

Producing Pork Profitably

The trade for pork and bacon fluctuates greatly, so it comes to pass that the unskilled breeder is frequently making mistakes. He makes a profit out of some useful breeding sows and straightway puts a number of extra gilts to the hour.

As a result, almost as sure as sunrise, by the time the farrows come and are ready for sale, down goes the trade and there is grievous loss, for no animal eats their heads off sooner than pigs when on the low grade.

There is a further dire fatness in the pig market, so he who has overfilled his sties finds money going out at every hand for pig-food, for litter, for labor and all the rest of it. So he becomes a sadder, but not a wiser, man, for he disposes of his brood sows, or most of them, seeing no good in pig-breeding.

Consequently, many more people besides him follow suit, with the result that before long there proves a dearth of pigs in the land and prices for all sorts advance by leaps and bounds, yet those unwise men have no stock to sell, so that they are out of the running.

Moral: Do not try to dodge the trade in breeding. Go steadily on, producing a judicious quantity, and so make sure at least of hitting the good markets as well as the bad and always having on hand subjects to eat up the waste from granary and dairy. Then, if the average sum made is not much, there is certainly but correspondingly little cost in feeding.

No man should breed bad pigs. It may appear that it needs no Solomon to tell that, but it is an absolute fact that about half the stock bred in the country is not nearly as good as it ought to be, and far too many pigs are absolutely bad.

The ill-thrifty, coarse-skinned, stiff-haited pig is always a debtor. On the contrary, the thrifty one with quality is a creditor of some degree, if trade is anything like approaching good—not a loser in a slack trade.

The shrewdest pig-farmers have satisfied themselves that crosses often pay better than pure breeds, though some pure breeds are crossed to more advantage than others.

The Middle White, for instance, is hard to improve when it is crossed with, say, the neat, high-qualified Berkshire. The Middle White is sometimes called the Middle Yorkshire, being about midway between the Large White and the Small White. Excellent results are obtained, too, from blending the blood of the Tamworth and the Middle White.

The special advantages to be derived from judicious crossing are improved constitution, greater freedom from disease, better size, quicker growth and more prolificacy. But what the markets most desire should always be kept in mind when deciding upon breeds and crosses, for even color is a matter of importance. Again, first crosses answer the best.

Many folks pig-farm who have no chance of making profit at all. Those men are such as have to buy all the feed for their stock, and are as short of practical knowledge as of feed.

The ordinary mixed land-farmer, the dairy farmer, the miller and the butcher are the men to keep pigs at a profit. They all have what to them would otherwise be waste stuffs, so that all they have to do is to regulate the quantity of stock correctly, and then profits are assured, other things being equal.

The dairy farmer is in a better position still. He has buttermilk or whey or skim milk and perhaps of no better worth than to give the pigs. He often finds pork and bacon making the more profitable branches.

And so with the miller and the butcher. Both have a lot of offal to dispose of, and cannot dispose of it to better advantage than to make pigs.

May no pig-food, then, be purchased with profitable results? Assuredly yes.

Sometimes pigs increase more than calculated on. Sometimes home-produced foods fall short and trade may require the producer to hold stock a while trusting for a turn in the tide.

In these cases there are material quantities of victuals to be purchased. Still, that is different to systematically keeping pigs with the certainty of having to purchase all they require, even to the bed they lie on.

The Grain Growers' Guide

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THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continually be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

THE GUIDE IS THE ONLY PAPER IN CANADA THAT IS ABSOLUTELY OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY FARMERS. It is entirely independent, and not one dollar of political, capitalistic or special interest money is invested in it. All opinions expressed in The Guide are with the aim to make Canada a better country and to bring forward the day when "Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None" shall prevail.

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ANY person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the district. Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$3 per acre. Duties—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent), and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has established his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$500.00.

W. W. GORY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.
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