

The Litter

The spring litter should be farrowed as early as the weather will permit, that they may be big enough to make use of pasture crops as soon as these are ready. By the time the young pigs are three weeks old they will begin to eat, and a separate trough, to which they alone have access, should be provided for them. If at all possible, some skim milk should be given at this age. Every effort should be made to have the pigs strong and healthy at birth and to keep them growing vigorously. Quickest and cheapest gains are made at the earlier ages.

By the time the pigs are six to eight weeks old they will have learned to eat well and may then be weaned. If a little skim milk can be provided until these pigs are twelve to fourteen weeks of age, it should be used. From that age on they will make most excellent use of the pasture crops already referred to and until they are well grown ample pastures should be provided.

To protect the sod in these pastures the pigs should be ringed.

Lice

Lice are the commonest pest with hogs and should always be combatted. They increase the cost of gains. If one has many hogs, he should arrange a dipping tank and twice a year put all his hogs through. The pigs should all be put through a second time ten days after the first. The tank should contain a 2 per cent. solution of any good coal tar disinfectant. The hogs should be completely submerged in the solution. This treatment is also good for the skin. If one has only a few hogs, crude oil may be applied with a cloth, care being taken not to miss behind the ears, the arm-pits, the insides of the flanks and between the hind legs. The pens should be thoroughly cleaned and washed with disinfectant in the Fall and in the Spring, and at any other time the animals are infected with lice.