

## Agricultural Department

### Swine Notes

Hog prices dropping.

Cholera is said to be raging in Iowa.

Milk is the slop par excellence for the pig.

Pigs can easily be fed too much corn unless they have plenty of range.

Breed the gilt so she will farrow at the age of 12 to 18 months. Too early breeding is harmful.

It is time now to breed for early spring pigs. Early pigs pay best if you are prepared to care for them.

The score card hog is no longer the aim and end of the swine breeder. At the leading fairs this year preference was given to the hog that had bone and muscle as well as quality.

The hog is often referred to as the poor man's friend, and so he is. The average farmer has made more money on hogs than on all other kinds of stock combined. Me for the hog every time.

The best type of market hog is one with a short, wide head and a roomy barrel, one that fattens rapidly when put on full feed. The pig with the long snout is one for the breeder to steer clear of.

The bacon hog is not popular in the corn belt. He may have his inning some day, but at present it looks like it will be long deferred. Personally we like the bacon hog but we want the other fellow to raise him.

With cholera prevalent as it is said to be in Iowa and other contiguous states, it will be well for every swine grower to exercise his best intelligence to prevent its getting a start in his section. "An ounce of prevention," etc.

Breeding stock of all kinds should not be excessively fat. Keep the male in a thrifty condition at all times and try to have the female gaining in flesh at the time of service. This plan has proven its value times without number.

No one can tell just what sort of a mother a young sow will make until she has had a litter of pigs. If she brings a goodly number of pigs at the start and does well by them it is regarded as a criterion that she will be a good sow to keep.

A cross bred hog if of the first cross is about the best feeder one can find. It will not do to use cross bred hogs as breeders, however, as crossing tends toward variation in type. The "scrub" is the essence of the cross bred animal. Beware of it.

Shelter the swine from the piercing winter winds if you would make profitable gains. A tight board fence makes a good windbreak in case none other is available, though of course an open shed is preferable. Lumber is cheaper even yet than corn.

Keep the troughs and feeding floors scrupulously clean. Filth is harmful to swine, even if they can exist in it. A hog is a cleanly animal in many respects if allowed to be. He will not willingly soil his bed—a thing that can be said of but few domestic animals.

For one reason or another winter

is selected as the favorite season for fattening hogs. We are of the opinion that summer is in many respects better than winter for fattening swine. It requires more care in summer than winter but it is easier to give it then.

### To Prevent Pig-Eating

Farrowing sows will seldom eat their pigs unless constipated. Experience has taught that if constipation is avoided the litter is generally safe, unless devoured by other hogs than the mother; and, as a rule, the other hogs are the guilty ones. For this season, see that the farrowing sow has a comfortable nest by herself.

### Live Stock Notes

The relative fattening qualities of cattle, sheep and hogs are said to be, for 100 pounds of food: Cattle, 9 pounds; sheep, 11 pounds; pigs, 23 pounds. This shows a large per cent in favor of hogs, and if prices per pound are at all similar, the hogs, of course, are most profitable.

Clean pens, clean feed and clean water make clean hogs, and clean hogs are "clean free" from cholera.

### Preserving Seed Corn

The seed corn selected should be placed in a dry, well ventilated room where the ears can be spread out.

They should not be piled in a heap, as it is important to expose them to a free circulation of air, so that they will dry quickly and thoroughly without molding.

It is a good practice, often followed to leave a few husks attached to each ear, so that the ears may be tied together in pairs by means of the husks and then hung over poles or wires in the upper part of the room.

If convenient racks can be made like bookcases, with slat shelves about four or five inches apart and open backs and fronts, in which the ears can be arranged until thoroughly dried.

This method allows the preservation of a large amount of seed corn in a small space.

### Live Stock Notes

A flock of sheep is the best helper in keeping up the conditions of the land without any extra expense.

Do not breed the young ewe until fourteen or sixteen months of age; earlier breeding is not conducive to vigor of constitution.

The man who goes to his stable, waters his horses and gives them a light feed the last thing every night before he retires, always has round, sleek, good-looking animals.

Clipping horses in the spring season has been found to benefit their health. It is just like taking off the winter clothing from our own bodies. A Buffalo, N. Y., company owning 500 horses clipped 250 and left the others to shed naturally. They reported 153 of the 250 not clipped suffered from coughs more or less severe. The

clipped horses were not troubled by disease or sickness of any kind.

### The Great American Fowl

The turkey is regarded as the greatest American fowl, although turkeys are not raised in such abundance as are common hens. But the turkey appears to be distinctly an American bird. It is associated with American history from the time white men first set foot on the continent.

More than once the American settler in the depth of winter has been saved from starvation by the flocks of wild turkeys roaming the woods.

The feasts of the pioneers were largely made possible by the presence of wild turkeys. The domestication of the turkey has been the work of these same American pioneers.

We believe that the business of turkey raising is yet in its infancy. There are now raised annually in this country about seven million turkeys.

This compares poorly with the 240 million chickens, but it must be remembered that one turkey weighs as much as several chickens.

It is probable that the seven million turkeys represent as much meat as would thirty million chickens.

The chief obstacle to the increased production of turkey is the belief that turkeys must have a large area over which to roam if they are to live and prosper.

It is altogether probable that the turkey can be raised in confinement almost as easily as other kinds of domestic fowls.

The question is one of knowing how. Under existing conditions it is altogether probable that the turkey in confinement is not carefully enough fed to produce the same results as are produced when the turkey roams the fields and woods and hunts his own living.

There is room here both for study and expansion, and the increase in price from year to year is making the raising of turkeys an important branch of farming.

### Soap on Milk Vessels is Injurious

According to experiments conducted in Australia, it has been found that there is a decided objection to the use of any common washing or laundry soaps for cleaning milk vessels. As an illustration, at a recent dairy convention in New South Wales, the judge, in criticising a certain lot of butter, noted on the score card, "Tastes of soap."

Inquiry of the exhibitor later brought out that in her anxiety to have everything right, she had given the vessels a thorough washing with soap suds, and had carefully rinsed it afterward; yet there was sufficient soap adhering to the vessel in which the milk had been handled so that the judge could detect it in the butter.

It is recommended that only soda, or some other alkaline washing powder be used, and the following is a desirable method in the absence of steam, or with steam in addition:

As soon as the vessels are emptied, rinse them out with lukewarm water, if available; if not, cold water. Wash thoroughly in water as warm as can be comfortably worked in, using sufficient alkaline washing powder to cut the grease. Then rinse in boiling

water, or as near it as possible. It would be a little better to use two waters, one to rinse the alkaline water off and the second to simply scald it.

In ordinary practical work, this is more trouble than most people will take, so that one rinsing with sufficient water is reasonably satisfactory. This vessel should then be turned up to drain and dry. If left, hot, it should dry without rusting.

While in dairy practice it is recommended that a brush be used while washing, and then not wiping the in-ware with a towel, experiments performed in the Australian station with tinware steamed, steamed and wiped with a new towel that had never been used, wiped with a so-called clean used towel and with a soiled towel, showed that after wiping with a new cloth towel there were three and a half times as many bacteria left on the surface as in the case where it was steamed only; after wiping with a used towel, one which any housewife would call a "clean towel" there were 300 times as many as when steamed only; and after using a soiled towel, one which was not worse than is commonly used in the kitchen for our dinner plates, it showed 4,000 times as many as when steamed only.

### About Geese

From ten geese one farmer realized \$30 for eggs, \$40 for feathers and raised sixty young ones in one year. His methods are given as follows. Don't keep the eggs too long or too warm, but set and turn them over every other day until hatched. Take them out of the nest as soon as hatched from the shell and put in a basket of warm rags. When dry and strong, put them out in the yard and let them learn to walk, and by night they will run. Then give them a drink of water. I give them a drink of water or milk out of a spoon before I put them out. They get excited over it and drink very heartily.

I put them in a box for a couple of nights, putting dry straw in the bottom. Make the box so they can not get out; otherwise they will creep out and chill, but after the second night they are all right in any coop or house that is fit and safe for little chickens. I feed corn meal wet with water, and give all they want. I also give plenty of water and sweet milk and corn. At two weeks of age they will go all right with grass, which they will find. Just let them go and they will care for themselves. I often raise every one in a hatch. They are the best hipsters imaginable, going long distance in apparent comfort. In five years I have never had a loss by shipping. They always get there, and, like the new baby, they take their welcome with them. You can pick them every six weeks until severe weather comes. My geese are none the worse for the feathers I take off. They are easily handled. Be kind and treat them as you would like to be treated and note the result.

### Corn Facts

Professor J. G. Holden of Iowa thus summarizes his corn lecture: First: That vitality of germination