

Breeds Used

5 Berkshires—2 two-year-old sows and 3 gilts.

19 Duroc Jerseys—4 two-year-old sows and 15 gilts.

12 Tamworths—2 two-year-old sows and 10 gilts.

All 36 sows were pure bred—the aged sows having been purchased from leading Alberta breeders while the gilts were raised on the University farm. In each case the aged sows were half sisters and as they were the dams of the gilts in question, all pigs of the same breed farrowed during this experiment carried similar blood lines.

Disposition of the Sows

Table 1 shows the disposition of the sows and gilts in the various lots. In this discussion all the females will be referred to simply as sows—ages can be obtained from the table. The 36 sows were divided into 12 lots of 3 each, with one bacon sow and one of the lard type in each lot. In the 5 lots containing Berkshires the bacon, medium thick and lard types were represented. This division was made so that results would be applicable to all breeds and types of swine.

Another point given consideration was whether early or late farrowing had anything to do with weak or hairless pigs. One sow in each lot was bred to farrow late in March or early April, another to farrow late in April or early May, and the last one to come in the latter part of May or early June.

To secure accurate data on the effect of the different feeds on the sows themselves—each sow was weighed on the date of service and re-weighed in 111 days or the day before she was expected to farrow. All gains in weights will refer to the gain made during this period of pregnancy.

Feeds

Frozen wheat—All frozen wheat used in this experiment was secured from a grain dealer at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta—a district where hairless pigs have long been the bane of the swine breeder.

Oats and Barley—Grown on the University Farm and of good quality.

Wheat bran—Ordinary wheat bran secured through local grain dealers.

Tankage—Meat meal tankage, commonly called tankage, a by-product of the packing plants, and containing 60 per cent. protein.