Some English Pig-Feeding Experiments

No question is of more importance to Canadian farmers to-day than that of the best way of feeding their hogs so as to get the best results. During the past year two interesting experiments along this line have been conducted by the Agricultural Department of the University College, Nottingham, England. The following are the results of one of these experiments as given in a recent issue of the *Mark Lane Express*:

One experiment was undertaken to ascertain (1) the relative feeding value of separated milk and whey respectively when fed to pigs along with cornmeal; (2) whether it would be more profitable to sell the whey and separated milk direct from the dairy or to use it for fattening pigs (the price obtainable being one-third of a penny per gallon for whey and penny per gallon for separated milk); (3) which of the following rations would be most profitable for feeding pigs: Cornmeal and water, cornmeal and whey, cornmeal and separated milk, if the same pecuniary value of the three mixtures were used.

The whey and separated milk were valued at a price which could have been obtained if they had been sold to farmers and pig keepers in the neighborhood, the corn at the actual cost delivered to the institute.

The trial lots of pigs were made up from three litters, and from each litter six pigs were taken and divided equally amongst the three lots, making six pigs to each lot. This was done to secure uniformity in fattening propensities.

The rations at first used consisted of the foods in the following proportions, fed to each lot of six pigs:

	Total Rations per 6 Pigs.	Ration per Pig per Day	Total cost of Ration per 6 Pigs.	Cost of Ration per Pig per Day.
			s. d.	pence.
Lot 1	32 lbs. corn meal. Water at pleasure.	5½ lbs. corn meal. Water at pleasure.	1 4	2⅔
Lot 2	20 lbs. corn meal, 6 gallons separated milk. Water at pleasure.	3½ lbs. corn meal, 1 gallon separated milk. Water at pleasure.	1 4	2⅔
Lot 3	24 lbs. corn meal, 12 gallons whey. Water at pleasure.	4 lbs. corn meal, 2 gallons of whey. Water at pleasure.	1 4	2⅔

NOTE.—The corn meal was scalded and allowed to soak for a few hours before giving to the pigs, and was fed along with the liquids.

After twenty days the quantities of corn meal were increased by 1 lb. per head per day, bringing the cost of ration per pig per day up to 3 1-6d.

The following table shows the net profit on feeding:

	*Value of pigs when put up to feed.	Value of carcases after feeding.	Cost of food.	Profit on feeding per lot.	Profit on feeding per pig.	Cost of putting on 1 lb. of carcase weight per day.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.	Pence.
Lot 1 6 pigs	15 0 0	23 8 2	4 11 7	3 16 7	12 9	3.12
Lot 2 6 pigs	14 10 0	23 13 0	4 11 7	4 11 5	15 3	2.84
Lot 3 6 pigs	15 5 0	25 15 0	4 11 7	5 18 5	19 9	2.48

NOTE 1.—*These values are arrived at by estimating 75 per cent. of the unfasted weight at the price mentioned.

2.—The prices are taken at 6s 8d. per stone, being the value realised on the sale of the pigs.

3.—The above table assumes that the manure made is set against the cost of attendance and litter.

The report of Mr. T. N. Parr, of Nottingham, who purchased the pigs, states that the corn alone fed pigs exhibited big leaf, thin on the belly, while the back was thick and fat. The flesh also was soft and did not set well. Between the "corn-separated milk" and "corn-whey" fed lots there was little to choose, both lots showing less leaf and thicker on the belly, and with a good proportion of lean. If anything, the corn-whey lot were firmer in flesh, which was as he expected.

It appears that a gallon of separated milk and a little less than two gallons of whey are equal in value for pig-breeding purposes.

That it is much more profitable to turn the skim-milk and whey into pork than to sell it at the prices obtainable, viz, 1d. per gallon for separated milk and 1-3d. per gallon for the whey.

That where separated milk and whey can be purchased at the prices named, and used to supplement the same value of corn the quantity and quality of pork will be greatly increased, without any increase in the cost price. As to feeding value the corn and whey ration stood first, corn and skim milk second, the corn alone ration being very far behind.

It must be admitted that these experiments were carried out under the most favorable circumstances. The three lots of pigs were of grand quality, and in thriving condition when the experiment commenced; the weather was mild, pork was making a good price, and corn was reasonable to buy. Under less favorable circumstances the profits made would not have been so high, but this would not have altered the relative feeding values of the foods given.

It is interesting to note the quantity of meal required for each lb. increase in live weight. If we take Lot 1, we find that during the whole period of sixty days each pig consumed 360 lbs. of meal, which works out at 5.2 lbs. of meal required to make 1 lb. increase in weight.

Keep More Sheep

Articles under this heading have appeared very frequently in these columns during the past year or two. The subject, however, is a live one and too much cannot be written or said in regard to it. The following article, from the pen of Mr. George McKerrow, Madison, Wisconsin, who rendered such valuable services as a judge at the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show at Brantford last December, will be read with interest by our sheep-breeders and farmers. Mr. McKerrow writes in a recent issue of *Farm, Field and Fireside* as follows:

Very many farmers, and farms too, would be benefited by a flock of sheep. I believe I may be permitted to claim that I say this from experience, having kept a flock without intermission for thirty years or more. I invested my first savings, while a boy in my teens, in sheep, and have never regretted it.

Why will the farm be benefited? Sheep will clean it up; but you will say, can good sheep be reared on weeds and brush alone? To which I must answer, no; but good sheep can be grown on clovers, grasses, corn, oats, corn stover, alfalfa, rape, cabbage and roots, and this rotation of crops will make clean land and produce good mutton and wool, and you will find that sheep being well fed on such rations as the above mentioned will also surprise you by the amount of weeds and tender browse they will take as dessert.

A small or moderate sized flock will glean a good living most of the year from foods that would, on many farms, go to waste without them. I recently met a German farmer in Northern Wisconsin who told of his little flock of ten ewes that had brought in a sixty-dollar income in 1895, when sheep products were low. When I asked him what it cost to keep them that year, he replied: "Dat cost nothing." When pressed for an explanation, he shrugged his shoulders and said: "Dey run in der brush in der summer, und dey run in der brush in der vinter. Come