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FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada



Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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Feeding and Management of Swine*

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THE production of pork has been a highly profitable business during the past year. Pork has brought good prices, while feed has not been too high. When we consider the scarcity of sheep and also of other meats, it is apparent that the pork business should continue on a good basis for years.

During the past 15 years I have always got returns from hogs, even when prices were as low as 4½ cents. I know of a man who kept accurate account of his business who this year made \$114 profit on one sow and two litters of pigs. This shows what can be done. In good years there are big profits, especially if one has milk or clover. Every man has one of these supplementary feeds and should make money.

WHY SOME FAIL

Then why do some men think they don't make money? If a man can't make hogs pay there is some lack in the man. To succeed requires common sense and business acumen in the choice of hogs and feeds. The man, too, who buys and sells properly is the one who will make profits most quickly. Then, again, a man must know pigs. If he doesn't, he ought to become familiar with them by taking a short course at a college, or by some other means. The true hog raiser is generous and large hearted; he stints neither the feed nor the space.

In proportion to its size, the pig needs large quarters. A little dark pen in a corner is no place for a pig. Large quantities of light and air are essential. Light is one of the best germicides, and pigs need it. To keep the pigs comfortable is quite proper, but it is a poor idea to keep them warm by stopping up the ventilation. Plenty of water should be given; not snow in winter and dew in summer. It is a mistake not to give the pigs water in winter, even when feeding roots.

ROUGHAGE CHEAPENS FEEDING

There is no need to confine pigs to a ration of grain alone. They will do well on grain but at big expense. Grass, clover and alfalfa, fed both in winter and summer, will go a long way in the production of cheap pork. Be generous with the roughage. Supplemented with concentrates it pays.

Practical Suggestions for the Profitable Handling of Hogs— Profits Made on 4½ cent Pork by This Method—Roughage for Feed and Outdoor Housing for Hogs Important Factors in Success

Fifteen years ago at Ottawa, we followed the old style of feeding. The pens were quite fair, but in winter we couldn't get along. We con-



The Best of the Breed

This illustration gives a good idea of the type of the champion Berkshire boar at the National Live Stock and Dairy Show in Toronto last fall. He is owned by W. W. Brownridge, Halton Co., Ont.

cise. This piggyery has attracted much attention, and has been imitated more than once. Anyone can obtain plans on application.

The young feeders go into these pens when at 50 to 60 pounds in weight and stay there until killed. Sows due for winter farrowing are kept in the same piggyery. At one end are two heated pens for the sows at farrowing time. The other brood sows remain outside.

WINTERING METHODS

We have made a study for Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia conditions of the wintering of brood sows. We first tried quartering them in a shed, right on the ground, in lots of seven or eight. The main difficulty was to keep the ground from becoming muddy.

Seven years ago we tried wintering in cabins. We were not any too sure of success so we experimented with the poorest sows. The result was that they gave good strong litters. So the number was doubled and we made a further study. We found that better litters were got from those outside than from those inside or in the shed. We now have have 50 to 75 sows wintering outdoors in yards in cabin shelters. The sows are turned into these cabins in November. They receive, ad libitum, lots of rough-

age, such as clover, fine grass or alfalfa. This is fed in racks. They also get raw mangel, cooked turnips and 1½ pounds of meal a day, which is a small amount for a sow weighing 500 to 600 pounds.

MANAGEMENT AT FARROWING

Towards farrowing time, which is usually in February, the meal ration is increased and the roughage and roots reduced until at 10 to 14 days before farrowing, when they are put in the farrowing pens, each sow is receiving three to five pounds of a mixture of shorts, bran, oil cake and crushed oats, and only two to three pounds of roots. A little skim milk is fed if we have it. This puts the sows in prime shape for milking.

The sows are herded together according to age and time of farrowing. The young sows are kept by themselves. The old sows are fed twice a day, the feeders and young sows three times. Real young pigs are fed four times daily. A young pig can digest more when fed oftener.

CONDITION AT BREEDING TIME

Experience has shown us that the strongest litters are obtained when the sow is gaining in flesh at the time of breeding. One winter we had seven very fine sows that we had fitted for exhibition. In January we turned these out with the rest with the result that they fell off in flesh. About this time they were bred. The sows that had been outdoors right along were probably gaining a little. Seven of these that were bred at about the same time saved 77 young pigs. The seven exhibition sows saved only 35 pigs.

For big litters, keep the sows outside and feed lots of roughage. They then have a digestive canal that is in good shape to consume lots of feed when needed.

PROFEN FEED, NOT MEDICINE

When pigs are properly fed they won't require much medicine. It may be advisable in winter, however, to keep before them a mixture of wood ashes, copperas and sulphur. If they are fed lots of roughage and roots they will not eat much of this. For a crippled pig, Rochelle salts (a tea-spoonful given in feed) with some laxative feed is the best remedy.

The little pigs are kept in groups on ¼ acre fields. On these fields we practice a three-year rotation of roots, followed by a light sowing of grain seeded down to clover and alfalfa.

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Another Typy Champion

Mr. W. M. Brownridge, Halton Co., Ont., was unusually successful at the Toronto National Live Stock and Dairy Show. In addition to having the champion Berkshire boar illustrated above, he had also the champion sow that may be seen in the illustration herewith.