

trough room, and if securely made will make a good trough.—*N. W. Farmer.*

PIG TALK AT GUELPH.

The Ontario Experimental Farm has many visitors, and besides seeing they have a free talk on various practical topics. Here is a sample. It is Superintendent Wm. Rennie that speaks:—We have five breeds of swine on the farm—Yorkshire, Berkshire, Tamworth, Chester Whites and Poland Chinas. We have found the fashion in hogs change like the fashion in ladies' hats, and we must keep up with the change, if we want to be in the swim. We all know how proud we used to be of our old blocky Berkshires; but we have found it necessary to put them away. What the packers call for is a long, lean side, thin, wedge-like shoulders, like the dairy cow, and as little jowl as possible. A Berkshire sow and Tamworth boar make a very good combination. The Berkshire alone is apt to be too fat in the shoulders and to have too much jowl. The Chester White mother and Tamworth sire also give fair results. For a good, all-around single breed, the pure bred Yorkshire is about the best. One objection to it as it stands is that there is sometimes a little too much jowl. With that bad feature eliminated, the Yorkshire is probably the best of the lot. The objection to the pure bred Tamworth is that there is too long a shank to the ham. A Chester crossed with a Tamworth will give you 200 lbs. of meat more quickly than you can get it in any other breed, but you will not get the number of pigs from a Chester mother that you will from a Yorkshire. The same holds true in regard to the Berkshire. Thin hogs give bigger litters as a rule than fat ones. It is remarkable the number of pigs that a Yorkshire mother will produce. Above all things, keep clear of the broad shoulders and thick, fat bodies. The razor-back, with a sharp, wedge-like shoulder, the same as that of the milch cow, is what the packers call for."

"Is there," asked one visitor, "any difference in the result between taking a sow to the boar when she first comes in heat, or taking her later on?"

"I do not know," replied Mr. Rennie. "We have not experimented along that line."

"I have been told," replied the visitor, "that it does make a difference. An old breeder says that the sow should be taken towards the end of

the period. As an illustration, he mentions the case of an animal which had never given more than six at a litter, and which gave 21 when taken to the boar on the second day of heat."

Jos. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont., is on his way to England to visit the leading shows and make purchases of choice stock for his already noted herd of Yorkshire swine.

By nature the pig is a very clean animal, and likes a good bath in the pond, and takes it if it gets the chance in hot weather. Hardly any other animal on the farm so indulges. And if in winter time it be properly fed and given plenty of clean straw it will keep itself very clean. If it be a white pig its coat will be well nigh as white—perhaps whiter—than the straw.

N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo., reports the death of the Berkshire boar, Baron Lee 4th. For over two years this boar was the property of Snell Bros., Snellgrove, Ont., and left a lot of excellent stock, which has spread all over Canada. The boar was only five years old and died suddenly. He was without doubt one of the greatest, if not the greatest boar of his day. Some old breeders go so far as to say that he was the best Berkshire boar they had ever seen.

During the last two years there has been a steady decrease in the number of outbreaks of swine fever in almost every county in Great Britain in which the disease has during that period been at all prevalent, and in some cases the decrease has been very satisfactory. In Somersetshire, for example, the number of outbreaks, has fallen from 641 in 1895 to 204 in 1896, and 72 in 1897, whilst in the West Riding of Yorkshire the figures have been 658 in 1895, 431 in 1896, and 162 in 1897.

Diarrhoea in sucking pigs may be caused by several things. A very frequent cause is having the sows too fat. Another cause, especially where pigs are fed the refuse from the table of large hotels or institutions, is the excessive amount of fat that is sure to be in such foods. Such foods should be thoroughly cooked, then allowed to cool and the fat skimmed off before the pigs get it. When the little pigs scour change the feed; give a little charcoal, a few cinders, coal or a little charcoal, a few cinders, coal or a little earth. These will be found most beneficial. Sometimes the sow will need a dose of medicine.—*N. W. Farmer.*