

THE BACON HOG UPHELD—EXPERIENCE WITH THE FAT HOG

Geo. Loithwaite, Huron Co., Ont.

THE article, "Shall we go back to the Fat Hog?" written by Mr. MacDonald, appearing in Farm and Dairy of May 1st, should be honored with some comment. I have had years of experience with hogs of different breeds, and have marketed hundreds of bacon hogs, and have also helped my father to raise the old fashioned hog, or what are called the thick fats. Hence my opinion on the subject may be of some value.

I will first say something about the 25 year ago hogs. When talking to Mr. Curvin today, who at that time was a breeder of Berkshires, he said he remembered killing two hogs, one of which when dressed weighed over 700 lbs., and the other close to 800 lbs. These are a little larger than the ones Mr. MacDonald speaks of keeping to-day. I can remember of helping to butcher hogs several times, ranging from one year to a year and a half old, and they dressed 400 lbs. and over. These were white pigs, the old fashioned Yorkshires. I can remember that their noses were long enough to reach the third row of corn through the fence. We raised

I believe that the older and larger the hog the more feed it takes to produce one pound of meat. I started to farm for myself about 18 years ago. My father gave me a sow with which to start, bred from a Yorkshire hog of Mr. Breathour's, and her dam chased a Yorkshire by Flatt. I then purpurs with good success as my stock increased, marketing over 100 a year, sometimes selling below five cents a pound. I had scales that would weigh twelve hogs at when feeding grain I had to know the turns, as I bought most of my feed. People asked me why I kept so many hogs, and I claimed that if there was a profit of one dollar in the hog there would be a profit of \$100 in 100 hogs. In all my records of feeding hogs I never had a bunch that cost me five cents a pound at a weight of 300 lbs. I always try to have a field of clover to run them on in summer and add alfalfa clover in winter. I have a rack for my sows and they stand and eat like cattle.

HAS TRIED FAT HOGS

I can sympathize with Mr. MacDonald, however, in his ideas along the line of fat versus bacon hogs, as five years ago I conceived the same idea. I thought a smaller type of hog would be more profitable, so set to work to produce a new pig. I bred my best Yorkshire sow to a Berkshire pig. She had six sow pigs in the litter. I saved them all for sows, bought an improved Chester hog, and thought I had the ideal pig. They were as far as health was concerned, but had not the capacity for taking the feed necessary, and thus took longer to prepare them for market. I am now going back to my old breed, which I can buy from over 20 neighbors in this township. This speaks for itself, as dollars and cents are what the Canadian wants, and I am a Canadian.

The Tamworth hog gives good returns as a bacon hog. I had a bunch crossed with Berkshires, which gained weight at three and one-quarter cents a pound on clover. I do not like the Tamworth, however, on account of his color.

I was pleased to note that Mr. MacDonald said about the packers not paying by grade. If they did so it would be no more than justice to their own business, and would also encourage the producers to produce No. 1 bacon hog. We have to consider the price hogs are to-day as there is a limited market for thick fat pork.

If we want to produce thick fats we can very easily do so with any breed of hog by feeding high in carbohydrates and fat and not allowing them to get exercise. With this method we will get the sloppy, soft pork of the fat type, but for the sake of the reputation our bacon is now winning on the markets, it behoves us as breeders to look after our own interests.

Regularity is as good as several pounds of grain a day in holding the cows to their work. Have a regular hour for milking, washing, watering, and cleaning the stable, watering.

The curate of a fashionable school said, "I don't like to teach the significance of white to a Sunday school class." He said he, "does not like to see a bride invariably dressed in white at her marriage." As no one answered he explained.

"White," said he, "stands for joy; and the wedding day is the most joyous occasion of a woman's life." A small boy queried, "Why do the men all wear black?"



Competition

Duroc-Jerseys, Berkshires, Chester Whites and Suffolks

FATS NOT PROFITABLE

The raising and breeding of these short fat types was lacking in profit to us as we raised our pigs in the fall and after feeding them through the winter we had a bunch of thick fats in the spring, about 10 or 12, and if they were not off their legs they were poor runners and short in the wind. Some made better whistlers than singers. We turned them out to the hog pasture, which was composed of about 60 acres of bush and swamp. Here with the aid of a few peats they hunted for themselves for about six months. We found that the hog with a good nose and some length, was the best. The big in the fall. The shorter fats were too lazy to hunt, but their starving ration put them in healthy shape for the fall and early winter feeding.

We housed these pigs in the old-fashioned pig pen and fed them on peas and water for two or three months. At the commencement of three pounds a day. When housed they would weigh from 175 to 250 lbs. When ready for market, about Christmas, they weighed from 300 to 450 lbs., and when dressed made good pork for the lumbering camps.

DON'T SATISFY CONSUMERS

It would take a long time for hogs of this type to develop a market for themselves as the bacon hog of MacDonald would say if when in a hotel in Toronto he were to ask for breakfast bacon, and should be served with a large slab of the old thick fats. We always find that the quality of a product will bring its own demand.

Is the old way of feeding profitable to the farmer? By reports of experiments and from my own experience

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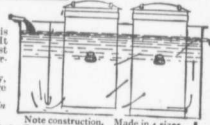


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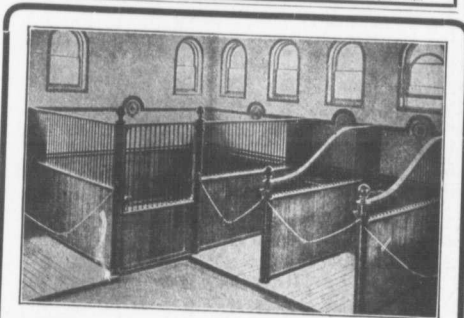
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