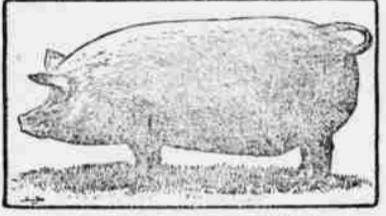


### THE BROOD SOW TO KEEP

It is not enough that the brood sow be of the proper conformation physically. It is equally important that she be of the proper conformation mentally and morally, if we may be permitted to use such a term with reference to a brood sow. In short: Is she a good mother? Is she level-headed? Is she kind in her disposition? Does she know how to take care of her pigs? Or is she one of those hysterical, fretful, ill-natured creatures that are unfit for the duties of motherhood? If the latter, no matter how good a looker she may be, send her to the fattening pen. Get all the meat on her that you can conveniently and then let her go.

Again, no matter how good her conformation or how many pigs she may have to the litter or how good her disposition may be, is she a good suckler? Does she belong to the milking type? For there is a milking type in brood sows as well as in cows. If she has this with all the other qualifications, then keep her, no matter how tempting the price may be which the feed lot offers or some neighbor. A brood sow of this type is worth two or three of equal weight and equally endowed with good looks, but lacking in milking, mental and moral qualities. Therefore, first look over your brood sows and see how many are to go to the left into the feed pen and how many are to go to the right and be permitted the honor and privilege of furnishing the pigs for the next year.

In selecting youngsters it is well to reject all from litters that came small, say three or four. Select from litters of seven or eight good, healthy pigs that have proved by their growth that they have been well nourished by good milking dams. They are quite likely to inherit her milking qualities as well as her disposition and conformation. Reject unqualifiedly all candidates for future honors that come from uneven litters, and reject any that show a



A PRIZE WINNING CHESHIRE

tendency to become short, chuffy, wheezy—in other words, to develop into animated lard kegs. These pigs will naturally be deficient in constitution and vitality and should pass into the feeding pen. Many farmers if they should reject the short, chuffy pigs will find themselves rejecting many whole litters. In that case it is probably the farmer's fault and not the pigs'. He has been feeding them too much corn and not giving them enough clover, oats, oilmeal or other protein foods. He has been asking them to make bricks without straw, muscle without muscle making material. They have done the best they could to turn the fat making material into fat, and let the farmer take the consequences.

In this case the thing to do is to reform his methods and either take the best that offers or close out the whole business and start again with new stock, perhaps purchased at a long price. Before doing this, says Wallace's Farmer, make sure that you are not going to make the same mistake again, but that hereafter you are going to feed your brood sows with food "convenient" for them, to use the expression of the wise old man in the Proverbs, by which he meant suitable food, needful food, food adapted to the object in view.

The accompanying illustration shows one of the largest and handsomest Cheshire sows exhibited at the state fairs during the past few years. She is owned by R. G. Button of Madison county, N. Y., and was six years old at the time this picture was taken for the American Agriculturist. The animal was in good form and weighed 594 pounds. She was the first prize winner at several state fairs, including New York. In some places these animals are known as Jefferson county swine and are said to have originated in New York, in the county by that name. It is stated by some that they started from a pair of pigs brought from Albany, N. Y., that were called Cheshires. As there is no distinct breed of hogs in England known by this name and as there are no authentic records of importations into this country under that name, there is reason to believe that the so-called Cheshires have been improved by crossing with Yorkshires brought in from Canada and elsewhere. Cheshires are white, with small, erect ears, long, broad, deep bodies, broad hams and nearly straight backs. At maturity they dress from 400 to 600 pounds.

#### Breaking the Colts.

Handle the colts as much as possible while quite young. The time to begin to break a foal is as soon as it is born. If a colt is handled from birth it is far less difficult to break it to work later on than if allowed to run wild. A colt should be halter broken by the time it is a month old and should by that time be on such intimate terms with mankind as to allow its legs to be handled freely, says the Farmers Advocate. To teach a horse to be driven that has been handled from birth is so easy compared to breaking an unhandled colt that it is almost play. It is much easier to teach a suckling colt to lead or drive than it is a wild, strong colt of two, three or four years of age. Broken thus early, he will always be more trustworthy than if broken at the latter age.

### HANDLING WINTER LAMBS.

Some Valuable Points on Dressing and Marketing Them.

In no case can lambs be sent to the market alive. The express charges would "eat them up." They must be killed at home and sent dressed. Each market has a fashion of its own. Boston wants them fully dressed, entirely divested of skin, while New York wants them with the skin on, but with the heads and feet off. Early in the season a lamb that weighs, dressed, about thirty pounds if very fat will meet the market's demands, but later they should run up to thirty-five or forty pounds to top the market.

In killing the least amount of suffering should be inflicted. This is accomplished by bringing the lamb gently into the killing trough, placing one hand on the under jaw, the other on top of the head, and giving a quick twist of the hands, suddenly breaking the neck. This stops all sensation. The throat should then be cut, severing the jugular vein, so as to cause rapid bleeding. Next skin the inside of the hind legs and down the belly as far as the brisket and on each side, back even with the middle of the side. Cut off the feet at the hoofs. Cut off the head. This is required by an ordinance in New York city. There seems to be no good reason for it, as the lamb sells for no less, and the meat on the head is fine enough to make two or three good meals.

#### Dressing For Market.

Tie the hind legs together and hang on a hook so as to bring the lamb even with the killer's shoulders. Open and remove the caul carefully and put it into a pocket made by separating the skin from one side of the body a little. Remove the bowels, but if the weather is cold leave the haskets. If the weather is hot the haskets should be removed and a handful of salt thrown into the cavity. A couple of clean sticks are next inserted in each side of flanks, crossed at the back, so as to stretch the sides open as much as possible.

Carefully place the caul over all the skinned part of the carcass, fastening it, if necessary, until cold, with wooden skewers. Cut a small hole in the caul opposite each kidney and, having loosened it up, pull it through the opening so as to make it show to the best advantage. This is what catches the customer's eye. Hang away until entirely cold. If the weather is hot an ice room could be provided, in which they should be hung until cold. When ready to ship wrap the skinned part in clean muslin, cover the whole lamb with burlap, sew up securely and send by express to some reliable commission man unless you are fortunate enough to sell on order.—J. S. Woodward in American Agriculturist.

### THE SHEPHERD

Don't forget when laying plans for a new sheep barn that it should extend east and west, with doors and windows facing south, and that it should be well ventilated.

A healthy flock of sheep is a profitable flock.

Sheep are good manure spreaders, and they make a business of killing weeds too.

Count the sheep and lambs every day. Keep a sharp lookout for sheep killing dogs.

Sheep are the scavengers of the farm. Turn a flock of sheep into foul fields and let them free it from weeds. Every farm should support a small flock of sheep.

A ewe gaining in flesh at mating time is much more likely to produce a good lamb than one in poor condition, says the Farm Journal.

To insure a thrifty and growing condition some grain should be given every day in addition to the pasture.

Scrub rams will make you scrub for the money you get. Don't keep them; get good ones.

Save some of the best ewe lambs for your own flock. Those from good, twin bearing stock are best.

The sheep fence needs to be good and tight two or three feet up from the ground. Above that it may be more open.

Contract for your sires early. A little later they will all be picked up.

**Feeding Sheep.**

The feed should be so distributed that all may have free access to it at all times, writes W. E. Raymond in Kimball's Dairy Farmer. This is more important with the large flock than with the small. Judging from our own observation, this is seldom the case. We have seen flocks included in one yard or in a shed while the feed was being distributed in another; then when the door was opened—often a narrow one—the sheep would crowd in, tumble in, anyway to get in. The first ones have plenty of time to fill up before the last ones get out. Generally all would be eaten up before the last arrived. This again is where the strongest get the most and best, while the weaker and those that need it most get little or nothing. While this may not be avoided altogether, it can be to a great extent by providing wide doors and gates. One of the best arranged sheep sheds I ever saw had the whole side for a door, about three feet high. When sheep were let in or out to feed, all came as near having an equal chance as it is possible with a large flock. Another feature of this kind of a door is that none is hurt or killed by being jammed in doorways. This may mean much to a flock of ewes when heavy with lamb. It is also very important with a large flock that they have water where they can get to it at all times and at no distance from the feeding yards. Sheep are so gregarious that if they are driven to water and all cannot drink at once many of them will follow the flock rather than stop to drink.

### A GOOD PLEA.

There came one day to an inn near Bologna, kept by a widow, Madonna Lucretia, three travelers. When they rose to go, one, a Venetian, thus addressed their hostess:

"Excellent lady, may we leave under your roof for a day or two this bag of gold?"

"You may," she replied gayly. "But, remember, we fasten only with a latch. Bars and bolts we have none in our village, and, if we had, where would be your security?"

"In your word, lady."

"But what if I died tonight? Where would it be then?" said she laughingly. "The money would go to the church, for none could claim it."

"Perhaps you will favor us with an acknowledgment?"

"If you will write it."

An acknowledgment was written accordingly, and she signed it before Master Bartolo, the village physician, who had just called by chance to learn the news of the day, the gold to be delivered when applied for, but to be delivered (these were the words) not to one or to two, but to the three—words wisely introduced by those to whom it belonged, knowing what they knew of each other. The gold they had just released from a miser's chest in Perugia, and they were now on a scent that promised more.

They and their shadows were no sooner departed than the Venetian returned, saying, "Give me leave to set my seal on the bag, as the others have done." And she placed it on a table before him, but in that moment she was called away to receive a cavalier who had just dismounted from his horse, and when she came back it was gone. The temptation had proved irresistible. The man and the money had vanished together.

"Wretched woman that I am!" she cried as in an agony of grief she fell on her daughter's neck. "What will become of us? Are we again to be cast out into the wide world? Unhappy child, would that thou hadst never been born!" And all day long she lamented, but her tears availed her little. The others were not slow in returning to claim their due, and there were no tidings of the thief. He had fled far away with his plunder. A process against her was instantly begun in Bologna, and what defense could she make, how release herself from the obligation of the bond? Willfully or in negligence she had parted with it to one whom she should have kept it for all, and inevitable ruin awaited her.

"Go, Gianetta," said she to her daughter. "Take this veil which your mother has worn and wept under and implore the Counselor Calderino to plead for us on the day of the trial. He is generous and will listen to the unfortunate; but, if he will not, go from door to door. Monaldi cannot refuse us. Make haste, my child, but remember the chapel as you pass by it. Nothing prospers without a prayer."

Alas, she went, but in vain! These were retained against them. Those demanded more than they had to give, and all bade them despair. What was to be done? No advocate and the cause to come on tomorrow!

Now, Gianetta had a lover, and he was a student of law, a young man of great promise, Lorenzo Martelli. He had studied long and diligently under that learned lawyer, Giovanni Andrea, who, though little of stature, was great in renown and by his contemporaries was called the arch doctor, the rabbi of doctors, the light of the world. Under him he had studied, sitting on the same bench with Petrarch, and also under his daughter, Novella, who would often lecture to the scholars when her father was otherwise engaged, placing herself behind a small curtain lest her beauty should divert their thoughts, a precaution in this instance at least unnecessary, Lorenzo having lost his heart to another.

To him she flies in her necessity, but of what assistance can he be? He has just taken his place at the bar, but he has never spoken, and how stand up alone, unpracticed and unprepared as he is, against an array that would alarm the most experienced?

"Were I as mighty as I am weak," said he, "my fears for you would make me as nothing. But I will be there, Gianetta, and may the Friend of the friendless give me strength in that hour. Even now my heart falls me; but, come what will, while I have a loaf to share you and your mother shall never want. I will beg through the world for you."

The day arrives, and the court assembles. The claim is stated and the evidence given. And now the defense is called for, but none is made. Not a syllable is uttered, and after a pause and a consultation of some minutes the judges are proceeding to give judgment, silence having been proclaimed in the court, when Lorenzo rises and thus addresses them:

"Reverend señors, young as I am, may I venture to speak in behalf of one who has none else to help her? I will not keep you long. Much has been said, much on the sacred nature of the obligation, and we acknowledge it in its full force. Let it be fulfilled, and to the last letter. It is what we solicit, what we require. But to whom is the bag of gold to be delivered? What says the bond? Not to one, not to two, but to the three. Let the three stand forth and claim it!"

From that day—for who can doubt the issue?—none was sought, none employed, but the subtle, the eloquent Lorenzo. Wealth followed fame. Nor need I say how soon he sat at his marriage feast or who sat beside him.

### IRRIGATION PRACTICE.

New Land Requires More Water Than Cultivated Fields.

By SAMUEL FORTIER.

The subsols of western lands when first brought under irrigation contain little moisture. The most striking characteristics of these formations are their great depths and the close similarity which exists between the surface and subsurface layers. Apart from their darker color, due to decayed vegetable matter, there is little to distinguish top soils from bottom soils, and the roots of plants extend to great depth through the latter. On account of these prevailing physical features a large part of the water which is applied for the first few seasons is absorbed. Cases are common in which new land has absorbed in one season a quantity of water which would have covered the surface to a depth of six feet. To claim that this large volume correctly represents the duty for such land is a misrepresentation, because the open space in the subsol is gradually filled with water and the ground water level in time rises nearer the surface. It is a fact, however, that new land requires much more water per acre than old cultivated fields, and crops are likely to suffer if it is not supplied.

#### Good Ditches and Laterals.

Other conditions being similar, less water will be used on a farm which has a good system of ditches and laterals and a well cultivated, even surface. The beginner is not always posted as to the best way to lay out and build farm ditches, and he may not possess sufficient means to properly prepare his fields for irrigation. These defects invariably prove quite costly in the end, when measured in waste of water and small yields. In an arid country thorough cultivation serves a double purpose in that it increases the yield and prevents the escape of water into the atmosphere. Grading or leveling the surface is even more important, since it is difficult to apply water to an uneven surface, the growth of the crop is not uniform and the soil in the low places is likely to be damaged by an excess of water.

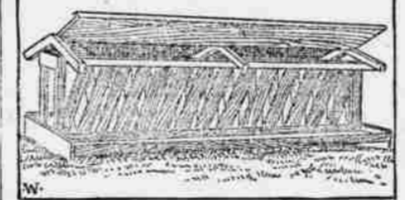
#### Maturing Crops Under Irrigation.

The time necessary to mature plants differs. Under favorable conditions a crop of alfalfa can be grown in less than fifty days, a crop of barley in something over a hundred days, while it may require 150 days to ripen certain varieties of fruit. There is not only a difference in the period of growth, but in the number of crops grown in one season.

### A FEEDING RACK.

Convenient For Roughage and Ground Food.

The accompanying illustration, credited to the Farmer, represents a type of feeding rack, with troughs that will be found economical for feeding both roughage and ground food. These racks can be cheaply constructed and will last for a number of years. One-half of the roof is put on hinges so that they can be lifted directly from a wagon. If cut silage is fed, it should be put in first, as it will fall through the rack into the troughs. After the silage is thus properly distributed the racks can be filled with hay. Twelve or fourteen feet is a good length to build such racks. The frame can be made of 2 by 4 inch lumber. A 2 by 4 inch scantling runs lengthwise in the center of the rack and is framed to the bot-



RACK WITH TROUGH.

tom crosspieces. To this is nailed on each side at the bottom a 1 by 3 inch strip for the troughs to rest on. The slats can be made out of 2 1/2 by 7-8 inch stuff placed two and one-half inches apart. For outdoor use in a wet climate the racks should be roofed, though it is not necessary where the rainfall is light. A one-half inch strip should be nailed to the eaves so as to prevent the water from dripping in the feed or on the sheep while eating.

#### Pumpkin Sugar In Iowa.

Sugar from pumpkins will be the next source of wealth which will be developed in Iowa, for the authorities at the agricultural college declare high grade sugar will be made from them by a process even more simple than that required to make it from beets. Experiments have resulted in the production of a species of pumpkin which contains 4 per cent of sugar, and it is the prediction that in three years the sugar element will be increased to 12 per cent. This is equal to the quantity of sugar found in the best variety of sugar beet. Because pumpkins are easily raised and a tonnage may be produced to the acre which will exceed that of sugar beets the new sugar pumpkin will open up a valuable field for the Iowa farmers. The pumpkins may be planted in the cornfields, and the same soil which will produce corn may be made to produce a crop of pumpkins at the same time.—American Cultivator.

#### Vetch In Western Oregon.

Common vetch stands the winters admirably in western Oregon and western Washington and is shown in the autumn from the last of August to the last of November. It is sown also in the early spring, but fall seeding usually gives the largest yields. The stems of this vetch are not strong, and heavy crops are inclined to flatten out on the ground. Oats are usually sown with vetch, winter oats being sown in the fall and spring oats in the spring.

### PIGEON POINTERS.

Some Hints to Breeders of the Little Feathered Beauties.

The following valuable hints on pigeon rearing are clipped from Poultry Success:

Birds bred from good foundation stock will show their good qualities for several generations to come.

Charcoal is one of the necessities that pigeons must have, and granulated charcoal is the best, as it is free from dirt and dust and uniform in size. This should be in every loft.

Too much attention cannot be given the birds at this season of the year, the molting time. Some call it the "dying time." A well balanced ration, cleanliness and ventilation are necessary.

Keep your coop free from feathers. Examine some of them and you will find lice and mites. Burn them and lessen your trouble.

Don't tend your birds on the installment plan and say there is nothing in the business.

Common sense, care and attention is the only road that leads to success, and then you find some thorns on the way-side.

Why of course you are going to exhibit that pair of birds at your local show, and if they win a place send them to another.

Remember the pigeon breeder who has spent ten or fifteen years in perfecting a strain of birds cannot sell them at low prices. Get the best from reliable breeders and you will be better satisfied one year from now.

Do not be led astray by some of the literature put on the market by some squab company. Remember the squab business must be learned largely by experience. Better start with six pairs than 600.

Some people rush into the squab business, thinking fabulous sums can be quickly realized. Remember, it takes years of experience and judicious handling to make a success of the business.

Bowel trouble in pigeons is usually the result of improper feeding, filthy water and crowding.

In the breeding of pigeons it is well to remember that size is influenced largely by the female.

#### The Langshan.

In England there is on foot a movement to return to the old type of Langshan. The Langshan is an Asiatic fowl and originally very closely resembled the "true" Shanghai of a generation ago, except as to color. Despite the many explanations of the name, it is probable that the homely one to the effect that it is merely an adaptation from the words long shanks is correct.



OLD STYLE LANGSHAN.

At any rate, many of the British breeders are arguing that the Langshan, under the requirements of the modern standard of perfection, is losing the characteristics which first made the breed popular and that its former remarkable utility qualities are being literally refined out of it. There is probably a kernel of truth in this charge, but the first experiment looking toward what seems to be a step backward in poultry culture will be watched with interest. The illustration here-with gives an excellent idea of a Langshan cock of the old type.

#### Don't Use "Henny" Cocks.

Never use a "henny" cock bird, and there are too many of the kind—birds with only a half a crow to them, cowardly in their disposition, would not stand up in defense of their mates even against a young, immature cockerel. Such a bird is no good, however well he may look as far as feathers are concerned. He will ultimately ruin the strain by lessening its vitality. A cock that doesn't spool for a fight is no good, and neither is the cock with no crow to him. A well, strong and potent cock will crow incessantly and give full evidence of his lordship.

#### Layers and Breeders.

Pullets on their first winter are the best egg producers. The older the pullets are when winter begins the more continuous will be the egg supply, according to the Feather. Eggs from young pullets are not the best for hatching. Hens two years old are better for producing eggs for hatching than pullets. Immaturity is not conducive to strength and vigor in the offspring.

#### Chicks on Plowed Ground.

It is well known, though less well known than it should be, that chicks thrive wonderfully on plowed ground, and one well known poultryman plows up alternate strips of his chick range so that the young stock can have their choice of either fresh ground or grass ground. He insists that the youngsters spend most of their time on the plowed ground.

### THE WOMAN IN GRAY

"Don't ask me for names and dates and places. Men and women are not creatures of names, times or places, but they are only creatures of love, disappointment, joy, grief and pain. Men are not loved, hated or honored for the time, place or name under which they live. Neither do men cease with their time or place, but 'extinctus amabitur idem.'"

"I have seen three generations of men in manhood, the first in St. Louis years ago and the latter two in an eastern city where my home is. In that eastern city I learned the story I am about to relate to you.

"It was not many years ago that I knew them—the persons whom my story concerns. They were three. The central figure in that trio was a beautiful young girl, about twenty years old when she came into the story I am about to tell. She was richly endowed with womanly grace and worldly wealth. She was not from St. Louis, but she traced her ancestry to the founders of the city and was bound by ties of blood to families still represented here and honored for their lineage.

"She lived in an eastern city. There she knew and loved an artist. The tender passion was returned, and but for one thing all was well and propitious with their love. The artist was a genius, his devotion to his art being second only to his devotion to the young woman whom he loved. His work was much sought after. There was a peculiar sameness about all his pictures, however. He had a hobby in art, always affecting the somber tints. The gray of November landscapes was a passion with him. He carried this taste into a pet name for his fiancée, for when he petted her he called her his 'little gray mouse.' She liked the pet name, for she was but a timid, clinging child of love.

"The one thing that disturbed the happiness of these two was the foolish jealousy of the artist lover. The object of this jealousy was a young man of fortune and leisure who was a friend of the pair. He knew of their love and sacredly regarded it, but he did love the young woman. He concealed his love, always conducting himself as a friend of the two and nothing more. He did not know that he was the innocent cause of frequent outbursts of jealous accusations by the ardent artist against his sweetheart. The girl always passionately avowed her love for the artist and declared the other man to be but a friend.

"The artist and his fiancée were accustomed to frequently visit art exhibits together. One gray afternoon they went to a large art museum. She was clad in gray. For hours they loitered before the pictures. At last the young woman complained of weariness and wanted to sit down to rest.

"Come into the next department, and you can rest while I look at the pictures there," he suggested.

"No, I am going to rest right here," she said, just a bit pettishly, as she found an easy chair, and she would not go with him. He left her, saying that he would be back soon.

"He had scarcely gone before the mutual friend of the pair happened along and stopped for a moment to chat with the woman whom he loved, but to whom, for honor's sake, he would not declare his love. He soon passed on and left her to wait for the artist whom he envied and whom she loved devotedly.

"The artist never came. The young woman waited until the dusk had fallen. As the moments wore on her heart began to smite her, and then came a sense of sickening fear and then a flow of tears. She searched the gallery. He was not there. Suddenly a look of horror came into her eyes and with it the inward questions: "Did he come back? Did he see Vernon speaking with me, and did he go away forever? At last the gallery closed. The woman in gray was driven to her home, hoping yet that he would come to her.

"The evening passed, and the artist did not come. The next morning the young woman was in a raging fever, delicious, constantly calling for her absent lover. At last she recovered, but was never the same woman. The artist never returned. As frequently happens in great cities, he had disappeared as though the earth had swallowed him up.

"The woman, now grown almost to middle age, still searches for him quietly and mysteriously. The habit of visiting large gatherings, especially art exhibitions, has grown upon her until it has become a mania. She goes to these places always clad in gray. She glides about as though possessed of the spirit of mystery. In her eyes there is always that look of an awakening question powerful and awful, repelling all questions from those who would be curious. "Did he see Vernon speaking with me, and did he go away forever? This woman in gray has always been a mystery wherever she has gone, but none has ever learned her story from her lips. Her lips are closed, but her heart speaks.

"No; don't ask me for names or date, for her secret is sacred, and it would be a sacrilege to reveal it," said the old man. "When death shall come and eternity shall bring light to her clouded brain she may learn the mystery of that somber afternoon, or perhaps in her wandering, faithful search she may find the lost artist and dispel his jealousy by the story of her devotion."

And the old man turned away from a dazed auditor.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

#### A Fright.

"Miss Nobbs had an awful blow this morning."

"What was it?"

"She went down the avenue to show us her new fall hat and three horses died at her."—Detroit Free Press.