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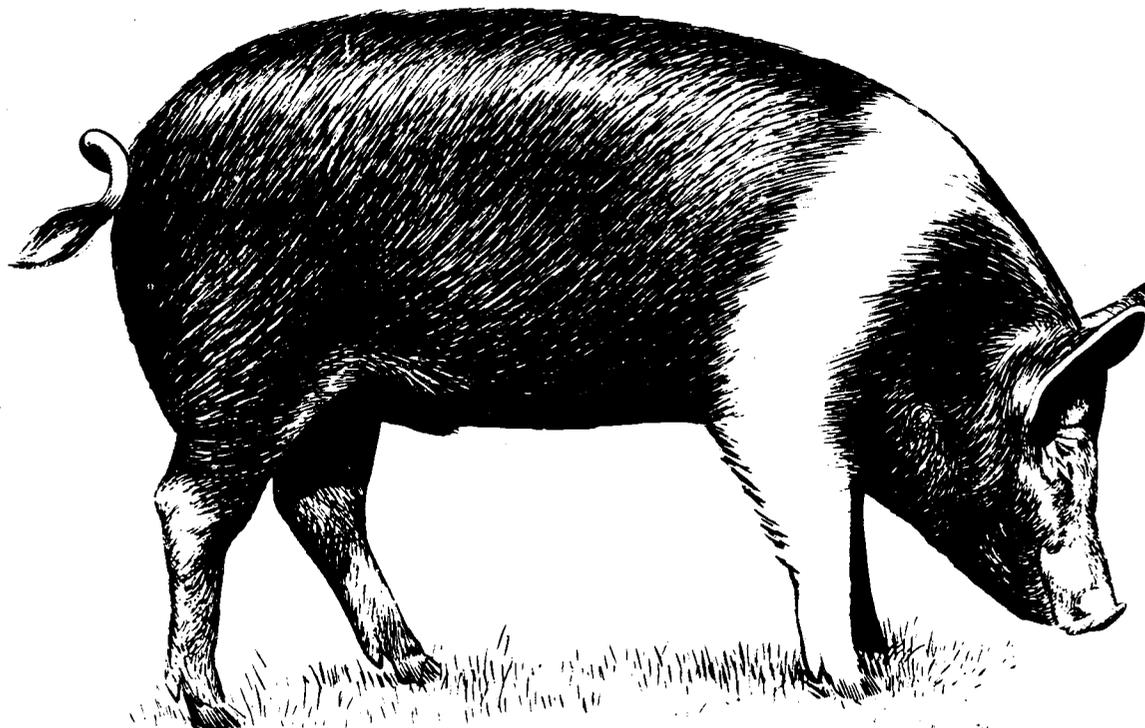
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Your 4-H

Swine Project

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DISCARD

Club Series H-25

November 1960

Federal Cooperative Extension Service

• Oregon State College

• Corvallis

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4-H Swine Project Records

"My 4-H (Swine) Record"

This record is required. It should start when you get your first pig and continue until your last animal is sold or till the end of the club year—September 30. If you are continuing in the swine project, your next year's record should start on October 1, and the opening inventory should be the same as the closing inventory in this year's record. This record should include all of your hogs. Use a separate record for each kind of livestock.

4-H Feed and Growth Record for Market Animals

This is a special record sheet that you can get from your county Extension Service. It is for old 4-H mem-

bers who are feeding out market hogs. It is especially desirable for pens and litters of market hogs. Use a separate record for each animal or each pen of animals. Keep this record with your "My 4-H (Swine) Record." It will give you extra credit whenever your project is judged.

4-H Sow Production Record

Every 4-H member who keeps a brood sow should keep one of these records on each sow. They give you a lifetime production record of your sow and are very valuable when you select or sell breeding stock. Get them from your county Extension office—one for each sow. Keep them with your other swine project records.

4-H Swine Advancement Program

The 4-H Swine Advancement program:

- ✓ Will make your 4-H swine project more interesting.
- ✓ Will help you learn more about hogs.
- ✓ Will help you develop greater skill with pigs.
- ✓ Will give you credit for extra work done.
- ✓ Will allow you to advance according to your ability and your willingness to work and study.
- ✓ It is a voluntary activity—something you do because you want to.

In this program you can advance through four steps of swine husbandry. At the completion of the fourth step you will have a good basis for studying animal husbandry in college or for becoming a swine grower.

Copies of the program are available at your county Extension office. You will receive a certificate as you pass each step. Advancement in this program will be a big help when your records are considered for special awards, trips, and scholarships.

Requirements

To be a 4-H Swine Club member you must:

- ✓ Be 9 years old before January 1 of the current 4-H Club year, and under 21.
- ✓ Own and care for one or more market pigs, gilts, or sows. Many 4-H members start with one or two weaner pigs. Your animal need not be purebred, but it should be a proper type. If registered, it must be registered in your name.
- ✓ Be responsible for the feeding and care of your animals. You should do most of the work yourself and all of the fitting and training for show.
- ✓ Start your project by June 1, but you may have until July 1 to purchase weaner pigs to be sold at certain late shows and fairs. Check premium lists for dates. You should have your pigs in your possession for at least 75 days. If you have breeding animals, your project should continue the year around.
- ✓ Keep a record of your swine project in a 4-H livestock record.
- ✓ Fill out a 4-H completion card when you have sold all of your animals or at the end of the club year. Have your club leader check your record and your work, sign your card, and send it to your County Extension Agent.

Your 4-H Swine Project

JOHN H. LANDERS, JR.
Extension Animal Husbandry Specialist
Oregon State College

This publication provides for 4-H Club members a guide for two types of swine projects: (1) sow project (2) market hog or pen of hogs.

Either of these projects will give you an opportunity to learn something about the selection, care, and management of hogs. You will have a chance to develop an ability to accept responsibility by having an animal of your own to care for. You will learn business ability by having an enterprise of your own. You will learn pa-

tience and kindness toward animals, and the value of keeping good records.

Perhaps most important of all, you will belong to a 4-H Club where you will learn how to get along with people and to develop skill in leadership which you will use later in life. Your personal appearance, health, and ability to talk with individual people and to groups of people will also improve. You will learn other things important to useful living, and you will have fun at the same time.

The first section concerns the

market-hog project, which will probably be the best one for the beginner, not because it is less important, but because you can learn better by raising a partly-grown hog before trying something new and more difficult with several hogs. In your first year, you might raise a gilt along with a barrow that is to be finished for a show or to be used at home for the family meat supply. When this gilt becomes old enough, she may be bred and will give you a project for your second year in 4-H Club work.

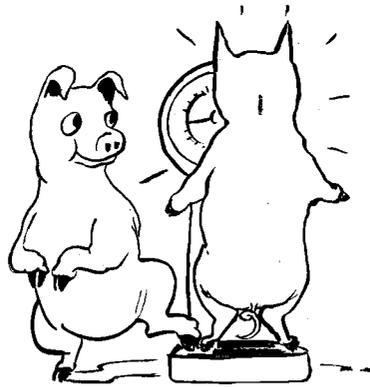
Market Hogs

Selection

Your market pig or pigs may be purchased at weaning time. The best type pig is determined by the market demand. Select either a gilt or a barrow. Consider these points:

- ✓ Market standards of conformation
- ✓ Characteristics of a good feeder
- ✓ Health and vigor
- ✓ Size for age
- ✓ Price

A rule to follow in buying a weaner pig is to pay up to one-third of the value of the market hog. Weaner pigs should weigh about 40 pounds when between 8 to 10 weeks of age. When you are buying a weaner pig you should not pay more than one-third of the value of a 200-pound market hog. If market hogs are selling for \$20 a hundred, a 200-pound hog would be worth \$40, and one-third of \$40 is \$13.33 which is the maximum you could afford to pay for a 40-pound weaner pig.



Good feeder characteristics

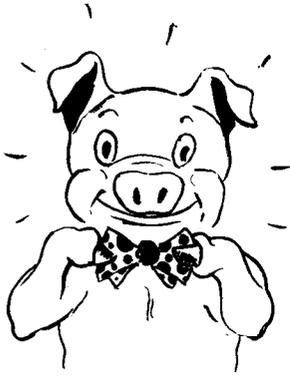
Characteristics of a good feeder are important to you from the standpoint of economical production. You want a pig that will gain the most on the least feed. Your management will have a lot to do with this; however, certain characteristics of feeders must also be remembered in selecting your pig. A broad head that is well proportioned indicates that the pig is from selected

breeding and should feed well. In a good feeder, the body should be deep, but not out of proportion. Avoid a long, rangy pig and the very short, fat type.

Health and thrift in your pig are important. These traits are shown by the strength in the back and legs, by the brightness of the eyes, by the shine of the hair, and by the step and action. Selection should be made from a healthy, well-bred litter in which the pigs have been raised on clean ground.

The perfect pig

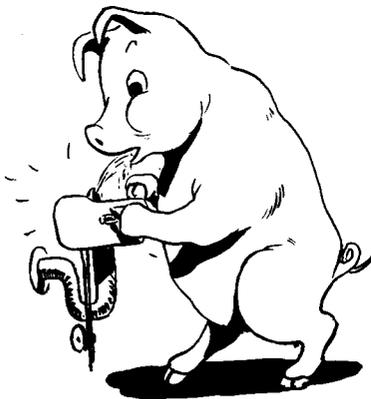
Study the judging score card for market hogs. It is divided into a scale of points with 100 representing perfection. Score cards will vary, but usually the body is credited with about a third of the points, the hams 25 points, the fore quarters 10 points, and the head and neck about 8 points. The general appearance, such as weight, form, quality, and condition, make up the remainder of the score. Consider



these factors and form in your own mind a picture of the ideal hog. When you have this picture of perfection in mind, you are ready to select your weaner pig and ready to start to work.

Water

Have plenty of fresh clean water before your hogs at all times. Several different types of waterers are shown in *Hog Houses and Equipment*, Oregon State College Extension Bulletin 727; one of the automatic type is preferable. A hog wallow is not necessary, and a dirty wallow is an excellent place for the breeding of diseases and parasites which will decrease the efficiency of your hog.



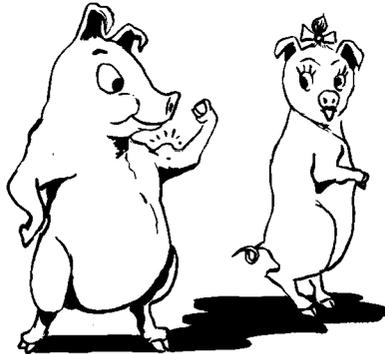
Equipment

Feeding equipment you will need in your hog project will depend on the number of hogs you are feeding and your future plans. If you are feeding one hog, a small trough is all that is necessary; however, with two or more hogs you may desire to have a self-feeder that you can build quickly and economically from lumber around the farm. If you build equipment, do a

good job and build it well so that it may be used later. Provide some type of shade as protection from the weather. A pen 15 by 15 feet square is necessary for a single hog. Where several hogs are fed together, provide about 12 square feet per hog.

Feeding

Your objective is to raise a 200-pound hog with the least cost. To do this, it is necessary to supply the right amount of feed in the right proportion. Your hog will gain from a pound



to a pound and a half per day under good management and feeding conditions. Pigs will gain more economically at a younger age than up toward six months of age; at the older age they are putting on more fat which requires more feed per pound of gain than does the muscle and bone structure. It is most economical to feed market hogs to a weight of 190 to 225 pounds. If possible, purchase your supply of feed when there is a surplus of feed on the market—that is, in the summer when the grains are being harvested. Purchasing feed early presents a storage problem, but it will save you money in the long run.

The use of antibiotics in hog feeding has proved successful in young pigs and pigs that are stunted; it is not advisable, however, to use antibiotics in the ration after the hogs weigh 75 pounds.

Heat- and energy-producing feeds are fats and carbohydrates. Carbohydrates include sugars and starches. Grains containing carbohydrates are barley, corn, wheat, oats, and rye; these may make up the bulk of the ration. Tissue- or muscle-building feeds



are proteins which are nitrogen compounds; these are particularly important in rations of growing pigs. Because grain contains only small amounts of protein, it is necessary to supply other feeds in addition to grain to get sufficient protein. Commercial 60% tankage, meat scraps, alfalfa hay or pasture, soybean oil meal, linseed oil meal, fish meal, and skim milk are all good sources of protein. Best results are obtained if a mixture of tankage and soybean meal are included in the rations. Cottonseed meal cannot be fed safely at more than 5% by weight of the ration.

Bone growth depends on minerals in the ration. Calcium and phosphorus are most important in bone development. A balanced ration including grain, tankage, meat scrap, and skim milk or other animal products will not usually require mineral supplements, other than salt. Alfalfa, clover, and other legumes also contain calcium and phosphorus. If extra minerals are needed, use a mixture of equal parts by weight of ground limestone and iodized salt. Mix this in the ration at the rate of 1 pound to 100 pounds of feed.

Vitamins are essential for health and growth of pigs; they will usually be supplied in sufficient amounts by a



Sample Rations for Hogs

Feed	Without pasture	With pasture
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Ration A		
Grain	85	90
Tankage	10	10
Alfalfa	5	
Ration B		
Grain	80	
Tankage	10	
Soybean meal	5	
Alfalfa meal	5	

reasonable amount of sunshine, leafy green plants, and animal protein feeds. Pigs on pasture usually get enough vitamins.

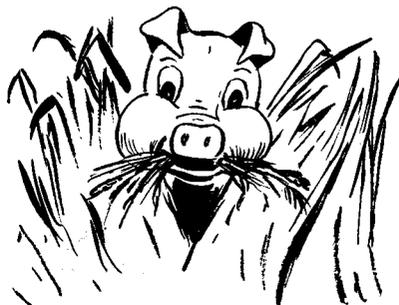
A ration is the amount of feed that an animal will eat in a 24-hour period. A balanced ration contains the proper mixture of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, water, and minerals to provide energy and build tissues and bone.

Never change your ration suddenly; any changes should be gradual. To determine the ration, consider the amount and price of feeds available. In Oregon, barley is usually easier to get than corn and is usually cheaper. Skim milk may be plentiful enough in some areas to use as a protein supplement, but elsewhere it may be scarce.

Do not feed your hogs more than 1 gallon of milk or whey daily. It is very high in water and reduces the amount of feed that the hog will consume.

Do not try to raise your hog on grain alone, skim milk alone, or garbage alone. Garbage can be used, but it should be used as a part of your ration rather than the only feed. The garbage should be cooked.

Keep your hogs on clean pasture if at all possible until they have reached market age. If pasture is not available, alfalfa hay may be provided. Concentrates may be fed in a self-feeder or may be hand fed. If you are hand feeding, the hog will eat from 3 to 5 pounds of feed per hundred weight each day. Grain such as corn, barley, or wheat should be coarsely ground before it is fed. If a self-feeder is used, mix the grain and protein sup-



plement before putting it into the feeder. Some sample rations that might be used are listed in the table on this page.

Substitutions might be made in these rations according to price. For example, meat meal or meat scrap might be substituted for tankage if it supplies protein more cheaply. Barley may be cheaper than wheat.

Diseases and parasites

Sanitation is important in any livestock project, especially in a hog project. Intestinal parasites and filth-borne diseases are responsible for most hog losses in Oregon. These losses may be controlled by sanitation. There are, of course, infectious diseases among hogs in Oregon which require preventive sanitation. Disease organisms and parasite eggs thrive in dirty, wet, dark, and crowded quarters. Avoid these conditions. Practice sanitation. Clean pens, clean pigs, clean pastures, clean equipment, and clean water make healthy hogs.

See that the lot is well drained and sleeping quarters are dry. If there is water standing in the lot, hogs will make a wallow of it. This is a good

place to breed diseases. Let your hogs have the benefit of sunlight, but provide shade for them in the summertime. Do not crowd the hogs. Even if you have only one hog, be sure he has enough space. Practice sanitation daily so that cleaning the pens does not become a burdensome, unpleasant task for the weekend. A healthy, well-fed hog is capable of warding off most diseases. To be healthy, your pig must be properly fed and must be kept in clean surroundings.

Erysipelas, flu, enteritis, and atrophic rhinitis are among prominent infectious diseases of hogs found in Oregon. These diseases may be contracted from some hog lots in the state. Hog cholera is not a serious matter at the present time, but may be at some later date. Live hog cholera virus vaccine can not be used in Oregon.

If your pig becomes listless, has a dull coat, and loses the brightness of his eye, there is something wrong with him—call a veterinarian. The sooner you receive good advice, the less will be your loss.

Internal parasites are not likely to be troublesome if your hog lot is kept sanitary, but it is possible that parasite eggs existed in the lot from which you selected your weaner pig. External parasites such as lice and mange are easily controlled by dipping or spraying. Contact your county agent for the latest recommendation. Your pig should always be kept in clean, dry, warm quarters. Do not wait until he becomes sick before you build such equipment; for once the pig is sick, he is not easy to cure.

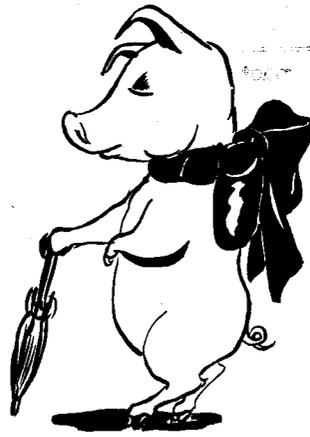


Marketing

Perhaps there will be a sale at the fair where you show your hog. This may be the best place to sell him. If you have a litter of hogs, take them to the stockyards or a local auction and see how the marketing of livestock takes place. One very desirable place to market your hog project is in the family food supply.

Market standards

Market standards of conformation are important. Market hogs are graded into No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, Medium, and



Culls. A No. 1 hog weighs about 200 pounds, is neatly finished, and carries just enough fat to marble the lean meat and produce a minimum amount of lard. The No. 2 hog has about the same conformation as No. 1, but carries some extra lard—more than is necessary to properly marble the meat. The No. 3 hog carries an excessive amount of lard.

A Medium hog is unfinished, and a Cull hog is nothing but a feeder pig. These hogs and carcasses are illustrated in the pictures on page 8 of this publication.

Sow and Litter

Selection of Breeding Stock

Points in selecting the sow:

Feminine head—smooth about the head
Strong, slightly arched back and loin
Smooth shoulders



Long, deep, smooth sides
Full, firm, deep hams
Strong, straight legs
Trim jowls
Short pasterns
Heavy bone
At least 12 good teats
Quiet and gentle
Selection should be made from a large, healthy litter in a well-bred herd.

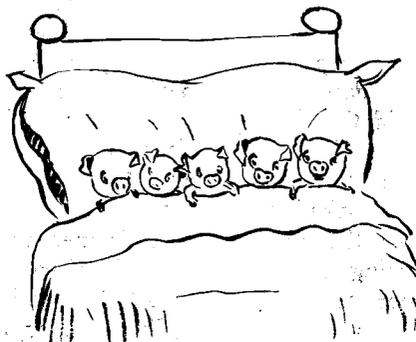
Points to look for in the boar:

Purebred
Masculine head
Strong, well-arched back and long loin
Smooth shoulders
Long, smooth, deep sides
Deep, smooth firm hams
Straight, strong legs and pasterns
Quiet disposition and even temperament
Twelve or more teats
Freedom from disease or injury
Proper breeding age—at least 8 months

Equipment

For a sow and her litter you will need houses, feeders, troughs, waterers, and fences. Details and pictures of various kinds of equipment may be found in *Hog Houses and Equipment*, Oregon State College Extension Bulletin 727, available from the County Agent's Office. The bulletin may describe more equipment than is necessary in your particular locality.

If you live in eastern Oregon, you may need to give more protection from the weather to the sow and litter than you would in western Oregon where the weather is not so cold, but has more rain. You'll probably build a portable house for one sow. This can be moved from place to place to keep your sow and litter on clean ground with each litter she farrows. Various types of houses may be found illustrated in the bulletin mentioned above. There are also pictures and descriptions of several different kinds of feeders and waterers that you may use in the project.



In this individual house, you should build a brooder that will be placed in one corner of the building to warm the pigs in cold, damp weather. More baby pigs die at this time than any other. It is wise to grind alfalfa hay and mix it in the ration, but if this is not possible, it is well to provide a rack



where the sow may be fed some hay along with her regular daily feed. Other equipment which you will need with your litter will be a pair of side-cutter pliers to clip needle teeth on the newborn pig to prevent it from cutting other pigs while fighting, and to stop it from injuring the udder of the sow. Take care not to splinter these teeth when cutting them, because infection may get into the pig's system. You will want iodine in your equipment box for disinfecting the navel on the newborn pig.

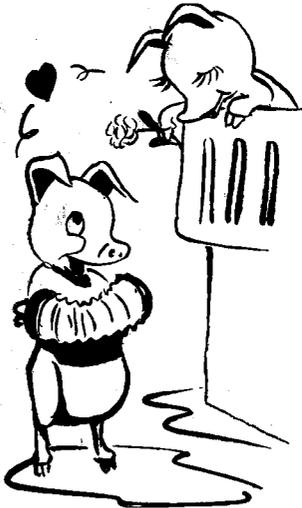
The fence may be woven wire, boards, or electric. If woven wire is used, it should be 24 inches high with one strand of barbed wire on top. Probably the electric fence will be the cheapest type you can use in your project. Two strands of 12-gauge



smooth wire are suitable. Have the wires about a foot apart with the bottom wire about 6 inches from the ground. In any case, use a tight, hog-proof fence best fitting your condition.

Breeding

When should your gilt be bred? The answer will depend on several things such as weather, age, size, and condition of gilt, feeds available, and the time of year that you want the pigs farrowed. The time you intend to sell



the pigs will determine the time you want them farrowed. For this project you will probably want to farrow in the spring or you may want to use the two-litter system where your sow will farrow both in the spring and fall. This is the cheaper method of raising hogs; however, you may be concerned with bad weather with the fall litter.

If your gilt is growthy and well developed, she may be bred at 8 or 9 months of age weighing at least 250 pounds. A sow is said to farrow 114

days after she is bred; however, this period may vary from 112 to 115 days. An easy way to remember the gestation period is 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days.

The boar and sow should be in good condition at breeding time, but not overfat. It is important that they be kept on a well-balanced ration including alfalfa hay or pasture prior to breeding time. These are factors for success in getting a larger litter from the sow.



Gestation period

The sow should be gaining in weight before breeding time and the boar she is bred to should be in good condition but not fat. A clean, dry bed; plenty of exercise; a balanced ration; and water are some of the principal factors of success during the gestation period—from the time the sow is bred until the pigs are born.

A balanced ration furnishes the carbohydrates, proteins, fats, minerals, and vitamins necessary for the hog's growth and development. A 400-pound sow suckling pigs will eat from 8 to 12

pounds of concentrates per day. Some sample rations that may be used are shown in the table on this page.

Mix the feed in at least 100-pound lots. Meat scraps or tankage are essential in the ration so that the sow will produce strong, healthy pigs. Hogs must be supplied with the essential amino acids (building blocks of proteins) that are required by the body. This can best be done with protein of animal sources. A pound of wheat bran may be substituted in the sow's ration about a week before she is to have pigs in order to give a laxative effect. Freedom from constipation will help to keep down the feverish condition at the time of farrowing. Reducing the amount of feed to about one-half the regular ration a day or two before farrowing is helpful. The sow may be given added exercise by placing her feed and water at opposite ends of the lot or pasture.

Farrowing

Care and management of sow and pigs at farrowing time may determine the success or failure of your project. Three or four days before your sow is due to farrow, she should be put in the farrowing house that has been cleaned with hot water and lye. Mix this lye solution with 1 pound of lye to 10 gallons of hot water. Take a broom and hoe and remove all dirt from the pen and then scrub it thoroughly with the lye solution. Lye is very poisonous. Use it with care. The sow should also be cleaned. Wash her with a mild soap and plenty of water, making sure that you get the sides and belly completely cleaned as well as the feet. In this

Sample Rations for Sows

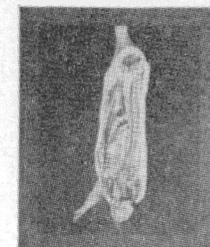
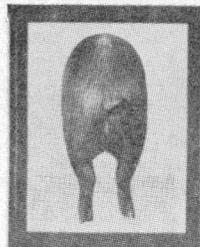
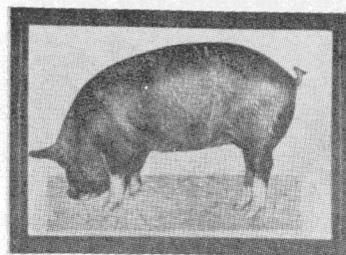
Feed	Gilts and suckling sows	Old sows
	Pounds	Pounds
<i>In drylot</i>		
Barley, wheat, or corn	75	77
Tankage	10	8
Alfalfa meal	15	15
<i>On pasture</i>		
Barley, wheat, or corn	93	95
Tankage	7	5

HOW DO YOUR HOGS GRADE ?

THESE MARKET HOGS

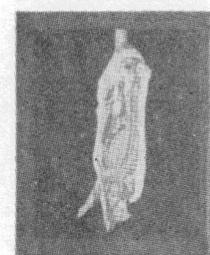
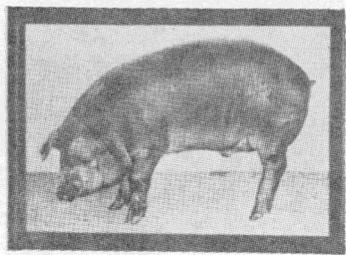
YIELD THESE CARCASSES

U. S. NO. 1



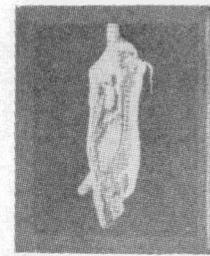
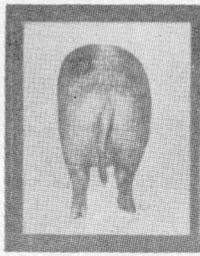
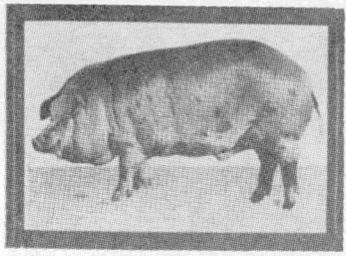
% Carcass Wt.	
Total of 4 Lean Cuts*	49.5
Fat for Lard**	19.2
Bellies	15.5
Miscellaneous	15.8
	100

U. S. NO. 2



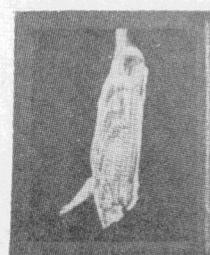
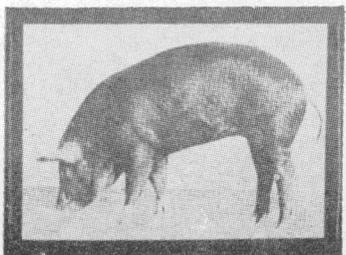
% Carcass Wt.	
Total of 4 Lean Cuts*	46.5
Fat for Lard**	22.4
Bellies	16.1
Miscellaneous	15.0
	100

U. S. NO. 3



% Carcass Wt.	
Total of 4 Lean Cuts*	43.5
Fat for Lard**	25.7
Bellies	16.7
Miscellaneous	14.1
	100

U. S. MEDIUM



% Carcass Wt.	
Total of 4 Lean Cuts*	53.0
Fat for Lard**	15.4
Bellies	14.7
Miscellaneous	16.9
	100

* Lean Cuts are hams, loins, picnics and Boston butts.
 ** Fat for Lard includes fat trimmings, fat backs and clear plate.

process, we are trying to eliminate the common round-worm eggs which take a bitter toll of profit from the hog industry each year.

Shortly before the sow is to farrow she will be nervous and irritable; it is best to leave her alone at this time and let her have her pigs unless she needs help in delivering the pigs. After the pigs are born, they should be dried off with a sack; the mucous should be cleaned from the nose and the navel cord dipped in an iodine solution. If your sow has difficulties while farrowing, get the assistance of a veterinarian or a farmer who has had a great deal of experience with hogs. Disinfect the pigs' navels with a 10% iodine solution.

A heat lamp will also be of great help. If you do not have an electric brooder, you may provide warmth for the young pigs by filling a gallon jug with warm water, wrapping it with burlap, and placing it in a box, tub, or barrel with the pigs around it.

Anemia, caused by a shortage of iron, is very severe in baby pigs. It is particularly troublesome with pigs raised on concrete or wooden floors. Injectable iron compounds are available to prevent this loss. Follow the directions on the bottle for best results.

Suckling

The first milk, or colostrum, is very essential in the life of any young animal. The colostrum contains many vitamins and anti-bodies which enable the pig to fight off diseases and infection. You may have to help some of the smaller pigs find a place on the udder the first time. After the pigs have nursed the first time, they will probably nurse every 2 or 3 hours for a few days.

If you are raising purebred hogs, you should ear-notch the pigs for identification at this time. You should also clip the needle teeth and weigh the pigs.

Do not give the sow any feed in the first 24 hours after the pigs are born, but supply her with plenty of clean, fresh water. Give the sow a pound or two of feed the day after the pigs are born and then increase the feed each

day to get her back on full feed when the pigs are about 10 days old. Provide your sow all of the feed that she will clean up. This should provide for maximum milk flow and rapid growth of the pigs. If the sow is put back on full feed too quickly after she farrows, she may produce too much milk which will cause the pigs to scour, or she may have udder trouble that will dry her up completely. If the weather permits, move the sow and litter to clean pasture when the pigs are a week to 10 days old.

By the time the pigs are 3 weeks old they will begin to eat from the trough with their mother. If you wish to hurry their development, creep feeders may be provided in which the pigs may be fed by themselves in a trough or self-feeder. A creep is needed if a sow is self-fed. You will find a diagram of the creep in the bulletin mentioned above. Buy a prepared baby pig starter ration.

Select a pasture where hogs have not been for at least 2 years. This will reduce the possibility of infestation from roundworms. Pastures may be alfalfa, clover, grasses, or a mixture of these. Provide your sow and litter with about an acre of good pasture. If pasture is not available, the addition of 5% of ground alfalfa hay or dehydrated alfalfa meal is recommended. Up to 15% alfalfa may be added to the sow ration. Provide the hogs with plenty of clean water and a self-feeder and minerals. Salt and ground limestone are necessary for the hogs. Other needed minerals will be provided by a balanced ration.

Castration

Castration of boar pigs should take place between 1 and 4 weeks of age. You should secure assistance in performing this operation. Remember, regardless of how it may be done, a disinfectant and cleanliness are important. The whole process of castration will make a good demonstration. Your club mates might visit your farm when this operation takes place. Let each club member castrate a pig under direction of the club leader or county agent.

Weaning

The pigs may be weaned from 6 to 8 weeks of age. Little weaning difficulty will be experienced at this time if the sow's feed has been sufficiently reduced and the pigs have been fed liberally.



If the sow's ration is not cut down, udder troubles may develop. Remove the sow from the pen and leave the pigs in the place they are accustomed to running. They know where the feed and water is in their old home, and the sow will be able to find them in her new surroundings.

Diseases and parasites

Filth and unsanitary conditions are responsible for most of the hog losses in Oregon. The McLean County system of hog sanitation is a good one to follow. The essential points are as follows:

- ✓ Scrub the farrowing house with lye and boiling water.
- ✓ Clean the sow thoroughly before she goes into the farrowing pen.
- ✓ Haul the sow and pigs to clean pasture where no hogs have been for at least two years.
- ✓ Keep pigs on this pasture until they are ready to market.

Hog cholera and certain other swine diseases which are caused by virus or germs are spread only by direct contact with the particular organism. The resistance of hogs to any disease is much reduced if sanitation is not practiced. Keeping your lot and equipment clean is not too great a task if you clean daily. Cholera is not a major factor in Oregon at the present time; in

other states, however, it has to be controlled by vaccination. If your hogs become sick, call a veterinarian.

External parasites are lice and mange mites. Lice and mange may be controlled by spraying or dipping the hogs with Lindane. Follow the directions on the container. The worms may be killed with sodium fluoride or some other suitable expeller. Thoroughly mix 1 ounce of sodium fluoride in 6 pounds of dry feed. Feed this mixture for 1 day. Have your druggist weigh out the amount of sodium fluoride that is needed for 1 day's feed.



Water

Water is extremely important in hog raising. Have a clean sturdy trough with no leaks. Do not depend on ditch water as it may carry parasites and diseases from some hog lot further up the stream.

The use of a float valve in the trough from a pressure water system is very suitable for supplying clean water to your sow and litter. Warm water during cold weather will increase the amount of water the hogs will consume. It will not need to be heated above 50 to 55 degrees.

Fitting and Showing

The properly-fitted and trained hog for the show ring will be thoroughly clean, well groomed, and in good condition. Start training when the hog is young. Practice moving him daily with a cane. Teach him to move at the touch of the cane by placing the cane on the side of the head. Tap him on the hind leg below the hock to cause him to move forward, and place the cane in front of his face to stop him. Do not fail to display all of the good points of your hog. Daily handling is a "must" to properly train a hog. It also gives needed exercise.



Giving your hog a bath will serve as a method of making him gentle and getting him used to people. Wash your hog several times before the show, give him the last bath the day before the show. Use a mild soap after the first scrubbing. A stiff brush will help to remove the scurf. Don't rub too hard as you can injure the skin. Cleanliness is an essential in the show ring

and in your showmanship contests. Tie the hog by putting a small rope around the upper jaw and fastening it to a post. This probably won't be necessary after the hog has been washed a few times. A small pen will be sufficient. Another essential point—remember the inside of the ears and the head, legs, and belly for cleanliness.

You should teach the hog to stand correctly, to turn, and to remain quiet. Frequent brushing of the hair will give brightness to the coat. Trimming the feet will allow the hog to stand properly on his feet. This should be done at least a month ahead of show time to get away from any lameness that might develop from cutting too close. A sharp pocket knife may be used.

You may have to ship your hog to the show. At least, hauling in a pickup or some other means may be necessary. There should be no projecting nails to scratch the hide and no holes in the floor; the truck should be clean. Truck beds should be covered with dry sand to make firm footing for your hog. Do not haul your hog when he has a full stomach. Do not feed him at the regular feeding time before shipping.

Care of the hog at the fair is very important. The amount of feed your hog consumes should be reduced to about one-half the regular amount to prevent digestive disturbances. Also, exercise your hog daily to keep him in good condition while at the show.

You may want to clip the long hairs



on the outside of the ears. Also, clip the hair from about half of the tail next to the hog. Always leave the switch on the end of the tail. Oil may be used on dark-colored hogs in the show ring. Use a light mineral oil spread on a rag, and use it very lightly. A mild bleach may be used to remove stains from white hogs. Do not use any powder on white hogs or lamp black on black hogs.

Be on the job while at the show. Be ready when your class is called. Remember courtesy and good sportsmanship always. If you have trained your hog well, he will appear alert in the show ring at all times.

Do not strike your hog with a cane or whip as hogs bruise easily; bruises reduce the market value of the carcass. Whipping a hog in the show ring also shows your lack of ability as a hog showman.

Summary

To complete a successful hog project, you must like to work with swine. Not every club member can have hogs as a project since some space, equipment, and money are necessary for a successful project.

Cleanliness and a balanced ration are very impor-

tant in raising hogs. A combination of these will decrease death losses from unhealthy hogs.

A club member must have a clean, well-groomed hog to make a good display at the fair. Practice courtesy always.

Some Demonstrations That May Be Given

1. Treating a hog for internal parasites.
2. Treating a hog for external parasites.
3. Clipping needle teeth in baby pigs.
4. Ear notching baby pigs.
5. Washing a hog.
6. Mixing a balanced ration.
7. Fitting for show.
8. Disinfecting the navel cord.
9. Constructing a pig creep.
10. Constructing a pig brooder.
11. Constructing a farrowing crate.
12. Administering an anemia-prevention shot.
13. How to properly castrate a pig.
14. Measuring the depth of back fat.
15. How to trim a hog's feet.



Glossary of Terms

Antibiotic—A chemical substance used in feeds to kill bacteria in the digestive tract.

Barrow—Young castrated male hog.

Boar—Male hog used for breeding.

Castrate—Remove testicles of male hog.

Creep—A small pen into which the pigs may go to feed but the sow cannot enter.

Disinfectant—A material for killing germs.

External—Outside the body.

Farrow—Sow giving birth to pigs.

Fertilization—Union of female egg and male sperm to form a new individual.

Grade—Any animal not purebred.

Gilt—Female hog before she has a litter.

Gestation—The period of time from breeding to farrowing.

Internal—Inside the body.

Ovary—Female organ that produces eggs for fertilization by sperm.

Parasite—Something that lives upon another.

Purebred—Any animal of pure breeding whose ancestors are recorded in a breed association record.

Ration—Feed required for a 24-hour period.

Sanitation—Being clean and free of diseases.

Scours—Loose, watery manure.

Sow—Mature female hog.

Sperm—Male sexual cell.

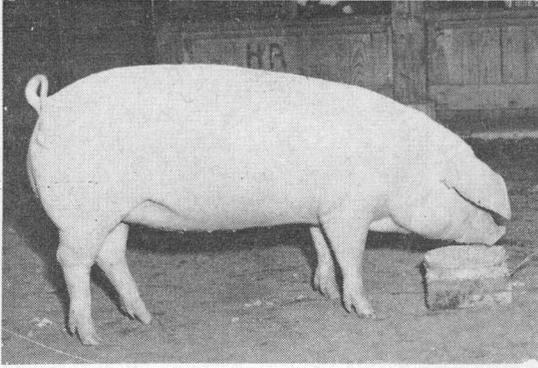
Testicle—Male organ that produces sperm.

Vaccinate—Inject under the skin a substance such as hog cholera serum.

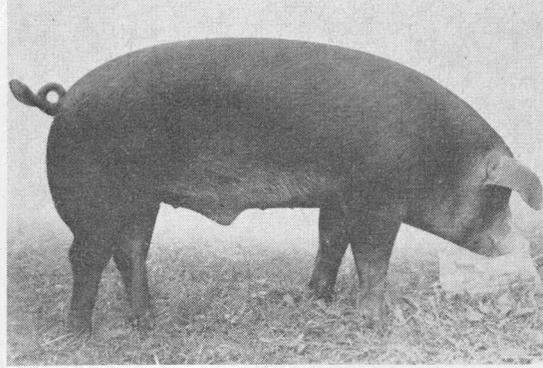
Weaner—Pig about weaning size and age (25-50 pounds).

Wean—Take away from sow.

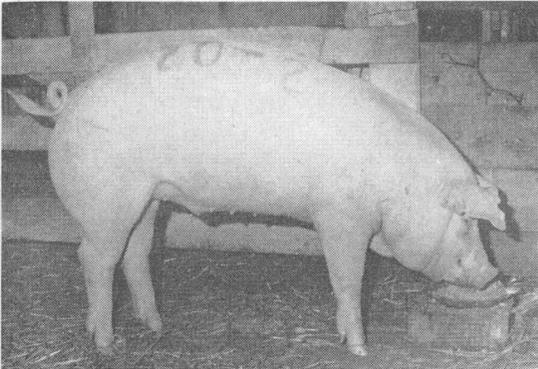
Breeds of Swine



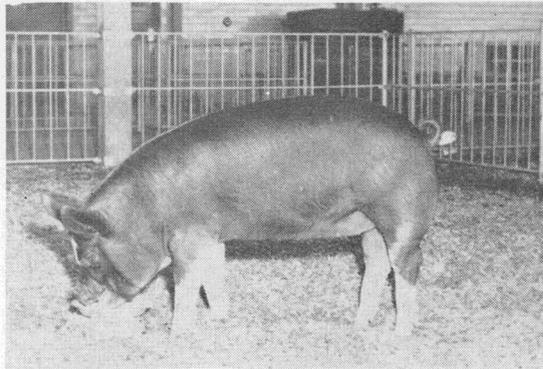
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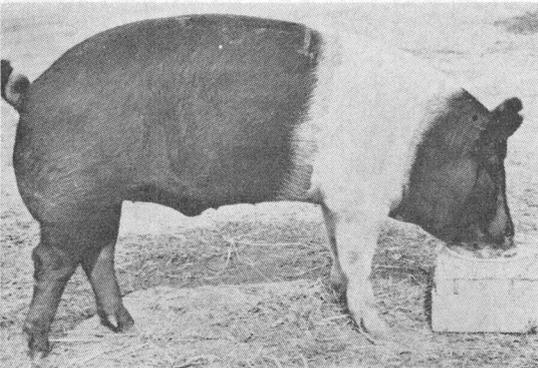
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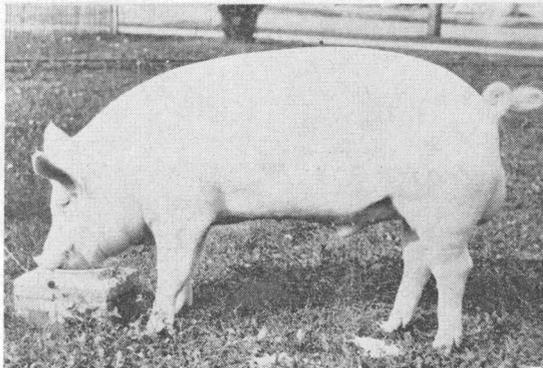
LANDRACE



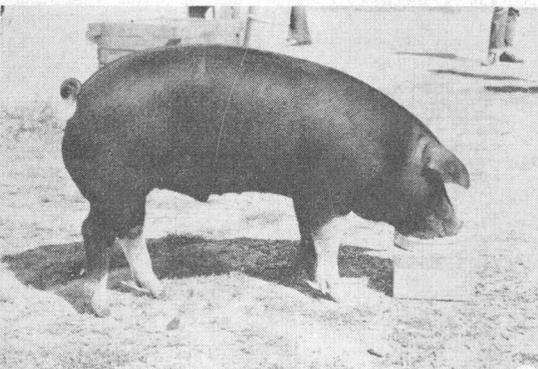
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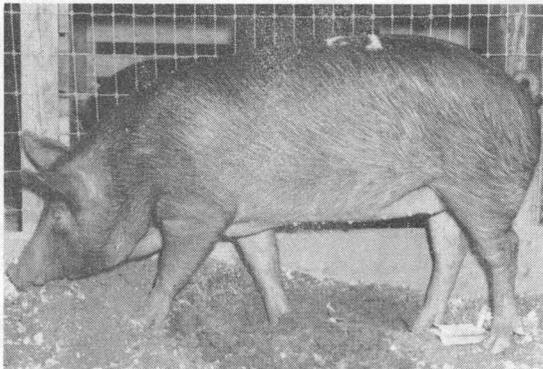
HAMPSHIRE



YORKSHIRE



POLAND CHINA



TAMWORTH