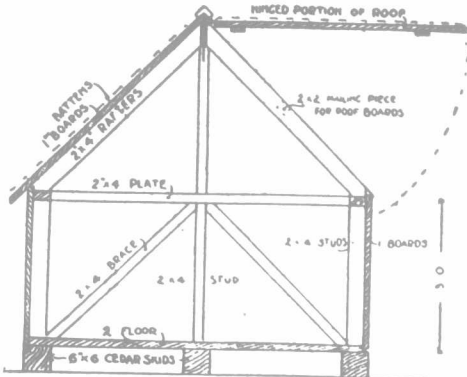


Fig. 3—End Section of a Modern Hog Cabin.

may readily move aside when entering, the weights causing it to fall into position once more. This structure is 6 feet 7 inches with a 3-foot post, and is capable of holding four or five aged pigs and six or seven younger pigs very comfortably. It must be clearly understood that a cabin of this size is too large and cold for one or two sows especially if young.

Lumber List.

The following lumber list is suggested when all material is purchased. In many cases much of the lumber, as for example the skids or runners, might be obtained on the farm.

	Ft. B.M.
Skids, 3 pcs. 10' x 6" x 6"	90
Plate, 2" x 4" 30 lin. feet	26
Studs, 13 pcs. 3' x 2" x 4"	26
Rafters, 4 pcs. 4 1/2' x 2" x 4"	12
Braces, 2 pcs. 4' x 2" x 4"	5
Roof Boarding (1") 49 1/2 sq. ft.	49 1/2
Wall Boarding (1") 110 sq. ft.	110
Floor 2" plank 56 sq. ft.	112
Nailing Boards for roof boarding, 2 pcs. 8' 3" x 2" x 4"	5 1/2
Battens, 16 pcs. 5 1/2' x 2" x 1"	15
Battens for hinged part of roof, 2 pcs. 3' x 1" x 3"	1 1/2
Nails, Paint, etc.	

Two coats of good paint would add considerably to the life of the structure.

Any of the hog cabins previously described are capable of modifications and being adapted to particular or local requirements. With old lumber, building paper, etc., one might be able to erect a suitable one at very

little cost. Permanency, of course, is a virtue in such buildings and if the intention is to move them occasionally rigidity of structure is necessary.

Hints to Herdsmen.

The following advice is contained in the bulletin mentioned for those who intend to make some use of the hog cabin.

1. Supply plenty of bedding at all times.
2. Don't move the brood sow from inside to outside conditions abruptly during cold weather. Above all things don't breed her immediately after such a change.
3. Remove the pregnant sow from winter quarters to the farrowing pen a week or ten days before she is due to litter.
4. Supply the boar with a sheltered location in winter and with shade during the heat of summer.
5. Accidents to the pigs are frequent during winter, due to icy yards. Keep ice away from about the troughs by chopping, and spread ashes, sand, or a little salt about the runs.

A Permanent Piggery.

It is not always necessary to incur heavy expenses in connection with the erection of a piggery. Frequently the old hog pens can be remodeled, made drier and better ventilated. This is often more a question of time than of material and the adoption of the important principles upon which successful swine husbandry depends. In figures 4 and 5 is illustrated a piggery recommended by Mr. Archibald in the afore-mentioned pamphlet. This can be used for farrowing sows, young litters and finishing hogs, while the breeding stock is housed in the cabins. When no storage is required and a root cellar is not a necessity the cost of erection can be naturally reduced by using shorter posts and omitting those items which contribute to the conveniences not needed.

Specifications.

1. The walls, 2 feet above the ground, should be of stone or concrete; from there up, wood. All concrete work in the walls should be mixed in the proportion of 1 part of best quality Portland cement, 2 parts of clean, sharp sand, and 4 parts of crushed stone or clean gravel, ranging in size from 1/2 to 1 1/4 inch. This piggery might be built on stone footings or cedar posts, but the more expensive wall is more permanent and eventually more economical.
2. The floors should be of concrete. It is best to have a layer of crushed stone, gravel or cinders underneath the concrete for insulation, as well as to make a good bed for the floor. The rough coat of the floor should be 3 inches in thickness and should be mixed in the same proportion as the walls. The finish coat should be mixed in the proportion of 1 part of best quality Portland cement, 2 parts of clean, sharp sand, and 4 parts of crushed stone or clean gravel ranging in size from 1/4 to 3/8 inch.
3. The sills and plates to consist of two-ply 2 x 6-inch plank with broken joints. The sills to be well bolted to the concrete foundation wall.
4. The walls are to be framed on the sills with 2 x 6-inch posts and studs, spaced at 24-inch centres. Where necessary, 2 x 6-inch strong bridging should be made over the windows. The covering of the wall from the outside consists of matched siding or dressed boards with battens over joints, 2-ply building paper and rough boards 1 or 1 1/2-inch next studs. If necessary to make the piggery extra warm it might pay to line the inside of studs with tongued and grooved flooring or shiplap and even to filling the space between studs with shavings or dry sawdust. The ceiling might be sheathed in the same way.
5. The floor joists of the loft are 2 x 6-inch plank spaced at 24-inch centres, securely spiked where they join the wall studs. The girts shall be 3 x 8-inch. The supporting posts in the piggery to be 5-inch squared posts, preferably with chamfered edges.
6. The divisions between pens should consist of 1-inch lumber, preferably matched. It is generally preferable to have a special 2 1/2 x 4-inch milled cap

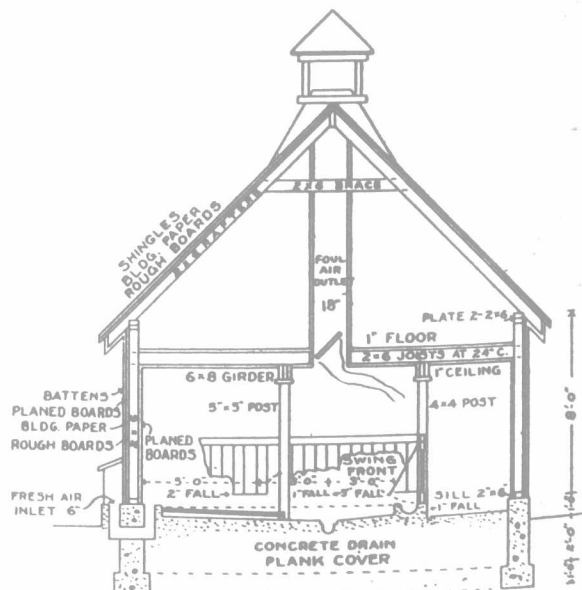


Fig. 4—End View of Permanent Piggery.