



A Healthy Dairy Herd in a Province to which no Purebreds may be Imported Unless Tuberculin-free. British Columbia, although a comparatively new province to enter dairying, is already becoming famous for the excellence of her dairy herds and the progressiveness of her dairy legislation. Her rigid anti-tubercular laws, no less than her moist climate and luxuriant pastures, are placing B. C. dairymen on a solid foundation.

## Hogs Are Not Naturally Exclusive Grain Eaters

Why Not Try Pasturing Hogs? Some Suggestions as to the Merits of Different Pasture Crops That Will Reduce the Cost of Hog Production

THE hog in his natural state was not an exclusive grain eater; plant and animal life in any form was made use of as food by the wild hog. But as he became domesticated the hog has been deprived of the opportunity of choosing his own food and gradually we have come to regard him as purely a grain-eating animal. In the past, too, grain has been so cheap, comparatively speaking, that hogs would return a profit on an exclusively grain ration. In the last two or three years, however, this style of hog feeding has become a doubtful investment, and in the coming season pasture for hogs will be considered more carefully than ever before. A more general use of proper pastures in summer and of home-grown protein in winter, is the longest step we can take toward reducing the cost of pork production.

### Pasturing Clover or Alfalfa.

The clovers are the prime pasture crops. In the Western States of the United States, where pasturing is practiced extensively, alfalfa is shown by the experience of its users to be somewhat superior to red clover as a hog pasture, both as to quality and amount of feed furnished. The Missouri station, for instance, reports that while an acre of clover will pasture from eight to 12 hogs averaging 75 to 125 lbs. per head, the same acre of alfalfa will pasture 15 to 20 head of the same kind of hogs. Alfalfa comes earlier in the spring than clover, and nutritious forage from spring until heavy freezing in the fall. As a dry roughage for winter feeding, alfalfa hay, especially the last cutting, excels all other feeders.

In pasturing both alfalfa and clover, the hogs should not be turned on before the pasture is well started, should not be pastured while the land is wet, nor so heavily that the plant does not grow well. At the same time the clover should not be allowed to grow large enough to get woody, if the purpose is to use the alfalfa solely for pasture, the field should be divided, and one part pastured while the other is growing. The common practice, however, is to allow enough pasture so that about two crops or more of hay are harvested each year while the hogs are using it for pasture. (If here refer to practice in the corn States, where hogs are pastured extensively on alfalfa.) By cutting the two parts of the field a few days apart, one part is furnishing pasture while the other is being cut for hay, and in this way pasture is furnished a very large part of the year.

Clover and alfalfa will come nearer to maintaining hogs without grain than any other of the pasture crops. In all cases, however, it is advisable to make pasture a supplement to grain rather than grain a supplement to pasture. In an experiment in Nebraska, hogs fed no grain whatever made an average daily gain of .02 lbs., as compared with a gain of .34 lbs. when the hogs received a light feeding of corn. When one wishes to push the hogs right along, grain may be kept before the hogs in self-feeders at all times. A good ration recommended by Prof. H. S. Archibald for young pigs on pasture con-

sists of two parts each of ground oats or barley, and wheat middlings, with the addition of one part ground corn. This is an excellent growing ration, but as the animals reach sufficient weight to finish, the corn may be materially increased. Little corn is available at present, but by the time hogs are on pasture, it may be abundant. Skim milk, fed separately from the grain, will reduce the consumption of the latter.

### Rape for Pasture.

In the greater part of Canada, and on even the best farms, there are times during the season when the regular pasture is short and is not making sufficient growth to pasture the hogs. On such occasions a quick growing plant that will furnish a large amount of forage per acre is exceedingly useful. Rape fits in well on these occasions, and in any case years' experience with rape, Prof. Carby, at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, drew the following conclusions:

"With pigs from four to 10 months old, an acre of rape when properly grown has a feeding value when to 2,450 lbs. of the mixture of these grain feeds.

"Rape is a better green forage for growing pigs than good clover pasture, the pigs fed upon rape having made an average 100 lbs. of gain on 24.5 lbs. less grain than was required by the pigs fed on clover pasture."

"Rape should be sown for hog pasture in drills 30 inches apart to facilitate cultivation of the ground when each crop of forage is eaten off."

"Hogs should not be turned in until the crop is 12 to 14 inches high, and should be prevented from rooting while pasturing rape. Rape alone, however, is not a satisfactory feed. Hogs will just about maintain their weight on it, and it should always be supplementary to a grain ration."

An Ontario hog man who pastures rape sows the seed broadcast and allows the rape to make a good crop of 14 to 18 inches before turning the hogs on it. When the first crop is well eaten down the roots will have become strong and vigorous. He takes the cultivator and cultivates the field with a spring tooth weeder, but does not appreciably injure the rape which then makes a strong second growth, and affords so closely that nothing except the bare stock remains. A few leaves are necessary to start new growth. One acre will pasture 15 to 20 hogs for a period of two or three months, and no more could be planted than is necessary for pasture or soiling. Many farmers who plan to use clover as a hog pasture frequently use rape when the clover winter kills.

### Other Pasture Crops.

Ordinary blue grass pasture, as is found quite commonly in Ontario, and to some extent in the other provinces, especially in conjunction with white Dutch clover, makes an excellent pasture for hogs

and if they are allowed a fairly large area over which to roam, it has an advantage in that it comes on year after year without the necessity of re-seeding. There is, however, a perfect in mid-summer when blue grass is in its "resting stage," and is too dry and woody to give good hog pasture. In this case a small area of clover or rape can be used to tide over the mid-summer season until the blue grass comes on again in the fall. As a late fall and early spring pasture, rape is used by many hog feeders, particularly in Missouri. Early sown oats make good hog pasture early in the spring, and oats are sometimes sown in conjunction with rape. Hogs are especially relished by swine, and have been fed with very satisfactory results. Those of inferior quality can be fed first and sound ones stored for winter use.

A crop which may be used in lieu of a fall pasture crop, and one which has been experimented with by Mr. J. R. Brethour, is artichokes. Artichokes are grown somewhat like potatoes. They may be planted near the hog lot and harvested by turning the hogs in the field and allowing them to eat the tubers out that if a crop of the same kind is desired on the same ground, the hogs should be removed before the tubers are all eaten, thus leaving the land seeded. Next spring this land will be cultivated and another crop raised without re-seeding. Artichokes are planted in rows 24 inches apart, and cultivated like potatoes. One acre will pasture 15 to 25 hogs from the time the tubers are ready until the ground freezes.

Hogs which derive a portion of their sustenance from pasture will make cheaper gains than hogs which are entirely pen fed. There is an additional advantage in pasturing in that the hogs are healthy and more vigorous, and when finally put on heavy feeding to finish, they will make better use of the grain fed, and will make more rapid gains. One of the difficulties in adopting pasture feeding on the average farm in Canada will be the lack of suitable fencing. Portable fences, however, may be used, and in any case, a fence 20 to 30 inches high is sufficient to hold hogs on pasture if they have a fairly good range.

It is not price that matters so much now, it is food. If the consumer will not pay a price which leaves a fair margin of profit, the producer is forced to stop producing that particular line. The law of supply and demand cannot be set aside by any Board of Control yet extant. The more price control we get the fewer farmers we have. Price control increases consumption and decreases production. The only solution for the food problem is to get more food, and to get more in 1918, farmers must have help and deserve an assurance that price control is not going to be such as to force them in the end to farm labor, and fair treatment of all the farmers asks. He is going in to make 1918 a record year, and let no one hamper his efforts.—Farmers' Advocate.