

Farm Experiences and Problems

VALUE OF HOG PASTURES

Pigs can use pasture as a considerable portion of their feed to very good advantage. It is obvious that pasture must be a cheaper feed than grain. The pigs do their harvesting; it is a "direct to the consumer" method and saves cost and labor. On the Experimental Farm at Brandon last year, an acre and a half gave an estimated clear profit of \$17.31 per acre after allowing for all labor. This is obtained as follows:

Gains of pigs in pasture	1,827 lbs.
Sold at 15 cents per pound	\$182.70
Cost of meal fed	\$5.30
Cost of seed, work of sowing pasture, feeding and watering swine, allowance for rent of land, total	\$5.50
Profit	\$17.90

Estimating two-thirds due to meal and one-third to pasture. Net profit from 1 1/2 acres pasture

\$17.91

Net profit per acre

\$11.94

It is therefore easily proven that from the standpoint of the use of land the pasturing of pigs is a profitable undertaking. The land is also enriched by the manure, and will yield heavily as a result. In the cheap production of pork, it shows up equally well. The pork referred to in the above text at Brandon cost \$4.64 per 100 pounds with grain at high figures. The advantage to the pigs of being pasture fed is greater than the increased gains in weight while on pasture. The exercise and open air life make them healthy and vigorous. They grow rather than fatten and come in off the pasture in such thrifty condition that they are ready to make unusually good gains when finished off in a yard or piggery. Those fed on pasture at Brandon this year made gains of 2.5 pounds per day when shut up and fed heavily for fattening.

Kinds of Hog Pasture

Probably the best single hog pasture is alfalfa. It is high in protein, yields very abundantly, produces again after pasturing several times in a season, and is perennial. Its chief drawback is the long time from seeding to usefulness, a whole year. The pastures most likely to be used by the Manitoba farmers are of an annual nature, such as rape, grain crops, etc. In the test conducted last year at Brandon and mentioned above the pastures used were, oats, peas, barley, wheat; spring rye and vetches, sweet clover and rape. The cereal crops all furnished excellent pasture. Analyses show that these crops when six to ten inches high contain a percentage of protein equal to the best legumes, and they are very succulent and free from crude fibre at that time. The pigs showed their appreciation of these fine points and ate the cereal pastures greedily. A little preference was shown for the oats, barley and peas over the wheat and rye, especially over the rye. The latter did not have a fair comparison as it was beginning to head when the pigs were turned in, and therefore past its best. The oats, barley and wheat all stood pasturing well. Sown on May 17, they were ready to pasture by July 1. The pigs were put on on July 5 and these cereals continued to provide good feed until well on in August. The peas stood tramping very poorly and were soon all killed out. The rye ripened and the heads were eaten off in August and September. The rape would have been ready for pasturing about July 15 and suffered somewhat by having pigs on it a little too soon. The pigs ate of it lightly while the cereals were in good condition, then when these got dry they attacked it in full force and obtained a large amount of feed from it, pasturing it too severely and killing it out. However, before doing so they obtained from it as much feed as from any other strip and at a time when everything else was dry.

The vetches and sweet clover came on slowly. They were not a source of feed until July 25 and not in great quality then. The vetches were eaten readily and stood pasturing well, even though kept cropped short all the time. The sweet clover was not eaten while there was any other green thing to be got, but in September when everything else was dry and the vetches trimmed close, the pigs turned to the sweet clover and ate some of it.

The general observation on this test would be that more than one kind of pasture should be used. Oats, barley and wheat are excellent early summer pasture, and rape the best midsummer pasture. The other kinds were scarcely so valuable

as these. While the vetches and sweet clover provided late pasture, a later sowing of rape would have done so more effectively.

A pig will live on good pasture but will not grow. He must have some grain. He must also have a constant supply of water. It is most important not to neglect this, as the hog must have water several times daily during hot weather. Pigs



First Shipment of Pigs East from the New Edmonton Stock Yards. Shipment was made through the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company.

are not ready for pasturing until they weigh at least 50 pounds each. It is also advisable in my opinion to shut them up again for a finishing period. Especially is this true of Yorkshires. They tramp around so much that they will not fatten. They develop great bone and muscle on pasture. A short period of inactivity on full feed then puts them in a prime market condition.—W. C. McKillican, Supt. Brandon Experimental Farm.

NEW STYLE OF PORTABLE GRANARY

A portable granary that I saw recently had so many features to recommend it that it is well worth while describing it. The main feature was that the floor was made of two inch plank instead of the usual joists and shiplap or flooring. A 12 by 12 granary needs three 6 by 6 skids, the outer ones two feet from the end of the plank, and the third one in the middle. This will keep the strain on the plank fairly even. Using 2 by 12 fir plank they are laid close together and fastened down with six inch spikes, three to each plank and to each skid. Around the edge of the floor on top a 2 by 6 is spiked, using four inch spikes and slanting them well. This strengthens the building considerably and acts as a brace to the floor when moving the granary.

The floor should be of well-seasoned wood so that cracks will not develop. Grain will not run through a small crack between two inch stuff as it will with inch lumber. Shingles driven in cracks and sawn off level with the floor are handy and effective if too green lumber has been used. This floor is strong enough to enable the granary to be put to many

free from obstructions. The plates are of 7 by 6. The gable ends of the granary are on the sides of the planks and skids and the door and window in the gable ends. This leaves the projecting skids under the eaves where they will not interfere with the wagon in loading or unloading. Wire bracing should be put on before the siding or rafters to make a good job. A shingle roof is best as a makeshift

of boards and tar paper gives poor satisfaction. Five rafters to the side at three foot centres are enough and if eight feet long will give a ten inch projection with a four feet rise at the ridge. Four inch sheeting laid two inches apart and shingles five inches to the weather give a satisfactory roof.

The best way to cut door and window is to first side the whole thing up to the top then nail on heavy boards for battens on each side about a quarter of an inch from the studs on each side of the door and window with one diagonal for a brace. Then saw out the door cutting between the edge of the vertical batten and the stud that forms the door post. The hinges and hasp can be put on before it is taken out and you have an easily made door that will always fit perfectly. The battens on the window (used for grain filling) are made two inches long at the bottom. After cutting out same as door all that is needed to fit the piece back and hold it there is a button at the top.

Rough boards four feet long fit in slots to hold the grain back from the door. In a board about a foot above the wagon or sleigh box a short spout about eight inches square is fitted with a stop slide. An extension on this enables several loads to be taken out without shoveling. A granary of this size built eight feet high to the eaves will hold 1,000 bushels and can be moved by four horses and there is no danger of the skids coming off nor the floor being damaged while moving. This with its wide adaptability makes it a great improvement on the ordinary portable granary and at a reduced cost.

THOS. W. WOOD.

Man.

WESTERN RYE AND DRIFTING SOIL

One of the most difficult problems in any district where fine or light soil prevails is to prevent drifting. Last year I saw in many places grain growing on road sides and along the fences from four to six rods from where it was sown. I find in most cases that where the land has had three or four crops it becomes lighter. In many cases it will begin to drift like snow. Summerfallow or early fall plowing seems to be the worst. Every man who continues to plow and crop such land must eventually fail. Such has been the experience in this district by those who have followed it.

I believe that the best method to follow is to plow drifting land the first thing in the spring and to seed it at once. The grain comes up quickly on light land and the new growth prevents drifting. A top dressing after the grain is sown with manure or even straw will also help to hold the soil and to conserve the moisture. It does not do to take more than a crop or two from such land before seeding it down. I would suggest seeding with western rye grass or alfalfa. I have tried timothy and red clover but with no success. In 1914 I seeded a corner that was nothing but sand and four dock and other weeds. I plowed it about July 1 and sowed western rye grass with a nurse crop of oats, using 50 pounds of oats and 15 pounds of rye grass seed per acre. In 1915 I did not cut it but let the stock run on it and let it weed itself. In 1916 I cut a crop of hay that ran three loads to the acre. It was nice and clean with plenty of foliage.

Formerly I had too much land under cultivation and not enough stock. Now of my three-quarter sections I have 225 acres under western rye grass. I do not intend to do much summerfallowing. When I want more land for cultivation I will break up some of the grass land after haying, sow it to wheat the next year and on the following spring disc in the crop, seeding down to grass again.

D. E. KING.

Alta.



Models of Porcheron Type. Prize-Winning Porcheron Stallions at the International, Chicago, last Winter

own, as a storage shed for small implements, an improvised blacksmith shop, a grain crusher or gasoline engine shed or an ice house. It also makes an excellent house for a brood mare and is mighty convenient for this purpose when room is scarce. The door should be three and a half feet wide to admit a fanning mill.

Two by four studding on 24 inch centres are suitable, or two 2 by 6's can be substituted in the centre of each side to make it stronger. Three 2 by 6's can be bored for wire braces which are put from the centres across each corner giving adequate strength and leaving the centre of the big

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