



REPORT  
ON  
THE GREATER HOG PRODUCTION  
CONFERENCE

HELD IN

Regina and Saskatoon, Dec. 12 and 13, 1917

During the first week of November the Honourable T. A. Crerar, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, called a conference at Ottawa, inviting thereto representatives from the respective Departments of Agriculture and the various farmers' organisations of the four western provinces. This meeting was addressed by the Food Controller, Hon. Mr. Hanna, and the information given—information which it is deemed inadvisable to give to the press for publication—left no doubt in the minds of the delegates as to the urgent, extreme necessity for greater hog production, and the following resolution, pledging their support, was passed unanimously:

"We, the representatives of the swine growers of the four western provinces of the Dominion of Canada, believe that it is the duty of every farmer and stock grower in this Dominion to produce food stuffs, especially pork, to the utmost of their ability in order to sustain the armies of the allied countries and to prevent as far as possible suffering among the peoples of these countries.

"And while we believe that the greatest amount of production would be secured if some kind of guarantee as to prices could be given to the producer by the government we disclaim any intention of making such guarantee a condition of our co-operation in this matter.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we do hereby pledge our hearty co-operation in every effort having for its object the securing of an increase in the world's meat supply.

"That we will do all that is in our power to impress upon the producers of our representative districts the seriousness of the present shortage in food stuffs and to imbue each of them with a sense of his duty and responsibility in this connection."

On the return of the Saskatchewan delegates to the West, the matter was taken under serious consideration, and the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture began an extensive publicity campaign throughout the province to bring before the public the great need for pork production.

With this end in view two conferences were held, one at Regina and the other at Saskatoon. To these conferences were invited the Reeves and Secretaries of Rural Municipalities, the Presidents and Secretaries of Agricultural Societies and other interested live stock men. Only those districts were asked to send representatives which had harvested a fair crop in 1917, and where in all probability sufficient feed, in the way of coarse grains, would be available. The response was extremely satisfactory, despite very cold and stormy weather, over 200 delegates assembling at Regina and Saskatoon on December 12 and 13.

The seriousness of the situation and the imperative need for increased hog production was put plainly before the delegates by the Honourable W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, Ex-Lieutenant Governor Brown and Dean Rutherford, of Saskatoon.

It is a serious matter to ask Western farmers, at this time of high feed prices and shortage of labour, to increase their hog production, but there is not the least doubt that if every farmer in the province could have heard the plain straight statements given at the convention there would be no further necessity to urge the raising of an extra litter or two in 1918.

After listening to the addresses and after full discussion of all the matters entering and affecting increased production, the delegates passed the following resolution:

"Whereas it has been clearly demonstrated that the herds and flocks of meat producing animals in all countries of the world have enormously decreased in the last three years; and,

"Whereas a serious shortage exists in the supply of pork products for our armies in the field and for the civilian population, especially the women and children behind the lines in France:

"Therefore be it resolved, that we, the delegates to this conference, do our utmost in our respective localities to promote in every way possible the Hog Production Campaign which has been inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture."

As a result of this conference an active personal canvass will be carried on during the next six weeks in those districts of the province which were represented at either of these two meetings. While the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture will be able to supply grade sows either bred or not bred, it will be better business for farmers who wish to buy sows to purchase from a neighbour, if at all possible, as much expense and inconvenience will thus be saved. Farmers who have surplus sows for sale should endeavour to have them retained for breeding purposes by finding a local purchaser. In most instances the office of the Secretary treasurer of the Rural Municipality or the office of the Secretary of the Agricultural Society, will be used as a local clearing house in bringing buyer and seller together locally. In this way time and money will be saved and the work carried on more satisfactorily.

## Suggestions for organising a district for "Greater Hog Production."

(1) Appoint a committee of public spirited men in your district and have the situation explained to them by the delegates to the Regina or Saskatoon conference.

(2) Arrange for a personal canvass of all farmers in the locality urging them to breed one or two extra sows for 1918.

(3) Emphasise the fact that we do not want a few farmers to raise all the hogs, but rather all farmers to raise a few hogs.

(4) Make the office of the Secretary treasurer of your municipality, or the office of the Secretary of the Local Agricultural Society, a local clearing house in bringing buyer and seller together.

(5) Anybody wishing to purchase breeding sows and anybody having same for sale should give full particulars to the above officers.

(6) The inauguration of such a scheme will save time and money and the work will be carried on more quickly and more cheaply than when bred sows are supplied from a central camp.

(7) If no pure bred boars can be obtained locally they can be purchased either from the University at Saskatoon or through the Live Stock Branch at Regina.

(8) Parties living in districts where no local supply of brood sows is available should send their orders to the Live Stock Commissioner at Regina, and they will be supplied with bred sows at cost.

(9) Grade sows of Yorkshire and Berkshire breeding are now being kept at the Exhibition Stables, Regina, they will be bred to pure bred boars, kept for about four weeks and in the latter half of January deliveries will commence.

(10) Prices of bred sows will vary with the size and weight of the animal, from \$35 to \$45 f.o.b. Regina. Unbred sows can be shipped at once and will be approximately \$10 cheaper than bred sows.

(11) Orders will be filled in the order in which they are received. Shipment will be made by express collect.

(12) Sufficient cash should accompany all orders, overpayments will be promptly refunded.

P. F. BREDT,  
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