

or a small hog cot, and is forced to take exercise and keep moderately thin in flesh, will invariably produce a stronger litter of pigs in the spring than the sow that is wintered indoors in a warm piggery, taking very little exercise and becoming too fat.

For the winter feeding of brood sows in Manitoba, oats will prove the most satisfactory grain. They may be fed whole and either dry, soaked or cooked, or they may be crushed and fed dry, soaked or cooked. They may be fed with good results when used as the only grain feed, but better results can sometimes be had by feeding some other grain with them, and the ration may often be cheapened by composing one-fourth to one-third of it of barley, frozen wheat, field peas, bran or shorts. As a rule it will not be found entirely satisfactory to replace more than one-half the oats with any other feed, as the barley, wheat, peas and shorts particularly are too fattening and lacking in the muscle and bone-building material that is required by the sow if she is to build up a strong litter of pigs. Practically the same results will be obtained whether the meal is fed dry or made into a mash with warm water. If fed wet it should be fed warm. Roots should be fed very sparingly to brood sows during the period of pregnancy as they tend to produce soft, weak pigs if fed heavily. Mangels may be used to very good advantage to the sows after farrowing in the spring and before the grass becomes good. If alfalfa hay is available and can be cut with a hay chopper, the ration for the brood sow in winter will be improved and cheapened by using ten to twenty per cent. of the cut alfalfa in the ration.

The sows should be placed in the farrowing pens from five to eight days before they are due to farrow, and each sow should be given a separate pen. The feed should be cut down a little from then until the sow has farrowed, as heavy feeding just before farrowing leads to a feverish, restless condition and aggravates any tendency the sow might have to caking of the udder. It is at farrowing time that sows and pigs require the very closest of attention, and as that is about the only time they do require close attention, it should be given them. For two or three weeks while the sows are farrowing, an attendant will need to be with them most of the time. The pigs should be removed from the sows as they are farrowed, dried with a sack or cloth, and placed in a box or barrel with straw in the bottom of it. They should be kept away from the sow until she has finished farrowing, when they may be returned and should be watched for an hour or two until the sow settles down with them. Some of the weaker ones may need assistance to nurse the first time or two. The farrowing pen should be bedded with just a thin layer of short straw so that the pigs will not get tangled up in it and be unable to get out of the way of the sow when she gets up or lays down. A sow should not be fed anything after farrowing except warm water to drink until she shows signs at least of beginning to get hungry, which will usually be about twelve to twenty-four hours after farrowing. For the first feed after farrowing the best possible mixture would be a thin slop of shorts, warm water