

as would result were all the farmers in one district to select and raise the same type of hogs. The advantages of all the farmers in one district raising the same type of hogs are as follows : First, the district will soon develop a reputation for producing large numbers of hogs of that breed, and prospective purchasers of breeding stock will go to the district to buy, knowing that they will have large numbers to select from; second, individual breeders in the district may buy good, high-priced boars and interchange them with their neighbors when no longer useful to them, thus eliminating the necessity of sacrificing a good breeding boar for pork because of the lack of a market for him; third, the breeders of the district can easily club together and gather stock for a public sale; fourth, when a car-load of hogs is made up for shipment to market from that district, they will be uniform in color and type and command a higher price than if they were made up of three or four different types and colors, as is so often the case now with car-loads of hogs coming to market.

The above pertains chiefly to the breeding of pure-blood hogs, and while usually that will prove the most profitable method of raising hogs to the farmer, it is by no means the only practical or profitable type of breeding that may be followed.

The three methods in most general use are pure breeding, cross-breeding, and grade breeding. Pure breeding has as its advantages : First, that higher prices may be secured by selling at least a part of the produce for breeding purposes and thus greater profits secured from a small herd; second, greater improvement can be secured through pure breeding than by grading or crossing; third, in pure breeding there is less chance for variation, and greater uniformity will be evident in the produce of the herd.

The only disadvantages of pure breeding as compared to grading or crossing are : First, a little more capital is required to purchase satisfactory breeding animals at the beginning; second, a knowledge of the breed characteristics is necessary to enable the breeder to select animals of correct type and markings.

A type of breeding that is perhaps more in use among swine breeders than with the breeding of any other class of animals is cross-breeding. This implies the mating of a pure-blood boar of one breed pure-blood sows of another breed. Usually a boar of one of the lard breeds is crossed with sows of one of the bacon breeds, the object being to combine so far as possible the long body and deep side of the bacon breed with a little of the width, depth of hind flank and greater feeding capacity of the lard breed. This practice has proved quite successful in producing first-class feeder hogs. It has as its chief advantage the fact that the mixing of two breeds entirely distinct usually gives renewed vigor, vitality and feeding propensities to the offspring. It has as its disadvantages : First, that the cross-bred animals do not prove satisfactory breeders, and must all be marketed