

Home Course In Live Stock Farming

XIV.—Care and Feed of Swine.

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THE feed of the brood sows through the winter should be such as will keep them thrifty and vigorous without becoming fat. So much has been said against corn as a food for brood sows that many feeders omit it entirely, substituting more expensive feeds. This is unnecessary. Corn is one of the best feeds that can be obtained for the basis of the ration. It is rich in heat and energy producing materials, furnishing these at less cost than they can be obtained in any other food-



FIG. XXVI.—GOOD TYPE OF BERKSHIRE.

stuff. The mistake in feeding corn comes in feeding it exclusively. Some foodstuff rich in protein should be fed with it, as this element is needed in considerable quantities in the production of young.

Feeding the Brood Sow.

Some succulent and loosening feed should also be given to keep the bowels in order when the sows are not on grass. There is no feed that will take the place of grass for brood sows, but it is of course impossible to obtain this in winter. A little silage may be fed, although it should not be given in large amounts. Pumpkins, squashes and roots of all kinds are excellent. It is a good plan to have a cellar under part of the hog house in which such feed can be stored. If the true value of this vegetable adjunct were understood properly it would be seen at once how important it is to provide a way to keep a store of these aids to digestion for winter use.

Hogs have small stomachs and are more adapted to grain than to roughage, yet the mistake of giving the feed in too concentrated a form should not be made. A little bran will dilute the heavier feeds. Cut clover or alfalfa hay may be used for the same purpose.

A hayrack built at one side of the pen and kept filled with good clover hay is a good thing. The sows will eat large amounts of it and relish it. The feed of brood sows should be given dry or slightly moistened, never in the form of a slop. Pigs from slop fed sows are overlarge, are born with difficulty and are weak and flabby. Where plenty of skim milk can be had it makes an excellent addition to the ration. It is more especially a feed for young pigs than for brood sows, however. The following are a few rations for brood sows that have given good success:

Corn, one-third; oats, one-third; bran, one-third.
Corn, nine-tenths; tankage, one-tenth.
Corn, one-half; clover or alfalfa, one-half.

If the clover or alfalfa is cut before feeding and soaked from one feed to the next it can be mixed with the grain part of the ration and all given together. These feeds should be given at the rate of one-half to three-quarters of a pound per hundred pounds of live weight, according to the condition of the sows. If some of the sows tend to get too fat, while the others are only in good condition, it will pay to put them in a pen where they can be fed separately. Pumpkins and roots make a valuable addition to any of these rations. As farrowing time approaches a little oilmeal, about five pounds to 100 pounds of the other feed, may be added to the ration to advantage.

Plenty of fresh water is essential for the brood sows and the other hogs as well at all seasons of the year. If the farm is equipped with a water system, so that water can be piped directly to the hog house, it will be a great convenience. In the summer barrels or small tanks with automatic waterers attached furnish a constant supply of clean water.

Care at Farrowing Time.

A few days before the sow is due to farrow she should be given a pen by herself, so that she may become accustomed to it and feel at home when farrowing time comes. Bed the pen with good clean straw, but do not use too much of it, as the pigs will be more likely to get tangled up and lain on. If the sow is inclined to be restless fenders about eight inches high around the pen help to prevent her from lying on the pigs. The feed should be gradually reduced until the last day before farrowing, when the

sow should be given nothing but a bran mash with a little oilmeal added. This will cool her system and reduce the likelihood of her eating or killing her pigs.

With old sows little attention will be needed at farrowing time, though it always pays to be on hand to see that everything is going well. If the weather is cold the pigs should be dried and warmed as soon as born. A good way to do this is to have a basketful of straw, with a jug of hot water in the middle. If the pigs are put on the straw and the basket covered with a sack they will soon be warm, lively and ready for their first meal. If the sow is in an individual house, hanging a lantern in the peak will help to keep up the temperature. In extremely cold weather pens inside a large hog house should be covered with boards or blankets. The house should be provided with a stove if many early pigs are expected.

Do not make the mistake of feeding the sow right away after farrowing. For the first day or two she is better off without anything but water. At the end of this time a few dry oats may be given. The feed should be increased gradually, using the same ration as was given before farrowing. The appearance of the pigs will be the best guide as to the feed that should be given the sow. If they begin to scour give the sow a tablespoonful of blood meal with her next feed or half a dozen eggs. If the pigs are constipated add a little oilmeal to the sow's ration or give her more sloppy food. The pigs should be given considerable exercise or they are liable to get too fat, get the thumps and die. There should be a place where they can get outdoors every pleasant day. Sunshine is as essential to a little pig as it is to a corn plant.

Feeding the Pigs.

The cost of gains on pigs is 50 per cent lower while they are nursing than it is afterward. As soon as they are well started they should be pushed as rapidly as possible. The sow should be given all the feed she can use. Sloppy feed increases the milk flow and should be given in liberal amounts. The same may be said of skim milk. The following rations will serve as a guide for feeding sows at this time:

Corn, one-sixth; skim milk, five-sixths.
Corn, one-third; oats, one-third; middlings, one-third.
Corn, eight-ninths; tankage, one-ninth.

Corn, five-eighths; oats, one-quarter, gluten feed, one-eighth.
It will not be long until the pigs are able to eat a little for themselves. They should be encouraged by giving them feed in a pen by themselves, where the older hogs cannot get to it. In a few days the pigs will get to eating regularly. For the first three months it will pay to feed them three times a day. A pig's stomach is small, and it cannot eat enough in the morning to last until night.

Pasture and forage crops are essential for cheap and rapid gains in young pigs. They are also much healthier than when kept in a small pen with no green feed. At the Wisconsin experiment station it was found that from 500 to 1,000 pounds of pork could be produced from an acre of rape. Tests at the Iowa experiment station show that nearly 300 pounds of pork can be produced from an acre of timothy. In both these experiments grain was fed in addition, but the gains given are those produced by the green feed alone.

The best results are obtained when grain is fed on pasture. The amount to feed will depend largely upon the relative prices of grain and pork. A light ration of grain produces cheaper gains, as the pigs will eat more grass. The gains produced in this way are not so rapid as where more grain is fed. When grain is not too high and pork a good price it pays to feed a

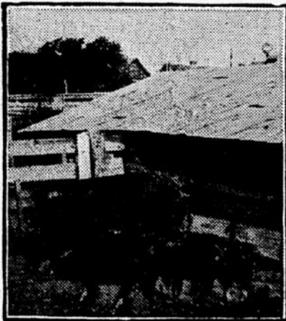


FIG. XXVII.—A THRIFTY LITTER.

fairly liberal ration of grain and get the pigs on the market as soon as possible. Alfalfa or clover makes the best pasture. Rape and peas are good for temporary pastures. For a permanent pasture blue grass and white clover are very good. A mixture of clover and rape sown with oats in the spring makes the best kind of fall pasture when the other pastures are liable to be scanty picking.

When corn is not worth over 30 cents a bushel the cheapest gains will be made by feeding corn alone or in connection with skim milk, provided that plenty of green food is given. As the price of corn advances the use of supplementary feeds high in protein becomes more profitable. With corn at 50 cents a bushel the use of one part of meat meal or tankage to nine parts of corn will reduce the cost of gains nearly a dollar a hundred pounds. The difference is even more marked when corn is fed in a dry lot.

There is usually little to be gained in grinding corn for hogs, but it will be an advantage to shell it and soak it from one feed to the next. Experiments show that this reduces the cost of gains by about 8 per cent.

DECAY OF TIN.

Remarkable Alteration Which Takes Place in the Metal.

Anything made of tin, it seems, is doomed to a brief existence. This metal is subject to a remarkable kind of alteration, a species of disease to which it is liable. When exposed to the air tin undergoes no chemical change, as do iron and copper, which, of course, chemically combine with the oxygen or with water. The tin, however, still remains metallic tin, but gradually becomes gray and dull and falls to fine powder.

The disease is "catching." It infects or induces the same change in other masses of tin in the immediate neighborhood. We are told that in a Russian imperial magazine, in place of tin uniform buttons, little heaps of powder were found. A consignment of Banca tin sent from Rotterdam to Moscow in 1877 arrived at the latter place in the form of powder. This alteration is due to a change in the internal crystalline structure of the metal and is analogous to the slow transformation of monoclinic sulphur to rhombic sulphur. As a result, objects of tin of archaeological interest are rare. Those that have been found have been in the form of earthenware vessels, knobs, etc., which have been found in the Swiss lake dwellings coated with tin foil. Cassiterite or tinstone is the single ore from which the tin has been obtained in any quantity.—Knowledge and Scientific News, London.

A PLACID MERCHANT.

He Had Some Regard For the Social Side of Trade.

The summer visitor in a small seaport town was amazed and amused at the assortment of merchandise displayed in the little store at the head of the wharf. The showcase was devoted to an assortment of candy at one end and a lot of cigars and tobacco at the other end and no barrier between. Next to the showcase stood a motor engine valued at several hundred dollars.

Thinking to please the proprietor, the visitor remarked that even the large department stores in Boston could not boast of such a collection.

"Well," he said, "I ain't aping them stores, I can tell you. I aim to keep what my folks want. When a man wants an engine for his boat he wants it, and if the fish are running he can't wait to send way to Portland or Boston for it. He wants it when he does, then and there."

After a little pause he continued: "I don't like the way they do business in them big stores, anyway. Why, when you go into a store up to Boston the first thing you know somebody asks you what you want."

"Now, I never do anything like that. If a man comes into my place I pass the time o' day and ask him to set, and after he's set and talked a while if he wants anything he'll tell me."

"I never pester a man to buy. Maybe he ain't come to buy; maybe he's come to talk."—Youth's Companion.

The First Universities.

To fix precisely the date of the rise of the first universities is impossible for the reason that they were not founded, but grew. They were started by a few able men who had something they wished to teach and youths wished to learn. Gradually the free, voluntary center of learning became the organized affair we know as the university. Among the earliest of these centers of learning were Salerno, Naples and Bologna, Italy being the first land to experience the literary revival. We may say that Salerno university was fairly established by the year 1060, the University of Bologna by 1160 and the University of Naples by the year 1200. The University of Paris, which owes its existence to the genius of Abelard, was founded about the same time.—New York American.

Handed It Back.

A clergyman in the neighborhood of Nottingham was complimenting a tailor in his parish on repairs which he had done for him. In the course of conversation he, however, incautiously observed: "When I want a good coat I go to London. They make them there." Before leaving the shop he inquired, "By the bye, do you attend my church?"

"No," was the reply. "When I want to hear a good sermon I go to London. They make them there."—London Tit-Bits.

Tea in the Time of Buddha.

At the time of Buddha China was enjoying a large foreign commerce in tea. It was carried by her junks to Japan, Korea, Tonquin, Anam, Cochin, Burma, Slam, India, Ceylon, Persia and Arabia. According to one record, it was sent to a great black river country west of Arabia, from which it was separated by a long and very torrid sea, which must have been Egypt. It was carried by caravans to Manchuria, Mongolia, Kuldja, Tartary, Tibet, Persia and northern India.

Couldn't Tell.

"Has your pocket ever been picked?" "Really, I don't know. It never was before I got married. If it has been since I, of course, would have no way of finding out about it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Inspiration.

"This is a pretty good poem. You must have had some strong inspiration." "I had. The editor promised me \$10."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The heart of a loving woman is a golden sanctuary where often there reigns an idol of clay.—Limerick.

THE "THIRD DEGREE"

Ethics of the Process as Defined by Inspector Byrnes.

"The 'third degree,'" said Inspector Byrnes, the former chief of detectives, "should be a psychic rather than a physical process. It is not remorse brought about by continual thought upon the heinousness of his crime that drives a guilty man to confession. It is the nervous strain involved in a long effort to maintain his pretense of innocence, while he is in constant fear that the police are in possession of evidence that may prove his guilt. Something like a parallel case would be that of a prizefighter who should surmise that his antagonist was playing with him in the ring while capable of sending in a knockout blow at any time he felt so inclined. Apprehension that he was dealing with conditions of the nature of which he was unaware would eventually weaken the man in that case. Tell a suspected man who is guilty that you have evidence of his guilt and that he will get nothing to eat or will not be permitted to sleep until he confesses, and unless he is a particularly stupid fellow he will know that you have no proof against him and are only trying to get it. For instance, show him ostentatiously the weapon with which he may have killed a man and tell him that you know all about the crime and he would better confess it. He will say to himself, 'They haven't got sufficient evidence to convict me and are trying to make me furnish it, for if they had the evidence they wouldn't care whether I confessed or not,' and thus he will be encouraged to hold out. Also, if he does confess under duress, he makes a false confession, which he knows it will be impossible to corroborate."

"Now, a guilty man in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred is not sure that he has covered every trace of his crime, and he may readily be put into the state of mind of the man in Poe's story of 'The Telltale Heart,' wherein he can't help believing that proof of his guilt has been discovered and that his cross examiners are mocking him by pretending not to be aware of it. Let the guilty man catch sight of an implement with which his crime is associated in the possession of the police, which he believes has been intentionally left where he sees it, and it throws him into a panic, because he does not know how they came by the weapon nor what else they may have discovered demonstrating his guilt in getting hold of it. Perhaps he has concocted a story in his mind which the discovery of this weapon renders implausible, and he mentally puts together and rejects one sequence of lies after another, wondering whether it is safe to take chances on this bit of information or that being not in the possession of the police. Then he is overwhelmed every few moments by the thought that everything is known and all his efforts are useless. The guilty man in this condition is no longer normal, and his collapse is only a matter of time."—Frank Marshall White in Harper's Weekly.

He Had Reformed.

A young man who was an enthusiastic lover of nature went to the seaside for a holiday and, approaching a typical fisherman, said:

"Ah, my friend, how well you must know the face of nature and know it in its many moods! Have you ever seen the sun sinking in such a glare of glory that it swallows up the horizon with fire? Have you not seen the mist gliding down the shrinking hillside like a specter?"

And, very excited and throwing out his arms, he continued:

"Have you never seen, my man, the moon struggling to shake off the ragged, rugged storm cloud?"

The fisherman replied, "No, sir; I have not since I signed the pledge."—Pearson's Weekly.

A Little Ambiguous.

The Ingrahams were entertaining two friends at dinner. After Mr. Ingraham had helped them to roast beef he happened to glance at the other end of the table, where his wife sat, and observed, to his horror, that the sugar bowl was the old one, with both handles broken off, that usually graced the dining table on wash days.

In vain he endeavored by mysterious nods and winks to direct Mrs. Ingraham's attention to it. She either did not see or would not see the mutilated piece of queensware, and his patience gave way at last.

"Cornelia," he said, with some sharpness, "do you think we ought to use a sugar bowl when we have company without ears on?"—Youth's Companion.

Suspicious.

"Let me show you 'Love Letters of Wise Men,'" said the clerk in the book emporium.

"Are they signed?" asked the cautious bookworm.

"Yes, indeed, every one of them."

"Then they must be forgeries. Wise men never sign their names to love letters."—Chicago News.

The High Water Mark.

Mrs. Robinson—And were you up the Rhine? Mrs. De Jones (just returned from a continental trip)—I should think so, right to the very top. What a splendid view there is from the summit!—New York World.

An Unwelcome Discovery.

Post—I discovered today, that Parker and I have a common ancestor. Mrs. Post (a Colonial Dame)—For goodness' sake don't tell any one!—Brooklyn Life.

In the hands of many wealth is like a harp in the hands of an ass.—Martin Luther.

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