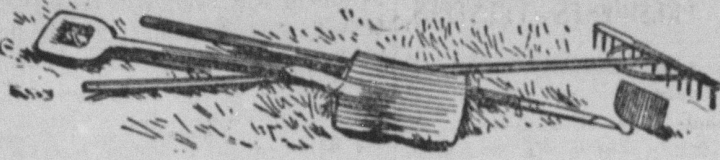


# FARM AND GARDEN



## SELECTING BROOD SOWS.

The selection of brood sows is a very difficult matter, not only to the amateur hog raiser, but also to the most experienced judges. Even the most proficient connoisseurs of hogs are very often disappointed in their choice. A sow that seems externally perfect in shape, form and size may prove to be barren or otherwise deficient.

Brood sows should not be chosen until they are about five or six months old, as it takes them about that time to round out in figures, thus enabling you to choose more satisfactorily. Good large sows should be chosen. They should be not only large but proportionately as long. They should have a good, blocky form—just as broad across the belly as across the back. There is an old, old verse which brings the truth out about as good as anything I can say: "A broad belly and broad back Brings the dollars ev'ry whack."

They should have a goodly number of well developed teats, for in most cases this not only indicates a good milk, but also a tendency to be prolific.

A young sow or gilt should not be bred until the last of December or the first of January, as they seem to do better and farrow about the first of May when the weather is warm and there is green vegetation to be had. Old sows may be bred any time from the middle to the last of November with perfect safety if a good shelter is provided for them.

Swine should have good shelter. This is especially true of the brood sows. How many of us just merely throw a few old brush across a corner of the pen and pile a lot of old hay upon it? And then expect our sows, with such a shelter, to successfully farrow and raise from eight to twelve fine pigs twice a year.

Not only is the shelter of our swine usually insufficient, but our bedding is often very scarce. Bedding is something that a brood sow has positively got to have—especially in cold weather. We can't expect our sows to be successful with her offspring unless they have a warm place to stay. When your sows are about to farrow they should be given a good bed of straw or hay, and let me add don't be stingy with your straw—enough don't cost you a little of pigs.

The feed of brood sows should never be limited entirely to one kind of grain, and especially is this true if you are feeding corn. Corn produces only fat, and a sow fed solely upon it lacks the stamina and strength and does not beget as vigorous pigs as one fed upon mixed feed. The ration should be so balanced as not to get the sow too fat and at the same time not allow her to become thin. Corn, oats and wheat make a very good ration, and this occasionally mixed with vegetables, such as artichokes, beets, turnips, etc., will usually bring a sow to the farrowing time in good shape when good judgment is exercised in feeding it.

I will say one more thing in reference to farrowing: Always keep your eye on your brood sow, especially about farrowing time. Then is when they need your attention, and then is when your attention is most richly repaid.—E. L. T. in Indiana Farmer.

## FERTILITY OF EGGS.

The question of fertility should be of more importance than how to get eggs, especially at this time of the year. There are few farmers that separate the breeding stock from the flock, but it is certainly best to do so if one is desirous of good results. It is now time to select the fowls which you expect to furnish eggs for the early hatches. It should not be treated as a light matter for upon this point much of your success may depend. If you have fowls that have been sick or drooping during the fall and winter do not use them for it would certainly have a bad effect, even if they are well, seemingly. After the stock is selected, see to it that they are well fed and cared for. Starved stock never did much good in reproduction, we cannot expect strong, healthy chicks from a flock of this kind. Do not neglect to feed foods rich in lime for these help to make the shell and furnish material in the egg to make the bones of the little down birds. Meat and the various grains will supply flesh. Keep the drinking vessels well filled with water, which is the necessity for a large per cent of the egg is made up of water.

Provide nest-boxes with clean straw; change the contents often. It is said a nest that is clean and properly made is an inducement to laying hens and not only that but dirty eggs are spoiled by being left in the nest and allowed to chill during cold weather; they should be gathered at least three times a day. Keep in an even temperature until ready to set them, which time should not exceed four or five days. Chicks are seldom hatched earlier than March with hens, and from this time on during the entire summer one may arrange to have hatches to come off even as late as August or September. The late hatched chicks made splen-

did fries.—M. D. H. in Indiana Farmer.

## AT SEED-BUYING TIME.

It is estimated that if the corn crop of the country could be increased ten per cent it would add to the production of wealth in the United States over seventy millions of dollars. That the corn crop can be increased this small per cent is well known, for it requires only the selection of the best seed and the best methods of cultivation to do it. The trouble is, corn is too easily grown and the crop is usually large enough so that there are enough kernels left in the crib for seed. So the average farmer argues, "why should I pay out good money for seed corn when there is more than I need in my own crib?" He forgets that the seed corn in his cribs may be the kernels dropped from nubbins and if so they will produce nubbins.

The tendency to pay out as little as possible for seeds is wrong. It is safe to say that in a normal season one would make more clean cash from crops grown from the best seed sold regardless of price than from double the quantity of what may be called cheap seeds. If you don't believe in the value of the best seeds, test them in a small way. Take, for example, a few seed tubers from the potato pile in the cellar, then buy from some reputable seedsmen the same quantity of the same variety, cut the seed in the same way, plant at the same time and give the same care and cultivation. At harvest time compare results and if you do not find the argument in favor of high-class seed a solid one we'll take it all back.—Indianapolis News.

## KEEPING MILK RECORDS.

With feeding grains very high in price one is tempted to feed more roughage and less grain and unless there is a decided falling off in the quantity of milk received is apt to deceive himself with the idea that he is saving money. It is a good plan to try different combinations or rations and note results. To try them, without keeping a record of the milk, at least by weight, is of little use. Take a ration of, say, gluten feed, wheat bran and oil meal. Try these in varying proportions of each, keeping the record, carefully and thus determine which is the most profitable. The same plan may be readily carried out with any other combinations of grains.

Then, too, experiment with the roughage as with the grains and see what difference, if any, is in the results when the corn stover is cut or crushed before feeding. Also note the difference which may result from giving rather warm water. There is more in obtaining a balanced ration than simply feeding a combination which some one says is good. It may be good for his herd, but, by experimenting you may be able to hit on a combination which will be better for your cows and, perhaps, at less cost.—Indianapolis News.

## SOWING FERTILIZERS ON GRASSLAND.

It should be done early in the season, while there is plenty of moisture in the soil to render the materials soluble and of use as plant food. The fertilizers best adapted to grass seem to do better on land that is a little moist rather than on dry ground.

Apply while there is a good seeding of grass or sward, otherwise the land should be plowed, devoted to other crops and again reseeded. With these conditions a small amount applied each spring will produce very satisfactory returns.

Several years since the writer selected a field of several acres, second or third year from seeding, with a good sward, and sowed thereon only one hundred pounds of a standard fertilizer to the acre.

It was a hard-pan soil and a little moist. There was a large crop of hay, estimated at one-half a ton extra for the hundred pounds of fertilizer.

The next spring the same amount was again sown with like results, and this practice was continued for four years, when it became necessary to plow, devote to other crops and seed again to grass. The experience seemed remarkable, and convinced the writer that it is often better to apply a small amount of available fertilizer of any kind every year rather than much more all at one time.—E. R. Towle in Massachusetts Ploughman.

## PERPETUITY POST PAINT.

Take boiled linseed oil, and mix it with charcoal dust until the mixture has the consistency of ordinary paint. Give to the posts, which should be well dried, two coats of the mixture before setting them, and no farmer will live long enough to see the same posts rotten. The posts, which may be of the softest wood, will cost less than three cents each to prepare, and will also be a great saving in the cost of building fences.—R. M. Field

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## DOG GOT THE ROBBERS.

### Pers'tency of Yellow Cur That Brought Results.

After a posse had failed to locate them, a little shaggy yellow dog recently stood guard over six bank robbers he had run into a straw stack, says a Sioux City, Ia., dispatch to the New York World, and by his frantic demonstration induced the pursuers to dig them out. The yeomen had blown the safe of the Jolley, Ia., bank and were traced to the farm of A. Clark, near Yetter. The posse looked over the premises, and walked around the very stack where the robbers were concealed.

They gave up the search and returned to Yetter, where they were telephoned by Mrs. Clark that the dog was barking himself sick at the stack. They returned and watched, and presently a leg was thrust out at the dog. Three burglars were dug out from the bottom of the stack and taken to Yetter. Again Mrs. Clark telephoned the dog was frantic about something in the straw.

A third time the posse returned. A farm climbed the pile of straw, and stepped on a burglar the first thing, and instantly described a parabolic curve diving off. The other two burglars also showed themselves and announced they would fight. The posse repaired to a barn, from which they besieged the stack.

The men finally surrendered with their guns, nitroglycerin and all. Then the dog quit barking.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## PET CAT TRIES MURDER.

### Turns on the Gas—Dog Won't Have It and Saves Family.

Leonard Winkler's cat is in disgrace and his hound, Sport, is living on the fat of the land because the Winkler family is alive and well in spite of the attempt of the cat to asphyxiate them.

The only victims were the children's canary and a jungle fowl that had been sent to Mr. Winkler by an exhibitor at the world's fair. It was the persistent barking of the dog, Sport, that aroused Mr. Winkler early in the morning. Going to the kitchen, he was nearly overpowered by gas.

He found that the cat had been having the time of its life with a ball of string, and in some way had got it twisted about the handle that turns on the supply of gas for the range and had started the flow of the deadly vapor. Whether the cat lost ray of its nine lives is uncertain.—N. Y. Tribune.

## Angel Shark Visits North Sea.

A queer fish was recently brought to port by a North Sea trawler, says the English Fishing Gazette.

Its proportions were exceedingly singular, the head and neck measuring in length about 18 inches, as thick as a man's arm, and of the same uniformity, the body suddenly widening guitar-like, and extending another foot and a half, its thin tail being of similar length. Two large fleshy wings were at the sides, and they evidently acted as substitutes for fins.

It was recognized by one versed in natural history as an angel shark, whose unusual habitation is in the North Pacific ocean. The oldest Sunderland fishermen cannot remember one of the species having ever before been caught in the North sea.

## Horse "Tarred and Stoned."

A van laden with tarred stones was passing down Oxford street, London, the other day, near the Marble Arch, when an incident occurred which filled the spectators with amusement. The shafts suddenly gave way, so that the tarry contents of the van were precipitated upon the back of the horse. The animal presented a curious spectacle, for the stones covered the greater portion of his body, adhering by means of the sticky composition. In the end, all other efforts being of no avail, the fantastic creature was led away to be operated upon with suitable chemicals.

## Prank of an Educated Horse.

The other day there was only one person present to see Berlin's educated horse, Hans, do his tricks. When Hans was asked how many people were present, he let his hind hoofs fly and kicked the spectator down, thus replying "one." The unfortunate was kicked in the face and very badly hurt.

## LET HIM HIT THE BALL.

### Chief Zimmer Tells of Peculiarities of "Pink" Hawley.

"I see that some of the boys are telling stories about 'Pink' Hawley," said "Chief" Zimmer the other day. "'Pink' was a great pitcher in his day, and a good fellow, too, albeit he was the queerest man I have ever known in baseball."

"One day when he was pitching for Pittsburg the umpire had called two strikes and three balls on me when Hawley started to walk toward his catcher. They were about ten feet from him when 'Pink' said: 'Better let 'Chief' hit it, hadn't we? He's a pretty good fellow.' And sure enough he let me hit the ball."

"Another time he walked into my cigar store, and coming up to me said, "'Chief,' will you forgive me?' 'Sure, 'Pink,'" I said, though I hadn't the slightest idea what for. I put out my hand and he almost crushed it in the warmth of his gratitude. There had never been a word between us all the years we had been acquainted."

"In one game where Pittsburg, with 'Pink' pitching, had us beaten about 9 to 0 in the seventh inning, I came to bat. 'What's your average, 'Chief,'" Hawley asked. 'About .149, I guess,' was my reply. 'Well, boost it a little,' he said, as he floated up one repaired high. I hit in against the fence and scored Cleveland's one and only run."—Cleveland Press.

## Resemblance Led to Crime.

In the famous case of Martin Guerre, the launching on a criminal course was the result of an extraordinary chance and a sudden resolve. Martin Guerre was a soldier, and was mortally wounded in a skirmish in the north of France. Among his comrades was a man remarkably like him, and with whom Guerre had contracted a great friendship. The two used to be always together and enjoyed the joke of their strange resemblance. Guerre's double was with him when he was dying and Guerre, with his last breath, begged his comrade to carry some little trinkets he had to his wife at home. The double assented and proceeded to fulfill his promise faithfully.

When he arrived at the village on his mission he learned that Guerre's wife had died, during her husband's absence in the war, come into some little property through the death of a relation. He began to envy Martin Guerre's lot if he had lived. When the villagers saw him they began to exclaim, "Here's Martin Guerre!" By the time he arrived at the cottage door he had decided to act Martin's part, provided the dead man's wife was deceived by his similarity to her husband. She was, and the impostor took Martin Guerre's place. The wife only discovered the truth some twelve months later by the absence from the impostor's arm of a scar which Martin had borne.

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