

STOCK

Cost of Hog Production

Only one letter is published on the subject for discussion this week, the others received on this question being rather too indefinite to be of much value. All of which goes to show that the average hog-raiser has only a hazy notion as to what it costs him to raise a hog, and very little idea as to what profit he can make from the hog business. It is not a very difficult task to keep track of the quantity of feed consumed by a bunch of hogs from the time they are weaned until they are sold, and the value of this feed can easily be estimated. If a reasonable price is then placed on the weanling at the start definite information is at hand as to the cost of production, and a man knows exactly how he stands, what profit remains to cover labor, how the hog compares as a money maker with other products of the farm and at what price he can profitably produce hogs. There is a need for information of this kind with respect to all farm products, hogs particularly. Somebody says that hogs don't pay, and the average man, without doing any figuring on his own account, decides that raising hogs is a profitless business and gets out. This seems the way with hog-raising more than with anything else, why it should be so not being exactly known. If farmers knew definitely just what profit was derived from the various departments of their own business they would be in better way to adapt their operation so that the branches they derived most profit from would receive due attention. Information as to the cost of pork production is at this time most desirable.

Cost of Feeding Hogs

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Having had a long experience in hog raising I take the liberty to write on the subject. When a boy in the Old Country I had to stay with sows night after night till they had their pigs. Each pig was valued at five dollars. In raising pigs for profit a man must study nature a little. He must consider the age of the pigs, the strength of the system to digest the food, and the nature of the food to be fed. A large number of young pigs are ruined by overfeeding, while the brood sows are left to rustle for themselves. For five years I have raised and fed fifty to sixty per year. Six years ago dressed pork was worth 4½ cents per pound. Now it is just about double that, while feed is very little dearer, which shows that hog raising is more profitable. Last year I ran my spring pigs on grass pasture till fall. Then I put them in, weighed the feed (which was cleanings from machine) valued at a cent and a quarter per pound. I turned them off on December 1, 1909, at 6½ cents per pound. These cost less than 4 cents per pound. I valued the small pigs at \$2.00 each, and they were fed only about nine weeks, inside and thirteen weeks on pasture. This shows a profit of a little over 2½ cents per pound for work and a little milk and a good market price for mixed grain.

I had two bunches of fall pigs which I let run with their mothers till about nine weeks old. When cold weather came on I put them in warm pens, and fed them chopped oats with a lot of wheat, the results of a hailstorm the year before. The market value of this grain was only 20 to 26 cents per bushel. I fed this light with milk till the pigs had a good start. Then I increased the feed till January 28, when I sold them at 7 cents per pound live weight. These pigs had

eaten more grain, were fed a little longer and still made more profit. They consumed 480 pounds of grain, which at 80 cents per hundred, costs \$3.84. Then I paid 50 cents for chopping. The pigs when weaned were worth \$2.00. When up to 150 pounds each they brought \$10.50. This gave me a profit of over \$4.00 per pig.

I have fed pigs winter and summer, on every kind of feed, and find the profit varies according to quality of feed. Shorts and milk are a very good feed if fed very light to the pigs when young. Mixed grain is the cheapest feed the farmer can produce, and there is a quantity on every farm for feeding large hogs in winter. I find No. 1 wheat at \$1.00 a bushel is cheaper than a very low grade feed at half the price. It shortens the feeding period and you need only half the quantity. With good, healthy pigs a pound of pork should never cost more than 4½ cents. It is my intention to stay with the hogs and always to have at least one or two sows the year round.

I have raised alfalfa two years and find it a very good plant when it has a start. From a single plant I collected 18 stems, varying in length from 17 inches to 22 inches, which shows a yield of 30 feet of good feed from one plant. I have had two good "catches," one under very wet weather, and this year it is a very dry season. I also have red clover that is not winter-killed. I am convinced that these crops will do well up here and it is my intention to have half my farm in these crops in a very short time.

Alta.

WM. GILBERT.

Raising Hogs on Parsnips

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In planning to grow hogs after the manner here advocated it is necessary to begin work three or four years ahead. The writer having been engaged in the handling of hogs more or less ever since he was large enough to carry half a bucket of swill, and having been engaged in truck farming for a number of years, has learned how to produce pork at the least possible cost by combining the two, that is, hogs and vegetables.

To produce cheap hogs you must produce cheap feed; also compel your hogs to gather their own living. The writer has observed that there is no better pork-producing plant than the parsnip. It is a root that will stay in the ground all winter and be improved by being frozen instead of being spoiled, as is the case with most other vegetables. To grow cheap hogs, grow parsnips to feed them and make your hogs do their own harvesting.

As aforesaid, this plan of hog-raising requires long forethought. To produce a cheap supply of pork in 1913, begin in the winter of 1910 and 1911, and manure heavily a plot of land of about twelve acres. After you have thoroughly covered it with manure drag as soon as plowed. Leave this plot until about July 15 of the same year; then plow again in the following manner: Hitch a team on a 16-inch plow and another on a 12-inch plow. Run your 16-inch plow eight inches deep and follow in the same furrow with the 12-inch plow, running it six inches deep. As soon as the plowing is finished drag the field at least three times. In about two weeks run the disc over the plot and drag again, and continue to drag at intervals of about ten days until the

ground freezes. You have now a plot of land in A1 shape for a crop of parsnips for the year 1912.

Early in the spring of 1912, procure 25 gilts and feed them well during summer. On May 5, 1912, sow eleven acres of your plot to parsnips; the remaining acre sow to rape July 1. Use a garden drill to sow the parsnips seed. Previous to sowing test the seed so that you know positively what per cent. will germinate. Set the drill so it will drop one seed every four inches in the row after allowing for the per cent. of seed which will not grow—rows to be sixteen inches apart. In the fall of 1912 fence your plot, and in September turn your sows into it. They will see that they get enough to eat. If you have thoroughly prepared and kept free from weeds the plot in the year 1911, your parsnip crop will require no work in 1912.

In the fall of 1912 breed your sows so that they will drop their pigs not later than March 1, 1913. Also in 1912 prepare a second plot of land same as the plot already described; sow same in 1913. As soon as the frost is out of the ground in 1913 turn your sows and pigs into plot No. 1; they will finish up the parsnips, which the sows left over in the winter. Give them a little grain each day, just enough to provide a balanced ration. This field will keep them growing until close to August 1. During the spring of 1912 scatter some rape over field No. 1. During August add more grain to the ration, and again in September turn the whole lot into plot No. 2 and keep them on this field until it freezes up. Separate the sows which you wish to keep for another year and feed the others all the grain they will eat. On December 1 you can turn out pigs that will weigh about 250 pounds or more, which have cost very little to produce.

Keep water at all times before hogs. Castrate all male pigs at two weeks old. It is a scientific fact that it is cheaper to put 400 pounds of flesh on two nine months old pigs than it is to put 300 pounds on one-year-old hog. The whole secret of cheap pork is cheap feed. As a matter of course in order to save pigs which drop in February, warm, dry hog houses must be provided, but as the hog is not at all particular where he is born very cheap breeding pens can be built by excavating a side hill or building log houses and covering them with sod and earth; or more substantial houses may be built from lumber. Pens at least ten feet square should be provided within the house for each individual sow to bring and rear her pigs in.

The above method is the result of my own study and observation. It is in use only upon my own farm. It is in keeping with my theory of success: that is, do different from other people; form original plans.

Alta.

A. L. DICKENS.

Fly Remedy

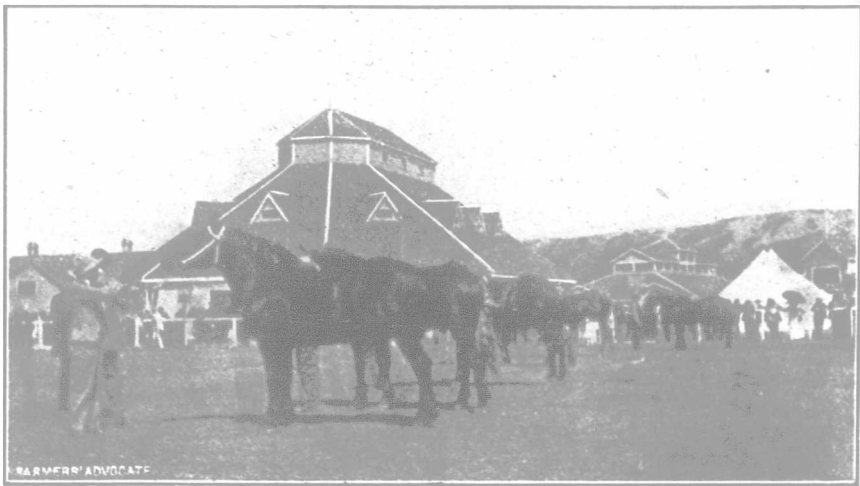
EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Give the composition of a good, strong, cheap emulsion to spray horses and cattle to keep the flies from tormenting them. In addition to the hosts of mosquitoes and black flies we have in this district a large one locally called buffalo-bulldogs, which are simply murderous. Some reliable information on this matter will be much appreciated by a number of your readers in this neighborhood.

SASKAN.

Ans.—Following is a mixture that has given good results: Resin, 1½ pounds; laundry soap, 2 cakes; fish oil, ½ pint; enough water to make three gallons. Dissolve the resin in a solution of soap and water by heating; add the fish oil and the balance of the water. Apply with a brush. If it is to be used as a spray add ½ pint of kerosene. One-half pint of this mixture is about enough for one cow. The cost is less than ten cents a gallon. At first it may be necessary to give two or three applications per week until the ends of the hairs are coated with resin. Later only re-touch those parts from which the resin has been rubbed.

There are also standard prepared remedies. Perhaps some of our readers have had experience



AGED PERCHERON STALLIONS AT CALGARY. THE CHAMPION HORSE HALIFAX STANDS IN THE FOREGROUND