

Issued
Each Week



The CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD



Only \$1.00
a Year

AGRICULTURE, THE KEYSTONE OF CANADIAN PROSPERITY

VOL. XXVIII.

FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 1908

No. 16

Experiments in the Feeding of Hogs

THE results of the experiments in the feeding of hogs that have been conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, were described recently to the members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture of the House of Commons, by Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist. Mr. Grisdale emphasized strongly the value of roots for pigs. Hogs, when turned into a corner of the root field in September, ate mangels first, next sugar beets, then carrots, and, lastly, turnips. There was, he said, objection to this method of feeding. The pigs were apt to develop too much paunch, and not to make as rapid gains as when the amount of roots fed was controlled. Therefore, whilst one saved in the cost of harvesting, there was a loss in the rate of gain, and kind of product obtained.

"We compared root pasture with alfalfa and with red clover pasturing," said Mr. Grisdale, "and then we compared a lot in the barn which had no pasture at all, but which received a certain amount of roots. We found that the pigs which we had on root pasture cost us \$3.82 a hundred. We estimate the roots at 30 many bushels an acre, and worked it up that way. Of course the roots cost us less unharvested than when they were harvested. Fed in pens, without roots, the cost, a 100 pounds of gain, was \$4.23. When the pigs were fed with roots and meal in the pens the cost was \$3.00, and when fed with roots in the pasture, the cost was \$3.82. When the pigs were fed on alfalfa pasture, the cost was \$3.67, and in red clover pasture \$3.52.

You will see, therefore, that feeding with roots and meal in the pen was the cheapest way of fattening them. We have found that to get quick and profitable returns from fattening pigs they must be kept in close quarters. For breeding stock, it is probably better to give the pigs a run.

"We have had a bunch of young sows out all winter. They have done very well, but the cost, of course, was somewhat more to feed them than if they had been inside. The cost of feeding the pigs outside—growing sows—was about 6 cents each a day. The others fed inside cost from 2½ to 5 cents. Comparing inside with outside feeding, it usually cost about 1 cent a lb. increase in live weight, when fed outside, than when fed inside.

MILK FEEDS AND MANGELS

Another experiment conducted, was feeding pigs on milk, on sugar beets and on mangels. When fed on meal and mangels, the cost to produce 100 pounds live weight, was \$6.20; with sugar beets, \$5.05; showing that the sugar beet is very much better than the mangel."

Asked what kind of feed produced the best pork, Mr. Grisdale said in his experience, equal parts of oats, peas and barley, and about three pounds of skim milk, and about as much roots. For every two pounds of meal or grain, there should be an equal amount of roots fed.

WINTERING BROOD SOWS

An experiment had been conducted in the wintering of brood sows. In one bunch there were 20 brood sows. From the 1st of December, 1907, until the 14th of March, 1908, it cost the

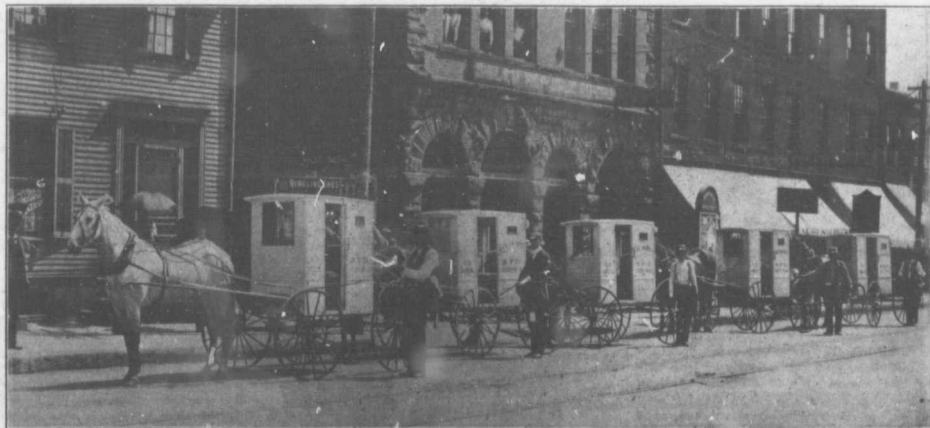
Department \$135.99, to feed these 20 sows. They were fed 37,100 lbs. of roots, at \$2 a ton, 3,788 lbs. of bran at \$22 a ton, 4,151 lbs of shorts at \$25 a ton, and 1,550 lbs. of hay at \$7 a ton. During the first seven weeks, that is about 50 days, those sows cost just 2½ cents a day to feed. This shows that it is possible to carry brood sows through very cheaply, even under such adverse conditions as are to be had at the farm. The last seven weeks, or 50 days, it cost a little more, because the sows were getting near the time for farrowing, and they had to be in better shape for the litters.

Mr. Grisdale in reply to questions, said that pumpkins were an excellent feed for pigs, in fact he did not think that anything would surpass them as a cheap fattening ration. Artichokes were a capital feed for fattening pigs and brood sows for about a month in the fall and two weeks in the spring.

Successful Mangel Culture

S. C. Jones, Wentworth Co., Ont.

There are two principal methods followed in the cultivation of mangels, one where the ground is ridged up, and the mangels sown upon the ridges, the other where the seed is simply sown upon the level. In older times, it was generally thought that roots could not be grown successfully except they be put upon ridges. Today we know better. The level system of cultivation has been proven to be the most successful. Experiment stations have proven this fact conclusively that by sowing upon the level, the mangels are more abundantly supplied with



THE RURAL DELIVERY RIGS THAT DELIVER THEIR MAIL DAILY TO THE FARMERS AROUND SALEM, OHIO.

The Farmers and others in the United States are much amused at the arguments that are used in Canada against free rural delivery. A funny argument was used last week in the House of Commons by Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General. He said that because there are more people living in the City of Ottawa than there are in the town of Buckingham, Que., the people living in Ottawa are entitled to have their mail delivered more often than are the people of Buckingham. He would not admit, however, that farmers living in the thickly settled sections of the various provinces are entitled to any better mail service than farmers living in sparsely settled districts. Why should a distinction be made in one case and not in another?