

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICE

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The Self-Feeder for Swine

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The bulletins of the Oregon Agricultural College are sent free to all residents of Oregon who request them.

THE SELF-FEEDER FOR SWINE

The self-feeder is a combination of a trough and hopper, the latter placed above the former and communicating with it by a throat. The latter opens into the trough well below the upper edge of the trough and far enough from the edge to permit pigs to eat. As the supply at the opening of the throat is exhausted, more feed runs down from the hopper. Thus the pigs have a supply constantly before them, so long as there is feed in the hopper, but are unable to waste or soil the feed.

The throat opening into the trough should be adjusted so that the particular feed used will run out, but not too freely. Coarse ground barley will feed more rapidly than finely ground barley so that it is well to have the sides of the hopper set into grooves at the ends and held at the correct place by pegs or by a wing-nut. The Iowa Experiment Station uses the latter method with satisfaction, though the Oregon Station has secured good results with the method of which the design is herewith given.

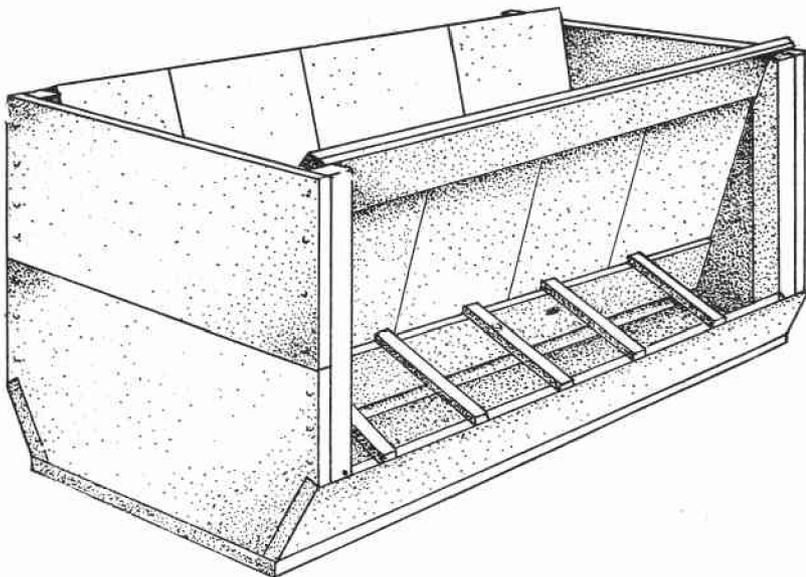
Fattening hogs on pasture, which is one of the most economical ways of finishing them, is much more easily done by the use of the self-feeder. The latter may be taken to the field and little attention given it except refilling at intervals, depending on the size and number of pigs having access to it.

Self-feeders can be so built as to feed from one or both sides, and to hold any amount desired. If made too large, they are hard to move, if they are to be moved; and they also take up an undue amount of room. The minimum trough allowance for each pig has never been arrived at, but six inches for each pig has been found ample, only a small part of the herd eating at one time.

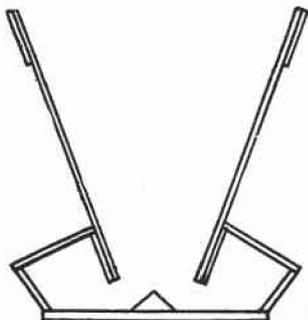
In six trials, the Agricultural College and Eastern Oregon Experiment Stations, testing the self-feeder against hand feeding the same ration twice daily, and employing all the leading feeds of Oregon, found the average daily feed for each head consumed from the self-feeder was 6.783 pounds; from hand feeding 6.244. The average daily gain for each pig with the self feeder was 1.676 pounds, and with hand feeding 1.401 pounds. The feed for each 100 pounds gain required by the self-feeder lots was 404.768 pounds and with the hand-fed lots 433.586 pounds. A saving of 7% of feed was effected by the use of the self-feeder. The labor factor is also materially decreased. The self-feeder may unquestionably be used with profit to a much greater extent in this State.

The following is a bill of lumber for the type of feeders used at the College Station. These feeders are 3 feet wide, 3 feet high, and 6 feet long. They feed from both sides and accommodate eighteen hogs nicely.

- 1 x 32 x 6 ft. x 2 equal 32 board feet, top and bottom
 1 in. x 32 in. x 36 in. x 2 equal 16 board feet, for the ends
 1 x 36 in. x 6 ft. x 2 equal 36 board feet for the sides
 2 x 4 x 6 ft. x 2 equal 8 board feet for the sides of the trough
 1 x 12 in. x 6 ft. x 2 equal 12 board feet for the sides in the middle of the feeder.
 2 in. x 4 in. x 3 ft. x 4 equal 8 board feet for outside braces.
 1 in. x 3 in. x 1 in. x 10 equal 2½ board feet for slats
 1 in. x 2 in. x 36 in. x 8 equal 4 board feet for the braces at the end
 120 board feet @ \$11 a thousand equal \$1.30, exclusive of the labor.



SELF-FEEDER



SELF-FEEDER—CROSS SECTION