

Care of Swine Necessary

IT IS intelligence that counts in raising pigs for market. The successful farmer is the one who thinks. He must take into consideration all the little things that go to make up "his pigships." Naturally if he does this there is little doubt of his success. The following by Henry is to the point:

"Breed stock should live all summer in the open on uncontaminated soil, grazing on succulent pastures in order to develop bone, muscle and constitution. The grasses do not provide a satisfactory pasture for swine. Far better are the rape and the legumes—clover, alfalfa, vetch, etc. While the pig can barely subsist on grass alone, the legumes and rape will somewhat more than sustain life and so leave for producing increase all the extra good feed which may be supplied.

"In addition to good legume or rape pasture there should be fed a proper allowance of muscle and bone building feeds such as wheat middlings, bran, soybeans, cowpeas, linseed oil meal, tankage, dairy by-products, etc. These need not, however, constitute over one-third of the feed supplied; the remainder, carbohydrate in character and cheaper in price, should consist of

corn, barley, kaffir, milo, etc. The daily concentrate allowance should be sufficient to keep the pigs thrifty and gaining but in no case so abundant as to make them lazy and shiftless, for pigs, if heavily fed, do little foraging but lie idly in the shade. Observation will soon determine the quantity of feed which will keep pigs gaining normally while actively foraging to appease their hunger.

"Boars and brood sows of the larger breeds should reach the weight of about 250 pounds at one year of age if rightly fed and managed. The feed and care of the boar does not differ from that of the sow. Too often both are closely confined in filthy quarters away from the wholesome earth without opportunity for exercise or for gathering food on their own account. Such mismanagement weakens the constitution and is far more expensive than the simpler and more natural method of keeping all stock from spring until fall, away from building and feed yards, out in the fields on fresh uncontaminated soil. Here a little extra feed with suitable forage and a natural life makes possible the most economical gains and the healthiest animals."

Bristles

WHERE sows have become thin through the nursing of the litter, care should be exercised when turning them out on grass in the providing of them with grain along with their grass ration. This will help to recuperate them rapidly.

Keep the pigs out of the dust.

Clean the troughs these hot days.

Keep on friendly terms with the swine.

Shade and pure water should be provided.

If you fatten the hogs in summer, keep on the look-out for cholera.

Pigs in clover or alfalfa up to their backs make growth of pork.

Provide a platform for the pigs to feed on. Keep the platform as clean as possible.

Give pigs a good run, and gradually increase the amount of protein food, as it is bone and muscle that you are building up in the youngsters.

Where hogs are being fattened in the summer, try soaking shelled corn in troughs for the hogs.

When feeding rape to swine, a good

plan is to provide hurdles and give the hogs a small strip at a time to feed on. Less waste, and assists in securing a second growth of plants.

The pig will use every opportunity to make growth, if offered. See how quickly he finds and uses a hole in the fence, so he can get into a greener pasture. Give him a fair chance. Keep the pig growing from birth to market. Runt pigs waste feed.

Paralysis in Hogs

PARTIAL or complete paralysis of the hind legs of hogs is seen so often in swine herds that a common cause has been suspected, but not definitely determined.

Inbreeding, parasites and an unbalanced ration have each, in turn, been assigned as the probable cause of this particular form of paralysis, and now it is quite generally attributed to a lack of phosphate of lime. This salt in a form that can be appropriated may be deficient in the ration or not properly appropriated by the tissues of the body or, again, it may be because of a drain on the system for phosphates to nourish the growing fetus or the young after birth.

It is a well-known fact that there is a deficiency of phosphate of lime in the bones and other tissue of pregnant animals and in those that are suckling their young. This is especially true of the sow. But this condition is not confined to pregnant animals. In one instance a herd of 44 hogs, of both sexes, and ages ranging from ten months to two years, nearly all of them were affected with partial or complete paralysis of the hind legs. The ration had been largely raw potatoes.

They appeared to suffer no pain, the appetite was quite normal. A balanced ration would probably have prevented this condition. The following treatment has been recommended and should be helpful in this case: One tablespoonful of cod liver oil, 15 grains phosphate of lime and three drops of fluid extract of nux vomica mixed with the food twice a day.

Chuffa Hog Feed

CHUFFA is a very rich green grass about eight to ten inches in length and rather coarse. J. D. Cooper says: "I do not know whether stock will eat it or not. I planted about one and one-half acres last year. As the season was dry and hot, it did not do as good as it should, but about one-half acre was fairly good. I turned in six head of hogs, and also gathered a good lot of seed. The crows were very bad and ate about as much as the hogs till I kept them on the chuffa about two months, and hogs that cost me 7 cents per pound on foot and averaged about \$4 each, I sold for \$12 each. They did not get near all the feed as the place got under water.

"As a feed for fattening hogs, I think every farmer should have an acre or so if he has land suitable. The land should be loose and damp such as will grow corn or potatoes, and if of sandy nature can be irrigated. Plant in May in rows so as to cultivate. Plant one in a hill 15 to 18 inches apart, as deep as you would corn. Cultivate once or twice as you think best and keep the weeds out. One acre will fatten eight head of hogs and give all the seed anyone will want. It is ready to use the last of November.

"The land should be plowed twice. Once just before planting. Harrow with a light harrow, do not use a clod masher as it packs the ground around the hills. Cultivate as soon as possible after it comes up as it begins to spread soon and it is not advisable to cultivate too close to it. My advice is if one plants an acre, to divide it in half, as the hogs will root up a hill and go to the next one and take a bite and this gives the

crow a good chance to clean up what is left. If all the farmers would grow an acre or two it would cut down the high cost of living, as meat is one of the greatest expenses for a family. Most all have a corner on the farm, where they could grow enough to fatten two to three hogs without hardly any expense. It is fine for chickens and turkeys, also good to eat, as it is very sweet and nutritious."

The Brood Sow

A BROOD sow should never be allowed to run with other hogs before farrowing. While she is to be kept in good condition at all times by feeding slops and grain, it is detrimental to her future success as a mother if she is allowed to fatten. It is found that fattening sows at farrow time are most certain to lie on some of their pigs, and as a general thing the litter will be weakly and fewer in number.

Just before the brood sow farrows she should be separated and put in a pen or lot to herself. A small grass lot is an ideal location for a brood sow.

Sufficient quantity of slops should be provided the sow before and after farrowing. She should have succulent food. If she be afforded a good grass pasture, the supply of slops need not be so great. Good feed may be provided by mixing milk or water with bran or ship stuff.

"We recall, as a boy," writes a correspondent, "that one of our brood sows and pigs use to run around the barn in the summer time with access to a grass lot nearby. This old sow and her pigs always did well and the young ones looked healthier and came to maturity sooner and weighed more at market time than those that were confined in close quarters. The real secret of this case was that a proper range was provided and the sow and her litter had an opportunity to pick up refuse about the barn. Today it is possible to provide ideal conditions such as was provided in the instance above mentioned by providing a clover patch or alfalfa field supplementing with other feeds as can be provided, such as slops made from feed such as bran and different ground grains."

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