

More on the Hog Question

Carleton County Farmer Replies to His Critics

Editor THE FARMING WORLD.

In your issue of June 15th on page 420, I notice that two brother farmers have discussed my article of one month previous. That I have read their letters with great pleasure is putting the matter in a mild form, for if I have been able to induce even those few to use your columns in which to express their opinions, and tell of their experience, I am sure you that I feel that my time and your columns have served a good purpose, for I believe it is there anything that will bring about the co-operation of those engaged in farming and stock raising, it is a free and friendly exchange of opinion through the columns of our agricultural papers. And while I see that your correspondents have entirely misjudged the views that I expressed, or rather intended to express, I do not feel at all hurt about it, but will ask you to kindly permit me to set myself right with your readers as regard to the raising of winter hogs.

Now, while in my article of May 15th I dealt almost entirely with the system I have found most profitable for raising spring litters, and further said that I could raise these much cheaper than I could fall litters, I did not intend to convey the impression that fall litters cannot be raised at a profit, or that they should be discontinued, but I do say that except a farmer has provided reasonably comfortable quarters and has considerable roughs, ensilage, or such rough and varied foods as will supply a goodly portion of his hog ration, that he had better go carefully into the raising of fall pigs. No doubt our friends in Western Ontario have a slight advantage in climate, but in that country, as well as in this, I have seen many pigs in the spring (that were farrowed in the fall months), and their owner would have been money in pocket had he never seen them. We seldom have a market, and we certainly cannot build on one, that will permit us to feed pigs for six or eight months on a grain ration, and at the same time devote the labor necessary to keep them clean and comfortable in confinement. And in many parts of Ontario partial confinement at least is necessary for a goodly part of the winter months, thus necessitating labor. Then to provide roots and other rough foods to be used along with the grain ration, requires summer labor to provide, and handling again to bring to the hogs. Now the place taken by all this can be practically dispensed with in the summer by giving the hogs the free run and pasturage, as described in my previous letter. And while the hogs are grazing, or in the summer pastures, their summer rough food, they are at the same time taking the exercise so necessary for their development, and which they are to a great extent denied when in winter quarters.

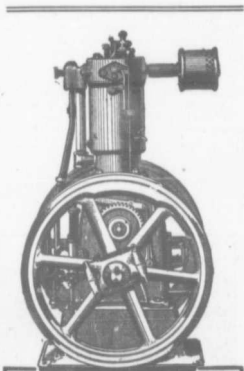
On the whole, while I am quite sure that our friends in Elgin and Lincoln counties have got the system of winter feeding down perhaps to perfection, I am inclined to think that if they devote the same study and economy to summer feeding that they have in the past given to winter feeding, they will agree with me that there is quite a dollar or more than a dollar per hundred difference in

favor of the porker who first sees the light of day just when the days are getting long and sunny.

I hope, Mr. Editor, that some more of your readers who are interested in this subject, will give us the benefit of their experience, and that those who have written once will do so again.

Thanking those who have already spoken, and you for having devoted so much of your valuable space to this branch of stock raising, which in the past has been so seriously neglected by our agricultural papers,

CARLETON COUNTY FARMER.



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A Travelling Swinery

We have all heard of the travelling dairy and the excellent work it has done in improving the quality of the dairy butter of the country. But it has been left for the live stock branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa and the Central Experimental Farm to introduce a novelty in the way of a travelling exhibit of hogs. The only thing lacking was the pen, there were hogs of different breeds—the packer's ideal, the thin hog and the fat hog, besides hog rearing equipment, in fact, everything that would enable a lecturer to give a thoroughly practical demonstration of the kind of hog to keep and how to keep him. This novel but most practical and valuable arrangement should do much to improve the breeding and rearing of bacon hogs in Quebec. The following from a special report received of the first meeting shows that the farmers of that province, who turned out in large numbers, had a most valuable lesson presented:

"A special meeting in the interests of the production of bacon was held at Brome, Quebec, on June 18th. The meeting was conducted by the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture. It was the first of a series to be held in the Province of Quebec, and the only one to be held in an English district. For this series a carload of packers and hog-rearing equipment had been prepared and sent out by the Central Experimental Farm. The delegation at Brome consisted of J. H. Grisdale, agriculturist at the Experimental Farm, and J. B. Spencer, assistant Live Stock Commissioner. The illustration carload consisted of Yorkshire, Tamworth and cross bred hogs. A Yorkshire and a Tamworth of the form and condition suitable for packers were shown, as well as a pair of Yorkshires too thin and light, and a pair of cross-breds too short and fat for the packer's requirements. A Yorkshire and a Tamworth boar also accompanied the exhibit. One of the packing houses of Montreal provided three sides of bacon, viz., the ideal Wiltshire one that was too fat, and another that was too lean from an unfinished hog. The equipment consisted of hog wire fencing, movable hurdles and pen, model troughs for outdoor feeding, and samples of suitable feed. These served a valuable purpose in illustrating the points made by the lecturers."

Ontario Swine Industry

A bulletin upon this subject has been prepared by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, which contains information of an instructive and suggestive character, obtained from answers to questions sent to several thousand carefully selected correspondents throughout the province. The following is a summary:

Breeds—The Yorkshire is the most popular breed. In 33 out of the 42 counties reporting it gets first choice, and in 7 others it is a tie with some other breed for first place. Berkshires come next in favor, followed by Tamworths and Leicester Whites in the order named. Duroc Jerseys and Poland Chinas receive but little mention outside of the counties of Essex and Kent.

Crosses—While many crosses are used, the most popular is that between the Yorkshire and the Berkshire. In the western portion of the province there is a tendency to use the Berkshire more than formerly in crossing, while in the eastern half the

(Continued on Page 470.)