

DON'T SACRIFICE THE HOGS

In a press bulletin issued last week, Prof. G. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, gives some timely advice on the hog question. He strongly advises farmers to use their usual common sense and not be stampeded into disposing of their young pigs and breeding stock because of a feed scarcity. While some may be compelled to sell, it is a losing game for farmers to dispose of their stock of pigs on a poor market as many are doing, in order to sell grain on a high market. By feeding this grain farmers stand to make at least as much out of it as by sacrificing their hogs and selling the grain at current market values. Prof. Day amplifies this by citing some experiments conducted at the College bearing upon the value of grain consumed by hogs. He says:

"During the past two years, the Ontario Agricultural College has collected some very valuable data regarding the prices realized for feeds consumed by hogs. Part of the hogs were fed at the College, and part were fed by farmers in different parts of the Province. The experiments deal with the food consumed by 297 hogs, aggregating 56,718 pounds when sold, or an average weight of 190.9 pounds each. A variety of foods was used, comprising barley, peas, oats, middlings, bran, corn, skim milk, roots, and miscellaneous foods which were valued by the feeders at certain sums, and duly charged against the pigs. The young pigs at weaning time are valued at \$1.50 each, which is considerably above the cost of raising pigs from birth to weaning, including maintenance of sows, etc., as shown by experiments conducted at the College. Deducting from the selling price the cost of the pigs at \$1.50 each, and the charges for miscellaneous foods, we find as follows:—

If the pigs were sold at 4½ cents per pound, live weight, they would return \$20.45 per ton for all meal consumed, including middlings and bran, 20 cents per hundred-weight for skim milk, and 10 cents per bushel for roots.

At 5 cents per pound, live weight, they would return \$23.87 per ton for meal, 20 cents per hundred-weight for skim milk, and 10 cents per bushel for roots.

At 5½ cents per pound, live weight, they would return \$27.29 per ton for meal, 20 cents per hundred-weight for skim milk, and 10 cents per bushel for roots.

At 6 cents per lb. live weight, they would return \$30.71 per ton for meal, 20 cents per hundred-weight for skim milk, and 10 cts. per bushel for roots.

At 6½ cents per pound, live weight, they would return \$34.13 per ton for meal, 30 cents per cwt. for milk, and 10 cts. per bushel for roots.

Considering that middlings and bran enter quite largely into the mixture, and taking into consideration the prices received for hogs

during the year, we must admit that this is a remarkably good showing in values received for feed. We must also remember that the grain was fed as it came from the threshing machine, and the price obtained for uncleaned grain by feeding it to these pigs, should certainly leave a comfortable margin of profit to the farmer.

The points touched upon bear amplification, but perhaps enough has been said to set someone thinking. Let it be understood, however, that there is no attempt to dictate to the farmer. Every farmer must be his own judge as to what is the best course for him to pursue, and the farmer who finds himself compelled to sacrifice his stock is deserving of sympathy. But let those with feed on hand take very careful counsel with themselves, and thoroughly consider all the features of the situation, before deciding upon a line of action. Let our action be governed by sane deliberation, and let us do all in our power to stem the disastrous tide of panic which appears to threaten."

WON'T BUY THIN HOGS

Last issue we published a letter sent by Wm. Harris to the drovers shipping to Toronto market advising them that unfinished hogs would be cut in price from \$1 to \$3 per cwt. Since then we have received a copy of a letter issued by the Ingersoll Packing Co., Ingersoll, Ont., to its buyers. After warning them not to ship undesirable hogs, the letter reads:

"Government Inspection—The ruling of the inspectors in our plant as to what shall be done with hogs that are sickly or with ruptures or abscesses, or which are staggy, sows in pig, and boars, is that they be tanked for grease. They are, therefore, only worth one cent per pound. Drovers should refuse to pay for such hogs, shipping same subject to inspection and to be paid for accordingly, after the government inspector has passed upon them.

Stoners—These hogs are hard to detect until mixed with other hogs, but if the buyer has several pens, leaving the last load of hogs unloaded in the pen separate, he can detect when the following load is put in this pen. Then he knows whose hogs they belong to and collect back accordingly. Under government supervision these hogs are tanked, and so must be paid for at grease prices, which is one cent per pound.

The last two or three weeks have seen a delivery into our yards of thin store hogs and small hogs such that it is evident nothing but the most drastic course will stop the foolish and improvident farmer from unloading this class of stock on the drover who comes to this house. Please note that we will not have these hogs at any price. If you are unwise enough to take them from farmers, we serve you notice now that we will cut the price in two. If that will not

stop them, we will pay for them on the basis of grease hogs at a cent a pound. It is not a question of your being good natured and taking a few in your deck. You must not take them at all. If farmers bring them in send them back again to their pens. Every buyer should see the hogs in the farmer's yards or pens and on no account should he buy hogs unless they are proper weight and ready for the market.

Sows—The product of fat sows is unsaleable, except at a very low price. Every packing house in the country is loaded with this class of meat. Packers are willing to sell this product at almost any price to get rid of it. We will only accept fat sows at 2 cents per pound less than singers. This price will be strictly lived up to so far as we are concerned.

Thin sows are of no use at any price, therefore on no account buy them. We are forced to be very imperative on this point. Please remember, at no price do we want thin sows; it is therefore useless for you to consider buying.

Bruised Hogs—This is another serious matter to the packer and is caused principally by carelessness in handling the hogs by farmers when loading in wagons and by drovers when loading on cars, so you will see the necessity of great care in this respect. The remedy lies with the farmers and drovers, hence if they are careless the loss should be borne by them.

Small sows in pig—These are now tanked under direction of government inspectors and on no account should be taken; cannot be sold by packer, therefore are only worth one cent per pound for grease. More or less of this class are coming forward in every car load and must be stopped or drover must suffer the penalty."

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