

SWINE DEPARTMENT

Our readers are invited to ask questions in regard to swine. These will be answered in this department. You are invited to offer helpful suggestions or relate experiences through these columns.

Just About Pigs

Thumps are caused by too rich living and too little exercise.

Do not let the good brood sow go as long as she is a good mother.

Pigs do best when running on rape, if a meal ration is afforded in addition to the rape.

Do not let the boar run with the herd. He should be given an opportunity to take exercise.

As a rule, it will be found that the best milking sow is also the most prolific and the best mother.

When buying an expensive sow look over her to see that she has the full down teeth, is well-formed, and not too small or obscure.

If there is anything a sow with a litter of pigs dislikes thoroughly, it is the undue interference of the herdman and disturbance of her habits.

Well drained yards and pens will help to keep the hogs more thrifty and profitable.

Roots for Hog Feeding

J. H. Grisdale, C.E.F., Ottawa

In eastern Ontario we are much interested in the pig growing industry, and if there is one class of live stock that will show good profits for feeding roots it is the pig. At the Experimental Farm we have a ration of which roots constitute the bulky and by far the less expensive part, and it has given us the best results both for breeding stock and young pigs and for fattening pigs of any ration fed. It is a ration of which at least four-fifths by weight is roots and the rest a mixture of bran and a little bit of shorts.

We winter our sows outside and they live upon a mixture of pulped roots with one to two pounds a day of meal mixture. The use of the root in pork production enables us to cut off one-third of what would otherwise be the cost of producing a cwt. of pork.

ALL KINDS GOOD

The kind of roots to grow for pork production is immaterial. We grow sugar mangels, sugar beets and common mangels, turnips or carrots; they are all found acceptable to all classes of swine. Probably for the average farmer the most suitable plan for growing roots would be to put four-fifths of the land in mangels and one-fifth in turnips.

It is more profitable to cook the turnips than to feed them raw. We cook them and mix with meal one pound of meal to three to five pounds of cooked turnips.

Proper Removal of Afterbirth

There is no period in the life of a cow when she requires and should receive more attention than at the time of freshening, owing to the fact that she is so susceptible to complication of diseases such as milk fever, retention of the afterbirth, stoppage or paralysis of the bowels, mammitis or inflammation of the udder, and many other diseases.

Of the diseases mentioned perhaps the retention of the afterbirth is the most common, and while it does not necessarily terminate fatally, it is exceedingly successful in ruining a cow as a profit producer. The afterbirth is oftentimes retained owing to the fact that the cow has been given cold water at the time of freshening, or

permitted to freshen in a cold, damp stable, or out in the rain when the weather is unfavorable.

REMOVING AFTERBIRTH

When the afterbirth is retained it should not be removed by main force owing to the fact that parts will remain. These parts are converted into matter which sets up an intense inflammation, causing a catarrhal condition of the genital organs. The animal absorbs the pus which forms

from the retained parts and the absorbing of such decomposed tissue upsets the entire system of the animal. This pus is excreted from the system to some extent from the kidneys, bowels and udder, thus rendering the milk from a cow that has retained her afterbirth unfit for human food.

Cows thus afflicted should be given a dry, clean, well-ventilated box stall. A blanket should be placed upon them in cold weather. They should be given

ground oats, bran, good clover or alfalfa hay, plenty of water with the chill taken from it, and such medicine as will have a tendency to ripen and expel the afterbirth. The genital organs should be washed out with an antiseptic solution and in this way a cow which has retained her afterbirth will soon be in a strong, healthy, profitable condition, whereas if she was neglected she would be ruined as a profit producer.—Holstein Register.

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