

Agricultural.

The Feeding of Hogs in the Fall.



THE successful hog raiser is generally an enthusiast in his business, and we seldom hear of a man who has engaged in the work for a number of years, discarding it for another branch of farming. To him there seems to be no work on the farm which gives more genuine satisfaction than the ripening of a good bunch of hogs in the fall.

Hogs which have been kept in a healthy growing condition, but not fat, for a sufficient length of time to build up a strong frame, will, when put on a fattening ration in the fall, lay on fat very rapidly. The change to a full ration, however, when not properly done, is often attended with serious results. Too many pigs are kept on a starvation ration all summer, but as soon as the grain is threshed they are given all they will eat. The animals then try to satisfy their abnormal appetite by gorging themselves to the utmost capacity of their stomachs. As a result their digestion is so impaired that they are about worthless for profitable pork production.

The change from feeding for growth to feeding for fattening should be brought about so gradually that neither the breeder nor the pig could tell where the grass and slops were left off and the grain ration begun. The man who has allowed his hogs to pick their own living all summer and then succeeds in a reasonable time in bringing them up to a full grain ration without ruining the digestion of any of them, may be considered a passably good feeder.

The feeding of hogs more frequently than twice a day results in a waste of fodder. If the hog be given a full feed of grain in the morning, and then killed at noon, the stomach will be found on examination to be half full of mast, but undigested grain. By evening it will be entirely empty, but the digestive apparatus will be ready to assimilate a fresh supply of food. Even when fed only twice a day, they should not be given any more than they will eat up clean before leaving, as the hog has an appetite beyond his power of digestion.

If grain is left in their troughs from one feed to another the pigs soon become "stalled," and their digestive and assimilatory power greatly impaired. Watch them for a few minutes to see if they come to their feed. If they run quickly and eat rapidly they are in a first-class condition for fattening.

The Dairy Cow an Artificial Animal.

The good dairy cow—the one which gives a good flow of milk and keeps it up for ten or eleven months each year—has been made such by the hand of man. The cow in the state of nature, like the female of other species, gives only milk enough to nourish the young animal and gives milk only the length of time the young animal needs it, which in the case of the cow is but six or seven months. The true dairy cow is an artificial animal produced by careful selection, through many generations, in breeding from those families and individuals that show the greatest propensity for giving a good quantity of milk for

long periods; by feeding the young animals during their period of growth on the best of milk-producing foods and not on fattening foods (as that would induce the beef habit) and, after the heifer comes to giving milk, by feeding, milking and handling in such a way as to stimulate the giving of milk to the greatest possible extent. With all of our domestic animals there is a constant tendency to revert back to the original type and, do the best we may with our cows, there is occasionally one even in the best of dairy breeds and families that does so revert back and ought to be discarded from a dairy herd.

How Can Life in the Country Districts be Made More Agreeable?



WHILE PASSING through the country districts a traveler cannot fail to notice the dreary desolation and premature decay so manifest in many of our country villages. The people appear discouraged and thriftless; while a look of hopeless discontent clouds the countenances of the hotel and post office loungers.

The young people become disgusted with this monotonous life and long for the excitement of the city. They leave the country and swell the already overcrowded population of the metropolis. This tendency to centralize our population in a few cities is sapping the life and vigour out of our country districts.

The detrimental effect of this rush to the cities, by the young people, is easily seen: the country people are the mainstay of any nation, and their condition is a criterion of a nation's civilization. The city inhabitants of different nations possess almost similar characteristics. It is the country people who give to a nation its distinguishing peculiarities. We have to look to the country districts for people of solid, independent, habits of life, and any retrogression in their moral standard means danger to the national life. Our city inhabitants are largely under the heel of the capitalist or the manufacturer, and their individual independence is destroyed, consequently we have to look to the country for that moral stamina necessary for the stability of our country.

The practical question, then, is how can we counteract the allurements of the city and broaden and elevate country life? In some districts great improvements have already been made; free libraries, lecture courses by College professors, and literary circles, are doing much to make country life more agreeable and educative. Through petty jealousies and sectarian differences these sources of mental improvement often come to grief, so that it is very important that the leaders of these societies be persons of broad and sound judgment.

In the country we find the material unimpaired, for making a vigorous intellectual people, their minds are not engrossed with the frivolities of life, or their consciences seared by sensationalism. They can appreciate the best in nature or art, and under the direction of a good organizer and leader there is no danger of mental starvation. Some fostering of local patriotism; some endeavor to make the village not merely a place of habitation, but a union for intellectual life; an enthusiastic co-operation; some self-sacrifice on the part of those competent to lead, and the country people can enjoy all the benefits of modern civilization, while free from the dangers and vices of city life.