

ring them out to grass as soon as the s large enough. Never stop giving them birthright until they are six months old. I told quite recently by a neighbor, "I never a calf longer than three months," but I have the calves that were weaned at three and months of age, and none of them for me!

Mrs. Wm. RICHARDS.

Alta.

Experiences of Successful Pig Raisers.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

We have not had any such losses of spring pigs as complained of in a recent issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for some years and do not know what to attribute it to in cases where the sows have been running out during the winter, as some of your correspondents quote. In some cases it might be caused by heavy feeding of barley chop. Barley chop is not a good feed for young pigs if fed exclusively, and I do not like it for sows either, when approaching farrowing time. Perhaps if I give you our methods of handling brood sows it might be helpful to some of your inquirers, as we have had good success during the last few years raising pigs.

We breed the sows in the fall so as to bring them in anywhere from January to March or April, according as we have room and feed, etc. The sows generally run the pasture or stubble during the fall and are not penned at all during winter. We have a shed over which we thresh straw and they make their beds in this straw stack all winter. Sometimes if it is very cold they do not come out for two or three days. They are fed dry chop in the open air, and as they approach farrowing we gradually change from all barley to barley and oat chop with

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have had the best of success with my pigs this spring I ever had. I have not lost a pig only one that got killed with cattle in getting out of the pen. I never had a better lot of young pigs and better doers.

I saw your letter in the ADVOCATE re seed grain. I may say that the wheat I showed at Brandon and got first prize with out of thirty-five exhibits I have been growing for twenty-one years and the barley that was first for twenty years and it is better now than when I got it.

W. H. ENGLISH.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Re losses of young pigs. My first three sows did very well in March. One young sow in April had ten, only two having hair on. These lived and the balance died. My idea is that during the long, cold winter the sows got almost no exercise, which is the cause of pigs coming very fat and with no hair on. These pigs cannot be raised. Sometimes they live some days, but die in the end. Roots, bran, etc., may be better where there is little exercise, but good pigs come with any kind of feed if the sows have lots of exercise.

My average so far is eight pigs to each sow. There is a heavy loss throughout this part from mares slipping foals, both those in the stable and on the prairie. Many mares are out all winter.

A. B. POTTER.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have followed with great interest the articles which appear from time to time in your paper on pigs. I remember some time ago a neighbor wishing to ship a car of hogs to Winnipeg writing to some of the principal dealers of that city for prices and he got the same reply from all of them, offering so much for "choice" hogs weighing from 150 to 225



MISS TROUT.

Champion of the Calgary Fat Stock Show shown by E. D. Adams, Calgary.

a little bran and sometimes a little shorts, the oat chop being in increasing proportion. A week or ten days before parturition we place the sows in pens and commence feeding slop, oat chop, bran, shorts and a little barley chop. When they are ready to farrow they do so without any trouble, as their bowels are lax, and they are strong and hardy from their winter in the straw stack. The pigs come strong and we usually raise from eleven to thirteen after killing off the runts of the litter.

Last year we raised forty-seven pigs in four litters and lost thirteen pigs in the same four litters. That was 78.3 per cent. raised, from an average litter of fifteen pigs. This spring we are raising 74.5 per cent. from an average litter of 15.5.

The drop in percentage raised this spring I attribute to our own fault, not the sows, as the pigs all came strong, but the sows were in too small quarters.

During the summer the sows have the run of a brome grass pasture. I do not think there is anything more harmful for a brood sow than being penned up during the greater part of the year, especially when our feeds in this country are so high in carbohydrates.

Grass or roots, laxative feed, a good run, and a straw shed are some of the essentials in successful swine raising; and about the surest road to failure is keeping the sows in a close, warm pen the year round.

on foot and a cent less for light weights and heavy ones, and not one of them mentioned bacon hogs, and I know that we all got the same price whether they were long hogs or the short, thick type. I would far sooner have the short pig because it is easier to keep.

Last year I had a young sow farrow eleven, which I sold at different ages and in the fall sold the sow for \$24 and cleared a good hundred on the family. I consider it was the easiest earned hundred dollars I ever made.

I don't believe in winter feeding, but like the pigs to come in February or early in March and have them ready to sell shortly after the freeze up.

Sask.

S. D. C.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With regard to the spring farrowings, we beg to say that we have had practically no losses of young pigs coming in March and April of this year. Out of eighty-four young pigs farrowed in March and April only two came dead. We have lost one or two others from the sows either lying or tramping on them, but we have never had a better lot of strong, healthy, large litters of uniform pigs than we have got this year. In the smallest litter there were eleven pigs and the others ranged from that to fourteen. We consider that a litter of ten or eleven good, strong, even pigs is more profitable than some of the larger litters that you hear about.

We heard a great deal about losses of young pigs this year and think the main cause is from want of exercise and too heavy feeding of the wrong kind of feed for the sows when pregnant. Our sows, without exception, as well as our herd boars, wintered outside, and were fed almost entirely on oats either whole, chopped or boiled, to give a little variety. Whether or not this is scientific feeding we are not prepared to say, but we are entirely satisfied with the result so far.

The demand for young stock has been splendid and it is keeping up well, and we do not anticipate having many youngsters with us after they are old enough to ship.

E. R. JAMES.

HORSE

No Quarter to Typical Reactors to Mallein Test for Glanders.

The V. D. G. states that "up till Aug. 31st, 1906, 15,505 horses have been tested and that 18,117 mallein tests have been made.

The marked disproportion between the number of horses tested and the number of tests made is attributable to the fact that from 1902 to 1904 we followed a retesting policy.

I propose to refer first to the danger inseparable from the keeping alive of ordinary non-clinical reactors. I am not in a position to furnish any great amount of statistical information, for the reason that from the very beginning of our present operations animals of this class falling into our hands have been, except in the case of a few which early became ceased reactors, so dealt with to prevent the possibility of their coming into contact, direct or indirect, with healthy horses.

When engaged in private practice, I had an opportunity of forming an opinion on the subject, for although, after the use of mallein was adopted, which, with me, was in the year 1893, I invariably advised my clients to destroy all typical reactors; the law did not make their slaughter compulsory and many were permitted to live. Not a few subsequent outbreaks of which I was cognizant were undoubtedly due to the retention and distribution of infection by these apparently healthy animals.

As a matter of fact there has never been, at least among intelligent and single-minded veterinarians, any great tendency to belief in the harmlessness of horses which continue to give typical reactions to mallein, even when they present no visible symptoms of glanders. The Departmental Committee appointed in 1901 by the Board of Great Britain for the purpose of conducting experimental investigations with regard to this and kindred subjects, reached the conclusion that these apparently healthy reactors are capable of transmitting glanders. The Committee in question comprised the late Mr. A. C. Cope, Mr. Wm. Hunting, Sir John McFadyean and Dr. James McL. McCall, all men of high professional attainments and great experience in dealing with glanders. One of the points dwelt upon by them; viz., the suddenness with which a reactor may become clinically glandered, is worthy of special note. Our experience in Canada has demonstrated beyond question the danger arising from this liability of reactors to suddenly develop acute symptoms, and has shown further that a considerable proportion of these superficially healthy animals are in reality clinical cases.

As under our present regulations such horses are slaughtered, opportunities for post mortem examination have not been wanting, and in many cases showing absolutely no external symptoms, extensive ulcerations have been found high up in the nasal passages, while the presence in this situation of minute nodular lesions, undoubtedly specific, has been strikingly frequent. These discoveries bear out the opinion which I have long held and frequently expressed regarding the importance, from an infective point of view, of enlarged submaxillary glands in reacting animals. There is never smoke without fire, and these glands are not likely to show tumefaction without a definite pathological reason. Leaving nasal lesions aside, it is well known that in typical reactors glanders nodules are invariably found in the lungs, and not unfrequently in other organs.

Before mallein was heard of, in spite of all our efforts and precautions, case after case, and outbreak after outbreak, of glanders would occur in the same stable. After each fresh outbreak the most thorough disinfection was practised, and all the surviving horses subjected to careful scrutiny and continued close observation. Six months, or perhaps a year would elapse and then another case or series of cases would occur. We blamed the stables; we thought the contagion, or, as we then called it, the virus, immortal and indestructible. Now we know that outside of the animal body, the life of the bacillus mallein is, under the most favorable conditions, limited to three or four months. In the animal body it is a different matter, and the cause of the mysterious recurrent outbreaks was the chronic latent condition.