

Farming.

A PAPER FOR FARMERS AND STOCKMEN.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yorkshire Pigs.

A. J. W. wishes to know the origin of Yorkshire pigs and their characteristics.

There is very little definite information available as to how the breed of Yorkshire pigs, as it is now generally known, originated. There were pigs called Yorkshires many years ago in the north of England, but they were, as a rule, very big, coarse animals, that required a long time to mature, and were totally different from the present style of Yorkshires. In Great Britain at the present time, white pigs are classified as large, middle, and small whites, the former being the same as our Yorkshires, the middle, a shorter pig of more quality, and the small whites practically the same as our Suffolks, a short easily-kept sort. There is no doubt that there was much indiscriminate crossing between these three sub-varieties before the herd books were started, the middle white especially, being used to give greater quality to the coarser large pigs, until now we have the Yorkshire, which the bacon curers have designated as a good model for their export trade. It is also said that Berkshire blood was sometimes used to introduce quality, and some countenance is given to this theory by the occasional discovery of dark spots on the skins of some Yorkshires.

Let the origin of Yorkshires be what it may, they certainly originated in the north of England, chiefly in Yorkshire, and are to-day, thanks to the skilfulness of their breeders, a breed that have done much to bring the pigs

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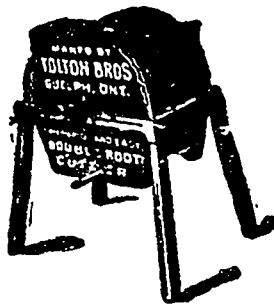
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