



Barley Meal for Hogs

I am told that Danish bacon is largely barley fed. We can grow good crops of barley here, and I would like to have your opinion as to its value for hog feeding.—M. L. Brome Co. Que.

The Wisconsin Experimental Station have tested the value of barley for hogs quite extensively. In one experiment reported from that station barley meal was fed in opposition to corn meal, 47 1/2 lbs. of the former and 43 1/2 lbs. of the latter being required for 100 lbs. of gain. In a second experiment at that station barley meal and corn meal were fed in conjunction with skim milk, and it was found that 330 lbs. of barley and 208 lbs. of skim milk were equally efficient with 306 lbs. of corn meal and 371 lbs. of skim milk in addition to fattening pigs.

From both of these experiments it would appear that corn meal is the more efficient feed of the two, it requiring eight per cent more barley to produce a given gain. Barley, however, has a value apart from mere gain in weight. The Danes have found it to be the best single grain for the production of bacon of the highest quality. In Canada, where the bacon hog is the popular one, barley has a greater value than corn meal, although a mixture of the two would probably be better than either one fed separately, the price being the same, pound for pound.

Rape for Pork Production

High prices for all grain feeds and the failure of clover on many farms have caused a large number of feeders of hogs to look for forage crops, which with a light grain ration, will produce fairly rapid gains at a moderate cost. Investigations at the Ohio Experiment Station have shown rape to be one of the very best crops for this use if clover is not available.

Six pigs, weighing about 45 pounds each at the beginning of the test, were kept on a slightly less than one-quarter acre of rape for eleven weeks. During this time the pigs received 825 pounds of a mixture of nine parts by weight, of ground corn to one part tankage, and gained 360 pounds in weight. Another plot, more fertile than this one, yielded an even more luxuriant growth of rape, and showed a larger carrying capacity.

The rape from the better plot showed a replacement value of over \$48 per acre when the gains produced and concentrates consumed by pigs, some receiving corn alone and some receiving corn and tankage on the rape, and by similar pigs fed corn and tankage in dry lot, were compared. In this calculation corn was valued at 36 cents per bushel, and tankage (60 per cent crude protein) at \$48 per ton.

If wet, rank rape is pastured, soreness of the skin, particularly about the ears, is occasionally developed. This may be avoided to some extent by keeping pigs from the rape while very wet, or if it occurs may be relieved by the application of lard, oil, or other similar material.

Dwarf Essex rape is the variety best suited for forage. It may be sown broadcast or drilled solid at the rate of five to seven pounds of seed per acre, or drilled in rows at the rate of three to four pounds of seed per

acre, at any time from April 1 to July 15. Rape will do well in ordinary seasons in any part of the state, if provided with a good seed bed in fertile, well-drained soil.

On woody land there is an advantage in drilling in rows far enough apart to permit cultivation; besides, there is likely to be less damage to the rape from tramping.

Under favorable conditions, rape should be ready for pasturing six to eight weeks from time of seeding. It will continue to grow until late fall. It may be pastured with a moderate number of pigs continuously or may be fed rather closely and then allowed to grow up again, whichever plan is most convenient.

Care Before Weaning

Prof. W. B. Richards, N.D.A.C. Young pigs should be given plenty of opportunity to exercise from the time they begin to get strong enough to run about. If they are confined too closely they are apt to take on flesh too rapidly and become infected with what is known as thumps. Thumps are indicated by violent vibrations of the heart. It is caused by the deposition of fat about the internal organs. When the pigs get an attack of thumps they never will thrive well afterwards, and it often results in death.

If the weather is cold it is a good plan as soon as the pigs are old enough to begin eating, to scatter some grain on the floor of the alleysways and let them pick it up. Lots should be provided adjoining the pens of the piggery in order that the pigs may have the run of them as soon as the weather will permit. They should be transferred to a grass lot as soon as grass comes.

Pigs generally have learned to eat when they are about three weeks old. From this time on they should be encouraged to eat as much as possible. Provision should be made so that the pigs can be fed in an enclosure which they may gain access to by means of a creep. When they first begin to eat, feed a mixture of middings and skim milk, for there is nothing better. A little ground oats may be added to their ration when they are about a month to six weeks old.

Harvesting the Alfalfa Crop

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off the weather is at all threatening I throw these windrows into small coils. My idea is to allow the hay to cure naturally, that is by evaporation through the leaves. Curing in this way the hay is put in the barn fresh and green in appearance and very palatable. Curing in the swath in the way that timothy is generally cured, will lose you most of the leaves, the really valuable part of the plant.

"In recent years I have been experimenting with hay caps and find them very satisfactory, particularly in dull weather."

Silage Demonstrates Its Superiority

(Continued from page 4)

have, this of good quality at all times. Soiling crops that are too green or too ripe, or that have become lodged and more or less damaged by storms, are not palatable. It is much easier to control conditions which insure good silage than it is to control those which insure good soiling.

It is advisable to use a summer silo of small diameter, 10 feet, for a herd of 20 cows. Likewise, we would advise that while the summer silo affords the most economical method of feeding cattle when pastures are scarce, soiling crops, such as a mixture of peas and oats are much to be preferred to no supplementary feeding at all.

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