

How to Feed the Suckling Sow.

THE profit to be obtained from the crop of pigs coming this spring will depend much on how the mother is fed while she is suckling the litter. To furnish all the food needed by a litter of seven or eight pigs, a month to six weeks old, is a great tax on the digestion of the sow and she should not only be fed liberally but carefully.

Those who are taking new interest in raising better pigs are most likely to make the mistake of feeding the sow too much during the first two weeks after the farrowing. At six weeks old the young pigs will be eating considerable on their own account, so we may assume that they will require most from their mother when from two to five weeks old. The aim in feeding the brood sow, then, should be to have her reach her maximum or largest flow of milk when the pigs are about four weeks old. To do this will require careful and liberal feeding. If the sow is fed too much when the pigs are young, and more milk is produced than they need, diarrhea in the pigs is almost always certain to follow. It almost always checks the growth of the litter if they suffer from diarrhea even for a short time, and in many cases only very great care will prevent permanent injury.

The brood sow should be fed practically nothing for 24 hours after farrowing. Then the feed should be light and increased so slowly and gradually that she will not receive a full ration before the pigs are at least two or three weeks old. This ration should contain some green feed, if possible, but no sow should be compelled to raise a litter of pigs without liberal grain feeding. Corn and tankage, wheat shorts, or rice polish and tankage are good; but if a good clover pasture, corn and skimmed milk are available, no high priced feeds need be purchased.

When no milk is available, wheat shorts or rice polish eight parts and tankage one part, fed in a thick slop, and ear corn on the side, make a good ration for a brood sow running on pasture. When skimmed milk is available, wheat shorts and milk with ear corn on the side are good. When sufficient milk is at hand, the sow should be given about three pounds to every one pound of grain given.

For the pigs, whole, soaked corn is good, while they are sucking their mother, and this should be given when they get to be a month old. If the sow is not a good suckler, a little warm, sweet, skimmed milk, along with the soaked corn, will help out wonderfully. If sour milk or butter milk must be used, it should be fed sparingly and with care to pigs under three months old, until they become accustomed to it.

A Rotation for Four Hog Lots.

IN REPLY to a request for suggestions on crops to be grown in four ten-acre lots so as to furnish continuous support for hogs, I offer the following as one of several schemes which should accomplish the end in view, but which can be improved on in another year if a start be made in the fall:

Field No. 1.—Intended for early pasturage; five acres of Dwarf Essex rape, drilled about March 1 with same preparation, fertilization and cultivation that you would give to spring-sown turnips. Cowpeas may well follow the rape in June. On the other five acres of this field, you might sow oats with or without one bushel of lespedeza seed per acre, the lespedeza being intended for late summer grazing and for reseeding the land.

Field No. 2.—A succession of plantings of Spanish peanuts at intervals of about three weeks, from April 25 to July 1.

Field No. 3.—Soy beans, the greater part of which, say seven acres, would be drilled in May or early June, in the late Southern variety, also called Mammoth, to afford food for the hogs whenever needed from September to December. Plant, cultivate and fertilize much as you would cowpeas. A small part of this field might be planted about May 1 in an early variety of soy beans such as Hollybrook, the yield of which is not usually equal to that made by the Mammoth.

Field No. 4.—Running peanuts to be rooted up by the hogs in dry weather during late fall or early winter.

J. F. DUGGAR.

Cheaper Rations for Brood Sow.

AT THE American Berkshire Congress, at Memphis, Tenn. Prof. C. F. Curtis, of the Iowa Agricultural College, related the results of an experiment to test different methods of feeding brood sows. The aim was to find the cheapest feeds that would produce the best litters. Corn alone, corn and high-priced mill by-products, such as wheat shorts, and corn and tankage were among the rations used. The cheapest, and the best ration, as shown by the litters, came from the use of corn and a small amount of tankage. There is some prejudice against the use of tankage among many feeders, which it seems to us is purely prejudice. Of course, it is very high in content of protein and for this reason too large quantities should not be fed, but at the same time this high content of protein, of actually the same kind as exists in the bodies of pigs, is its great recommendation. It is high-priced per ton, but per pound of protein it contains, it is not only the cheapest concentrate we can buy to balance the corn but probably also the best.

For mature brood sows, one part of tankage and nine of corn is a good ration. Of course, if they can have a grazing crop in addition, that is so much the better and in any case they should be compelled to take plenty of exercise. For growing young stock, one part of tankage to six to eight parts of corn should be used.

Mr. N. H. Gentry, the world-famous Berkshire breeder, advises the liberal use of corn for all kinds of hogs, including the brood sows. Of course, he insists on something to balance the ration, but this is in direct contrast with the advice so frequently given by agricultural writers. For instance, we read the following in a leading farm monthly: "As farrowing time draws near, do not feed any corn to the brood sows." The chances are a hundred to one that the writer of that paragraph could not give any sort of reasonable foundation in fact for the advice given in that paragraph. Corn is a good feed for all kinds of hogs at all times when they need feed, but it does not supply all they need. Balance the corn properly and it will not hurt the brood sows.

At the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station the results of treating animals with kindness were recently demonstrated to be of the most practical character. Three cows were selected, and at first treated with the utmost care and gentleness, with the result that they produced 36 pounds of milk containing 4.3 per cent of butter-fat. The same cows were then frightened by their attendants howling at them, letting dogs bark at them, etc., with the result that they produced 23 pounds of milk, containing only 3.4 per cent of butter-fat. The farmer, therefore, who says "So, Milly, so!" instead of "Hist, ye brute!" is justified by economics as well as ethics.—Outlook.

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