

Swine Department.

HOG RAISING.—No. 3.

BY W. A. HART.

For the first week after farrowing feed the sow about one and a half gallons of milk or thin sweet slop from the kitchen twice per day, if you have it, as it is less liable to cause indigestion and fever. The lack of this can be imperfectly supplied by thin slop, lukewarm, made of water and thinned with three-fourths bran and one-fourth shorts. Use a little salt in the slop. Gradually increase the quantity and quality of the slop fed to the sow to the fifth week, when she may have all the rich slop she will eat. It is never advisable to feed hogs or more than twice per day, except pigs may have a light feed of thin slop or milk at noon, but no solid food. Milk fever, caused by improperly feeding the sow, will injure many of the pigs to the extent that they will never make profitable feeders. The sow may have a little wheat or half ear of corn twice per day when the pigs are two weeks old, and gradually increase until when pigs are six weeks old, two or three ears per day will be good for her.

If the sow and pigs do not get out and exercise by the time they are from four to five days old, take a keen switch and drive them out three or four times per day. Each time give them more and more exercise until by the time the pigs are three weeks old they may be driven a half mile each time, by using care to let them rest a few seconds when they show much fatigue. This will prevent thumps in pigs and make both sow and pigs healthy. If the pigs scour, a lump of lime about the size of a hen's egg dissolved in the feed for sow, or fed to the pigs after they will eat, will usually correct the disorder. After the pigs are four or five days old they should be driven up with the sow when she is fed. As soon as they have learned to eat, make a pen adjoining the sow that the pigs may slip into and eat shelled corn, soaked oats, rye or wheat, and all of the shorts slop they will eat. If the pigs do not eat heartily enough of the slop,

lessen the grain ration.

The sow should have her first litter of pigs about the first of April or October and be bred again the first time she comes in heat, as if let run over a few times without breeding she may be very difficult to get with pig. But by being bred as directed, she will be more certain to raise two nice litters per year. Growth can be made with much less expense by using thin slop made of bran, middlings, ground oats, wheat or rye, or vegetable slop made of cooked or ground pumpkins, turnips, potatoes, etc., in connection with from one to three ears of corn per hog twice per day, than by the use of corn alone. About a teaspoonful of coal oil for each hog fed in slop three times per week will do much to prevent disease. An excellent slop is made of one-fourth in quantity of ground oats and rye, one-fourth middlings and half bran, mixed in water in which one-fourth pint of dry old process oil meal to each hog has been soaked from one feed to the next. The oil meal greatly benefits the hogs; besides much less other ground feed is required to give body to the slop. Hogs do much better with any ground feed mixed fresh into slop at the time of feeding than to mix and let soak from one feed to the next. Very sour slop is much more profitable in the manure pile than fed to hogs. Keep fresh, pure water always where the hogs can get it when thirst. A good stock fountain can be profitably used for this purpose. The greater the quantity of slop you can get the growing hog to eat, the more corn they can be safely fed. Hogs pasturing on clover or green feed are less liable to injury by over-feeding of corn. Hogs can be made large enough for market much more profitably by continuous feeding from birth until marketed. They should have all

the corn they will eat the last month before marketing. By the above plan pigs can easily be made to average 225 pounds at six months old.

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