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SHEEP AND SWINE

The Cost of Pork Production HE unprecedented price of pork

for the past several months na-turally causes the consumer to question whether or not the rise is legitimately due to increased cost of production or to manipulation by the much abused middleman. The produc-er himself is frequently uncertain as to the actual cost of production when the various factors influencing costs have been accounted for. Indeed the charges against young pigs at six weeks of age, where the maintenance of the dam is properly charged and where present feed prices apply, where no cheap by-product or refuse is available, and particularly where only one litter per year per sow is raised, is greater than many swine growers suppose.

The following figures are available from swine breeding operations at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and elsewhere on the Experimental Farms System and may throw some light on the question. To arrive at the cost of young pigs the feeding costs of not only the dam, but also the grand-dam are necessary. In other words the full maintenance cost of the young sow, together with her milking period charges, should be figured to arrive at the cost of the first litter. For succeeding litters a pro rata charge for each individual of the litter. should be made of feeding and breeding charges incurred while the sow was carrying and later suckling the litters up to weaning time. Feed cost to raise a gilt to first

farrowing Breeding charges, cost to feed while suckling litter 10.00

Total cost of first litter \$38.37

Cost per pig at weaning (7 in

a litter) If the cost were figured on the mar-ket value of the young sow, the cost of the litter per pig would be con-siderably higher—\$8.24.

If sold after raising one litter the \$35.00, or to nearly pay the total cost of her first venture.

retained as a brood sow, bred shortly after weaning, and subse-quently raising a second litter of seven pigs, the cost per pig would be in the vicinity of \$2.82.

The average cost per pig may be safely figured at \$3.00. Seven raised pigs per sow is a high average, numer ous individual cases to the contrary.

Costs Then and Now.

Several years ago at the Ontarlo Agricultural College, it was estimated that where all incidental feeding, maintenance and breeding charges were considered, young pigs could raised to six weeks at a cost of \$1.27 each, with an average litter of six and each, with an average litter of six and one-half pigs. Meal was charged at the rate of \$20.00 per ton; skim-milk, \$3.00 per ton; and roots, \$2.00. Pres-ent day prices would be \$50.00; \$4.00 and \$3.00 respectively at the lowest estimate and would explain the fact that the foregoing figures are so much higher than the Guelph findings, which were practically similar to those shown at the Central Experimental Farm at that time.

The cost to produce pork from these young pigs against which feeding charges at the average rate of \$3.00 each must be levied at six weeks of age, will vary widely with the methods of feeding. Figures from the Experimental Farms records methods of feeding. Figures from the Experimental Farms records would indicate that four pounds of meal, or the equivalent in other forms of food, per pound gain would be a safe basis. In the case of the bacon hog this would amount at present feed prices to \$13.00 to \$15.00 per pig. Adding to this the \$3.00 charge up to weaning time the total

feeding charge would be from \$16.00 to \$18.00. Where skim-milk and pas-ture were both available to replace meal, \$15.00 might be taken a fair feeding charge.

While the average overhead charge is relatively small in the case of the farmer who keeps but a few pigs, it is capable of wide variation, depending entirely upon the intelligent un-derstanding of the owner concern-ing the principles of swine husbandry. A range of from 20 to 60 per cent. of the feeding charges might be allowed. In most cases the lower figure might fairly be applied.

These estimates include only feed-ing and breeding charges and are exclusive of labor, depreciation, and overhead charges generally. The element of risk, much in evidence in swine raising, is also omitted.

Under proper management there is a fair profit in hogs. To the con-sumer and the prospective awine sumer grower the foregoing figures however, would indicate certainly that such profits are not excessive.

Dip Your Sheep This Year

N the face of the high cost of feeds and the ever-increasing necessity of greater production, it becomes imperative than ever before in the history of our sheep industry, that all handicaps such as the feeding of external parasites be eliminated as far as possible. It is next to impossible for sheep to make progress when covered with ticks and lice which annoy them continually. It is impossible to estimate the loss of feed and the depreciation in flesh when a flock is infested. One may be certain, how-ever, that a great portion of the feed consumed by the sheep is taken up by these parasites.

A flock free from ticks and lice is the best insurance towards the better production of wool. The continual rubbing against fences and racks, causes a loss of wool and damaged fleeces which are docked in price. Dipping should be regularly practised at least once a year, and better twice a year. The sheep should be dipped in the spring as soon after shearing as weather permits; in the fall, before the arrival of cold weather. This will not only free the flocks from ticks and lice, but also tends to keep them free from any skin disease. Even though no disease or parasites be present sheep should be dipped as a means of prevention and it stimu-lates the growth of the wool to some Small flocks can be dipped in vats or other suitable uutensils the farm, but in the case of large flocks a regulation galvapized iron or cement tank will be found much more

Community Dipping Outfit.

The initial cost of a convenient dip-ping outfit would be the greatest drawback to the small owner, who realizes the necessity of dipping at least once a year, but does not see his way clear to go to that expense, for a flock of from ten to twenty-five.

By the small flock owners in a dis trict combining and having a dipping tank jointly owned, it can either be placed at a convenient centre, all flocks for a radius of from two to four miles being driven to the centre and dipped on a certain day, or each theepman using the tank in turn on his own place. By the latter method it costs more for dipping fluids, as the smaller the flock dipped the greater the waste, but in either case the cost of dipping is greatly reduced.

It has been preached from the plat-It has been preached from the plat-form that the small farm, well tilled, will beat the large farm as an in-come maker. I once believed that my-self. I don't believe it now. Acreage is the prime factor in determining the size of the farmer's labor income. —A. Lettch, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.



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THE On Thumbs

April 18, 1918,

HUMBS have not h T place in our polite litter fact they have been neglected. And like the tinpot knights who used to on quests of derring do, rold manks and barons over tocratic pates and dividing with the down trodden y am herewith coming out in

Were I a real novelist I on fingers, not thumbs. To may find in my lady's work long tapering fingers. The ally has square, honest f. At any rate they are stro-occasion they can fix them traps of steel on the thr villain. Yes, even the fingers, though they do Oh, everyone in a story h

But thumbs? Lord love you heard of thumbs in a naght we know to the con folks are a thumbless re thumbs crop out in detective order that they may leave the freshly "busted" safe or lock Holmes may deduce crook's in-turning thumbs h propensities. They are als W. C. T. U. writers as sign which employees find cirary which employees find cigare previous to denying the p these two exceptions merely rule, that thumbs are not de the anatomy of a "character But despite the slights w

been heaped upon thumbs writers, they are tremendou appendages. I can speak w ity, not to mention feeling subject, for last week I cut on my right hand and had t in a sling. It was then the out how useless would be a farmhand. For instance, often heard people speak of a nut on to a bolt with the Try this for yourself and yo what an important part is the thumb. Try putting a nothe Ford, with your thumb a mere spectator, or try openi with your "fingers." You decide that it's not so bad finger. You have plenty of take its place while it co but a thumb is different. thumb is like the vacant ch never, etc. I will admit that is not built for style, but it handy-for it is set opposi

fingere fingers.

There's the point. It is De not imagine that I can see pent in the p and if your hand were finge would be in a sorry plight ind have their place, and their pl ite each other.

Have you ever noticed ho is felled by two chop right and one left-handed? long well because their gift posed. The same is true of ln looking over my little cir timate friends, I find that the characteristics in con find also that those character to be found in my makeup in almost every instance m are my opposites. They see tragic side of life; they thir before they speak; and, as why. Venus or Adonis have no them — while I am opposite way—and, must I confess reader, as homely as a rail f

It is not that one de