

undertaken a person must have a knowledge of agriculture in general whereby he can grow the food required at the lowest cost possible combined with efficient production.

2. The best pigs would be pigs of a pure breed; thereby the sale of purebred boars and sows would materially assist the returns. The breed chosen should be one quick in reaching maturity, and one in which the laying-on of flesh and fat is rapid. Berkshires are no doubt one of the best breeds, both for bacon and pork; however, if they are allowed to mature before being fattened they are prone to lay on fat at the expense of the flesh. Berkshires cross exceedingly well with other pure breeds (especially the Tamworth and Large Black), and the produce when skilfully managed will weigh at four months old dead-weight 84 lb. and upwards. Therefore the herd should be partly composed of purebreds and crossbreds to obtain the best results, but in no case should the breeder go beyond crossing with two pure breeds, as thereby a mongrel is bred, which is unprofitable.

3. A sow comes in season for the first time after breeding (according to condition) about three days to a week after the little pigs are weaned. The period of gestation is sixteen weeks. A sow may be made to have five litters in two years in place of two in one year; this is brought about by commencing to feed the young pigs on milk at two or three weeks old and gradually thickening with oatmeal porridge, and after a few days turning the sow out during the day and feeding her liberally. She would then come into season again before the young are weaned. (Young pigs should be weaned at about six weeks old.) Spring and early autumn are the best times of the year for sows to bring forth litters.

4. For a young sow on her first litter a fair average would be six to eight, and each litter afterwards ten to twelve.

5. If for bacon, between six and seven months old; they should then dress to a weight of 168 lb. to 196 lb. Porkers from three to four months old should dress from 56 lb. to 75 lb.

6. Pigs can be fed on root crops such as mangels, carrots, turnips, potatoes, and cabbages. Roots are best given uncooked, but raw potatoes should never be given to pigs. The best results are obtained by mixing meal (dry) with pulped roots, allowing the meal and roots to lie from one meal-time to another. The meal suggested may be a mixture of pollard, maize, crushed peas, or barley-meal. Pasteurized skim-milk and whey, fortified with an effective substitute for the extracted butter-fat or casein, is, however, a diet on which very good pigs can be raised. When pigs are grazing there is a danger of their being made to take too much moisture if the food is given wet. The pig is an animal with an exceedingly small stomach. The best results have been obtained by not giving too much bulk of food. In some of the large pig-feeding districts of America excellent results are obtained by feeding with concentrated food, such as ground oats, and, as stated above, given in a dry state. If too much moisture or liquid food is given it is washed into the intestines before it is thoroughly digested.

7. If the above principle of feeding is carried out, unless the weather is exceedingly dry, very little drink is required if the pigs are on grass. Swill with a little meal added would be the best drink.

8. The land should be of good quality capable of growing good crops. The paddocks on which pigs are running should be well drained so that they can have dry camps. No animal is more injuriously affected by damp than the pig.

The Government of India has passed an Act for the promotion of thrift and self-help among agriculturists, artisans, and persons of limited means. It will generally affect the co-operative credit societies, which so far in India have usually been based on the principle of unlimited liability of the members for the debts of the societies; indeed, of the 7,562 rural societies of India, 7,239 are formed on this principle. It is said the members greatly value the audit, inspection, and advice of the official staff, which is entirely composed of Indians, who travel about the country examining the affairs of existing societies, and aiding in the establishment of new ones.