

Rearing the Litter.

There is no question about the fact that the sow's milk is the main and most proper nourishment for the young pigs, and for at least a couple of weeks from birth little or no other food is needed. It is, therefore, apparent that the condition and progress of the youngsters depends on the health and practical care and feeding of the sow during that period; but we must not stop here, for right up to weaning time the milk must be of the right quality to aid in sustaining the progressive development of them. The sow's milk is the natural provision for the sustenance of the piglets, and is consequently the best fluid food for them; it is therefore obvious how essential the good condition of the sow is to the interests and well-being of the fare. Get the sow down in condition, weak and low in health, and the supply of milk lessens and deteriorates in quality, with the result that the litter comes to a standstill, aye, in not a few cases, numbers of, if not the whole of, the litter seem to recede and contract rather than make any progress.

It is well, of course, to furnish some suitable food to the youngsters as soon as they show a healthy desire to be eating something, but it must be remembered that such feeding should be of a supplementary nature rather than to substitute the milk supply from an ill-cared for sow.

It is generally under normal circumstances that the youngsters show a decided desire to be eating when about a fortnight old; but if the sow is well charged with milk, and otherwise in good fettle, I would not recommend a too fulsome supply of slop food for them. A little small corn scattered thinly on a clean bottom for them to pick up and chew at will comprises occupation, nourishment and good exercise for the jaws, and is food that eventually reaches the stomach in a far better regulated manner than does slop food gulped down in irregular quantities, which frequently promotes pot-bellies, whereas the more solid method of supplementary feeding, where an abundant supply of milk is forthcoming from the sow, tends to the retention of the original compact symmetry of the animal, which is a distinct advantage to its welfare, progress and commercial value right to the end of the chapter.

One cannot fail to notice that young pigs, even at a very early age, are desirous of eating something of an earthy nature. They are able to readily secure what they really need and is beneficial to them in this direction where considerable roaming space is available to them; but it is where circumstances demand that the sow and her fare be kept in somewhat close quarters, or under very considerable artificial reservation that the youngsters will accept the most available substitute, which is often far from good for them in that it is dry filth found in nooks and corners about the sty, accumulations engendered as a result of laxity in the "mucking" out operation. What they really require is a little sound earth to nose about and chew.

We cannot well allow the trouble of teat biting and tearing by the youngsters when fighting amongst themselves while sucking the sow or struggling for the last drop of a spare supply to pass without comment. Now, it must be allowed that there is nothing in the natural or mutual order of things comprising the nurture of the sow's offspring that should impel the regular practice, as carried out by some pig breeders, of clipping off the youngsters' teeth. Domestication cannot be charged with having aided and abetted any abnormal growth of these sucking teeth. Rather the other way about. I have seldom found that the well-nourished sow with a

fulsome supply of milk suffers from bitten and torn teats; but for all that, I know that it does happen, and it certainly does to a very great extent tend to the breaking up of the happy home. The sow becomes savage and snappish, and as a result of a nip of an already jagged teat the meal is cut short before the youngsters have had a fill, and in a struggle for a further supply the teats continue to get badly mauled. Whilst allowing for extreme cases, I would commend the adoption of the all-round practice of clipping the teeth. There is a big drain indeed on the sow with a big fare of robust pigs, and if she is to make a sound job of bringing them up she must have the very best of feeding and general management.

Roots and vegetables are good for the sow and litter when supplied in such quantities as shall have only a gentle alternative effect on the whole family. Too much, however, of this class of fare, when discussed by the youngsters at a very early age, aids and abets the pot-bellied condition, and promotes shivers and a staring coat, which never spells progress. A very great mistake



Two Steers at the End of the Grazing Season.
The worst and best out of a lot of thirty on a Middlesex farm.

frequently discernible when observing the various methods of feeding sows with fares depending on them is that the supplementary dietary which would be an excellent edible as a supplement has to take the place of a main feed, whilst that which should be dealt out liberally as a suitable main food is very meanly handled indeed.—Live Stock Journal.

Purchasing Feeders.

Owing to following diversified methods of farming some have young cattle to sell each fall, while others find it necessary to purchase. The type, weight, age, etc., of the animals purchased have a great bearing on the profits obtained. Whether the market is strong or weak at time of selling the thick, blocky, low-set, nice quality steer or heifer will make greater returns to its owner than the leggy, narrow-bodied individual. The former kind will cost considerably more than the latter but they will also sell for more, when finished for market. Select the right kind of feeder and buy right. Some men can size up an animal much more accurately than others and know at a glance what the animal is worth to them. The man who is not too sure of his ability to size up an animal had better buy by weight rather than by the dollar; it is fairer for both parties.

When there is a large quantity of roughage to be utilized some prefer buying growthy cattle weighing nine or ten hundred pounds, winter them as cheaply as possible and fatten them on grass. Others, who make a practice of finishing their cattle in the stable buy the ten or eleven-hundred-pound steer carrying a fair degree of flesh. In the latter case grain is fed and the gains in

weight must be fairly good. A spread of one-and-a-half or two cents with a good doing steer pays the feeder fairly well. Judging by reports there are many good feeders in some localities that can be purchased. Each one knows best the weight and age of feeder or stocker which best suits his system of farming, but if buying try and get the kind that are recognized as good doers even if they do cost a few dollars more than the commoner lots.

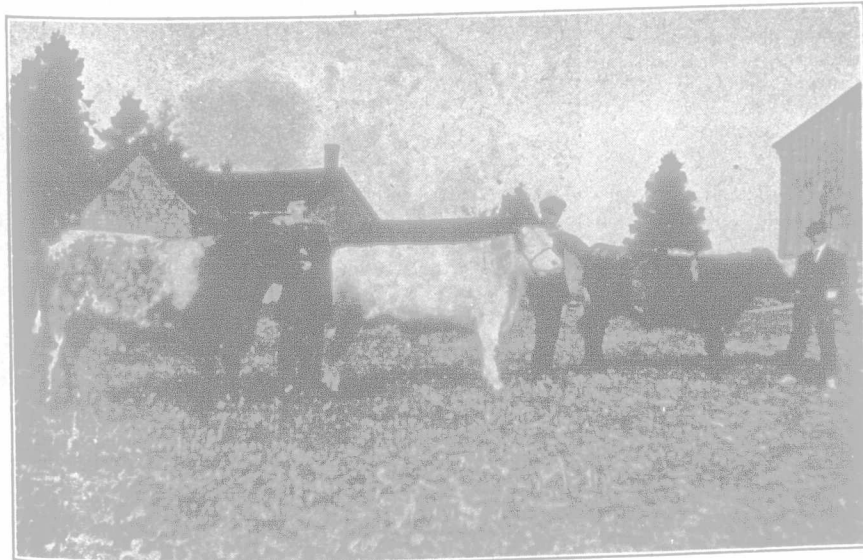
Salt and Mineral Matter for Hogs.

It is important for the development of the animal frame that there be a certain quantity of mineral matter in the ration. Certain mineral substances are taken up by plants from the soil, and when fed to stock furnish the needed material to build up the body frame. Some feeds are richer in certain minerals than others. Thus when compounding a ration it is advisable to take into account the mineral content for it is found in all the vital parts of the body. For instance, the bone is largely composed of lime, phosphorus is found in considerable quantities in the cells. Iron is essential in the blood. The common feeding stuffs all contain mineral salts, but as a rule the roughages especially legumes are richer in this material than the grains. The nature of the soil will influence the mineral content of the crops grown. Any growing animal that fails to obtain sufficient mineral matter does not develop normally. For instance, if lime is lacking the bone will be porous and brittle. If the feeds lack lime it may be furnished by feeding ground limestone, ground bone, wood ashes, etc. Too often the rations fed growing pigs do not contain enough lime for thrifty growth of body and tissues. Henry and Morrison relate the following experiment in their book on Feeds and Feeding. "One lot of growing pigs were fed wheat bran from which most of the phosphorus had been removed by washing, together with wheat gluten and rice, both of which feeds are extremely poor in mineral matter. Other lots were fed the same ration plus ground rock phosphate or bone ash which supplied ample calcium and phosphorus. For a considerable time all the pigs did well, but as time went on those fed the ration poor in mineral matter fell behind the others. They had no appetite and disliked to stand up; later they lost control of their hind quarters, and had to be carried to the trough at feeding time. When the pigs were slaughtered it was found that those fed insufficient phosphorus had light, weak bones, while those receiving ground rock phosphate or bone ash had strong, heavy bones." When pigs are fed heavily on corn the lime supply is usually low. The cereals, brans, oil-cake and slaughter house waste generally contains plenty of mineral matter.

Pigs kept in confinement may show a craving for some substance. This is very often due to a deficiency of mineral matter in the ration. It is a good plan to mix such materials as charcoal, air-slaked lime or ground limestone, wood ashes, bone meal, copperas and salt, and keep the mixture before the hogs.

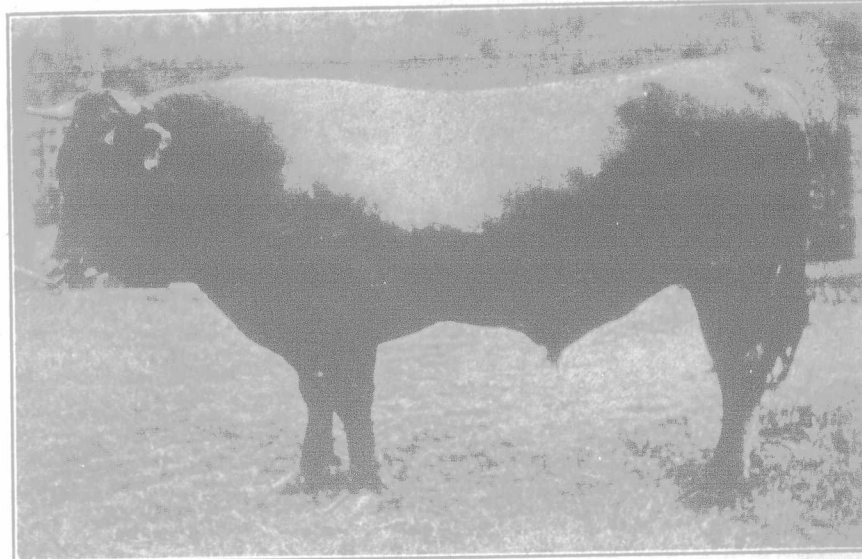
Hogs require less salt than other farm animals, but they need a regular supply. Experiments cited by Henry and Morrison show that pigs having free access to salt made better gains than those not receiving salt or getting it in very small quantities. Salt adds to the palatability of many feeds, aids in stimulating the digestive glands and possibly improves the appetite.

Why is the demand for dairy products so great in Great Britain? This is practically answered by the fact that although the human population of Great Britain rose from 26,000,000 in 1871 to 41,000,000 in 1914 the cow population rose from a little over 2,000,000 in 1871 to under 3,000,000 in 1914. In other words the population increased 40 per cent. for cows and 60 per cent. for consumers of milk and dairy products. The natural result of this unequal increase was that the total quantity of dairy produce imported rose from 250,000,000 pounds in 1871 to 850,000,000 pounds in 1914, while the value of such imports amounted to £38,000,000 in 1914 when war broke out. Much of this produce, too, is imported from Denmark and Holland where natural advantages for dairying are said to be inferior to those possessed by many parts of Britain. A large industrial population seems, in short, to be the answer.



Three Grade Steers of Show Caliber.

Twenty-one cents a pound was offered Jas. McPherson & Sons, of Grey County, for these steers in August.



King Albert.

The Brown Swiss bull at the head of J. W. Laidlaw's herd, Wilton Grove, Ont.