

than one-quarter the ration. For the breeding sow it is debilitating and over-fattening. Feed meal at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds as needed.

During Gestation.—Flush, or bring the sow into good condition before breeding. Maintain this condition after breeding. Avoid over-fatness with the ensuing troubles—difficult farrowing, small, weak, or dead pigs. Too thin condition, particularly with a young sow, may permanently injure, in any case will likely mean small, thin pigs, a high percentage of runts, and small milk secretion. The in-pig sow must receive a cooling ration tending toward a laxative nature. The ration above advised qualifies in this regard. Remember, first and last, that constipation at this time makes very certain, serious trouble with the litter—small, unthrifty, poor-doing pigs, due to constipation in both themselves and their mother. Such litters dwindle rapidly with no perceptible cause.

Exercise.—Equally as important as with the boar. With the exception of that period spent in the farrowing-pen, house the brood sow outdoors the year round in a portable cabin, 8 feet by 10 feet, and as described, placing four or five sows in each cabin. Choose a dry site. Make the sow work to obtain feed. This has an unfailing influence on the vigour, size and numbers of the coming litter, and lessens liability to rheumatism and crippling.

After Farrowing.—Avoid exciting the sow during or after farrowing. Always be present at this time, but give only such attention as may be required; no more. The first feed should be a tepid slop of middlings. During the first ten days gradually increase ration to maximum. Particularly avoid overfeeding, causing scours and thumps in little pigs. Feed the sow for milk production such rations as ground oats, middlings (equal parts), or ground oats, bran shorts (equal parts), both combinations with milk products. In summer allow green feed or pasture only after pigs are two weeks old. In winter, feed roots, clover hay, etc., to keep the bodily functions healthy and blood cool. Empty a pailful of earth and wood ashes in a corner of the pen. When weaning cut down meal supply and remove young pigs for longer periods each day until the sow is dry. If pigs are over-fat, lazy and sluggish and the sow a heavy milker, force exercise.

WEANING PIGS.

The strength of the pig when weaned (governed largely by factors already discussed) exerts possibly the greatest effect on the ultimate economy of production. Second only to this point in importance is the influence of wisdom in the feeding and management of the sucking and the weaned pig. More good litters are ruined—and more swine-feeders baffled and discouraged—by improper feeds and feeding and ill-advised methods at the period mentioned, than possibly during any other phase of the pig's existence.

Teach the litter to eat three weeks before weaning. Use a creep which admit the pigs but not the sow. For best results milk products are practically a necessity with middlings. A few handfuls of dry grain scattered in the bedding ensures the pigs taking exercise. Avoid overfeeding, and make exercise necessary. Gradually increase middlings until weaning. If skim-milk is available, and two litters per year are anticipated, wean at six weeks of age; otherwise, wean at eight weeks.

Ration for Weaned Pigs.—After weaning start grain feeding as follows: Daily ration for the two or three month pig weighing about fifty pounds; 1 pound of a mixture of barley, 3 parts; shorts, 3 parts; linseed oil meal, 1 part; with 5 pounds of skim-milk daily. Soak for twenty-four hours, and feed. If in pen, add to this some dry grain, oats or corn, scattered in litter. This is not necessary if pigs are on grass paddock. As pigs increase in age, gradually increase the grain to three pounds or more daily, as needed, increasing also the proportion of ground barley or oats in the mixture, until at six months of age the ration consists of ground corn or barley, 6 parts; shorts, 3 parts; linseed oil meal, 1 part. Shelter the pasture or paddock-fed pig either with a portable cabin or a light open-sided shed. Avoid, particularly, turning the weaned pig outdoors to a shadeless paddock. Sunburn, skin