

grow and are today some of the best trees I have, and afford a fine shade from the sun. The cottonwoods are about 18 feet high and 16 to 18 inches circumference and were set out in 1902 as seedlings. This year I intend to change the fence and enclose some more trees for them to cultivate, for I find they need fresh ground to dig up.

I have a piggery in which the feed is kept, and where all the pigs come in to feed through one door, and they then can go to their respective troughs through openings just large enough to admit pigs of one size, in that way the smaller ones are not bossed and kept from the troughs by the bigger pigs. Arranged in this way, they can be fed very easily and quickly. I grow a piece of rape (Essex Dwarf) near the enclosure and cut and throw some over to them at noon. Handled in this way, I have had very little trouble with hogs losing the use of their legs.

Last year, I raised twenty-one; they were fed on shorts at first, and afterwards on frozen wheat exclusively, and fed heavily, but not one went lame. I always have the grain ground, if possible, and then some is soaked for 24 hours, and sometimes put into the trough dry, and water poured over. At six months old exactly, after getting first prize for them, they were sold and weighed 217 pounds each, and the other two litters, later on, at 8 months, weighed 250 and 260 pounds each, respectively. These hogs were not fed stock food or pampered in any way, but, part of the time, were somewhat neglected. During the hot weather, pigs should be provided with plenty of good water and shade.

Four years ago, I raised 24 hogs and kept an account of the cost of food and the cash received from the sale of them. They were fed on shorts, some milk, then on oats and barley, ground, and lastly on bin-burned wheat, fed whole.

The shorts cost \$18.00 per ton for 3 tons. I reckoned 80 cents per bag for oats and barley and 10 cents per bag for chopping, and the wheat cost 50 cents per bag.

A total cost of \$135.00. I began killing the pigs when they dressed over 100 pounds, and the heaviest was 180, average 143 pounds. Total weight of pork was 3,429 pounds and the average price was about 7½ cents. Total cash received \$251.00, leaving \$116.00 for cost of pigs, labor of feeding and marketing.

In conclusion, I would say, do not try to raise hogs—as I have known many do—unless you have plenty of food. They cannot be grown on prairie wool. I am feeding my sows on sugar beets and mangels and a small lot of chop this winter. I do not like oats, as there is too much hull, which is injurious to the digestive organs of the small pigs, unless fed with shorts or ground wheat.

Sask.

A. J. LOVERIDGE.

Uses Rape as a Summer Feed

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I would like to express my views upon the question: "Do you consider it will pay the average farmer to raise more hogs?" Well, to begin with, I think it would, provided that the farmer goes about the business the right way. Now, my idea of the right way is this: That to raise hogs profitably with the present existing

state of the markets, he must certainly look about him for some cheaper feed than grain—even low grade grain—at the present prices. Of course I do not mean to say that he can raise hogs without a grain ration at all. I think a small grain ration is indispensable right along and, of course, to finish them for the market, it is practically the only feed. But I think the person who goes into the hog business should see to it that he provides plenty of green feed right through the summer, feed such as rape, clover, or whatever he finds to answer his purpose the best. Personally, I find rape to be the best for the spring litters. Coming to fall pigs, which I think will pay if handled right, and by that I mean they should have lots of roots for winter feeding. I might say that I find mangels fill the bill pretty well. It is a well-known fact that winter pigs cost considerably more to raise than those farrowed in the spring, but I think most farmers will admit that the markets are, as a rule, much better in the spring than in the fall. That has, at least, been my experience.

Now a few words upon the way to handle hogs upon the average farm. I suppose everyone has a certain way of his own, which no doubt he thinks suits his own circumstances very well. This is my plan, at any rate, and anyone may take it for what it is worth. I like to have the spring litters arrive about the beginning of March, which I consider is quite late enough, as I always try to get them on the market as long before the following freeze-up as possible. My experience has been that after freeze-up, hogs begin to take the downward road in price, if they are going to fall at all. I find that if the sow has a fairly comfortable pen, the litter will get along all right, even if it is a trifle cold, when they are born.

The system I generally adopt for running the youngsters through the growing period of their lives, is to run them over a patch of rape that is enclosed with portable fence, also feeding them the dairy refuse and a light grain ration such as shorts, or a mixture of ground oats and barley. I also furnish each pen with a small portable house to shelter in, running from 10 to 12 in each pen. I might say that I got the idea from the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and I have proved it to be a great success. I construct the hurdles, also, from a plan you published about 2 years ago. The only thing to avoid in pasturing rape is not to give the pigs the chance to eat it too close, as I find that they will even take out the roots, if not moved frequently. It is surprising how quickly the rape will spring up again and furnish another crop of cheap feed. I have heard some people complain that their pigs would not take to rape very readily, but I can say that I never had that trouble with my own.

And now, in conclusion, I would like to say that after the farmer has contrived to raise his hogs as economically as he can, that I do not consider he is getting fair treatment at all at the hands of the packers. It is my firm belief that the middleman is the one who is getting the biggest part of the profit, and I think that he is the least entitled to it. Why should not the producer realize a more steady price for his hogs, when the packer does for his bacon and lard? It seems to me that the packers are able to regulate prices very much to their own advantage.

L. H. GRABHAM.

Raises Summer Pigs Only and Pastures on Alfalfa

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Before going on with a discussion of this question, I would like to say a few words on hogs in general and hog-raising as it is carried on by the average western farmer. To my mind, the hog stands alone as receiving more abuse than any other farm animal we have. For the first six or eight weeks of the average hog's life, while he is following his dam, he has a fairly good time of it, but after that, the manner in which he is penned and fed is not calculated, as a rule, to aid him in making the greatest profit for his owner. I have seen, and no doubt most of your readers have also, six or eight pigs, probably more, kept in pens not more than 14 feet square, for months at a time, in filth up to their eyes, and getting only about half enough feed. I have seen them confined within wire enclosures without covering above or straw beneath. The rains would pour upon them and they grew not; the sun would blister down on them and still they grew not. What scant feed such pigs received would just about keep them alive, and I have seen hogs kept in such conditions as these, weighing, when a year old, no more than they should at four months. I have seen them at six months of age so small that one could carry two or three at a time. That kind of hog-raising does not pay.

I believe, however, that it would pay the average farmer to go in more for hog-raising, provided he handled his stock properly. I am writing from my own experience in raising hogs in Saskatchewan and would advise handling hogs thus:

Keep only young gilts during the winter months, and a good pure-bred boar. I do not think it pays to raise pork in the winter. The average farmer has not suitable quarters for his hogs in winter, and in those circumstances the fewer he has about him the better. Feed the young sows enough ground grain, house slops and skim-milk, if there are any, to keep them in good condition, thrifty and growing, but not too fat. Let them run out at will so that they will secure plenty of exercise, and breed them to farrow not later than the middle of March, or beginning of April.

When farrowing time comes, provide the sows with suitable pens, warm and dry, and be sure to separate them a week at least, before they are due to farrow. If they are allowed to run all together, you are likely to find a number of the pigs smothered. The farrowing pen should be protected at the sides by a rail, eight inches or so from the wall and about a foot from the floor. This is to prevent the sow from squeezing and killing a stray pig that may get between her and the wall. At the time of farrowing the sow's bowels are inclined to become costive, so it is advisable to give a little grease in the feed for a day or two to relieve her. She should be fed sparingly for a few days. Too much bedding should not be kept in the pen, but should be changed frequently to keep it dry. Gradually bring her on to full rations, feeding all she will eat up clean.

After the first 8 or 10 days, let the sow out, and the young pigs with her. They will get on the sunny side of the building and no matter if several litters are out at once, there is no danger of

them becoming m find their own dams.

As soon as the provide them with where the sow can a little milk, and after When the litter is wean them and as start feeding them keeping a sow for or seem out of place w think it pays to rais pay to keep a sow f

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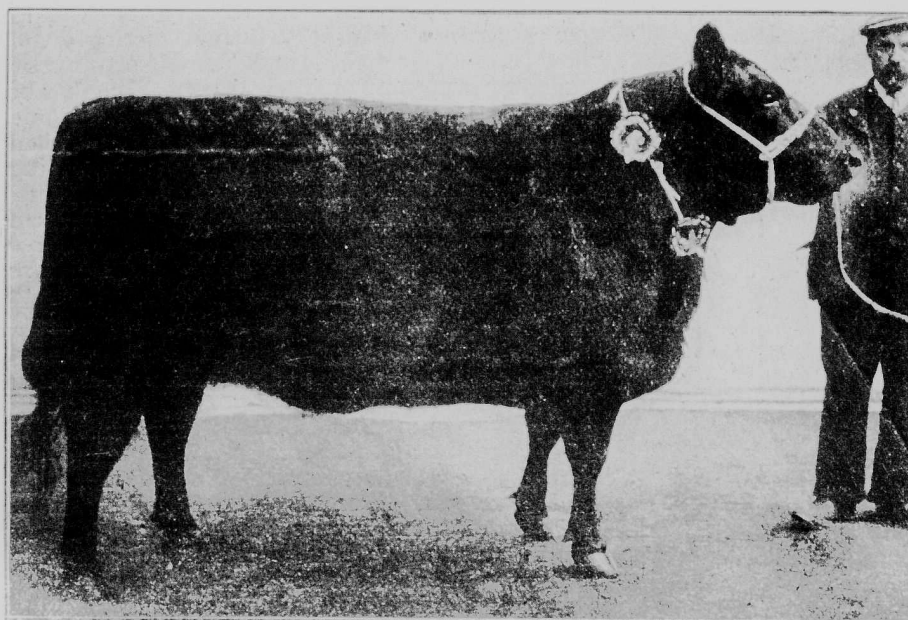
Sask.

Grain Farmer Sh

EDITOR FARMER'S ADV

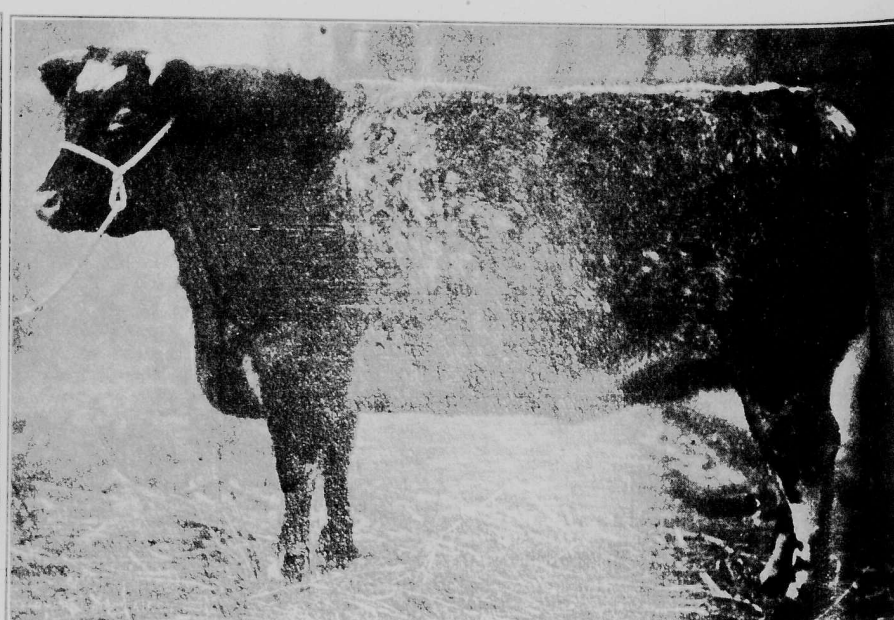
In reply to your q average farmer to go I think the subject wou two standpoints depen district to which the fa like our own, where the wheat growing I think age farmer can profitab quired for home use, is mind one of the prima raising, is a plentiful s milk. This, on a whea cows are kept than an impossibility. Lecture this is a mistake—tha that we should keep n keep up the fertility of experience I know sor and beef will have to be 3, or even 4, cents a pou along this line, not at lea bushels of No. 1 Northe

As to dairying, on plains, ice and water, (successful butter-makin absence, except in very li would prove a very effe in that line. Now in O successful in raising ho pound while I had a g dairy; but I afterwards bred and grade, allowi calves, and selling the baby beef. From that t at less than 5 cents per p ditions as to housing, et plentiful supply of tu Therefore, I say, for the let hogs alone, except it



HER MAJESTY 5TH OF CULLEN

Pure-bred Aberdeen Angus heifer, two years old, champion fat animal at the Smithfield Show, 1908.



DAISY 5TH

Champion Shorthorn heifer at Edinburgh and Smithfield Shows.