

MUSIC IN PIG-FEEDING.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—A sow will do very well fed on roots, with enough grain to keep her in a thrifty condition, but not fat. With plenty of exercise up to within a few days or a week of farrowing, she should then be put into the pen she is to use, which should be light, comfortably warm and dry. A liberal bedding of straw should be given her, and no more added until a week or so after farrowing. For the first day after farrowing, feed nothing but a little very thin, lukewarm slop, and lightly for a few days, until she is getting all she will eat up clean three times a day.

Wean at from seven to eight weeks old, when they will have learned to eat with the mother. Let her in beside them three or four times after weaning, for her sake as well as theirs. I think shorts is the best feed for young pigs; but one feed per day might be corn, fed in the ear, with a few mangels sliced. But to avoid stunting, and give them good appetites, I would emphasize exercise.

I prefer mangels; feed whole, if to large hogs; sliced, if to small pigs; but regard them more profitable as an appetizer than as a regular feed.

I usually give the noon feed of corn in the ear, and, not having grown either peas or barley, I feed ground oats and shorts mixed equal parts by measure. The feed is soaked in a small concrete tank the size of a salt barrel and two-thirds the depth, from morning till night, and *vice versa*. This tank is in the passage, and, being underground, it is out of the way, and the feed never freezes.

I have lately been crossing Chester White sows with Tamworth boars, with very satisfactory results.

I am satisfied if the hogs weigh from 180 lbs. to 200 lbs. at eight months old.

My pig house is frame, on a concrete foundation, with concrete floors and plank sleeping beds laid directly on the concrete. Good ventilation into loft above is an important point. The pens are only 10x11 feet, accommodating from eight to ten hogs; but they are let outdoors or into a large manure shed for exercise every day. Use wheat straw for bedding, and after exercise the pigs lie quite clean and dry. In this connection, I might add that I think it safer not to feed too heavy; let the pigs be always ready for their feed at meal time, not too noisy, but musical. I have had no trouble with rheumatism or other ailments.

I find a weigh scale very useful in fattening hogs. First, in order to note gains; second, to find out when they are ready to go; and third, to know what they weigh on the morning they are delivered. Middlesex Co., Ont. ADAM BATY.

WEAN AT SEVEN OR EIGHT WEEKS OLD.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR:—1st.—I think that a sow should have plenty of exercise; and while the pigs are running with her, bran and shorts is the best food; and after the pigs are weaned, I would feed roots and very little grain.

2nd.—I would let the pigs run with the sow until they are six or eight weeks old. I would teach them to eat a little warm milk with some bran and shorts stirred into it; and then when they are weaned they go right ahead and do not miss the mother but very little.

3rd.—I have never fed any ensilage nor clover hay; but I do like the sugar beet for winter feeding, and I always feed them raw.

4th.—I prefer ground peas and bran or shorts for grain feeding. I would have it soaked and soured, and I would feed it warm in the winter.

5th.—We have now a litter that are crossed, the mother being half Chester White and half Berk. and the hog a Poland-China, and they have done the best that we have ever had. We are going to try the Tamworth and Berk. crossed; we think that they are still a better cross of pigs.

6th.—We cannot reach the weights that the packers require under eight months, and most of the fattening is done in the last two months. We keep our hogs growing well and in good flesh until they are about six months old, and then we try to shove them as fast as we can. They usually weigh from 200 to 215 pounds.

7th.—I think that wooden walls are the best; mine are matched lumber, tar paper and lap siding, then lined with inch lumber on the studding. Our exercise space is sixteen by twenty-four feet. I think that it is immaterial as to the kind of straw for bedding so long as they have plenty of it and are kept dry. They do not want to sleep in damp bedding.

8th.—We feed ashes, charcoal, sulphur, and salt. We feed the sulphur in the swill, and the ashes, charcoal and salt dry. WM. I. BUTTERY. Middlesex Co., Ont.

TWO HUNDRED POUNDS AT SIX MONTHS OLD.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR:—1st.—The best treatment for sows after farrowing in fall and winter is to keep in a moderately warm pen, not too much straw; feed on oat and barley chop or a little mill feed.

2nd.—The best age to wean fall and winter litters to avoid stunting is as soon as they can eat and drink, say about four weeks.

3rd.—The most profitable way to feed pigs in winter is not to keep more than there is good accommodation for, and feed the best kind of feed it is possible to get.

4th.—The grain preferred to feed profitably is chopped barley until about four or five months old; finish on dry peas.

5th.—The kind of pigs preferred for the packing-house, and for profit, is the York. or Berk. sow crossed with the Tam. boar.

6th.—In case I should buy pigs, I prefer starting to fatten as soon as taken off the sow; make them weigh 200 at six months old.

7th.—In order to fatten pigs in winter, shut up in small pens, not more than four in a pen, better have only two, better still if there was only one; plank floor and wooden walls preferred; lots of pea straw to lie on.

8th.—Charcoal, ashes, sulphur and salt are all very good. SCOTT COWAN. Wellington Co., Ont.

[NOTE.—What do readers think of this? See our editorial in this issue.—Ed. F. A.]

IMPOSSIBLE TO FEED PIGS PROFITABLY ON GRAIN ALONE.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I may say I deal largely in hogs. I sold last year \$1,125 worth, and have sold already this year \$665. This amount of hogs can easily be raised if you keep a lot of cows; but I have only seven; and there is nothing takes the place of milk. This one thing I will say, that it is impossible to raise hogs at a profit on grain alone, but it can be done successfully by feeding grain with grass in summer and roots in winter.

1st.—A sow should have abundant exercise, should not be penned up. If on pasture, she should have a little grain so as to be kept in healthy condition. If in winter, she should have roots, and after farrowing do not give any grain without scalding. Boiled roots of any kind mixed with shorts or oatmeal is best say for first two or three weeks; after that you may give stronger feed—barley or pea meal. To avoid any stunt, the feed should be scalded, and, please understand, the shorts or meal should be mixed with the boiled roots.

2nd.—Wean at six to seven weeks. Shorts is the best feed for weaning young pigs to avoid stunting. Mix with skim milk, if you have it, but if not, it should be mixed with boiled roots, a few peas or a little corn once a day, say one quart to six or seven for a start. Be careful not to overfeed, and feed often.

3rd.—I never used clover or ensilage; this is, I understand, for store hogs. I prefer sugar beets or turnips, and they will winter well with very little grain.

4th.—As to what kind of grain, I do not know how to answer. Looking at it in an all-round way, of course peas are best; but when you take into consideration that, as a rule, we can only grow in this section from 10 to 15 bushels per acre, while we can grow 45 to 60 bushels of barley or 100 or more of corn in the cob, we must leave peas out of the question. I think it all depends on how you feed the grains, or grain. Get it ground into meal, and then mix it with boiled roots; I prefer turnips. If you want the hog to grow, use less meal and more turnips; if the hog has its growth and you want to fatten, feed less turnips and more meal.

5th.—A Yorkshire sow crossed with Berkshire boar.

6th.—Begin to fatten at six or seven months, so as to be ready when eight or nine months old.

7th.—Walls should be double boarded, with tar paper between, on concrete foundation. I prefer concrete floor with boards or planks in one corner for sleeping laid on the cement. Keep 10 hogs in 12 feet square, as the space in a good hog pen is valuable. Then, I have a yard outside to let them run out once in a while when I think they need it.

8th.—I throw the charcoal in the pen, all they want, and put the sulphur and salt in their feed. I never use suds.

The most money in hogs, to my mind, is in wintering them and turning them out to grass in the spring at say about 60 to 75 lbs., and with a little corn or peas they will reach 200 lbs. by August. It's a mistake to feed corn in the cob; it should first be shelled and then strewn around on the grass, so that they do not eat it too fast. ELGIN CO., ONT. JAMES WATKINS.

WOODEN WALLS AND PLANK FLOORS PREFERRED.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR:—1st.—My experience in raising young hogs in winter has not proved very successful. My mode is to have the pigs come in April and again in October, two litters per year. In treating the farrow, I note that first lots of room for exercise is required, with pulped turnips and a little oat chop for food.

2nd.—I wean my young pigs at five weeks. I feed shorts or middlings, not too strong.

3rd.—I have had no experience in feeding clover hay, ensilage or sugar beets. I have, however, fed turnips, mangels, and potatoes. I find most profit and less labor in feeding the two former pulped, mixed, of course, with a small quantity of grain.

4th.—In the feeding of grain, I use a mixture of oats, peas and barley chopped, regulated in accordance with the age and constitution of the hogs. Feed dry, giving plenty of water to drink.

5th.—The breed I prefer is a cross with Tamworth hog and Chester White or Yorkshire dam. These I prepare for the packer at the age of seven months.

6th.—I begin to fatten at five months, ready for packer at seven months.

7th.—I prefer wooden walls, with plank floor, wheat-straw bedding. Again I say lots of room for exercise.

8th.—I give frequently charcoal, sulphur, and salt. Throw the coal in feed and the others by themselves to be used at their pleasure. I note that frequent sprinkling of wood ashes on the backs of the hogs will keep the skin clean and clear of vermin. C. W. Wellington Co., Ont.

STONE PIGPENS CONDEMNED.

Before trying to answer the questions, I will state that our pigpen is a stone building, and very cold. I would never build another stone pen. I think a pen double boarded, with tar paper between, much warmer and drier. I allow my sow to take all the exercise she wants until two weeks before farrowing, when I shut her in to get acquainted. She has to be housed in the cattle stables for farrowing in winter. I feed roots until she is shut up, then barley chop, not too heavy at first. My plan is to wean the pigs when six weeks old. I think if you can keep them warm and dry, that is half the battle, with plenty of exercise. Six months is long enough to feed pigs so as to weigh from 180 to 200 pounds. I feed barley chop and slop until five months old; the last month, peas. I have found the Berkshire sow, crossed with the Tamworth boar, both thoroughbred, most satisfactory. I had a lot of trouble with pigs crippling. The floor is cedar blocks. I boarded the pen up to keep the pigs away from the stone wall, and raised half the floor for them to sleep on, and have had no more trouble. A pen 12 feet square gives room enough for 8 or 10 pigs. People differ about how much space they should have. Some pigs won't take exercise if they have a field to run in. The cross I am working with now don't need a very big place; they gallop around the pen like blood colts. There is generally a good lot of earth and broken bits of roots in the root house in winter. This I gather occasionally and give to the pigs. That is all in the way of grit that they get, except when they are let out for exercise when the ground is bare of snow. GEO. HENDERSON. Wellington Co., Ont.

Word from England on Raising Fall Litters.

When fall pigs have been weaned, the critical season has come. The chief difficulty with autumn litters is found in tiding them over the growing period between weaning and fattening. If they go wrong during this period, the work cannot be made profitable, however good the price may be that is received for them when they are marketed. The chief item of difficulty arises in the want of opportunity for exercise. Of course, they should have the freedom of a yard, but oftentimes the weather is so cold that they do not care to take exercise much of the time. Because of this difficulty it will often happen that pigs will go off their feed in winter on a diet that would have answered admirably for them in the summer while they were running in the pastures.

The Floor of the Pig House.—It is important that the floor of the pig house be properly made. If the pigs sleep on the floor underneath which the air and wind has free access, and, moreover, if the bedding on this becomes damp, the pigs become rheumatic, no matter what the food given or the nature of the care. Concrete floors are too cold. Plank floors well fastened will prove satisfactory. And it is very important that the pigs take exercise on the sunny side of the building.

The young pigs should be taught to take food freely, by themselves at first, and then later with the dam. Skim milk will be necessary to accomplish this in good form at so early an age. And here it may be mentioned that without the aid of skim milk it will be difficult to succeed with autumn litters, owing to the early season at which they have to be weaned. Because of this, and because of the great suitability of skim milk for producing growth in swine, the rearing of autumn litters may be carried with much advantage along with winter dairying.

The food during the season of growth will be the same substantially as for spring litters. In lieu of the pasture which the spring litters have access to, autumn litters should be fed field roots. Growth is wanted, and the food must be adapted accordingly. Therefore, oats, shorts and bran, with roots, will furnish the principal portion of the diet before the fattening period. But as the latter period approaches, more of the carbonaceous foods, as rye, barley and corn, may be given, to lead up gradually to the final finishing period.

One of the Greatest Difficulties.—The greatest difficulty with autumn litters is found in keeping them on their feet during the growing period. To prevent them from breaking down thus early, give not only foods that are largely nitrogenous, but also some foods that will keep the bowels in tone, such as a free supply of field roots, mangels or turnips, or sugar beets, and also a small quantity of oil cake. The great danger arises from constipation, and when skim milk is very freely fed, the danger from constipation is all the greater. The droppings should, therefore, receive a careful