

he discussed the next subject for the afternoon's discussion—“*The breeding and general management of Pigs most suitable to this locality.*” This subject, he said, had been brought forward in consequence of an observation made by Mr. Nelson (an extensive bacon factor in the town) to the effect that the farmers in the neighbourhood were not at all sufficiently careful in the breeding and management of their pigs.—Mr. Dixon said: I believe that a fair proportion of pigs on a farm, with judicious management, will yield as good a profit, in general as any other description of stock. There are at present, and formerly have been, a great variety of different breeds of pigs, which have been generally known and described by the name of the county or locality peculiar to such a breed. Among the large breed may be mentioned the Berkshire, the Herefordshire, &c.; these are a description of pig that grow to a large size, and great weight, and consequently are reared for making bacon. Amongst the small breed may be named the Buckinghamshire, the Suffolk, and the Essex, &c., as suitable for rearing for pork and hams. The breeds, however, in this part of the kingdom are now more generally styled the large breed and the small breed. And these are continually being crossed in a variety of ways, so that in many instances it is very difficult to say to which variety they belong; whether the large or the small breed, and perhaps it is doubtful if a betwixt the two may not be the best. In selecting sows and boars for breeding, it is of the utmost importance that due regard be paid to the object in view, that is, whether you intend to produce large bacon, or otherwise pork and nice hams, for it is evident, for rearing heavy bacon, that the large breed would be preferable; but for pork the small breed would be most appropriate. In all cases, however, I think it an advantage to select breeding pigs with tolerably small bones, as this kind generally produce the least offal. With regard to the proper time of the year for breeding pigs, each individual will be best able to judge what circumstances will best suit his particular case, and will act accordingly, and we all know that, at the time when sows are farrowing, considerable attention is requisite to prevent the distraction and loss of the young pigs by the mother over-lying them if she be not at that time closely watched. After farrowing, sows should be fed rather sparingly for the first 3 or 4 days, with luke-warm food, to prevent the risk of fever, after which they ought, whilst giving suck, to have a generous keep, but great care should be taken not to give stale food, as it will scour the young pigs and retard their growth. When the young pigs are weaned, it is best to give them food of the same kind as first as the sow had whilst they were sucking. Although pigs are found of wallowing in the mire, and will feed on the most luscious food, yet, in their general management, cleanliness and warmth are essentially necessary to their well being; the sties should therefore be roomy, well ventilated, and dry, and if possible they should have a south aspect. On many dairy farms the store pigs are reared upon the pastures to grass in summer, and merely have some slop food morning and night, after which, in the latter part of summer or early in autumn, they are turned upon the stubbles a while, and then put up in the sty to feed. The best food for fattening that I know of, is boiled or steamed Potatoes, mixed with meal of Barley, Oats, or Peas, in the proportion of about three-fourths of a peck of meal to a bushel of Potatoes, and if the food is regularly given warm, it is all the better for it. Some people occasionally feed pigs with Bean meal, but I believe it is not so good as other grain, as it gives the bacon an unpleasant flavour; besides, it does not cure so well in difficult seasons, and it wastes more in all ordinary cases, for farmers to ring their pigs to prevent them from rutting; but it is considered, by some, a better way to cut a nick or two in that part of the snout end where the ring is usually put through pigs are young, the edges of the cartilage being once divided will not grow together again, and this renders the snout powerless in the way of rutting.

Clipped By:



ebenvt  
Sun, Nov 3, 2019