

## Some Methods of Hog Feeding

Farm and Dairy, as outlined May 13th, has been corresponding with a large number of pork producers in connection with the present state of the pork industry. A particularly interesting and valuable feature of the replies have been those relating to the question, "How do you feed hogs?" The following are extracts from the replies of those who claim to have made a profit from feeding hogs last year.

## UNPOTABLE HOG FEEDING

"Our hogs are fed principally roots in the winter; in the summer we sow the orchard with rape and let some

of them feed on it all the time."—W. A. Martin, Hastings Co., Ont. It hogs kept are pure bred and that they are sold for breeding purposes as far as possible as soon as they are weaned.

"We feed corn, potatoes and shorts together with home grown grains."—D. Dixon, Argenteuil Co., Que.

"We have raised hogs at a profit through raising sugar beets or mangels for them. We feed them skim milk, butter milk, middlings and roots to start them growing. Later on when they are three months old we feed them ground grain and whey. We finish through the last month with

corn meal."—Jacob Dillon, Leeds Co., Ont.

"We buy all the feed for our hogs except hay and skim milk. We have never used a pasture for them but we intend to make use of pasture this year. Our hogs are fed milk, shorts and feed flour mixed with water in a slop. This is allowed to soak from meal until the next. This is fed until the hogs weigh about 120 pounds, then dried corn meal is added to this mixture and the hogs are fed all they will eat."—Owen Cougler, Dundas Co., Ont.

"We feed our hogs skim milk from the separator, shorts and low grade flour."—G. B. Fellows, Oxford Co., Ont.

"We grow everything we feed. Nothing goes off our farm except what can walk off. We start our hogs on separated skim milk, roots and chop. Their summer feed consists merely of pickings from the apple orchard and chop to sustain them."—A. B. Book, Lincoln Co., Ont.

## SMALL PROFITS

From replies received from correspondents who claim to have made a very small profit, the following extracts are taken as to how they fed their hogs: "We feed them in which is mixed shorts after they have been first given a good start on milk. Nubbins of corn from the silo are made use of to some extent, and for a meal ration, we buy mill feeds."—A subscriber.

"During the past year, I have found the margin of profit too small to make hog feeding interesting. As a consequence, I have cut my herd down to about one half of what I could turn off without buying any mill feed. Our system has been to grow mostly pigs farrowed in August or September. We get them started on dairy by-products before winter. We finish them on grass and a little grain. We run them through the winter on silage and skim milk until we get them growing nicely and turn them off about June with grain and alfalfa. For a number of years, we have marketed from 100 to 200 that have been fitted to the market with very satisfactory results."—T. L. Dunlin, Oxford Co., Ont.

"We place the meal for hogs in a trough, dry and pour the drink on it. We feed low grade flour and ground oats. We grow all the feed we can and buy the balance of what is required."—J. F. Carl, Welland Co., Ont.

## WANT MORE THAN "HUSKS."

"We feed grain grown on the farm, small quantities of shorts and to our small pigs at weaning time, we also give skim milk, whey and pasture such as corn and rape. We do not feed more than 40 to 50 to the year. We lost money on them in the winter of '07 and '08, and have only about 20 on hand now. If manure is a profit, then we have made profit in feeding hogs. If not, then our profits are a minus quantity. Farmers are beginning to feel that they are no longer Prodigal Sons and they are not content with the husks alone when it comes to hog feeding."—W. A. Hambley, Norfolk Co., Ont.

"We grow peas to feed our hogs and buy milk feed to grow them on. We feed shorts and bran in equal parts, soaked in water and fed from the house; also all the separated milk that I have to spare after feeding the calves. Ground oats and peas are fed at the evening meal. We have made a profit on our hogs but it was a very small one."—J. B. Cowieson, York Co., Ont.

The following reply was received from a correspondent who had made no profit in raising hogs the past year: "We buy milk feed for our hogs and feed it with corn chop, skim hogs or water. We are keeping no hogs at present. There is not over one third as many hogs in our district

as there were last year."—V. J. Chaplin, Northumberland Co., Ont.

A correspondent from Saskatchewan has the following to say: "I have had about enough of hog raising. Six cents a pound dead weight all through the past winter is all right for those who like it but it does not suit me."—G. Boerna, Saskatchewan District, Sask.

From the foregoing, it can be seen at a glance that where hog raising has been carried on at a profit, cheap feeds are relied on and recourse is had to by-products of the dairy, roots, silage, pasture and home grown grains. Almost invariably where mill feeds are used, even to a limited extent, those who have used them, figure their profits near the vanishing point, if any at all.

## FARM MANAGEMENT

## Alfalfa Silage—Buckwheat As a Nurse Crop

At what age should alfalfa be cut for ensilage? I have seen it advised to cut it when about in full bloom, and one third in bloom for hay. Would it be advisable to run calves or pigs on it for pasture? Do you know anything concerning sending down to red clover with buckwheat?—H. G. Hutton Co., Ont.

Out alfalfa for ensilage when about  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  out. Cut for hay when just starting to blossom or before 1-10 in blossom. Better not to pasture alfalfa. Especially is this true the first year.

Buckwheat is not at all suitable as a nurse crop with which to seed down red clover.—J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C. E. F., Ottawa.

## Ensiling Alfalfa

Have you had any experience with ensiling the first cutting of alfalfa? I am thinking of cutting it for ensilage for summer feed and thereby keep the silo in constant use. I have read that it is very beneficial to sow lime or ground lime in quantity with the alfalfa seed. Would you have the proper element?—M. E. M., Hastings Co., Ont.

Alfalfa makes good ensilage and it keeps well. Liming the soil is a good practice, but on such soil as you describe, it is usually unnecessary. If you will get a piece of litmus paper for the next time you are in the village, and put it in contact with some damp soil, you will be able to tell whether it needs lime or not. Any druggist will give it. If the paper turns red, lime will do good.—J. H. G.

## Seeding to Alfalfa

I wish to sow a field to alfalfa as soon as possible and would like to know the best course to follow two years ago. This summer it was manured and planted. Last year it was sown to spring wheat and then down with clover, which is looking fair. How would it be getting it into alfalfa as soon as practicable?—M. E. M., Trenton, Ont.

It would in my opinion be a mistake to change to alfalfa this year. The better plan would be to take a crop of clover, or pasture the field till about August 1st. It should then

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be plowed rolled, and weathered of September. After the first of September, the soil is in such deep snow as to spring new alfalfa.

Another of the field is 30th. The two or three when it is 20 lbs. almost careful to prevent water being on the crop. It weeds in June.

## Arrang

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Blackneck, age now 15 lbs. m

have two rove Co., Ont.

Generally have cattle of any time reason, such it would, he them face light and fr most good.—

## Driveway

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2—What maling system—B. E. H. M.

1—Water drive way s provided the of being clea vided they being cleane vided of coun done.

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