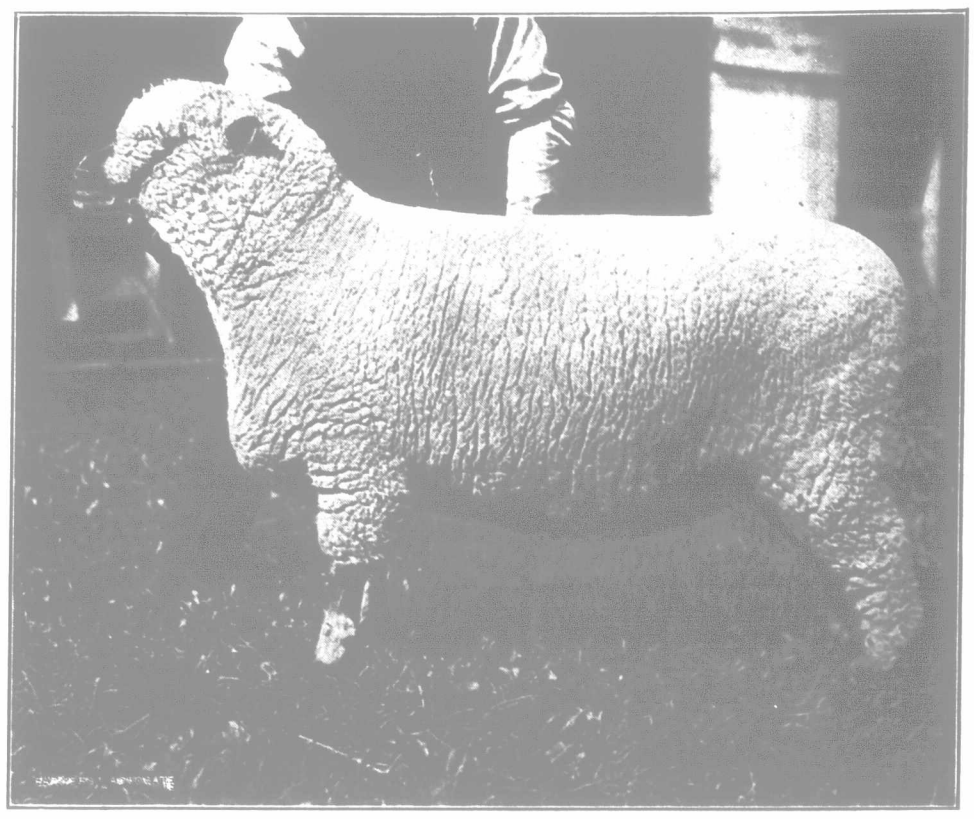
First-prize Shearling and Champion Dorset Horn Ewe.
Toronto Exhibition, 1910. Exhibited by R. H. Harding, Thorndale, Ontario.



First-prize Shearling and Champion Shropshire Ewe.
Toronto Exhibition, 1910. Bred and owned by D. & J. D. Campbell, Woodville, Ont.

rather light flow, and a few windfall apples and left-over potatoes. In addition to these, they have had about 340 pounds each of grain and shorts, and an additional 150 to 200 pounds should carry them to around the 200-pound mark. Eight that I turned off last fall at a week less than six months, averaging 211 pounds each, were fed 534 pounds each of grain and shorts, under conditions very similar to those prevailing with the present lot. "L. B.," in your September 1st issue, shows that he brought seventeen hogs to an average weight of 198 pounds with less than 490 pounds of grain, including shorts and flour, for each hog. The only supplementary foods mentioned are 30 bushels of mangels and 500 pounds of skim milk.

In an article in "The Farmer's Advocate" of January 2nd, 1908, on page 5, I gave an account of eleven hogs that were raised by me under winter conditions, and that were sold in two lots at seven and eight months, at an average weight of nearly 215 pounds each. They were fed a little over 616 pounds each of grain and shorts, in addition to other foods. The amount of shorts fed was in small proportion, which would probably increase the total amount of grain food required. Reckoning the 86 bushels of roots fed at 10 cents, 2 bushels of small potatoes at 20 cents, 4 bushels of cull apples at 10 cents, and 2,700 pounds of skim milk and buttermilk at 20 cents, the price realized for the grain fed would be $35.24 per ton, with the price for pork averaging, for the two lots, a little over $6.50 per hundred pounds. With a yield of 30 bushels of 42-pound grain, this would mean $22.20 per acre.

BRANT CO. FARMER.

Pithy Points from the Tuberculosis Commission.

"Experience has shown that the principles of eradication and prevention may be successfully applied by individual owners of infected cattle, independent of State assistance."

* * *

"I am convinced that the most powerful aid to the eradication of tuberculosis is public demonstration. One animal slaughtered before a body of farmers, and the diseased parts exposed to their plain view, is worth more than anything else that can be done."—[Ex.-Gov. Hoard.

* * *

"In Wisconsin, after Dec. 1st, 1910, all animals sold for breeding or milking purposes must first be tuberculin-tested, according to law."

* * *

"The tuberculin test should be regarded as having only an incidental value in the systematic work of locating tuberculosis, and as being of pre-eminent importance when we undertake to determine the extent to which the disease is prevalent in any herd."

* * *

"An effort should be made to trace tuberculous animals back from the slaughter-houses to the farmers whence they came. Meat inspection has already done much to establish infected areas from which tuberculous animals have been sent to market. A Federal law requiring appropriate tagging of all hogs and dairy cattle moving interstate for slaughter, and State laws compelling similar identity marks for these animals moving within the State for slaughter, would be the means of locating a large proportion of the centers of tuberculosis."

* * *

"When the occurrence of tuberculosis among hogs at an abattoir is followed by a tuberculin test of the cattle on the home farm, it practically always discloses infection."

* * *

"The valuable evidence that may be obtained as to the location of tuberculosis through the examination of milk, cream, butter, centrifugal slime, and other products, should not be neglected."

* * *

"Tuberculosis undoubtedly owes its primary introduction to America to the cattle of improved breeding that have been imported from European lands."

* * *

"The newer methods of applying tuberculin for test purposes not having been found as reliable as the older, subcutaneous method, cannot be advocated for general use.

* * *

The possible means for disseminating tuberculosis are:

1. The introduction into a sound herd of an animal affected with tuberculosis, (a) those with open tuberculosis, (b) those with the disease in a period of incubation, (c) those in which the lesions are tempararily arrested.

2. By feeding calves milk, whole or separated, buttermilk or whey, where the milk has come from tuberculous cows.

3. By infection by contact at fairs, shows and exhibitions.

4. By shipping healthy cattle in cars or placing them in stables previously occupied by tuberculous cattle, and not thoroughly disinfected.

5. By contact of healthy cows with infected cows in pastures separated by a fence of such nature that the cattle may get their noses together.

6. Infection rarely occurs through man as a carrier, other species of animals, or the droppings of carnivorous birds that have fed on the carcasses of diseased animals.

* * *

"The time, we may hope, is not far off when breeders will begin to realize that the very best blood, coupled with tuberculous infection, is an article to be shunned."

Excessive Cost of Pork Production

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

At the end of Perth Co. Farmer's letter re "Cost of Pork Production," you invite other farmers to give their experience in hog-feeding; but, as the one under discussion varies so much from my own or any that I have ever read of, I think the better plan is to see if there is not some mistakes in it somewhere. In the first place, the cost of an acre of grain has nothing whatever to do with the cost of the hog, as the grain has a market value, and it is worth no more than that value. If a farmer cannot raise any particular crop as cheap as he can buy it in the market, he had better buy it and grow something else. He says, by a careful test, he has found it takes 40 acres of mixed grain, 30 bushels to the acre, to produce 40 hogs averaging 200 pounds. Now, to do that, he must have fed them the same kind of feed right along. (I take it, by the weight he allows per bushel, it was barley and oats.) That is surely not the way to feed hogs, and expect to get good results from them, as, although barley is about the best single feed one can get, and oats are also a good feed in their place, that place is not in the feed trough for small pigs, nor for pigs in the fattening stage. In the first stage it is almost impossible to do without shorts, and in the latter feed flour and corn would surely prove far more economical than oats.

I think some of the figures for producing the grain far too high. Two bushels of grain is seed enough. Harvesting, twine and threshing I also think too high, but that has nothing to do with the question, so it is no use discussing it here, as the question is, What is the grain worth? Oats were worth about 42 cents per bushel, and barley about 55 cents, which gives an average of 48½ cents. Thirty bushels at that price is $14.55, or, with hauling and grinding, $16. As regards feeding, marketing and weighing, that is nothing, as the manure pays for feeding and marketing; and, of course, you have to take the buyer's weight; he weighs the hog, you see him do it, and that costs you nothing. Thus we get the cost of the hog at $16, instead of $21—a big difference, surely. But there was nothing allowed for pasture and skim milk, and, of course, there should have been. Next, as to the amount of feed consumed per hog, which is an enormous quantity (1,260 pounds), and he says they were good-doers. I certainly think they were good at doing him. In most experiments we find, where skim milk is used, it takes about 300 pounds of grain to put on the first 100 pounds of pork after weaning, and about 450 pounds the next 100 pounds. That is, 750 pounds of grain, at present prices (shorts, $1.15; feed flour, $1.30, and corn chop, $1.40 per 100 pounds), about $9.50; about 3,000 pounds of skim milk, at 15 cents per 100 pounds, $3.00, and about $1.50 per pig to weaning time, making a total of $15.00 per hog of about 225 pounds. And even that cost of production is very high, as there are many foods far cheaper than grain, such as roots and clover hay in winter, and pasture in summer. But space forbids me to say more, as I fear I am already taking up too much of it.

I must add that there are three things necessary in successful hog-raising. They are: First, the right kind of breeding stock; second, the right kind of feed; third, the right kind of a feeder. Without all of which a man had better go out of the business.

C. J. BAILEY.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

Just now is a suitable time for the culling of the old stock of brood sows and the selection of additional ones. Whatever the breed, insist upon length of middle, depth of chest and flank, strength and width of back, refinement of head, strength of pasterns, active yet gentle disposition. If the old ones have not proved themselves, discard them; select the young ones from proved mothers.