



A Trio of Prize-winning Bacon Hogs.

Packers Must Pay More for Bacon Hogs

Does the Bacon Hog Pay?

The following questions are practical and to the point. We want every reader who keeps hogs to answer them. If you cannot answer all, reply to those you can. It will help you and provide a fund of information that will aid in putting the industry on a better basis:

(1) What breed of hogs do you keep?

(2) Have you found them profitable for bacon production?

(3) What is your method of feeding for the bacon market?

(4) At about what age are the hogs ready for market?

(5) Do the buyers in your district give enough more for select bacon hogs than for lights and fats, to make the business of raising the bacon hog profitable? What difference in price, if any, do they make?

We shall be glad to have opinions on points not covered by these questions. Who will be the first to reply?

Stick to the Bacon Hog

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

I noticed in a recent issue of your paper that our bacon trade was being jeopardized and that it was largely due to the position taken by the packer and drover. I believe your conclusions are well founded. I have heard the packers say more than once at the Provincial Winter Fair that for the last few years no less than 75 per cent. of the pigs they slaughtered were of the bacon type and satisfactory to the trade.

Now, as you say, there are many producers who are going back to the production of the fat pig, as they believe he can be produced more cheaply, and for him they will get the same price as for the right type of bacon pig.

I appreciate the position of the drover to some extent, when he says: "If I pay one producer more for his pigs than his neighbor, I need never go back to the latter to buy his pigs again." However, if the standard is to be kept up, discrimination to the extent of one-half or one cent per pound in favor of the bacon type should be made by packer and drover.

Of course, as producers, those who go back to fat pig production are simply cutting off their noses to spite their faces, as sooner or later the prices will react against us and others who produce the right class of goods will reap the results which should have come to us. I believe we should do everything possible

sible to safeguard our interests in this respect, as it means a good deal to Ontario every year in connection with our dairy interests.

Most of the pork producers in Prince Edward Co. are endeavoring to produce bacon hogs still. The favorite sires are Yorkshires and Berkshires. There are a few Tamworths and Chester Whites. I have been using a Yorkshire sire with grade sows of the right conformation. I aim to get growthy pigs by first feeding the sows well and then feeding the pigs shorts and barley meal with the by-products of the dairy. This is supplemented with pasture. I aim to get good growth first and then spend 4 to 6 weeks in finishing on concentrated foods of barley, rye, corn and peas.

They usually weigh at 7 or 8 months from 170 to 200 pounds, which is forcing them fast enough, I believe.

It is to be hoped that this profitable branch of our farming business, will not be jeopardized in any way. It means too much to us.

T. G. RAYNOR.

Prince Edward Co., Ont.

"Farmers Wax Furious"

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

I have read with interest your article in THE FARMING WORLD of May 15th, entitled, "Our Bacon Trade in Danger." It is a vexed question with many farmers, who are taking great care to produce the ideal bacon hog, to find that they will not bring any more money than their neighbors get for inferior ones.

I have seen farmers at Institute meetings wax furious at this injustice, and say that good hogs are the only product of their farms that are not sold on their merits. Yet we have the same conditions in the egg and butter trade, and the difficulties in the way are similar.

Drovers say that it would entail a great amount of trouble and friction to discriminate in buying, and also separate weighing—which would increase the cost of handling—so they prefer to lump the lot and take chances with the culler at the factory. If a greater discrimination were made by the packers the drovers would be compelled to deal differently.

As it is many farmers are getting careless about the kind of hogs they keep, and others are inclined to breed the thick heavy hog. Many are of the impression that the thick hogs are more easily produced than the

bacon type. This is a mistake, as the experiments that have been carefully conducted along this line go to show that the bacon hog is as easily produced as any other. Yet many who have a litter or two go wrong through injudicious feeding and rush into some other breed, thinking the fault is in the breed rather than the treatment.

The bacon hog has been the means of making our trade what it is to-day. His value sets the price of all the others. By producing the bacon type, and putting them on the market in the right condition, we are helping to build up a trade that is profitable to the country. Those who are putting on the market unsuitable hogs or making them over fat are destroying this trade. Whether should we have helpers or hinderers?

If packers would discriminate more than they do it would be easier to convince the farmer that it is in the interests of all concerned to cater to the consumer. The spirit of co-operation between farmer and packer should be strong. This can be done by fair dealing on the part of the packer not seeking too large a margin of profits and by stating fairly in the market reports the prices paid and methods of doing business, and not, as has been stated, have one price to the drover and another price to the public. If this latter be done a spirit of strife and contention will prevail which will ruin the trade, for if farmers feel that they are not getting fair play they will not stay with them as they otherwise would, if they believed that things were squarely done.

Another source of loss in the business is the number of bruised sides, some of which are unfit for use. This is caused by beating of hogs with clubs when shipping, sometimes by the farmer, followed up by the drover or his helpers when loading on the cars, and unnecessarily beating hogs, reducing their value by every blow. This loss eventually falls on the farmer, and as it is often thoughtlessly done it should be avoided as far as possible.

In answers to questions, I should say:

(1) Yorkshire.

(2) Yes.

(3) Winter litters have a trough to which young pigs have access—after they are two weeks old—in which is middlings and oats. Wean at eight weeks; feed middlings, ground barley and oats, with roots, plenty of outdoor exercise when weather permits.

(4) Seven months.

(5) Buyers make no difference in prices between best and worst, except in the case of sows.

W. S. FRASER.

Bradford, Ont.

The Packer in Danger

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

I see some difficulties in the way of the hog industry, but I do not think it in immediate danger of being exterminated. I think we should stay with the bacon hog, the thick fat, is not wanted by the packer, the local dealer, or the lumber camps, or even on the farm.

I do not think the thick, fat hog matters any more than the bacon type. Because the bacon type is long and deep it does not follow that it is not a thrifter, while on the other hand the thick fat hog is not because of its conformation, a good feeder.

The situation is this: The world's bacon eaters abroad or at home do not and will not eat three solid inches of fat. They used to do so but that day is past, and the farmers of On-