

If the boar has been properly kept, moderate service will not injure him at a year old and he will be at his best as a sire from 18 months to five years old, when he is matured and fully developed and possesses every advantage over an immature pig. Invariably the largest and strongest litters are obtained from old sows bred to aged boars. An aged boar is generally considered a very unpleasant animal to have on the place, especially if he becomes vicious and is inclined to use his tusks, he is worse than a bull or a stallion. None of these animals are intended for pets. A fence that will keep the other hogs on the farm in their proper place will not do for the boar, for if the opportunity ever offers he soon becomes unruly and hard to manage.

The right and proper plan is to keep him in an enclosure right from the start that will afford him no practice in the art of breaking out. It is also a good plan, if conditions will permit, to have the quarters isolated from those of other pigs, especially sows and sow pigs; he will usually be more quiet and gentle, although much depends on the natural disposition of the animal.

We realize that it is of little use to recommend to all farmers who raise or purchase boar pigs that they keep them 18 months or two years before using them, as not very many men are willing to do so. Yet any one who will properly keep a boar for that length of time before putting him to service will find his value as a breeder greatly enhanced by good care.

In a great many localities the farmers keep only a few brood sows and it means quite an expense for each one to keep a boar; in this case it is much better for three or four farmers to club together and keep one boar, or one man may own him and the others can pay a reasonable service fee. Properly managed one boar will usually answer the purpose as well as three or four for that many farmers, and if so, the cost of keep is reduced to a minimum and the temptation to use a scrub or immature sire is removed, thereby ensuring an improved class of hogs in that locality.

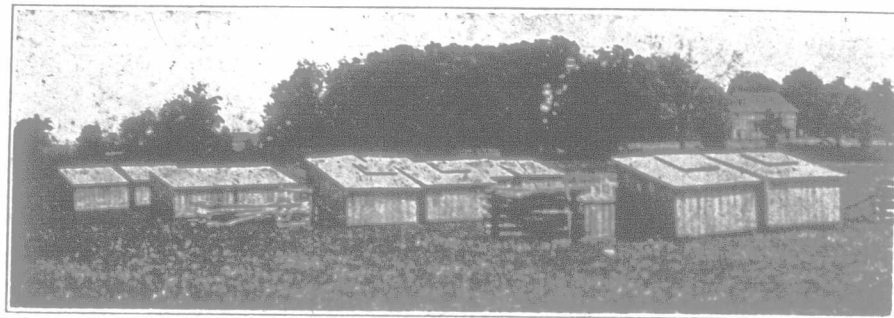
R. M.

Turn the Hogs on Pasture.

The price of feeds as compared with the price of live hogs is rather discouraging to the hog feeder, and there is danger of many becoming disheartened if there is not a greater margin between the cost of production and the market price. A person can put up with a loss for a time, but is not likely to stay in a business that is losing money. The consumer who buys meat from the town and city butcher thinks that prices are plenty high enough, and has reason to do so, because there is a wide margin between what the producer receives for the carcass and the price at which the meat retails over the counter. As the supply of feed is apparently short there is little likelihood of the price being reduced until a new crop is harvested, and the price of live hogs seems to be beyond the control of the producer. The man who stays in the business must endeavor to feed as economically as possible. During the spring and summer, hog raising is considerably easier than in the fall and winter, and is more economical, provided pasture and green feed are made use of. Far too many hogs are confined to the pen during the summer without any form of green feed. It pays to have a paddock where the hogs can run and secure grass or other forms of green feed. A clover paddock will give pasture for the pigs very shortly, and oats and peas sown in the spring give good pasture on in June. Summer feed may be provided by sowing a small acreage to rape. It may not be convenient to have these runs near the piggery, and, as it is necessary to have some form of shelter for the pigs, many are loath to go to the extra expense. However, the wire used for enclosing the feed lot will last for many years if taken care of, and a small, portable shelter can be built for a comparatively small sum. The colony house, or A-shaped house, is in common use for this purpose. It is built on skids and can be drawn from place to place with the team. These houses might be used more

extensively than they are on the average farm. For a small number of pigs, or for a brood sow and her litter, the type of pen shown in the accompanying illustration is serviceable. They are only about five by six feet in dimensions, and three feet high at the back. They are built of inch-lumber, with the cracks battened. Practically the whole front may be lifted out during the summer. Many may consider that these pens are too small for a brood sow, but J. O. Duke, of Essex County, who uses them at farrowing time, recommends them highly and uses them as early as March, or, in fact, practically the year around. Being small, the body heat keeps them sufficiently warm even during the raw, bleak days of spring and fall. As they are dry, the young pigs will stand more cold than if they are in a damp pen. These pens may be set out in the field and a small run-way built so that the youngsters may take exercise, which is essential to health and thriftiness in young pigs.

If it is not considered advisable to have the pigs out on pasture, a saving in feed will be effected by cutting clover and throwing it in the pen. It is surprising how much of this feed a litter will consume in a day, with a



A Group of Small Farrowing Pens for Field Use.

considerable saving in grain. It must be remembered that pasture or green feed alone is not enough. Some grain must be fed. The aim should be to keep the pigs thrifty and growing. Once they get the frame then it may be advantageous to confine them to the pen for finishing as any animal getting a good deal of exercise does not fatten readily. The aim should be to get the frame as quickly and economically as possible before starting to finish.

The pasture is the ideal place for the brood sows. On good clover they will keep in good flesh without much grain. However, if they are not getting in condition during the gestation period, they should be fed sufficient grain to put them in a good thrifty condition at farrowing time. A thin sow cannot feed her litter as well as one that is in good condition. On the other hand, it is a mistake to have the sow too fat. While the young pigs are on the sow it is a good plan to have the pen arranged so that they can get out for exercise on the soil. This is where the farrowing pens illustrated, have the advantage over the farrowing pen in the piggery. If pasture is not available near the buildings, a portion of the hay field may be fenced off. This will make a little more work in feeding and watering the pigs, but it is generally found that it pays. Clover, alfalfa, sweet clover, rape, or oats and peas make satisfactory green feed for hogs and can be grown on most farms.

Modern Methods on a Modern Farm.

Anyone wishing to arrange things to make the work about the farm more convenient should visit George R. Barrie, of Waterloo County, to see what a practical farmer of a mechanical and inventive turn has done to reduce manual labor and facilitate the doing of the work on a large farm. There are 350 acres in the farm, of which 50 acres are devoted to the growing of wheat, about 50 acres are put in spring crop, 8 acres in corn and

3 or 4 acres in roots. For many years the feeding of steers was a specialty with Mr. Barrie and his son, William, but owing to the difficulty of securing choice feeders, Messrs. Barrie have now a herd of Hereford pure-breds and grades and are raising the stock for feeding. In this way they have to pay out less money and the risk is a good deal less. By allowing the calves to run with the cows they are able to produce baby beefs, which sell at around a year old and weigh close to the 1,000-lb. mark. Only a few milch cows are kept in the stable; practically all the stock runs loose. In order to give the calves that are with the cows an opportunity of picking at concentrates and hay, the youngsters are provided with a pen from which the milch cows are barred. In this pen they find a mixture of oil cake and oats, together with fresh, palatable hay. The calves are left on the cows until the cows dry naturally, and as they are accustomed to feeding there is no setback at weaning. After weaning, a heavier ration is fed. Corn and barley are added to the calves do well. A few head which were in the stable at the time a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" visited the farm were

thrifty, growthy individuals of exceptional high quality.

Under one part of the barn there is space for thirty head of cattle. A large manger is built down the centre of this pen for the feeding of hay, silage or grain. One can imagine the difficulty of carrying silage and roots the full length of this manger, when there were thirty head or more of cattle anxiously waiting to be fed. To overcome the labor and facilitate feeding, Mr. Barrie built an overhead track from the mixer

room in the main stable to the manger above referred to. A large feed box was constructed and suspended by means of chains to a car on this track. The feed box was raised and lowered by means of a crank, which was constructed by using a couple of cog wheels and a handle which were secured at comparatively small cost. This feed carrier is run into the manger and the silage or roots pulled out by means of a fork. Probably others who are feeding cattle in loose stalls would find that an overhead feed-carrier would lessen their work a good deal.

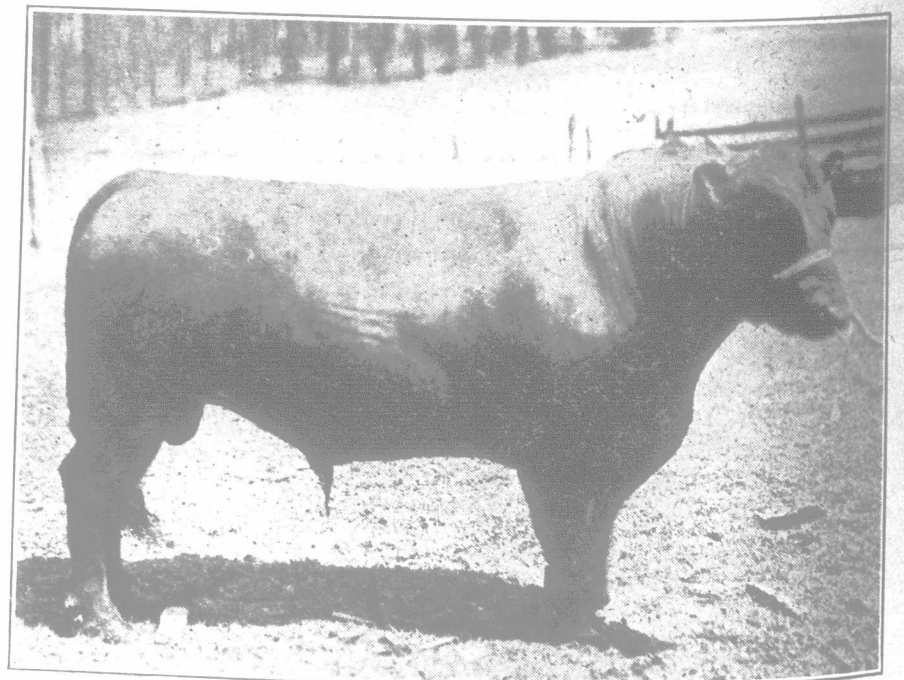
Anyone who has been feeding molasses knows that it is rather difficult to handle. It does not mix very readily with water, and if dipped out of a barrel, it is rather hard to apply to the feed. Mr. Barrie has the molasses barrel in the barn, with a tap over a hole in the barn floor. This tap is slightly open so that the molasses runs slowly into a barrel in the stable. This barrel is about half filled with water and it is found that the molasses running slowly into the water readily dissolves, and the solution may easily be sprinkled over the feed.

When the stock are on pasture, some find it rather difficult to keep the gate shut. We noticed, however, in going through a gateway that the sliding latch on the gate was held shut with a spring. There are many gates on which a spring could be attached to the latch, and so prevent the danger of the gate coming open.

The wagons used by Mr. Barrie about the farm attracted our attention. They are not the ordinary kind of wagon but have nine-inch wheels at the back and from four to six-inch wheels at the front. Wheels of this nature would cost a good deal if bought from the manufacturer, but Mr. Barrie has made use of a binder drive-wheels. Two-inch gas pipe is used for the rear axle, with iron wedged in where the strain comes. A four-by-four-inch piece rests on top of this axle, being fastened there by means of clips which go around the axle. The bolster is placed on top of this to raise the box on a level with the front. It is necessary



A Typical Dual-purpose Shorthorn in England.



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