

SHEEP AND SWINE.

THE POLAND CHINA HOG.

The accompanying cut is a very good representation, perhaps rather flattering, of the style and appearance of a breed of hogs which, originating, we believe, in the Western States, has become very popular on the other side of the lines, and has recently made its way into Canada. So far as its merits are concerned in the line of pork production, it ranks very much on a par with the Improved Berkshires. We are not aware that any point of superiority is claimed for it over that well-known and excellent family. Consequently the choice of it is very much a matter of taste. The distinguishing feature seems to be the lop ear, but, for our part, we prefer the pointed, pricked-up ear or the Berkshires.

CLOVER FOR HEALTHY GROWTH OF HOGS.

It came in my way last summer to frequently pass a field of clover which had been fenced off for a hog pasture, and noticing the amount of feed and the thrift and the general appearance of the hogs, I called upon the owner of the farm for an interview.

"Oh, yes, I can give my opinion and the results. That lot we call twenty acres, including the small grove and spring in one corner. We sowed it with oats last season, and stocked down with clover, part Medium and the balance Mammoth. The first of June, this summer, we turned in ninety hogs, but this made no impression on the clover, so we turned in ten colts, fifteen head of young cattle, and fifty sheep, and altogether they managed to keep it within bounds. About the first of August we took out the cattle and commenced seeding corn."

"Could you discover any difference between the Medium and the Mammoth clover as to its food value?"

"Yes; the Mammoth was much the best; it kept green longer and would have yielded a large quantity of hay. Now as to results: A few days ago I took a car-load of these hogs to Chicago, and the average weight of the forty-two, to fill the car, was a fraction less than 400 pounds, or in other words, the forty-two hogs weighed 17,940 pounds, netting the snug little sum of \$1,078, and I received five cents per hundred more than any hogs sold in the market that day, because they were in a nice, even splendid condition for the Philadelphia market. The balance of the lot will be ready to ship in a few days."

Notwithstanding this farmer cannot give us the exact weight of the hogs when turned into the clover pasture, nor the gain in pounds on the first day of August, yet I am sure that the facts as given will warrant the oft-made assertion that a clover pasture is the most profitable feed for young hogs. One of our large breeders of Poland-China hogs, who has been breeding fine stock for years, says, that he has never had a single case of hog cholera on his farm, and he attributes it to the fact that he always lets his breeding stock run to clover pasture. The fact is, a large majority of our farmers and breeders are breeding for fat and show, and the warp or muscle is not sufficient to hold the filling, and hogs are getting organic disease by this continued cramming process.—*Swine Breeder's Journal*.

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SHEEP IN WINTER.

Two extremes should be avoided in the matter of shelters. One may be insufficient, while the other may be so close as to be unhealthy. The majority of mistakes are with those who shelter insufficiently. In such instances more food is consumed than would otherwise be required, and no corresponding benefits accrue, though the effects upon the sheep are not so unfavourable as those following confinement to improperly ventilated rooms. Another error is found in too close crowding while under shelter. This is particularly objectionable when any considerable number of animals are confined together. While a portion of them may lie down, others are compelled to stand; and, through restlessness or fright, often trample upon and injure their fellows. The shelters on the sheep-farm should be made to increase in size as rapidly as the flock multiplies its numbers.

The water supply should be carefully looked to. A flock of a given number will drink more water in winter than will be needed when on pasture. If such an arrangement can be economically secured, access to water twice a day is better than but once. This for two reasons. First, the more timid animals which are likely to be held back in the morning by their stronger fellows, have a chance when the latter are not so eager; and,



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secondly, all danger from over-drinking of cold water is obviated. Use of snow in lieu of water should be forced upon the flock only under the extreme necessity. Stock will live under such circumstances; but satisfactory thrift will not be secured.

Ewes in lamb should, as far as practicable, be fed and sheltered separate from the non-breeding animals, as the crowding and more rapid movements of the latter are apt to result injuriously, while such separation makes more convenient certain little attentions to which breeding ewes are entitled as the weaning season approaches, and which may be profitably accorded to them. Advantage will be found in subdivision of the several ages and sexes into as many smaller lots as circumstances will admit of, as such course lessens the liability to crowding and overfeeding of the stronger animals, at the expense of the weaker ones. It also brings each animal more directly under the eye of the attendant, who will the more readily detect the first symptoms of deviation from the desired thrift.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

SWINE IN ORCHARDS.

While in a general way it may be well to allow hogs to run in the orchard, as recommended by Colonel Curtis, I think there are times when it will be better to keep them out. Surely they have no business there when there are no apples

for them to pick up. After the apples have been picked and the trees shaken, I would let hogs in long enough to clean up every apple not taken to the apple room or cider mill. During an open winter, and in spring when the ground is soft and wet, the tramping is damaging to the soil and to the fine rootlets which fill it. The Colonel might at least make that slip-gap so small that only the shoats can pass into the orchard. They are lively and greedy, and light of foot, and will clean up every apple or worm or grub or larva within reach.

Again, the shoats will not pack the ground, or damage young trees by rubbing against them. A full-grown hog has a very rough hide, and it takes a deal of vigorous rubbing to satisfy the pachyderm. I have seen ten-year-old apple trees have the bark loosened by hogs rubbing against them in the early summer, when the bark slips easily. This danger is more imminent, too, in a thrifty young orchard. If he will limit the time from June to December, and allow only the shoats to have access to the orchard, his recommendation will not entail damage to the soil or to thrifty young trees, and yet give time and opportunity for the industrious shoats to help him save feed and protect his coming apple crops. This is no theory, but practical experience.—*L. N. Bonham, Butler Co., O.*

CROSSING WITH SOUTHDOWNS.

Although the Cotswold possesses large frame and long fleece, it is not suitable for farmers where pastures are not of the best quality. The Merinos, when used for crossing, do not increase size, although the grade of wool is better. The Southdown is best for use on common flocks, as they are bred for mutton in preference to wool, and being hardy and active, the cross is less violent than those between Cotswolds and our small natives. The wool from the Southdowns is not inferior, being classed with the

middle grades, nor is it deficient in quantity as compared with common stock, but much above the average. Their excellence is in the superiority of the mutton, and in that respect they have no rivals.

FARMERS who have not a large pasture for their hogs, should build a few rods of portable fence, and make a small enclosure for them, and move it around as circumstances require. It will make pork-raising more profitable than to keep hogs confined in pens all the time, and keep hogs more healthy.

Long grass is distasteful to sheep; they never feed it down evenly, but will trample down half of what they do not eat. They seem to do better on the aftermath of grass, but they should not be allowed to feed it too close, or it will be long recovering. A frequent change from field to field is better than giving them a long range; the latter often encourages them to rove and makes them discontented.

Mr. Born has at his stock farm, says the *Lindsay Post*, a small but fine flock of Oxford Down sheep. They are thoroughbred, and with their fine shape, and black heads and legs, at once command the attention and admiration of the farmer. It is the beginning of what will ultimately become a large flock. The Oxford Down is admitted to be one of the most valuable breeds for mutton and wool, and it is also specially adapted to this part of Canada.