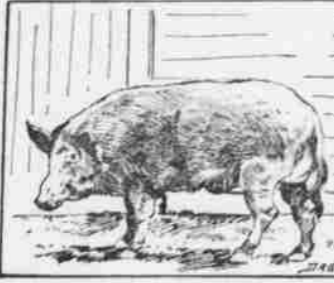


**SELECTING THE BOAR.**

**Great Care Necessary in Choosing Head of the Herd.**  
The selection of the head of a herd of very great importance, and I am thoroughly convinced that some farmers do not have as good success as they should and could have in raising hogs simply because they do not exercise the care necessary in selecting the male to be used in their herds, says a prominent swine breeder. The boar should be selected with even greater care than the sows, for his influence equals the combined influence of all the sows in the herd. A superior boar may be used on a herd of inferior sows with good results, but the use of an inferior boar on sows of high quality will have a disastrous outcome. The one method raises the standard of the herd; the other invariably lowers it.

A boar with the male characteristics strongly developed should be selected, preferably as a yearling or else as a pig that has been purchased at the same time as the sows and allowed to come to maturity before being used. He should have a well crested neck and a strong muscular head. His shoulders ought to be developed according to age. However, strong shoulder development in pigs under a year or eighteen months old is objectionable.

The boar should be selected to correct any defects that may be common to the sows. For example, if the sows are rather coarse in bone and loosely



A TAWORTHY BOAR built the boar should have high quality—fine bones, skin and hair. If the sows tend toward overfleshment and delicacy the boar should be rather rangy and strong boned.

The same indications of a good pork producing carcass that the sows require should be seen in the boar—a broad, straight, deeply fleshed back, much depth and length of sides and well developed hind quarters. The visible organs of the reproductive system should be well developed and clearly defined.

The boar should stand upon his toes, and there should not be the slightest indication of weakness in the pasterns of the young ones. In a matured boar (two or three years of age) that has been hard worked it may be expected that he will be a little down on his pasterns, but a six or eight months old pig that does not carry himself on upright pasterns is not a safe animal to select for a herd boar.

**THE FEEDER.**

Take particular pains in putting up the clover hay. There is no better roughage for cattle than good clover hay, but its feeding value depends entirely upon the way in which it is cured.

**Feeding Salt.**  
Salt that remains in the barrel of meat that is clean and wholesome is in no way infected with germ life that will injure stock to which it is fed any more than other salt. Animals are sometimes poisoned on salt, but it is by reason of their being so hungry for it that they overeat of it. Thus if a person were to dump the contents of a meat barrel on the ground and cattle, horses or sheep that were hungry for salt got to it they likely would eat it to their injury.

**Cowpeas For Cows.**  
Cowpeas make an excellent food for dairy cows when combined with other grain and fodder in proper proportions, but they are so highly concentrated and nitrogenous that they should be fed in moderate quantities and mixed with cut feed in bran.

**Feed of the Boar.**  
The feed of the boar when not in service may be of a succulent nature—mainly pasture and cut green forage during the summer months and roots in winter. A boar can hardly be sustained in these alone, and some grain should be allowed to keep him in condition. This should be nitrogenous in character, consisting of mill feeds—such as shorts, middlings and bran—some oil meal and the leguminous grains, with a little corn. As the breeding season approaches the feed should be increased, so that the boar will be in good condition.

**Ration For Nursing Mares.**

Mares nursing foals should be given a ration that will not only increase their flow of milk, but materially enrich it. Oats and bran in equal bulk, with about one-fourth in bulk of corn added, make a good ration for a mare in milk. This should always be moistened before feeding.

**Feeding the Pigs.**  
A prominent swine breeder says: Don't let a single apple go to waste. Every windfall will help to fit the pigs for the early market. The same is true of the waste from the vegetable garden. Don't let the weeds in the fence corners go to seed. The hogs will work them over, and many of them contain tonic properties. Utilize what is good in them and at the same time keep the premises tidy. Hogs need a change of ration. Milk is always a staple food, but give grains to make a change now and then. Give some vegetables, too, and occasionally some fruit. It all helps to give growth.

**BACTERIA IN MILK.**

**Some Good Suggestions That Every Dairyman Should Heed.**

It is impossible in practical dairy work entirely to prevent bacteria from falling into the milk, but if the following suggestions are heeded the number gaining entrance and their rate of development will be greatly lessened. Do not feed dry hay or fodder at feeding time, and to prevent dust from rising from the floor use the sprinkling can, for dust meant bacteria.

Do not brush the cow just before or at the time of milking, for the dead skin and hairs, carrying thousands of bacteria, will be loosened ready to drop into the pail.

Do not permit the cow to switch her tail over the milk pail, for she is certain to throw hundreds of bacteria into the milk at every flip.

Do not soak the teats or udder with milk or water so that drops fall into the pail, but moisten with a cloth, for a moist surface does not readily permit bacteria to leave it.

Do not regard milking as a dirty task and wear old and filthy clothes, for the handling of food for human beings should be made a cleanly task. Do not wash pails and cans with cold water, but scald with boiling water and steam, and by all means avoid rinsing with cold water just before milking, for a few drops of water usually contain several thousand bacteria. Do not wait to finish milking before beginning the cooling of the milk, but set the can in a tub of cold water so that each cow's milk will be cooled immediately after milking, for a high temperature causes bacteria to multiply very rapidly.

Do not fail to thoroughly clean and wash the parts of the separator each time it is used, for bacteria thrive in the separator slime.

**RAPID DAIRY WORK.**

**Method of a Prominent Dairyman in Using the Milking Machine.**

A prominent dairyman gives this as his method of installing milking machines in his barns: Instead of placing expensive piping through eighty feet of stall room, with connections at each cow stall, he has arranged something entirely different. He has a special stall or milking room to accommodate four cows, two animals standing with heads to the right and two with heads to the left. This necessitates only a short piping system. The milking machine is thus practically a fixture at one spot, and the



LATEST TYPE OF MACHINE MILKED. apparatus, tubes, receiving can, milk cups, etc., can be fixed at one spot. This makes it unnecessary to shift the appliances so frequently.

The cows in this barn have been trained to go to the milking machine instead of taking the milking machine to the cows. The animals are taken in turn. They are assembled near by at milking time, and four cows are admitted to the room at a time. They know they are to be fed in this certain place and are always ready for it. As soon as they take their places

they are fastened, the milk cups adjusted to the teats, and the cows are milked while eating. The whole job is completed in ten minutes and another quartet of cows brought up to take their places.

Among other advantages this means little or no manure at that place, also greater ease and facility in adjusting machines, and is considered by this progressive dairyman simple and better in every way.

**The Dairy.**

There is no danger of washing the separator too often.

The flavor of good butter is frequently spoiled by too heavy salting. Milk pails and cans should be used for no other purpose than to hold milk.

In order to get the best flavored milk the cow should be fed nothing until after milking.

Regularly in milking helps the flow during the present and all subsequent lactation periods.

Do not allow an animal to stand in the stable or may hay to be fed just before milking or a dust may be raised. The silos should be far enough away from the stable to eliminate all danger of the milk absorbing the odor of the ensilage when it is thrown out of the silo.

The cows should be kept clean and not allowed to wade in filth. This calls for clean yards and clean, well bedded stalls.

**THE VETERINARY.**

A horse's foot should be examined whenever he comes into the stable, especially if he has been driven on country roads; otherwise a small stone or possibly a nail may remain undiscovered until the horse is lame.

**Distribution of Tuberculosis.**

It has been proved by experiments conducted by the Minnesota experiment station that a dangerous medium in the distribution of tuberculosis is the manure of infected cattle, which in its dry form may readily be blown into milk in the stables. The utmost care should be taken to isolate all cattle known to be or suspected of being affected with tuberculosis, not only for the safety of human life, but for the welfare of the herd.

**Remedy For Rheumatism.**

For rheumatism in horses a breeder says that the following is an excellent remedy: Dissolve two drams of carbonate of potash in a pint of water and mix it with the feed two or three times a day until the animal gets well. Apply equal parts of alcohol and water to the affected joints twice a day.

**Enlargements on Horses' Legs.**

A recommended remedy for enlargements on the legs of horses is a mixture of potassium iodide, one ounce; iodine, three drams; water, eight ounces. Mix well and apply over the affected parts. The application should be made at the first appearance of the trouble.

**For Colts That Are Teething.**

Colts suffer from teething at times, and to subside wholly upon hard, dry food may work injury. Steamed crushed oats or barley thickened with bran will prove appetizing and very nourishing in such cases. Roots may be cooked and the mass extended with ground grain and bran.

**A Wash For Mange.**

One ounce of carbonate of potassium to each quart of rainwater makes an excellent wash for mange or ten. Wash the affected parts once each week with this mixture and then wash off the mixture with clean rainwater.

**Prevention of Ringbone.**

Ringbone can be prevented by keeping the horse's feet properly trimmed, not overworking colts while young, careful driving on hard and uneven roads and avoiding all strains on the tendons.

**BUYING A HORSE.**

**Points to Be Considered Before Making the Purchase.**

Never have a horse brought out or up down to you, but go to his stall and investigate for yourself certain details, which once you know them require no special acumen to decide upon or to be aware of, writes F. M. Ware in the Outing Magazine. For instance, is there grain in the manger and the hour for feeding some time past? He may be a bad feeder, nervous, delicate—well to call the veterinarian's attention to this point. Is the straw under his feet unusually trampled or broken? May be one of those irritable, nervous "weavers" horses which constantly sway from side to side who are generally also bad feeders and poor performers.

Are the stall posts or sides battered or kicked? He may be a kicker by day or night, spilling his own rest and that of other horses. Does he tear or eat his blankets? Is he tied in any

special way or simply and as other horses are? Is he gentle to approach and to handle—no nipping, kicking or pulling back on the halter?

Does he stand square on both feet or rest one or both alternately? Does he back quietly from the stall, picking up each hind leg without sudden spasmodic jerking? And when he turns in the gangway does he do so smoothly or does he flinch (in front) as if the boards were not even or his feet hurt him more or less? Are his eyes staring and expressionless, his ears always forward—indications of defective vision?

Once out of the stall, notice that he submits quietly to being wiped over and betrays no resentment while harnessing, at accepting the bit, bridle, crupper, etc., and decorously permitting all necessary alterations and attentions. Accept no departure from absolute docility of deportment, for be sure that if the animal betrays either excitability, nervousness or vice in the dealer's hands he will be far worse with you, for you know you don't know, and he will know you don't know, and those combinations spell trouble.

In the same way see that he is led out and put to the vehicle to which he is to be driven, noting each stage of the process, viewing him always with the truly critical eye of the individual who does not (yet) own him. Excuse nothing and make no allowances for less. If he makes a move you don't fancy say so frankly and look further. There are plenty of horses.

**Breeding of Live Stock.**

The breeding of live stock does not get the serious thought from the farmer which it demands. Raising stock is one thing and breeding stock is another. The addition of a calf, colt or a lamb to the herd is regarded on many farms as of very ordinary importance, but on farms where high class, pure bred stock is so great at the time of a young animal to the herd creates almost as much interest as the birth of an additional member to a family. In the case of the ordinary calf or colt there is little or no interest manifested as to the future of the animal. If the calf or colt is pure bred its daily growth to maturity is watched with anxiety. If it is a heifer calf that is dropped the interest is so great at the time that it is difficult to wait until the calf becomes a cow in order that it may be known how much of an improvement she is over her mother in milk production. If a colt the farmer can hardly wait until it is old enough to drive in order that he may determine what speed it will make on the track. When good stock is introduced on the farm there immediately becomes attached an interest which is not shown in scrub stock. It is this interest and sentiment which have resulted in producing some of the world's record breakers, and the interest doesn't fail to appeal to any man who endeavors to improve the live stock on his farm. This is one of the advantages of breeding good animals.

**The Making of Bran Mash.**

One of the most common of all feeds is the bran mash, yet not every one knows how one should be made. It is only in racing stables and large studs as a rule that one sees it done properly. To make a bran mash first wash out a bucket with boiling water, then pour in the quantity of water required, say three pints, and stir in three pounds of bran, cover up and leave for a couple of hours or more if not required for immediate use. A mash takes hours to get cold and is often given to a sick horse too hot and refused when it would have been taken if properly prepared and given warm instead of scalding hot.

**The Addition of a Tablespoonful of Salt in the Ordinary Mash of a Saturday Night can be recommended to keep down parasites and promote digestion, but should not be part of a sick horse's diet unless specially ordered.**

A mixture of linseed and bran is often prescribed both as food and a poultice. To one part of linseed two parts of bran is a desirable proportion for both purposes. To get all the feeding value out of linseed several hours should be allowed for cooking, not merely infusing as with a bran mash, but gently simmering on the side of the stove. The vessels should be filled, and toward the end the lid may be taken off and evaporation permitted while cooking.

**Well Fitting Horse Collars.**

The pad will make a big collar fit a little better, but the best plan is to have a collar that fits without a pad. The latter is apt to irritate and chafe a horse much more than a leather collar. If the harness is properly adjusted on the collar many horses may be saved sore necks and sore shoulders.

**Killing Sumac.**

For killing out sumac a correspondent recommends a flock of sheep. First remove the sumac, then turn in the sheep. Sumac may be destroyed by persistent cutting after the flowering season and before it sets berries, but sheep will do the work at less trouble and expense.

**Special Feed For Thin Ewes.**

It will pay to separate the thin ewes from the rest and give them special feed for a while. Don't leave them with the rest to struggle for their living, but give them a little advantage.

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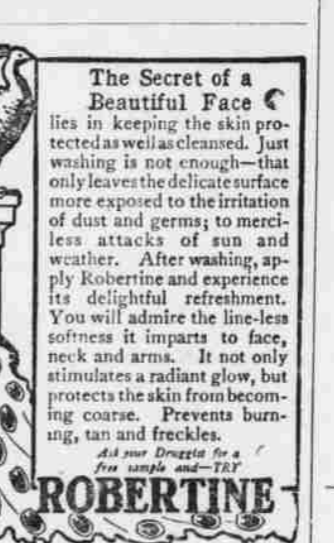


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