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should be free from fever and her system cooled and cleansed by a variety of non-heat producing foods and loosening slops. The sow should be in "good" condition, hearty in every way and a greedy feeder. If the Berkshire sow referred to was bred under these conditions proper service would be assured if both sow and boar were normal.

Rape for Hogs

I have been breeding rape for hog pasture in my orchard. It is good feed, but has some serious drawbacks. The pigs have a bluish color to their skin and become very itchy. It also affects their ears, which become very ragged and it seems to affect some pigs worse than others. Can you explain the cause? Is there any other crop one could sow in the spring and make a good summer pasture and last the whole summer like rape?—Subscriber, Ontario Co., Ont.

The condition of the skin on the back and ears of the pigs is due to the rape, probably resulting from some excretion from the foliage of the plants. It is a very common condition for pigs that are fed with rape that has been allowed to grow too large before the pigs are let into the field.

The remedy is to give the pigs some other pasture as well as rape during the period that they are in the rape, that is, not more than half the area on which the pigs are allowed to run should be in rape and the swine should be turned into the field before the rape is high enough to reach to their backs; in fact, the best time to allow them at the rape is when it is not more than half the height of the pig, say, reaches a little above their elbows.

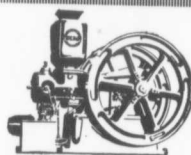
Rape is probably the best crop for pigs in an orchard; but clover and alfalfa are better crops in themselves if the soil and other conditions permit of either one or the other being grown. Vetches are also very satisfactory.—J. H. G.

Farrowing Time and After

R. Hodson, Perth Co., Ont.

Successful farrowing is largely a matter of intelligent feeding and management of the sow previous to farrowing. Some farmers insist that the hog should be kept in thin flesh, while others would have them in high condition. I have no objections to a fairly fat sow provided the flesh is put on when the sow is taking a sufficient amount of exercise and not penned up closely. I would feed liberal and nutritious feeds, such as chopped oats and middlings. A little oil meal is also good. These feeds of themselves, however, are too heavy and concentrated, and although bran is rather high in price this spring, I would use enough of it to give bulk to the meal ration. Where mangels and a pulping machine are available we have the best food possible for lending bulk and digestibility to the ration. Likewise I find that sows relish mangels better than any other root.

As farrowing time approaches I mix the feed very sloppy and limited in quantity. The limited quantity is continued for three or four days after farrowing and then the sow brought on to full ration, practically the same rations being used after as before farrowing. I have never conducted any definite experiments and my professors can tell us about it. In pigs before farrowing one is made just as economically through the feed given to the sow as the pigs afterward. It does not seem reasonable that we can maintain both sow and pigs and make the same gains on the same feed, but such is my observation.



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