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out the whole period. While the consumption of corn increased constantly up to the time the pigs were 200 days old, the consumption of meat meal ran almost level until the 180th day, when it began to decline. When the pigs reached 300 pounds in weight more than 99 per cent. of their ration, by their own choice, was corn. This shows quite conclusively that hogs will not eat more tankage than they need.

How Much Corn on Pasture?

Here in Nebraska we have laid a lot of emphasis on making the fullest use of alfalfa pasture in growing pigs. While Prof. Evvard was showing me his forage feeding experiments I was wondering whether it would pay a farmer who had plenty of alfalfa pasture for his hogs, and wanted to make the greatest use of it, to feed corn in a self-feeder to shoats on alfalfa pasture. I was wondering if it would not pay better to limit the grain somewhat and make the pigs eat more alfalfa. I asked about it. Professor Evvard replied that it depended upon circumstances and conditions, such as the price of corn and the desirability of making rapid gains. He is firmly convinced, however, that it doesn't pay to limit the corn too much, for that results in stunted pigs.

At Ames I saw lots of pigs that had received a 1 per cent. ration of corn—one pound of corn a day to each 100 pounds of liveweight—on alfalfa pasture. They were rather runty. Two per cent. of corn is not sufficient to give the greatest thrift. The pigs that received 3 per cent. corn were doing very well, but those which received their corn in self-feeders were the largest, sleekest and thriftiest of all.

Perhaps the gains on the self-fed lots had cost more—and maybe not. Professor Evvard called my attention to a common error in figuring that sometimes make it appear that a limited grain ration on alfalfa pasture makes cheaper gains than self-feeding. It lies in calculating the cost of gains of all the hogs at the time the self-fed hogs are ready for market. That is unfair and inaccurate, because the pigs on the limited grain rations must be kept several weeks longer to attain the same weight, and by that time their gains may have cost just as much as those of the self-fed pigs. Both the time and weight elements must be taken into consideration in comparing rations, and not the time element only. At Ames the practice is to bring all the lots in an experiment to the same weight, and then figure the results from that standpoint as well as from the standpoint of time.

Supplement with Alfalfa

The advisability of feeding some concentrated protein supplement, such as meat meal or tankage, to pigs being pushed along on alfalfa pasture was another question I raised. Repeated experiments at Ames seem to show that it is profitable to feed a small amount of protein supplement to pigs even on good alfalfa pasture. It will be seen from the first table above that the lots fed meat meal made the cheapest gain and the greatest profit. When a protein supplement is used, the Iowa experiments show that it should not be self-fed unless the corn is also self-fed, because the hogs, under those conditions, are likely to eat too much tankage. When the corn is self-fed, the tankage may be self-fed also, and then the pigs will take just so much of each as their appetites dictate. Particularly enough, when the corn is self-fed, either on pasture or in a dry lot, the pigs do not require so much protein supplement. Whether well-grown shoats being fed corn and alfalfa hay in a dry lot in the fall or winter should have some concentrated protein supplement in addition is not a settled question. It is one that deeply concerns Nebraska hog growers. I asked Professor Evvard about it. He replied that if fattening hogs did not eat as much as a pound of good alfalfa hay a day apiece, he thought they should have some additional protein.

Hog Not an Economist

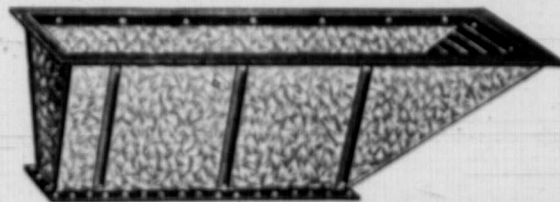
I then asked whether he would feed the corn, alfalfa hay and the concentrated protein supplement each in a self-feeder. The corn and alfalfa hay



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