

**Swine Department.**

**HOG RAISING.**

BY W. A. HART.

The general principle should be recognized in the raising of hogs that arrangements can be made cheaply for convenient handling that are much better adapted to the purpose than any of the more expensive plans used. Many persons are careless of the comfort of their hogs with the expectation that some time they will be able to build expensive buildings and then care for them as they should. I will attempt to give the reader what seems to me a general plan, best adapted to successfully raise the hog of today. While my experience is that of a breeder, yet I am satisfied that the plan I shall suggest is one that will produce the pounds of pork with less cost than the plan ordinarily pursued by the average farmer. Cheap buildings can be built with but little expense. The farmer can himself do the work of building at odd times, as there is nothing about the construction of the building I shall describe that requires any great degree of skill.

One cannot raise hogs profitably without sleeping quarters especially prepared for the purpose, and should never attempt it. The best arrangement for sleeping quarters consists of a house six feet wide east and west, and from six to ten feet long north and south. Make the side walls about eighteen inches high and cover with a comb roof at half pitch. Broad boards are best for around the bottom, as their use will prevent draughts of air from cracks in the wall. The low side wall also prevents the sow from lying near enough to the wall to crush young pigs. Entirely close up the north end, and also the south gable down to where hogs can walk under easily. Spike securely a piece 1½x6 inches across at the bottom at the south end. Coal cinders, where they can be obtained conveniently, filled about two inches deep over the bottom, will prevent water from running in and wetting the bedding. A plank floor should never be used, as it is almost impossible to save young pigs at far-

rowing if the weather is cold; besides older hogs sleeping on plank floors invariably take cold at any slight change in the weather. Cut fodder makes a fairly good bed, but the best bed is made of broken cobs from the corn sheller, filled in about six inches deep all over the bottom of the sleeping house. They do not get dusty, hot or damp, or make the hog too warm at any time. When you wish to clean the bed, lift the house off and set fire to the bed and burn it. This destroys any disease germs, and makes an excellent place to replace the house and fill with cobs as before. Where a cob bed has been burned hogs relish the charred cobs. When convenient, locate the sleeping house twenty-five rods or more from the feeding place, that the hogs may take the exercise in going to and from feed. I have tried almost every arrangement suggested by breeders, and regard this as the most practical, healthy and convenient. It is best not to let more than ten to fifteen hogs occupy the same sleeping quarters, and use the larger houses for the larger hogs.

Hogs should never be allowed about straw stacks or manure piles. Nothing is so certain to injure the hog, to the extent at least that he will be an unprofitable feeder. I have not described a feeding house, as it is not an absolute necessity, but will, if desired, at some later date, describe such a house as any farmer can afford, and one that he

will find a very great convenience. Such a sleeping house as described can be built at a cost for material of not to exceed a dollar, and a convenient feeding house, that will hold 500 bushels of feed and furnish room for feeding thirty hogs, can be built at an expense of \$25 to \$30.

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