

General Information

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HANDLING THE POLAND-CHINAS

Poland-Chinas have been bred and handled by me for the past twelve years, writes a Tennessee breeder in Orange Judd Farmer. I find that they do best in an open wood lot where they have access to one or more pasture fields. There is plenty of water, and they secure an abundance of nuts and roots. During the summer they are allowed in the woods and pastures, while in the fall I give them the run of the fields containing peas, sows at the time my corn is laid by. I prefer to have my sows farrow early in the spring or as early in the fall as possible. Occasionally we have a litter



POLAND-CHINA SOW.

pigs in July, but we aim to have the bulk come in the spring. The youngsters are fed anything we can get hold of on the farm. They are sometimes given small quantities of dry corn, with a little bran or middlings mixed. I like to feed ground oats with some cornmeal made into a thin slop, as I think this very desirable for young pigs. I usually supplement it with a little shelled corn at night. Summer pigs always have access to the pasture. I seldom change a sow's feed, except to cut it down a little a few days before and after farrowing. With my sows seven pigs is a fair average litter. I lose very few and frequently raise a full litter. In my experience I have got the best results by putting my pigs upon the market when they are from three to five months old. The usual price for breeding pigs of this age is \$10 each. The market price averages about 5 cents per pound. I think farmers could breed more pigs to good advantage.

My swine have an open run for the winter, but I provide them with plenty of shelter. I find a small V shaped house set in a well protected spot, in which are placed plenty of straw, leaves and other litter, makes a very desirable nesting place for the animals. This might not do in the more northern states where the winters are severe, but with us it serves the purpose, and the animals do well. A farmer should select the breed he likes best, but should take care that he gets the best stock in the market for the money. I purchase the best individuals I can get hold of so as to build up my herd along certain lines I have in mind. I believe in feeding swine all they will eat up clean from the time they are six weeks old until they are marketed. I try to raise all my feed on my farm. I pay special attention to the sanitary conditions of our house and bedding places. I provide plenty of water and shade in the summer and comfortable quarters for my animals in the winter. With care in selection, proper feeding and personal supervision I consider these animals among the best money makers on my farm.

Convenient Hog Chute.

I have the best chute for loading hogs and calves into a wagon that I have ever seen, writes W. F. Schultz in Breeder's Gazette, Chicago. It is made like a sled and can be used for hauling a hog a short distance by putting end



PORTABLE HOG CHUTE.

gates in slides nailed in for that purpose. The cut shows one side. Use a 16 foot 2 by 6 inches, making the runners six feet nine inches long; 1 inch by 6 inches and 1 inch by 4 inches should be eighteen feet long to cut to advantage. Cut floor boards two feet long and nail an inch apart. The angle for the end cut and standards can be found by placing one end into the wagon. Bore holes and use stay chains to pull by. It is light and convenient.

Castrating Colts Early.

My experience of the early castrating of colts extends over forty-one years, and I will say that the younger the colt the better it is, writes D. E. Weinberg in the Breeder's Gazette. I have operated on them from three days old to three months old, and I can show just as fine horses as any one can show. But remember there are exceptions to all rules. Stock growers most assuredly know that the younger calves, lambs and pigs are trimmed the sooner and nicer they develop. This being the fact, why should it be unreasonable to attend to the colt at least before twelve weeks of age? What I say in regard to my own experience I can say of many other castrators, for I have done nothing but treat all kinds of stock for thirty-three years.

Feeding Lambs After Weaning.

The time for weaning lambs depends upon how much milk they are receiving. When they are four months old, however, they may easily be weaned with advantage. If they have been fed grain previous to this their growth will not be checked. After weaning the lambs should be gradually made to rely on oats. As the principal grain ration, feed half a pound of oats daily. If on good aftermath clover and blue grass pasture a smaller quantity will be required. Always remember that weaning lambs should have the very best pasture obtainable.

FEEDING SWINE.

Clean Food Required to Produce Good Meat.

The main expense in raising swine is their feed, and it is the duty of the feeder to get the most out of it that he possibly can. Some farmers make a mistake in throwing feed to their hogs and letting them take care of it. When hogs are fed in this way they do not receive the full benefit of the feed, for a portion of it is wasted. We must remember that one day's poor feeding will more than counterbalance two days of good feeding.

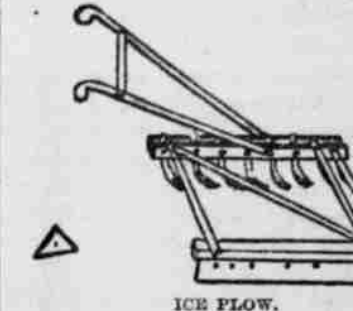
Regularly in feeding swine is of very great importance, though some are slow in realizing this fact. The digestive systems of animals adapt themselves to receive food at certain times, and if the food is not given at the expected time the animal is worried thereby. This results in loss of one kind or another. Frequently the food, being late, is taken in too large quantities or too hurriedly for the best good of the animal. For this reason it is to our advantage, as well as the hog's, to make it a rule to feed him at exactly the same time each day.

We must be careful what we feed. Any old thing that no other animal will look at is not good enough for hog feed. We cannot expect good meat unless clean food is used. Some farmers, no doubt, congratulate themselves that they have all the corn their hogs will consume and that there is no better feed. They will start the hogs exclusively on corn at the commencement of the fattening period, using no care not to give them too much of it, and finally the result is that the appetite and digestion of the hogs are injured, and they are given a backset that they will not readily overcome. Corn should be fed in small quantities at first, gradually increasing the amount as the hogs' stomachs become stronger until they are on full feed, says a writer in Farm Press. Better results are produced by feeding corn in relatively small quantities in conjunction with mill foods, alfalfa and clover hay and such foods as turnips, artichokes, etc.

CUTTING ICE.

Inexpensive Homemade Plow With Gauge Attachment.

A good supply of ice can be put in without any cash outlay worth speaking of. I store mine in the north end of a shed which I partitioned off and



ICE PLOW.

double walled. Ice kept pretty well last year simply packed closely and covered with sawdust. I borrowed a saw. The plow was homemade and is plenty good enough for farm use. The teeth are from old chisels or files bent and sharpened by the blacksmith and clamped with bolts between two thirty inch 2 by 3 inch beams. The gauge piece is another thirty inch beam 4 by 3 inches and shod with a piece of three-eighths by two and a half inch iron of the same length. This iron runs in the previous groove and regulates the width of the cut and size of the cakes. The gauge piece is connected with the other part by iron braces twenty inches long and an iron crosspiece about twenty-five inches long, says a writer in American Cultivator. The handles of the plow are from an old land plow.

Care of Poultry.

The hens do not suffer so much for green food when the weather is nice and there is no snow on the ground. They eat the grass and seem to relish it though it is dead and brown. At this season we give the speckled apples at sorting time to the hens.

We find that a place for hens to scratch pays for itself in one winter in the fowls' health and in eggs. It won't do to allow the hens to huddle in one corner half dead if it's healthy fowls and eggs we're after. The litter that accumulates where the hay is thrown on the barn floor makes the best kind of scratching material. The hens search out the fine seeds and eat every clover leaf.

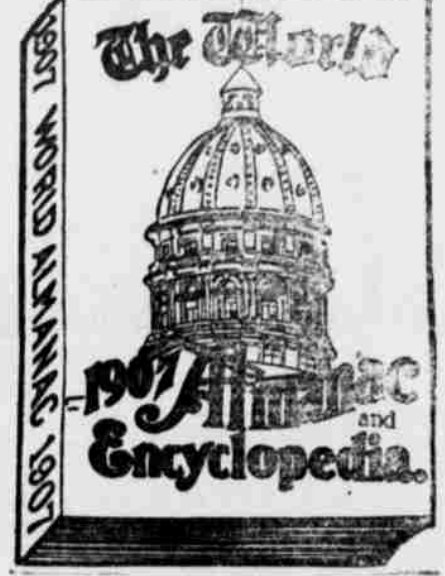
We are learning the value of bran as a hen food. In their soft food for breakfast we use bran as a basis. It gives bulk. It is one of the desirable feeds that are not too expensive with eggs at present prices. An experienced poultry breeder says bran is a good regulator of the system, and I know, if other conditions are right, the feeding of bran largely will increase the egg yield.—H. M. W. in Ohio Farmer.

Irrigation.

Irrigation laws are probably next in importance to the homestead laws, which were so potent in building up farm communities in which the owners immediately became good citizens and ultimately prosperous. Irrigation, for instance, is providing the means for making a beautiful garden out of eastern Washington by utilizing the hundreds of streams that have been running to waste. The United States government will get every dollar back that it invests in irrigation works.—Farm Press.

For Shut In Hens.

In regions where the hens go into winter quarters about November and seldom get out till the snow melts in April green cut bone is advisable to take the place of insects, grubs, etc., that the hens find when foraging during the summer months.



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