

ers, should stay steadily in the hog business. The intermittent method is poor practice, as it usually results in being overstocked when markets are down, and having none to sell when prices advance. Then, time is wasted getting stocked up again, and, what is more serious yet, we get out of the "hang" of the business. Any old way of hog-feeding and management will not do. It requires skill to become a satisfactory and profitable business, and that only is attained with steady practice.

Mr. Fitch says he keeps 30 brood sows on the 350-acre farm, and ought to have about 40, or, say, 10 sows to the 100 acres. I would like to read in "The Farmer's Advocate" what readers in different sections have to say on that point. If Mr. Fitch is correct, most of us are understocked. In my observation, farmers think they are doing all right with a couple of sows on the 100-acre farm, along with twelve or fifteen cows, but now and then I come across a man with five or six sows. Mr. Fitch would keep one brood sow to every two or three cows, which seems to me not unreasonable. What say your readers on that point?

Next: How about profits? It is probable that in the factory districts the average herd does not yet yield 3,500 pounds of milk per cow per season, and, at \$1 per 100 pounds, gives a return of \$35. Add \$10 for home-used milk, making \$45. These cows are not kept short of \$30 per year, leaving \$15 to the good. A sow will rear two litters, or 15 pigs, worth at least \$35 per year, and the cost of keeping her will not be one-third that of a cow, putting her \$25 to the good, or \$10 better than the cow. In many factory sections calves are disposed of at \$1 or \$2 per head at birth, and, if reared, I doubt if by any system of feeding they can give the owner as much profit yearly as the bunch of 15 feeding pigs furnished by the sow. What have your readers to say about that? At this season there is opportunity for some useful figuring that will in time put money in our pockets when the results are given publicly. BERK BACON.

[Note.—"The Farmer's Advocate" will gladly afford space to a few dozen letters, if need be, replying to "Berk Bacon's" inquiries and observations regarding the comparative profits and number of sows and cows that should be kept on dairy farms.—Editor.]

Thirty-five Years' Experience with Boars.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The plan laid down here for managing a boar is the one I have followed for thirty-five years, both in Ontario and Manitoba, and found it to work satisfactorily. First procure from a reliable breeder the best hog money will buy, and raise him yourself. Put him in a roomy enclosure, with pasture and shade in summer, and feed him all he will eat of shorts, milk and house scraps, always making sure that he has plenty of exercise. In this time he gets his growth and training. Have the enclosure made in such a way that it is impossible for him to get out. Then, in feeding, train him so that he never comes to the trough until he is told to. It depends all on the first six or eight months how he will behave in after years. For training, I used a piece of board made in the shape of a paddle, about two feet long, and never strike at him unless his head is towards you, and only then when you are sure of hitting him on the nose. With this training, in after years the boar will be handled with pleasure, instead of danger.

If kept for public service, have a good warm pen; mine was 10 by 30 feet, divided into three compartments. The two end compartments opened into separate yards. The middle one, with wide door, opened into the stable-yard, where a team could back in for loading and unloading, with a movable shoot. The boar being in his own compartment, the sow is placed in the middle pen, the door shut, and the hog is then let out with the sow through a sliding door. If she has to remain, she is put through a sliding door into the other end of pen. I never allow more than one service.

The boar is fed from a hopper on good, sound, clean, whole oats, with a shallow trough underneath, so placed as to catch all waste. In this lower trough is placed charcoal and ashes, and he gets all he can drink three times a day, house slop, or water with a handful of any fine meal that is handy, and a raw cabbage when I think of it.

As to fees, first there is the keep of the visiting sows. This is supplied by the owners, and left to their discretion. Some bring too much and some not enough, so this evens out all right. The feed is all dumped into a bin and fed in an open trough with water. For the service of boar I get a young pig at weaning time. If no pigs, no pay. If litter is lost, it is more loss to owner than me. And you get a pig next time sure. In the case of pedigree sows being served, I leave it to the owner of sow whether he pays \$5 for service, with certificate of same, or the usual young pig. I take it for granted that

every pig-owner, whether he has one or one hundred, knows that they must sleep in warm, perfectly dry quarters, with lots of bedding; that large or small litters can be controlled to a great extent by the sow being starved or well fed for the first week after service. If starved, she will pay you your deserts at farrowing time. If you do not believe this, try it.

Man.

W. M. CHAMPION.

THE FARM.

Another Man Beats Sow Thistle.

In reading through the columns of your valuable paper, I noted from time to time different methods of killing perennial sow thistle, and as I bought a farm some four years ago, with some fields badly infested, and have been successful against it so far, I will give my method of handling one seven-acre field.

About July 1st, 1908, we took the hay off, and as soon after as possible plowed it crosswise about 3½ inches deep, turning the sod well down, in lands about eighty feet wide. This I think important in killing all weeds which grow from the root, as the centers of the lands are always the hardest to clean. Afterwards we worked the field with disk, drag and spring-tooth harrows, as often as we could spare time, when the ground was dry and the sun shining, preferably working the field in a different direction at every cultivating.

We cultivated in this way until about October 1st, when we plowed it deeply lengthwise of field in lands of good width, and fixed to drain off through surface draining as early as possible in spring.



Shorthorn Yearling Steer, Stanley.

First and Reserve for Daily Post Cup, Birmingham Show. Exhibited by H. M. the King.

The next spring we cultivated occasionally until we had our other grain sowed, then worked thoroughly, marked into three-foot squares, and planted with White-cap Yellow Dent and Compton's Early corn, mixed 2 to 1. This we harrowed both ways before coming up, and as soon as we could started the one-horse cultivator, and kept it going both ways through the corn, until it had tasselled out, having gone through six times each way. And I might say, although the wireworms took off a lot of it, we had enough left on six and a half acres to fill a silo 16 x 26 feet.

This corn ground we did not plow, but cultivated until we had stubbles well worked up, then furrowed out in fall. Working twice with the disks last spring gave us a fine seed-bed, on which we drilled in oats and seeded down. My neighbors tell me we raised the first crop of grain free from sow thistle there has been on this field for over twenty-five years, the last crop being as yellow as an orange.

This field was also badly infested with quack grass and wild peas, both of which appeared in small patches as late as the spring of 1909, but the corn cultivation finished them. I have never seen a stem of sow thistle since the second plowing in the first fall, except a few stems in sod around fence, which I dug up. A. T. A. Dundas Co., Ont.

Just imagine a complete Kitchen Equipment (six articles), or a Set of Scissors (three pairs), for sending in only one new yearly subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." Look up these and other premiums on our announcement on page 79 of this issue.

Alfalfa for Seed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have grown alfalfa seed for upwards of eighteen or twenty years, and have at present about forty acres under this crop. The yield of seed varies somewhat in wet and dry seasons, the latter being the better for seed production. In very wet seasons, such as last year, we have no seed. But looking back over the last eighteen years, I think I have had but two complete failures. I have had it yield from one to five bushels per acre. When seed is to be taken, we use the second cutting in every case. I harvest when three-quarters of pods have turned brown and seeds have become colored. I generally harvest by mowing machine, with drag-table attached, let dry in bunches, turning when required, and thresh with clover huller. Taking a crop of seed does not injure the stand. The more you cut the better.

I have sold seed all the way from three to twelve dollars per bushel. I have no difficulty in selling all I can raise, very often to farmers.

Our greatest difficulty is in wet seasons, when the crop grows too rank or stout; then I think it more profitable to cut for hay and pasture off third crop. I have never cut a third crop for hay, always pasture. I once saw a plot of third crop well loaded with seed. I have small plots I mowed four times last season.

The threshing of alfalfa if dry generally grinds and breaks it up so much I let colts pick over the straw and use for bedding. J. ROLAND. Welland Co., Ont.

Results of Selecting Barley Seed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your inquiry regarding my work in seed selection, I may say that I became a member of the Canadian Seed-growers' Association at its organization, believing then, as I do now, that it would be a mutual benefit to belong to an association having for its object the growing of a higher grade of seed grain, and more of it.

Our farm, comprising one hundred acres of clay loam, is located one mile north of the thriving village of West Lorne, County of Elgin, in what we think is one of the most desirable agricultural districts of Ontario.

In our farming operations, we practice a four-years rotation, viz.: hay, pasture topped with from fourteen to twenty loads of barnyard manure per acre; fall-plowed and sown with oats, barley and corn (the two former being seeded with clover); the stub-seeded with clover.

I will give you a brief resume of my work in growing seed barley, it being my specialty, although I practice hand selection with wheat, oats, corn, and potatoes, also; but the general rules will, however, apply to these as well.

In 1902 I secured a three-pound sample of Mensury barley from the Ottawa Experimental Farm. Presuming this to be a pure sample of this variety, I sowed it in a small plot in 1903, and when ready to harvest I selected enough large heads to plant about a quarter of an acre in 1904. I also selected a sheaf, with which I competed for the first time at the Guelph Winter Fair, winning first prize. In selecting barley, I keep in my mind as an ideal that of a long, square, compact head.

Having received a small sample of Mand-scheuri barley from the O. A. C. in 1903, I sowed this side by side with the Mensury in the spring of 1904, in a small plot, as I wished to determine which was the more suitable variety for this district. From these plots I also selected about thirty pounds of heads for seeding plots of 1905. In each case these heads were flailed out, and cleaned by the fanning mill process at least three times, leaving about twenty pounds of plump grain.

As before, in 1905 I sowed these two varieties side by side in plots, at the rate of one and a quarter bushels per acre, using only alternate rows of the drill, so that, in selecting heads when ripe, I would not destroy the standing grain, and also to promote stooling. After selecting sufficient heads and straw for exhibition purposes, the