

pure bred hogs than it does to start with any other kind of pure bred stock, and the farmer who keeps even a few hogs cannot afford to keep any but the best. The kind that will produce the most pork of the kind which his market demands will always yield the largest profits, and it is almost universally conceded that the pure bred kinds will do this.

Thoughts on Breeding

We often hear that "like begets like," and yet when we see the results of a season's crossing we are inclined to think that the rule has many variations. A flock of quail next fall will look exactly like those we saw last year; the rabbits in wood and garden are just like their parents, but when we try to improve our hogs what is the result? Some good, some fair, some poor; yet we call them "thoro" or "better" bred!

If like begets like why do two black swine fail to produce black pigs? asks "Farm, Stock and Home." It is because certain laws govern reproduction, and when man attempts to accomplish some desired end he finds certain hereditary propensities cropping out when and where he least expects them. This is true not only in color and markings, but in constitution, habits and tendencies.

The old sow that leaps over a rail fence into a corn field will surely teach her pigs to hunt up some low place in the fence where they can follow in the footsteps of their agile ancestor. The tendency to be quiet, gentle and a good sucker is transmitted as surely as are bad traits. There are, however, two principal laws which have much to do in enabling a breeder to accomplish his purpose, viz: the law of similarity and of variation. It is by virtue of the first that peculiar qualities of the parents are transmitted to their offspring. A Chester White is expected to produce white pigs; a Jersey Red should show red or sandy pigs; a Poland-China may have white, black or spotted ones, and yet when looking over a herd of either we will see a general family resemblance.

One breeder fancies "black and white points," and in a few years all his pigs will show a white tail and feet and a dash of white on the nose. Another fancies enough spots "so you can see that your pigs are Poland-Chinas," and in a short time his pigs are mostly spotted. One wants a "big hog," the bigger the better, while another finds a "medium breed" the only one that pays. The lesson that these variations and tastes teach can be summed up in a very few words: Breed only from the best, then with a regular supply of proper food and comfortable quarters one's own ideal can be slowly approached. But it must never be forgotten that defects in form, color, disposition and habits are as surely reproduced as good qualities, and will crop out unexpectedly in generations yet to come. This is particularly true if the male is a grade, and if closely related to the female the results are generally still worse.

There is great opportunity for helpful thought in the facts that may be noticed from year to year. For instance, one service produced two distinct litters, one of six and one of five pigs. Was it the result of double action on the part of the male or a second response on the part of the female? While we have law through which we can strengthen characteristics already good, we also have the law of variation, through which we can remedy defects by crossing a purebred male with those points strongly developed upon a female that is deficient in those points.

If the herd is becoming so long in body that many pigs are pulled apart behind the shoulders, by using a very compact, broad-backed male the next year's pigs will have better backs and shorter bodies. Again, a change of climate or food will produce variation, and this accounts for different results from the same breed. A well-bred pig



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accustomed to comfort and plenty of feed will fall behind the scrub if forced to live on air and water.

But this subject is an inexhaustible one, and cannot be well treated in the limits of one article, but it is hoped that enough has been said to show the importance and necessity of intelligent thought and action in the matter of breeding domestic animals.

The changed position of the American market for breadstuffs is indicated by a comparison of exports of these articles for October, 1904, with the exports for October, 1903. The total value of breadstuffs exported was \$18,895,000 for October, 1903, and only \$7,458,000 for October, 1904. The disparity in quantities exported is greater than the disparity in values.

New York comes to the front with the worst prize pumpkin story. The pumpkin was raised by a boy, who left only one on the vine, nourished the vine with milk and took the prize at the county fair. The judges cut open the pumpkin with a view of testing its qualities for pies and found, instead of seeds, seven pounds of butter inside that pumpkin. We are truly thankful that this tale is not attached to a Washington pumpkin.

Nurserymen Don't Advertise

Lexington, Mo., Nov. 23rd, 1904.

Editor The Ranch: Inclosed I send you 10 cents (silver coin), for which please send sample of The Ranch.

I find your ad of The Ranch in the Western Fruit Grower, St. Joseph, Mo.

In addition to wanting to see your paper (I may subscribe), I wish to see if nurserymen and tree growers advertise in your paper, that is, Washington nurseries, as I am anxious to get trees or scions of an apple I saw in your state exhibit at the World's Fair, St. Louis. The variety, your State Director told me, is the Spokane Beauty, by far the largest apple I ever saw, in fact your state fruit exhibit beat all others, and I was never treated more courteously than by your Director in charge.

I suppose if I find ad or ads of Washington nurserymen in The Ranch I can then communicate with them in regard to procuring the Spokane Beauty. Yours respectfully,

J. L. MARSHALL,

Lexington, Lafayette County, Mo.
R. D. No. 1.

We regret to say that the nurseries in this state do not advertise—probably because they are not sufficiently well established to grow very much of the stock they handle, usually shipping it in from other states and then retailing out to customers. C. L. Whitney, Walla Walla, can furnish the Spokane Beauty.

Stockmen, Attention.

The Washington Live Stock Association will meet in Spokane on December 22 in Chamber of Commerce building. A committee has been appointed to arrange a program and a number of prominent speakers and live stock men will be present. A general good time is expected. You are requested to be present and bring your friends.

By order of the Executive Committee.

GRANT COPELAND,
Secretary.

Don't slight your face. It is better to be harsh with your wife's relatives than with your face. You can forget them once in a while, but your face is always with you. If it is rough and sore from the use of cheap, inferior soap, why not try a real shaving soap—such as "Williams". Williams Shaving Soaps are the acme of comfort and refinement and make shaving a luxury. See their offer elsewhere in this paper.

Dr. J. B. Kendall Co.,
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Gentleman:—I have used your Kendall's Spavin Cure for fifteen years and have always found it good. I have saved the life of several horses by using your "Treatise on the Horse" as a guide. Will you please send me a new copy of the book as my old one is pretty well worn out.

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