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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Housing Swine in the Winter.

BY W. C. MCKILLICAN, BRANDON EXPERI-MENTAL FARM.

In providing shelter for swine during the winter months the chief consideration is dryness. Other points such as warmth and ventilation are important and closely related, but the absolute essential is dryness. Buildings heated by the warmth of animals have a great tendency to excessive moisture, because the warmth comes chiefly from the animals' breath which is moisture- laden. An excessively moist atmosphere is detrimental to the health of any animal, but to pigs it is particularly objectionable, as they are more subject to rheumatism and other troubles traceable to dampness.

WINTERING IN PIGGERY.

The brevity of this article will prevent any full discussion of piggery construction, but a few essentials may be noted. Cement floors are the best from the standpoint of sanitation and durability, but a pig should never lie on a cement floor. Sleeping platforms should be pro-vided. These may be raised only an inch or two above the cement or may be elevated so that there is a two-story pen with a gangway up to the sleeping quarters. Cement should not be used for piggery walls; it makes a damp build-ing. Wooden walls with plenty of insulation by means of paper and dead air insulation by means of paper and dead air spaces are best. A piggery should have ample sunlight, and the rays should shine on the sleeping quarters, keeping the bedding dry and sweet. The area of glass should not be extreme, however, as that defeats the object, making the building too hard to warm and consequently damp. The ceiling of a piggery should not be too high; a low ceiling allows the place to warm up more readily and facilities ventilation. A good system of ventilation should be installed, or a straw-filled loft with slatted ceiling may take the place of the foul air vents.

WINTERING IN STRAW PILE.

Where straw is plentiful, pigs may be wintered quite successfully in a large pile of straw. A start at a burrow in the straw should be made for them by threshing the pile over a clump of bushes, some home-made trestles, a fence or other obstacle that will make a hollow place in the centre of the pile, and a runway out from it. The pigs will then burrow from this and make their own nests

Where the amount of straw to be not unlimited, the same used is kind of shelter can be made with much less straw. The shelter place should be surrounded by a fence and roofed over with poles. A second fence should surround this at a distance of at least six feet. Straw is then perched in the intervening space and piled over the top. A crooked entry passage at the south side will allow the pigs to come in out without too much direct draft



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Pres. ph, Ont. entering the pen.

WINTERING IN CABINS.

Pigs can be wintered quite comfort-ably in the ordinary cabins used for providing shelter on pasture in summer. Where the location is well drained, and where the location is well drained, and the climate dry, these cabins are better without floors. The pigs work the soil into a fine dust which makes an excellent warm bed. Floors up a distance from the ground have a cold draft under them, and are likely to be wet from the pigs' urine unless bedding is changed frequent-ly. However, on level locations and in wet climates, where the earth would be wet climates, where the earth would be muddy, it is necessary to put in a wooden floor. Where this is done, the cabin should be well banked with earth or manure, so that the cold air cannot blow under the floor, and dry bedding given whenever needed. The ordinary A-shaped cabin is found very satisfactory of Brandon and is cheaply and quickly snaped cabin is found very satisfactory at Brandon, and is cheaply and quickly made. A cabin with straight walls and shingled roof is more durable, but considerably more expensive. Two or more of these cabins may be placed in a row, and the space between filled with straw. Straw should be piled against the sides of the end cabins. It is advisable to keep the pigs away from this straw, or they will tramp it down and carry it into the cabins. An odd length of woven fencing is quite suitable for this purpose.

Brood sows wintered in such shelters as above described, are found to winter



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