

Two Little Pig Stories

1) Did you know the Japanese eat lots of choice, lean pork, especially during O-Shogatsu, the winter celebration, and O-Chugen, the mid-summer vacation? Did you know that Canada's pig farms supply the biggest slice of the 10,000 tons of pork Japan imports each year?

Canada Packers Ltd. opened the door in 1968 by sending over sample boxes in time for the holidays. Since then Japanese pork consumption has gone up from 3.6 pounds per capita to 21. This is the kind of up-to-the-minute pig information you get from *Playboar Magazine*, published quarterly by Pigskin Productions Ltd. of Guelph, Ontario. It is an odd mixture of serious information about commodity prices and scientific developments, and cartoons, comic poems ("Sow Be It") and a colour centerfold of a prize pig, usually stretched out on a chaise longue.

A subscription costs \$10 a year, single issues cost \$3, including postage and handling. Write Pigskin Productions Ltd., P.O. Box 1838, Guelph, Ontario M1H 7A1.

2) Canadian pigs, as the Japanese know, are often superior pigs. They grow fast, are free of both swine fever and hog cholera, and taste good.

Some 2,000 head, valued at \$700,000, are exported annually. Canada also has three boar studs which ship high quality semen around the world in commercial-sized lots.

Since fresh semen remains viable for only forty-eight hours, most of the exported is frozen. It is difficult to freeze, but the Ontario Swine A.I. Association has found a way. Information on stock breeders and exporters can be obtained by writing provincial departments of agriculture. The Ontario association (OSAIA) at Woodstock, Ontario, handles both fresh and frozen semen. The Alberta Department of Agriculture's Swine Breeding Centre at Leduc, near Edmonton, and the Quebec Department of Agriculture's Swine A.I. unit at St. Lambert de Lévis, both have fresh for sale. Semex, an exporter based in Guelph, Ontario (RR 5, Guelph N1H 6J2), can arrange export shipments.

