

improvised) in a corner of the pen or paddock. Arrange a creep which admits the little ones only. Feed oat meal, ground oats, middlings, shorts, etc., in the feeder, and if possible try to procure a little skim-milk, when the sow is finally removed. Failing this, a little dry tankage may be fed separately.

#### MAY BE USED THE YEAR ROUND.

The feeder, while designed particularly for outdoor or pasture feeding, may be adapted to pen or yard feeding in winter, provided it is placed where snow and ice will not interfere with the troughs.

*With all classes of finishing hogs*, the advocated use of the feeder needs no qualification. *For young breeding sows* during their first fall and winter the self-feeder is recommended. Use bone- and muscle-forming meals and discontinue using the feeder at the first sign of overfatness. *In general, avoid self-feeding with mature breeding stock* unless bulky foods, such as ground alfalfa, etc., are available.

#### WHERE THE SELF-FEEDER MUST BE RESTRICTED.

Frequently, young self-fed pigs on pasture neglect the green food for the more palatable and easily obtained meal. Prevent this by arranging two hinged covers which may be dropped over the troughs. By occasional use of these, for short periods, the pigs are forced to forage.

#### Meals and Mixtures for the Self-feeder.

From a mechanical standpoint, any mixture of whole or ground grains or mill feeds may be successfully self-fed. The grain ration may be fed mixed or with each component part separate, allowing the pig to choose for himself. He can do this. Such a plan requires partitions in the feeder. For young pigs or shoats, any of the following mixtures will be found suitable provided all hulls are fairly finely ground:—

1. Shorts or middlings, fine ground oats, fine ground barley or corn.—  
equal parts.
2. Shorts, or middlings, 4 parts, any of above grains 4 parts, ground peas  
2 parts.
3. Shorts or wheat 2 parts, barley 2 parts, peas 1 part.

With any of the above mixtures fed to young pigs, skim-milk may be profitably fed. Where such can be obtained, the addition of tankage, meat, or blood meal is recommended. Tankage may best be fed from a separate feeder or by partitioning off a small section of the regular structure. Allow the pigs to meet their own requirements.

#### The Construction of a Self-Feeder.

(See cross section).

*Base.*—The feeder should rest upon two pieces 2 inches by 4 inches running lengthwise, placed flat. These may act as runners. On these lay pieces of 2 inches by 4 inches to carry the structure.

*Sides.*—Make the sides of 2 inches by 3 inches sheathed inside by  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch dressed lumber, as shown.

*Gate.*—Two arrangements of the feed-gate are shown. *This is the important part of the feeder.*

**NOTE.**—To ensure the constant feeding of the meal, some means of agitation is necessary. Otherwise the contents will block close to the bottom.

Make the iron bands (two on each side) connecting the control slide at the bottom, with the thumbscrew at the top, of light strap-iron  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick by 1 inch wide. When the meal ceases to flow, the pigs naturally root or nose toward the source of supply, and being able to move this flexible slide, which in turn presses upon and breaks the meal blockade—they are rarely left with a "dead" self-feeder. To prevent the pigs forcing the board too far in, it is, of course, necessary to place a cleat inside at either end of each slide. Allow about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch play between the slide and the cleat.