THE FARM AND HOME.

PORK SUCCESSFULLY GROWN WITHOUT MILK.

A Profitable Ration—Best Wool, Best Prices—Bad Use of Weeds—Excess of Wheat—Pork Producers and Home Hints.

Growing Pork Without Milk.

The old-fashioned rule in dairies where butter was the chief product sold allowed a breeding sow as the natural complement to each good cow. It was calculated that the skimmed milk during the season would give the pigs a start which, with a run in clover pasture or the apple orchard, would bring them through until fall with little money expense for feeding. This rule does not hold good now, for the reason that skim-milk is now regarded as too expensive feed for pigs. It has a ready sale at half the price of whole milk in cities and villages. This is more than its feeding value for pigs. Indeed, under the old plan, the skim-milk from a cow kept the pigs thriftily growing only a short time early in the season. Summer heat and drought diminished the milk flow, while at the same time the pigs, with increasing size, demanded more than before.

Thousand of pigs are now successfully grown with no milk except that they get before being weaned, say to the American Cultivator. Good as milk is for pigs at a very early age, excellent substitutes for it as a main feed are found in ground oats, fine wheat, mill feed and, a very little linseed oil meal. Corn is not a good feed for young growing pigs. It is hard to digest, and if fed liberally will surely stunt their growth. This is because corn is so largely relied upon for feeding that many farmers have poor luck in growing pigs. If we rely more on other grains, the pigs will be thrifty and grow as fast as they would on a diet of milk with corn or corn meal. In fine wheat middlings there are most of the constituents of growth in nearly as good proportion as they are found in skim-milk. The latter is largely composed of water, its solid parts comprising only a small proportion, so that it takes a good deal of milk to give sufficient nutriment unless something else is given with it. This is possibly an advantage. Most of the food given to hogs is too concentrated to be easily digested. Even the thin slop of the swill barrel, composed largely of dish-water, has its advantages in helping distend the pig's stomach and thus promote its digestion.

If pigs are confined in pens some nutritious vegetable food should be given them. They will not eat much clover if it is cut and thrown to them. Weeds from the garden, especially pig weed and chick weed, are much more to their taste, probably because their nutritive value is higher. But there is no garden vegetable eaten so greedily as sugar beets. They can be made a part of the daily ration a large portion of the year. With this and plenty of wheat middlings breeding sows will need little other feed except that while they are suckling their young some heavier grain or oil meal must be added to keep the sow from becoming too thin in flesh. If she is kept to breeding, the more frequently she farrows the longer will she keep in good condition for bearing thrifty pigs. It is hard to prevent a sow that has borne one or two litters of pigs from becoming too fat for breeding purposes if she is kept long without other bearing or suckling pigs. The digestive power of breeding animals is necessarily greatly increased. So if not to breeding they have to be almost starved to prevent their fattening, and when not breeding they should have food with as much bulk in proportion to nutrition as they can be made to eat.

Now that the science of feeding is better understood, we believe there is profit for thousands of farmers in growing pork and pigs as their chief business. Much of the food needed they can grow on their own land, and if properly managed it will be worth more fed to breeding sows and growing pigs than if sold at market rates. Of course in localities where milk cannot be readily sold, the skim-milk can be used profitably as a supplement to other feeds. Under such management there will be constant gain above what appears in the yearly accounts, in the increasing fertility of the farm resulting from the home market and turning into manure of most of its products.

Best Wool, Best Prices.

There are circumstances which prevent the sheep grower from getting as much for his wool as he ought to have as a general thing. But it is a fact even in the face of such circumstances that he must make his own prices. That is to say, if he gets the best price that the market offers he must have something that is worth the best price. Everything else rests upon its merits in the long run. For a time fashion may influence the market, and poor goods with a good reputation may go for a while sell for more than they are worth, but sooner or later such things must come down to merit. Reputation does no good much longer than the reputation is sustained. If that is permitted to suffer, past reputation will not keep a product up. The wool buyer may not offer for good wool what inferior wool is worth, but he will offer much less if it is not good wool. It is a man's own fault if he does not get the best prices that the market offers. Not unfrequently we hear men in sections of the country say that their wool is discriminated against and has always been discriminated against, and such people and such sections sometimes profess to be unable to understand the reason. Generally they are honest in this for, as a matter of fact, it is one of the hardest things in the world to do, to see the interiority of our own products. But if we will open our eyes, and with a determination to know the truth, carefully scrutinize our methods and the quality of our wool, we shall have no difficulty in determining the cause of its being discriminated against. We once knew a man who had a fine flock of sheep, and grew the best of wool, but he could never get as much for it as his neighbors received. He jumped to the conclusion that the whole world was against him, and that it meant to make him a victim. But the cause of the trouble was not difficult to discern. He was a slovenly wool grower. He kept good sheep, but he took no care of them. The wool was filled with cockle burs; it was taken no care of after shearing, but was thrown carelessly in a heap in a dirty barn, and really showed worse than it was, and that was altogether needless to ruin its value. It borders upon the marvelous that a man thus careless should wonder that his wool growing was not profitable, and that the buyer should want to purchase such wool at a very low price.—Farmer's Voice.

Bad Use of Weeds.

It is a good thing to mow the weeds on fields from which cultivated crops have been removed, but it is possible to make a bad use of the weeds after the harvest of Canada thistles. Sometimes they are thrown into the yards connected with the barns or the hog pens. This is very unwise, as many weeds perfect the seed sufficiently to insure germination long before they appear to mature. These seeds have a wonderful degree of vitality and when all of them pass through the manure heap uninjured. From the yards they are carried in the manure to the fields and are thus scattered over the land. When corn would have been taken from potato fields upon which Paris green has been used for destroying the Colorado beetle there is reason for danger of injury to animals which feed upon the yards. We have known weeds in which the "wild wormwood" predominated, to be thrown into a roadway where cows would have access to them when on their way to and from pasture. While cows will not eat a great quantity of such stuff if they can get better food for choice, and also for better or for it be best to keep the weeds away from her.

The Parent of Wheat.

The most remarkable fact concerning the queer plant, the goatsey, is that it has been proven by experiment that it has been the parent of cultivated wheat. This fact was accidentally discovered by a French agriculturist. He wished to determine what effect cultivation would have upon the goatseye, and planted remote from any field of grass that might mingle with it a few of the seeds. The first crop showed much difference from the original, being two or three times taller and more grains to the stalk. At the end of seven years' experimenting the product was over three hundred grains for each one planted and the transformation was complete—every plant was a true representative of cultivated wheat. Later he sowed them in open fields and in no instance have they returned to the form of the original goatseye grass.

The same experiments have since been tried by the English agricultural society, with the same result. The nearest form to true wheat found in the wild is the creeping couch grass, a perennial closely agreeing in all essential particulars of structure with our less cultivated annual wheat.—Chicago Tribune.

Ground Apple Trunks.

No matter how much an orchard is plowed, there will be a clump of grass around its trunk unless cut out with spade or hoe. This clump of grass makes the best possible shelter for the parent of the apple borer, which always lays its egg just below the surface of the ground. Cut away the grass, pile up earth around the tree, and by carefully removing it once or twice in the summer, the marks where the egg of the borer is laid may be seen and the egg destroyed. It is cheaper to prevent injury by the borer than to repair it after it has begun its work.—American Cultivator.

Pork Pointers.

One important factor in profitable hog-raising is experience.

For growing pigs milk and mill feed make a cheap ration.

The range of a good woods pasture is a good place for the sows.

In the management of swine cleanliness is blended with profit.

Brood sows should be kept in good enough flesh to make life at least some pleasure to her.

With many farmers the importance of an animal feed for growing hogs is not fully appreciated.

If coal oil is used on the hogs to kill out lice, it will be best to mix well with lard before applying.

The principal advantage in growing pork and pigs as their chief business. Much of the food needed they can grow on their own land, and if properly managed it will be worth more fed to breeding sows and growing pigs than if sold at market rates. Of course in localities where milk cannot be readily sold, the skim-milk can be used profitably as a supplement to other feeds. Under such management there will be constant gain above what appears in the yearly accounts, in the increasing fertility of the farm resulting from the home market and turning into manure of most of its products.

Home Hints.

Poor rubbers are the cause of much canned fruit spoiling.

Old matting may still be serviceable by putting it under carpets.

A lump of sugar saturated with vinegar will cure hiccoughs.

To keep celery firm put it in a tin pan of cold water, else it soon becomes limp.

Salt makes an extra fine tooth powder. It keeps the gums hard and rosy and makes the teeth brilliantly white.

Condensed milk beaten up with one egg and a little pulverized sugar, will make an excellent filling for cream puff.

A nice dinner dish is made by cutting off half a head of red cabbage, seasoning with pepper, salt and vinegar.

Vermin of no kind will stay upon clothing that is scented with either black cloth and Japanese cotton. The women are remarkable for their modesty, and only change their clothes when alone in the dark. The men are also very jubilant of each, to become the cattle and sheep, and all such must be kept with interest at 7 per cent per annum. Should said sum not be paid as aforesaid, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the lands and premises therein described at public vendue, to the highest bidder, at the front door of the court house in the city of Detroit, in said county of Wayne, (said being the place where the circuit court for said county of Wayne is held) on the fifth day of January, 1893, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day. Said premises are described in said mortgage as follows, to-wit: Situated in the township of Royal Oak, county of Oakland, and state of Michigan, and described as follows, to-wit: The south 20 feet of lot number 1 and the north 20 feet of lot number 2 in the subdivision of the south half of the southeast quarter of section 25, town 1 north, range 11 east, according to the recorded plat thereof. Dated this 5th day of October, 1892. And whereas, the amount claimed by virtue of the provisions of said mortgage at the date of this notice is the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars and sixty-two cents, and also fifteen dollars as an attorney fee allowed by the laws of this state and stipulated for in the mortgage, and no suit or proceeding having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof, by reason of said default, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage and of the statute in such case made and provided, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by