

Cotswold Sheep.

Like a number of the breeds of sheep which we have been giving a brief history of, in past issues, the native home of the Cotswold was in England, in the County of Gloucester. The Cotswold Hills extend through this county, and on these hills of variable soils, oftentimes yielding poor pasture but moderate crops of wheat and roots, the Cotswold breed was originated. According to "Types and Breeds of Farm Animals," by Plumb, "sheep in the early times were folded in shelters locally known as 'cots' or 'cotes,' and were pastured on the wild, treeless hills of the region which were termed 'wolds,' from which the name Cotswold was evolved. As early as 1464 history states that the King of England granted permission for certain Cotswold sheep to be exported to Spain. Thus it will be seen that this breed traces back for many generations. The region in which the Cotswold originated has long been a noted wool-producing section, and dates back to the days of Roman conquest. It has always been a large-framed, long-wooled breed, but the sheep as we know it to-day is considerably improved over the old type. Undoubtedly, Leicester blood has been used, which reduced the size and improved the build and also tended to more quality, finer wool, and earlier maturity. Breeders of Cotswolds have practiced judicious selection with gratifying results.

The Cotswold compares with the Lincoln in size. In moderate flesh a mature ram will weigh over 250 pounds, and a ewe over 200 pounds. While this breed does well in the feed-lot and has held its own in competition with other breeds in feeding tests, the mutton of two-year-old sheep and over lacks the fineness of fibre that is so desirable, and there is also a tendency for the animals to put on too much external fat when well fed. The Cotswold lamb, however, does not show the faults above mentioned and is most acceptable on the table. The breed meets with favor as a grazer, especially where pastures are abundant. Being of quiet temperament and large frame, it may be fed to advantage on the ordinary field crops, as rape, turnips, etc., on restricted areas within hurdles. The Cotswold ewe produces large lambs and feeds them well.

As a wool producer the Cotswold ranks high. While the fleece has a tendency towards coarseness, it is of a lustrous character. From eight to ten inches is the common length of fibre, although on some sheep it exceeds this by several inches. The average fleece will weigh from nine to ten pounds, although this weight has been considerably exceeded on certain individuals.

The breed is to be found in practically every country, having been exported from its native county in England. In the various countries organizations for promoting this breed of sheep are maintained. While the Cotswold is one of the oldest breeds, it was not until the early part of the nineteenth century that it was introduced to the United States. In 1832, C. Dunn, of New York State, imported a Cotswold ram, and in 1840, W. H. Sotham imported a flock to the same State. The breed gained in popularity as it was well suited to the existing conditions. The breed soon found its way to Canada, where a number of flocks were established. At practically all the large shows there is keen competition in the Cotswold classes, where models of breed type and conformation are to be seen. It is a hardy breed of sheep and does well under Canadian farming conditions.

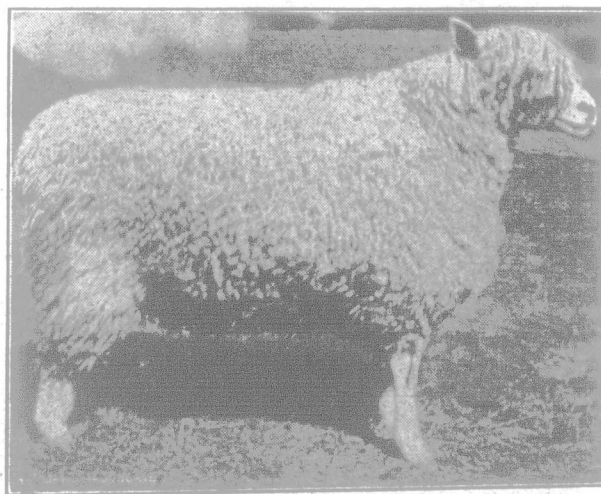
The Cotswold head is a distinguishing feature of the breed. It has a slightly Roman nose, and locks of wool cover the forehead extending to near the nostrils. A broad back, strong loin, full leg of mutton, and great thickness through the heart, are characteristic of the breed. It might be faulted, however, for some representatives appearing somewhat upstanding and lacking in depth of body. As a rule there is a marked alertness of expression in the Cotswold, and it carries itself well. In the "Shepherd's Hand-Book," issued by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association, appears the following description of the breed:

Head—Moderately fine, broad between the eyes and nostrils, but without a short, thick appearance, and well covered on crown with long, lustrous wool. Face—Either white or slightly mixed with grey, or white dappled with brown. Nostrils—Wide and expanded. Nose dark. Eyes—Prominent, but mild looking. Ears—Broad, long, moderately thin, and covered with short hair. Collar—Full from breast and shoulders, tapering gradually all the way to where the neck and head join; neck should be fine and graceful, and free from coarse and loose skin. Shoulders—Broad and full, and, at the same time, joined so gradually to the collar forward and chine backwards as not to leave the least hollow in either place. Fore Legs—The mutton on the arm should come quite to the knee. Leg upright with heavy bone—being clear from superfluous skin, with wool to fetlock and may be mixed with grey. Breast—Broad and well forward, keeping the legs wide apart. Girth and chest full and deep. Fore Flank—Quite full, not showing hollow behind the shoulder. Back and Loin—Broad, flat and straight, from which the ribs must spring, with a fine circular arch. Belly—Straight on underline. Quarters—Long and full, with mutton quite down to the hock. Hock—Should stand neither in nor out. Twist—Or junction inside of thighs, deep, wide and full, which with a broad breast will keep the legs open and upright. Fleece—The whole body should be covered with long, lustrous wool, having a bold, open curl.

Don't wait too long before making water pipes, etc., proof against frost. Many suffered great inconveniences last winter on account of frozen water pipes, and the consequent impairment of the systems installed.

The Self-Feeder For Pigs.

In past issues plans and specifications of the self-feeder, suitable for swine, have been published in these columns. This fall a number of breeders have asked for information regarding the construction and practicability of the self-feeder. We herewith publish a diagram of a self-feeder which very clearly shows the method of construction. The self-feeder is very largely used in sections of the United States, where hog raising is engaged in on a large scale. The Experimental Farms at Ottawa have used the self-feeder for a number of years, and have recommended it for use under Canadian conditions. It offers a partial solution to the labor problem, as instead of having to feed the growing pigs two or three times a day, the feeder may be filled up once or twice a week. This method of feeding has proven to be no deterrent to economical and successful hog rearing. In many instances the hogs have done



Typical Cotswold.

better when given the privilege of helping themselves than when given a certain allowance at stated times. In one class of feeder there are a number of divisions so that various feeds may be kept separate, and the porker is allowed to take the kind which best suits his taste. For instance, the heavier grains, as barley or corn chop, may be fed separately from shorts or tankage, and the pig be allowed to balance his own ration. By this method of feeding it is necessary to have a trough for water in the pen, and care should be taken that the pigs get a sufficient quantity of clean water to drink.

In many pens the trough space is insufficient for the number of hogs kept to feed comfortably at one time. Consequently, there is a rushing from one end of the trough to the other, with the resulting waste of feed. It is entirely different when the self-feeder is used; even with more pigs in the pen than under the old system, there is no crowding. For instance, some time ago we saw a pen of upwards of twenty pigs which secured their rations from a self-feeder located in the centre of the pen. Some of the pigs were helping themselves to a mixture of oats and barley, others were taking a drink

companioning illustration shows a two-way feeder. This may be cut down the centre, however, to make two one-way feeders. Construction should be such that the grain will feed down without clogging, and the troughs at the bottom must be so constructed that there will be a minimum of waste. The diagram shows the bottom of the feeder extending out 12 inches beyond the side, with a projection several inches high to prevent the grain being rooted over into the pen. The following are specifications which may be a guide when selecting material to construct a feeder:

The walls consist of three 2 x 3 studs on each side, covered inside with 1/2-inch T & G boarding. On top of the studs is a 2 x 3 plate. The boarding should start at 5 inches above the floor of the troughs, and a gate, or feed control board, 1/2-inch by 10 inches in width, the full length of the feeder, slides behind the boarding. This gate may be fastened at any desired height by thumbscrews, sliding in a vertical slot on the outside face of the boarding. Connection between control board and thumbscrews is made by two iron straps 1 inch by 1/4 inch, as shown.

The floor of the bin consists of 1/2-inch T & G boarding laid on 2 x 2 rafters at 45 degrees.

The floor of the feed troughs is 1/2-inch T & G boarding laid across the 2 x 4 base pieces.

The front of the feed troughs consists of 1 piece 4 inches by 4 inches (2 two by fours) beveled from the centre down to the flooring. From this front are placed 2-inch by 2-inch braces running up to 1-inch by 3-inch piece laid along the sides, as shown.

The roof consists of 2-inch by 2-inch rafters resting on the 2-inch by 3-inch plate, and covered with 1-inch T & G boarding and ready roofing.

The door which is made of 1/2-inch T & G with 1-inch by 3-inch battens at back, should be equipped with hinges and handle for lifting, and in the case of the roof door, should have a prop to keep it open.

The structure is 5 feet 1 1/4 inches by 6 feet 5 1/2 inches, outside dimensions.

The above dimensions makes a very satisfactory feeder, but the size may be altered to suit the place where it is to be located, provided that the principle of construction is similar.

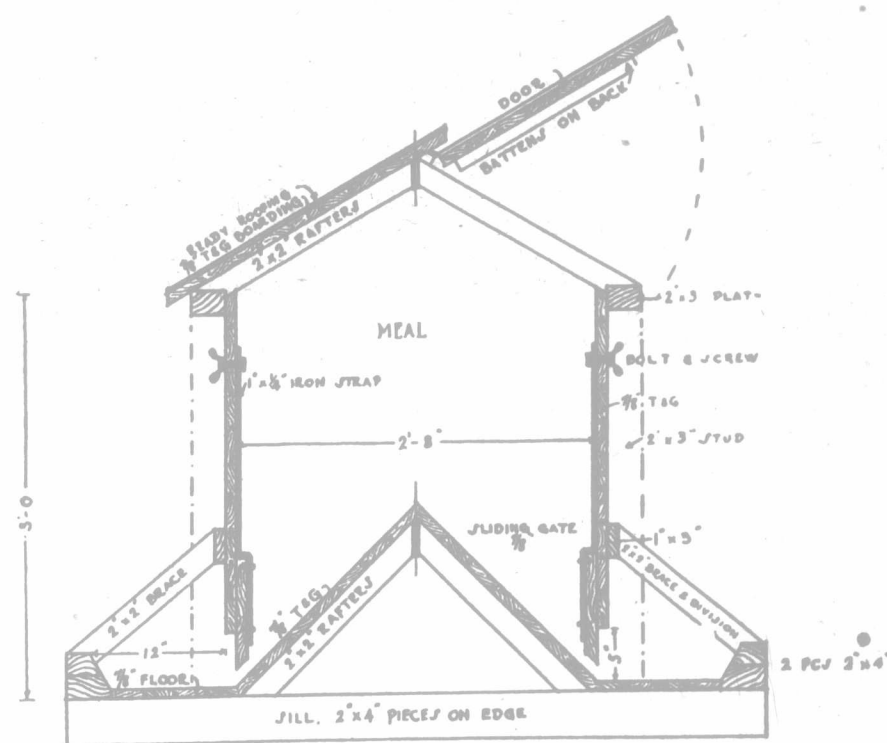
Hairless Pigs.

Throughout the Corn Belt a large number of hairless pigs are born every spring. The trouble has developed to such an extent that considerable work has been done in order to ascertain the cause and remedy for this malady. Some authorities estimate that upwards of a million pigs are lost annually from this cause alone in the State of Montana, and the trouble has become a serious menace to the swine breeders of the various breeds. A bulletin has been prepared by E. B. Hart and H. Steenbock, of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin, in which the cause and remedy are set forth. According to this bulletin, the hairless pigs are of normal weight and size, and are generally carried the full gestation period. When absolutely hairless, and born alive, they sometimes live a few hours but sooner or later die. They have thick necks, thick skin, do not squeal and have no vitality. The skin is smooth and shiny. In

the same litter there may be normal pigs, with a full coat of hair and plenty of vigor, while others are hairless and with little vitality. The trouble is more prevalent in the spring than in the fall. The cause of the trouble is attributed to goitre, and enlarged, improperly-working thyroid gland. This gland at the centre and base of the throat, in its enlarged condition accounts for the thick necks in little pigs. The goitre in the sow does not seriously affect her health and according to the authors of the bulletin does not affect her use for meat, but unless corrected it does interfere with her breeding functions.

Iodine has been used for curing and controlling this malady. It is claimed that the thyroid gland forms a chemical substance containing iodine which it circulates through the blood stream. If conditions arise whereby the animal system requires more of this substance, and it is not supplied in the food, the gland enlarges, and it is therefore claimed that the goitre is

due either to the failure of the gland to absorb the iodine which is in the blood, or failure to absorb the iodine from the feed. Tests have shown that a normal gland contains about 22 per cent. of iodine, but that this gland in a hairless pig contains no iodine. In most instances, however, there is enough iodine in the regular feed, if it is properly assimilated, to furnish the normal requirements of the animal. The authors of the bulletin have corrected the hairless-pig trouble by giving the sow, during her entire gestation period, approximately one-third of an ounce of potassium iodide per one hundred pounds of feed. Where hairless pigs have occurred on a



Plan of Self-feeder for Hogs.

from the water trough, while still others were contentedly stretched at full length in a corner of the pen. That the pigs were thrifty was evident, and the owner stated that since he had adopted this method of feeding that he had had less trouble from pigs crippling, and had secured more economical gains with less labor and attention.

It is not necessary to build an elaborate feeder. A bin may be attached to the side of the pen, and an opening made at the bottom so that the pigs may secure their rations. The two-sided feeder is, however, better adapted for outdoor use, or where a considerable number of pigs are kept in one pen or runway. The ac-