

# Boys' and Girls' Clubs

How Boys and Girls can Help—New Competition—A Club Boy's Success

There never was a time in the history of Canada when boys and girls could do more to help their country than during the present year. The world is face to face with a serious food shortage. Everything that can be done must be done to increase the food supply. All over the North American continent great campaigns are being conducted to get the people to produce more food. In Great Britain parks and pastures that have not been plowed for centuries are being broken up and planted. Women are helping in this work on the farms. In every town and city in Canada, back-yard and vacant-lot gardening is being encouraged. The people feel that an extra effort must be put forth for the production of foodstuffs, or we may be faced with what we never dreamed of—a partial famine. In this great and worthy work the boys and girls can do their part. The crop is now in the ground and the garden stuff and potatoes are planted. Little can now be done to increase the acreage of the 1917 crop, but a great deal can be done to increase the 1917 yields of cultivated crops. Thorough cultivation of the garden and potato

30. Write about what you are most interested in. This competition is open to boys and girls from 10 to 18 years of age inclusive.

## SUCCESSFUL PIG FEEDING

Many boys throughout the West are engaged in the pig feeding contests that are being carried on in connection with Boys' and Girls' Club work. Many of these will be interested in the following record of Master Bert Lemon, who won the contest last year in the Weyburn, Sask. district. A complete monthly record of the cost of production was kept by Bert who outlines his feeding methods as follows:

"The litter was born on February 15 and consisted of 10 pigs, all of which lived. At the time of weaning they were two months old and weighed 348 pounds. During the first month they were fed on shorts, bran and oat chop. They also received some condition powders. No milk was fed because none was procurable. At the end of the month the pigs weighed 481 pounds, the feed bill being shown in the following table:—

100 lbs. shorts at \$1.00 per cwt.	\$1.00
50 lbs. bran at \$ .90 per cwt.	.45
75 lbs. oat chop at \$ .34 per bush.	.70
Chopping oats at 9 cents per cwt.	.07
Condition powders	.24

Total 2.50  
Cost of gain \$2.50—132 or 1.9 cents per lb.

"During the second month the pigs were fed an increased amount of a somewhat similar ration. In addition they received a slight amount of skim milk and buttermilk, but not at regular intervals. On June 15, the end of the second month they weighed 736 pounds, showing a gain of 257 pounds. This gain was made at a cost of \$7.98 or 3.1 cents a pound, allowing one and a half cents a gallon for the skim milk and two and a half cents for the buttermilk.

## Good Gains on Pasture

"From June 15 to July 15 the pigs were fed low grade flour, barley chop, shorts and wheat screenings, also a little oat chop at the beginning of the month. They received three gallons of skim milk and some buttermilk every day during this period. At the end they weighed 1262 pounds, a gain of 542 pounds. They were on barley and rape pasture all of this month, for which three-tenths of a cent per day was allowed for each pig. The cost of feed was \$9.42, the gain costing a little less than two cents a pound for the month. For the next month barley chop with a little milk at the first was fed. They were not out on pasture during this period but had some green feed carried to them. The feed bill was \$13.23 and at the end of the month they weighed 1612 pounds, a gain of 350 pounds made for about three and two-thirds cents a pound.

"During the fifth and last month no change was made from the preceding month in the kind of feed given, but the amount was slightly increased. They were given all they would consume. The gain for this month was 408 pounds at a cost of \$15.71 or about three and three-quarters cents a pound.

## A Profit of \$13.51 per pig

"On September 18 the pigs were sold. At that time they weighed 2,020 pounds and were seven months and three days old. The extra three days' upkeep was calculated in with the last month. They fetched 11 cents a pound. From the time of weaning the total gain made was 1672 pounds at a total cost of \$48.80, a shade less than 2.9 cents a pound. The amount realized was \$222.30, but calculating only on the gains made after weaning the amount realized was \$182.92. Deducting from this the cost of feed, \$48.80, the profit was \$135.12, or \$13.51 per pig."

Bert is to be congratulated on the business-like manner in which he conducted his pig-feeding operations. He will be a business farmer one of these days, and for business farmers there are great opportunities in this great new country. Among the boy readers of The Guide there are doubtless many who carried on similar work last year. To them this page is open and contributions on this subject will be gladly received. The experiences of last year would be of great value to the boys who are making an effort to win a prize in this year's competitions.



A Happy Family

crops will tell in the final returns of production. Let every boy and girl take a special interest in these crops this year. The men folks are busy but the young people can see that no weeds rob these crops of moisture or plant food during the summer and that a nice dust mulch protects the soil from the rays of the sun and the drying effects of hot winds, so that every bit of moisture is retained to help the growing plants. The more vegetables and potatoes we have to eat next winter the more wheat and flour can be saved to send over to the splendid men who are fighting our battles for us. Boys and girls can help win those battles by fighting the weeds and conserving the moisture in the garden and potato patch this summer.

## ESSAY COMPETITION

What interesting letters our young people write to the Boys' and Girls' Club department of The Guide. One of the reasons of this is that they have such interesting things to write about. There is scarcely a farm in all the great West on which there is not material for a good story. All that is needed is to get someone who knows the story well to write it. The Guide wants to get the co-operation of the boys and girls in getting some of these stories for publication in this department. Of course they must be stories of something in which the writer will tell his or her own experience. They must also be about work such as Boys' and Girls' Clubs are engaged in, though the writers need not necessarily be members of clubs, for the fact must not be lost sight of that there are still many young people who have no opportunity to engage in club work. Have you grown a garden, raised a pig or a calf, broken in a colt to ride or drive, raised a pair of chickens, preserved fruit, selected seed or done any of the thousand and one things that engage the attention of the progressive boy or girl on the farm? For the best essay on any of these subjects the following substantial cash prizes will be given.

First Prize ..... \$3.00  
Second Prize ..... 2.00  
Third Prize ..... 1.00

Essays should not exceed 300 words in length and must be received before June

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