

There is a too common impression among many farmers that the hog is a sort of scavenger, that any refuse will do for it to eat, and any filthy pen will do for it to live in. It is true that hogs do often act as scavengers, and also that they can live in filthy places, but these conditions are generally brought about when the animals have no choice in the matter. Hogs are not naturally filthy animals, but they are capable of existing under unsanitary conditions.

PEN-FEEDING UNPROFITABLE.

If we are to get the largest possible returns from raising hogs it will be found necessary to make the hogs pay for their keep. How can this be done? One of the best ways will be to insist upon them harvesting the crops grown for feed. The cost of harvesting the various crops adds considerably to the cost of production. This, in a measure, explains the high cost of production when we try to raise hogs by keeping them in small pens. When they are kept in small pens we not only have to harvest and carry the feed to them, but in many cases we are obliged to carry all the water which they drink. Therefore we should make the hogs harvest as many of the crops as is practicable.

In the small pen it is impossible to keep the animals under sanitary conditions. If they are not kept under healthy conditions we are inviting disease to visit the herd, which means a big loss instead of a profit. It will also be found that hogs will not make as rapid growth while kept shut up in small pens as when given the run of a small field.

CHOOSING A BREED.

There are many breeds of hogs. Some breeds are better adapted to certain climatic conditions than others. For Florida there are several breeds that will be found well adapted to our needs.

Farmers wishing to produce pork should raise Berkshires, Poland Chinas, Duroc Jerseys, and Essex. Those wishing to produce bacon should raise Hampshires and Tamworths. A hog that is raised for pork alone or for bacon alone is more profitable to us than one that is raised for both pork and bacon. In general, Florida conditions are more favorable for pork production than for bacon.

In selecting a breed for Florida conditions it will be found advisable not to select a white one, as these do not do as well in our climate as the black or red breeds. White hogs sun-scald easily and become scurfy and mangy. When in such a condition they cannot be expected to grow and develop as they would if healthy. If given an abundance of shade and water at all times there is less trouble from this source.

However, the selection of the breed is a personal matter. A person should choose the one he fancies most and which will produce the results he desires. It may be that the Duroc Jer-