

Feed Well But do Not Breed the Sow too Young.

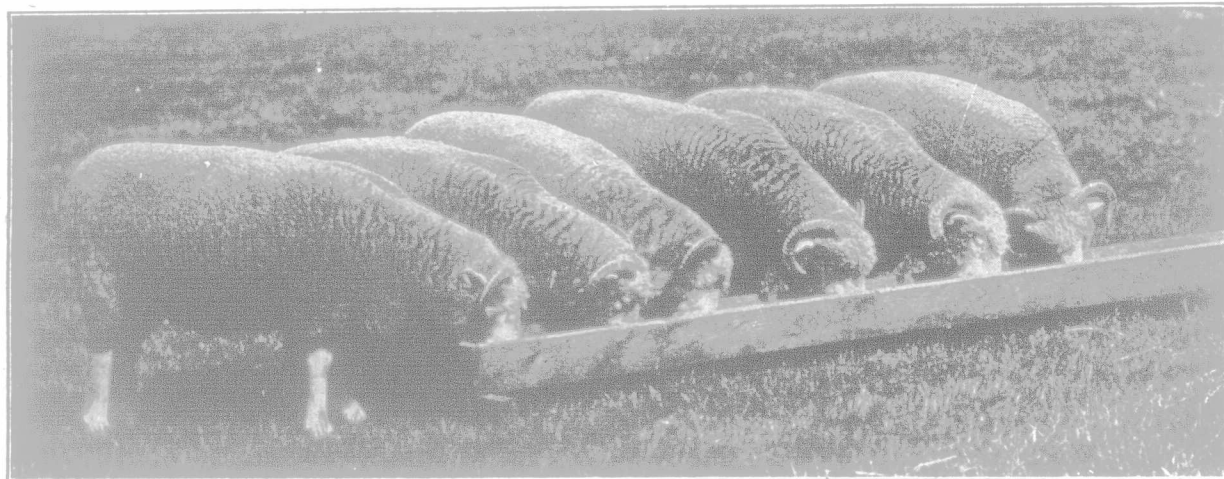
Many farmers are not particularly enthusiastic about hog raising at the present time. While the market is treble what it was a few years ago, it is not commensurate with the price of feed and labor. Many brood sows have been marketed during the past six months, but, on the other hand, many have kept young sows and bred them for fall farrowing. Others are planning on breeding their sows to farrow early in the spring, so that the pigs will summer on grass and be fattened with next year's crop. The success in pig raising depends a good deal upon the feeder. One man may bring a litter along and have the pigs at 200 pounds or over when six months old, while his neighbor with the same breed and the same kind of feed requires from seven to eight months to get his hogs to the same weight. Wherein lies the difference, if not in the feeder? A good deal of the trouble is in failure to pay attention to details. Giving the pigs a liberal quantity of feed

not available, finely-ground oats, shorts, oil cake or a little tankage can be made into a thin slop with water and will materially aid the pigs in developing size. Care must be taken to keep within the appetite of the pigs. This requires that the feeder pay strict attention to his work. It seems as if the producer is not in a position to dictate the price of hogs, so the next best thing is to raise the hogs as cheaply as possible. The size and thriftiness of the litter is one thing which materially influences the cost. Where possible, pasture or green feed should be used, as this will reduce the grain allowance considerably and is good for the pigs. A half-starved litter will not make 200-lb. hogs at six months, and an over-fed litter is liable to die of thumps, apoplexy, etc. It is necessary to steer an even course and satisfy the pig's appetite without overdoing it.

The Ultimate Market.

The ultimate market for all pure-bred live stock is the farm trade. There is a limitless market for pure-

week to week. Particularly in cattle is the results of poor breeding prominent at the stock yards. The stock yards are the ultimate market for our live stock, and the appraisal placed upon it there varies with the quality as well as with supply and demand. The breeder of market cattle needs to use better sires and also to grade up his breeding females. The breeder of pure-bred stock who supplies these sires also needs to pay attention to the kind of sire he places at the head of his herd, and to do more culling and castrating among his male calves. The top-notch herds are necessary, but the demand is not so great; comparatively few can pay the price asked for herd headers or foundation females from these herds. Were it not for the men who invest, breed, feed, cull and select in order to produce top-notchers, our live stock industry would not advance. Seed stock of the very best is needed, and much of this has been imported from Great Britain at great expense, until some Canadian herds are reaching a point where the individual members compare favorably with those of any herd in any country. This was not accomplished in a day, but in many instances a life time has been spent in perfecting the herd, and then the sons have followed in their father's footsteps. The market for their animals is to pure-bred breeders who have already acquired a herd of good females, and they in turn supply stock for the small breeders who cater to the commercial trade. Canada requires more good pure-breds of all classes of stock and more good commercial stock to meet the requirements of the meat trade. The scrub sire has been a veritable millstone to the live-stock industry, and the sooner stockmen free themselves from this menace the better it will be for all concerned. The block should ever be kept in mind when appraising an animal's worth as a stock getter. While his pedigree may be outstanding, his value is limited if his progeny are not thrifty and of the type and quality that develop a good frame and then finish well in pasture or feed-lot.



Getting a Little Grain to Condition Them for the Fair.

is not enough. A person must be careful to neither over-feed nor under-feed. The ration must be studied and the kind and quantity of feed given that the pigs will do best on. Feeds containing plenty of protein and ash are essential during the first four or five months of the pig's life; after that feeds rich in carbohydrates and fat may be fed in abundance. Skim-milk is one of the best feeds for young pigs, but it is not available on many farms. Finely-ground oats, a little oil cake, a few shorts and milk make an ideal ration. Many pigs do well without the milk, but they should not be weaned quite so early.

Anxious to get returns quickly, there is a tendency to breed the young sows before they have acquired their growth. This is a big mistake, and the sow seldom turns out as well as when she attains her growth before farrowing. The best young sows should be saved from the litter and given every chance for development before they are bred. It is not a good plan to have a sow farrow before she is a year old, and some breeders like to have them older. This gives the breeding stock a chance to attain good size, and the offspring are usually stronger and more uniform in size than those from an undeveloped sow.

If the litter is large, few sows will give sufficient milk to satisfy the young pigs; consequently it is a good plan to encourage the pigs to take milk from the trough when they are a couple of weeks old. When milk is

bred sires and female foundation stock that can be sold at a price which the farmer can afford to pay, and yet a price enough higher than market stock to justify the breeder for his extra investment and care. There is also a market for the fancier strain of live stock that should supply the local breeder with the stock for breed improvement. Such stock may be too high priced to go into the grade herd, but should be within reach of the breeder's purse. Last of all, there is room for top-notch herds in each of the breeds, herds that produce a quality of stock upon which it is difficult to set a price.

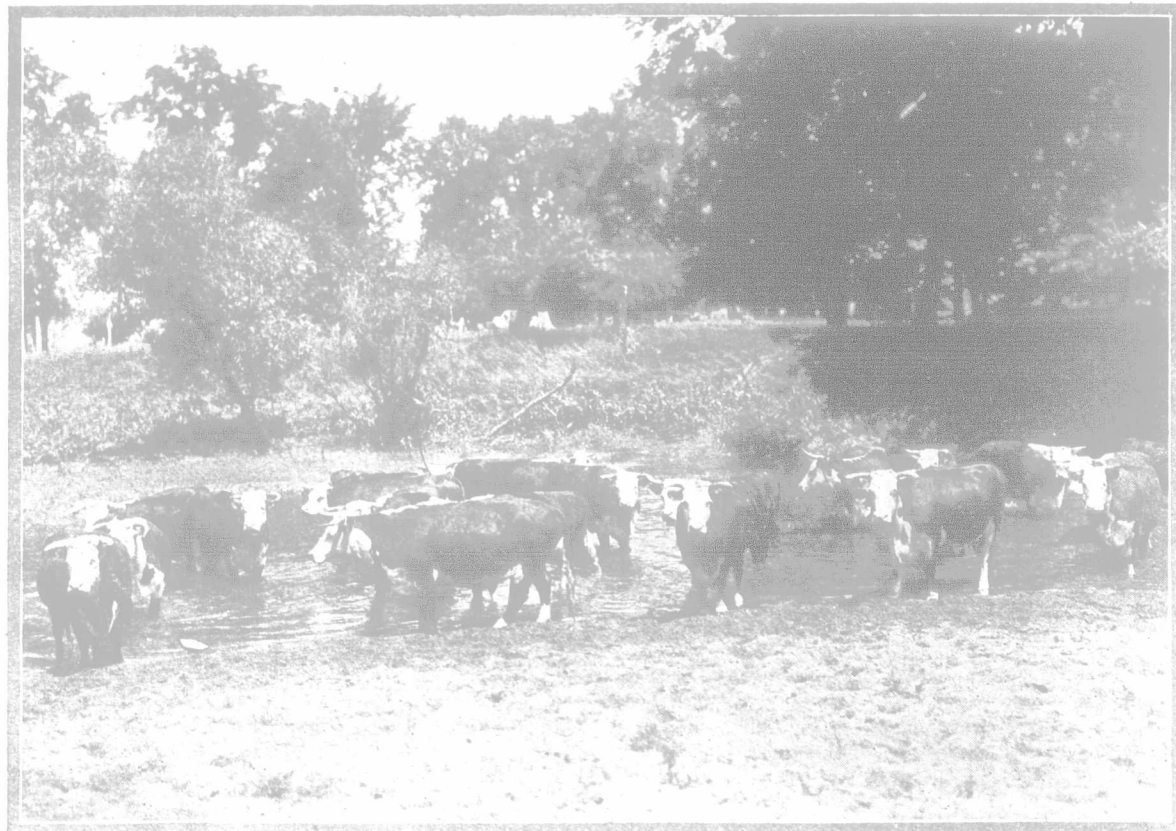
The country needs well-bred, nice-quality, typey male animals of all the breeds that are priced within reach of the average breeder. The price has frightened many and been responsible for grades being used in numerous herds. There are grade sires that appear quite as good as pedigreed animals in conformation, growthiness and thriftiness, consequently the man with the grade herd is apt to forget the value of ancestry in comparing the individuality of the grade and pure-bred sire. It must be remembered that the bad as well as the good qualities of ancestors for several generations back are liable to crop out in the progeny. It is important that the pedigree be studied, but in doing so the individuality and quality of the animal should not be lost sight of. Far too many inferior sires have been and are being used to produce a uniform, high-quality lot of cattle, sheep and hogs going on our markets from

THE FARM.

Alberta School Consolidation.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

A study of rural school consolidation in the Province of Alberta like that of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, reviewed in previous issues, teaches some useful lessons. The initial consolidation was in 1913, in the electoral district of Lethbridge with Warner as a centre. A special report issued this year under the authority of the Minister of Education, Hon. Geo. P. Smith, shows that there are now sixty-three consolidated school districts in operation, eleven of which were established in 1919. These consolidations include on an average 3.3 each of the former small school districts as sections. The deductions drawn from experience in other provinces is confirmed in Alberta, viz., that the most effective consolidations are of compact nature, including three or four of the former districts at the most. The Supervisor of Consolidated Schools, J. E. Hodgson, states that while exceptional progress has been made, the majority of consolidations have not been in operation sufficiently long to form a final judgment as to the success of this method of school organization. Among important results secured, however, have been that in fifty-two cases school buildings have been or are being erected, with from two to eight class rooms providing for the usual public school grades, and also from two to four years of high school work. With two exceptions the consolidations include village and rural districts, so that many who could not otherwise have secured them now obtain convenient high school advantages. Incidentally this tends to develop a class of teachers conversant with rural conditions and needs. One of the initial difficulties was securing experienced teachers with the necessary qualifications. However, this type of school naturally attracts a higher grade of teachers. With regard to salaries in consolidated schools, the last report to hand, issued in 1919, showed that the range was from \$720 for permit female teachers to \$1,500; first male or averages for various grades of teachers ranging from \$844 to \$1,180. The range in rural schools was from \$550 for permit female up to \$1,900 for first male, or to range of averages for different grades of teachers from \$850 to \$929. By the Alberta School Act of 1918 the minimum yearly salary for a teacher in an ungraded school was fixed at \$840, which it was expected would tend to promote permanency of engagement in the profession. Another result of consolidation is that more schools were enabled to operate throughout the year. Compared with ordinary rural schools adjacent they operated on the average one month longer each year. There was also a decided increase in the percentage of attendance, due in part to the regular conveyance and in part to the increased attractiveness of the graded school under experienced teachers. The most marked result in case of consolidated schools in operation for two years or more was an increase of 50 per cent. in enrolment compared with five per cent. in the surrounding rural districts. In one case the increased enrolment reached as high as 125 per cent. Village growth may, in part, account for this, but it is noted that a good consolidated district attracts people as residents because of the better educational facilities for the education of their children. They have also been the means of promoting community features, literary, social and economic. It is pointed out that apart from the salaries of the staff the two heavy items of expenditures are for meeting debenture payments and providing conveyance for pupils attending the school. The cost of tuition proper is said to be less than in ordinary rural



A Herd of Whitefaces that Have Protection from Heat and Flies.