

Roots are a somewhat expensive crop to handle, but the advisability of growing even a small patch of mangels or sugar beets for winter hog feeding is well worthy of consideration. Experience has demonstrated that roots can be used in such a way as to lessen very greatly the amount of meal necessary to fatten hogs. A plan which has been used successfully, both at the College and on farms throughout the Province, is to pulp the roots, moisten the pulped roots with hot water and mix them with about an equal bulk of dry meal. The moistened roots moisten the meal and cause it to adhere to the roots and the whole constitutes a palatable and satisfactory ration for winter feeding. Sugar beets are preferred by pigs, but mangels are more easily grown and pigs take them quite readily. Turnips are not quite so palatable, but pigs can be taught to eat them if accustomed to them from the start. When practicable, boiling turnips makes them quite palatable and enables one to greatly reduce the consumption of meal. Boiled potatoes have a higher value than roots, and when cheap fuel is available small potatoes should never be allowed to go to waste. Breeding sows can be maintained throughout the winter with a very light meal ration if they are supplied with roots and some fine quality clover or alfalfa hay, alfalfa being the best. The hay may be fed dry in a rack similar to a sheep rack, and is very much relished by pigs, even young pigs will take considerable hay of this kind, but they should not be expected to depend upon it to the same extent as older pigs.

For summer feeding, pasture crops seem to offer the most convenient means of reducing the meal ration. Alfalfa makes an ideal pasture when available, but red clover, especially young red clover, is greatly relished by pigs, and can be utilized in reducing the meal ration.

A thickly seeded mixture of grains such as oats and barley, or oats, wheat and barley, together with about 8 lbs. of red clover per acre, makes a capital pasture quite early in the season. If it is not desired to pasture the mixture during the early part of the season, it can be cut for hay and the clover will then come along and form an ideal pasture for any class of pigs. Rape may also be used as a later pasture crop, and by changing the pigs from one field to another, crops such as rape and clover may be pastured and repastured several times.

Another plan which has been tried in some places, and which is worthy of consideration, is to plant a few acres of corn which will mature in the district in which we live. In this district, and in similar northern localities, a very early maturing variety would need to be used. A crop such as this, however, will supply a large amount of feed for hogs and the corn may be husked, feeding the corn to the pigs and utilizing the stalks for the cattle, or hogs may be turned in to harvest the crop for themselves. If it is intended to pasture the corn, it is a good plan to sow rape between the rows at the last cultivation. A combination of rape and corn such as this will fatten hogs fairly satisfactorily, and in any half favorable season an acre of such pasture should carry ten to twelve hogs at least thirty days.

Pigs weighing 100 lbs. and upwards are best suited for pasturing.

Any ingenious farmer will be able, in all probability, to devise other means of economizing on the meal ration, and the present suggestions are thrown out as merely representative of steps which may be taken to keep down the cost of production.