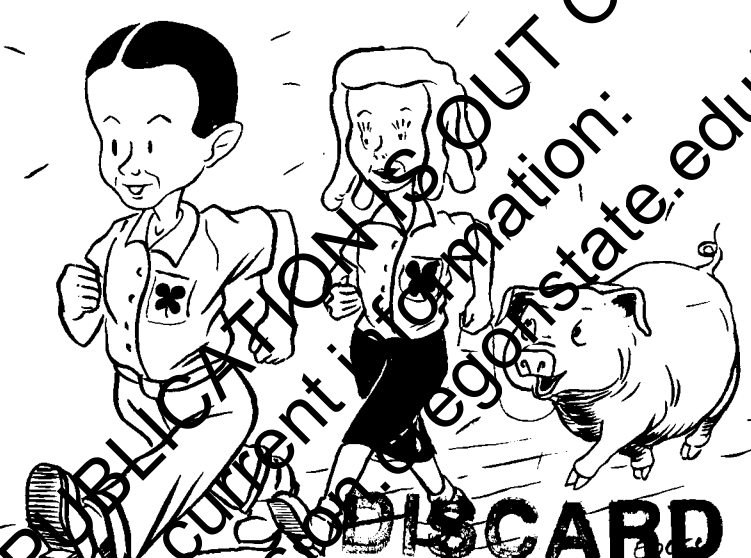


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4-H Club

Swine Projects



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Club Series F-1

January 1954

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, F. E. Price, director, Oregon State College, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the State Department of Education co-operating. Printed and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

Revising of 4-H Club literature is being done in cooperation with advisory committees composed of 4-H Club leaders, representatives of the industry involved in the bulletin, County Extension Agents, and in many cases older 4-H Club members. These advisory committees work in close cooperation with the central staff specialists of the subject matter involved at Oregon State College, as well as the state 4-H Club department. In this bulletin acknowledgment is made to the advisory committee composed of Earl Orery, Fall Creek, Glen Hawkins, Shedd, Douglas Chambers, Salem, Elton Wiles, Silverton, Edwin Riddle, Sherwood, and County Extension Agents O. E. Mikesell, Albany, Don C. Watson, St. Helens, Anthol Rice, Salem, James Eling, Edward Coles, John Lander, Harry Lindgren, and Joe Johnson represented the livestock division at Oregon State College.

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4-H Club *Swine Projects*

JOHN H. LANDERS, JR.

Extension Animal Husbandry Specialist

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

Either one 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 patience and kindness toward animals, the value of keeping good records, and 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.

In the pages that follow, the first discussion concerns the sow and litter project and the management and feeding practices that are essential for successful raising of a litter of pigs.

The second 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 gilt¹ along with a barrow¹ that is to be fattened 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 club work.

¹ If you do not know the meaning of such words as "gilt" and "barrow" refer to the "Glossary of Terms" in the back of this bulletin.

Sow and Litter Project

Selection

The important thing to remember in your litter project is the demand of the consumer. Select your breeding hogs with this in mind. You should choose sows and boars of the same breed from large, thrifty litters. If the gilt chosen is a "grade" animal instead of a purebred, be certain she is of the desired conformation and quality and select an excellent purebred boar. The project need not be built around a purebred sow, but having high-quality breeding stock is desirable.

Points in selecting the sow:

- ▶ Refinement and femininity about the head.
- ▶ Strong, slightly arched back and loin.
- ▶ Smooth shoulders and long, deep smooth sides.
- ▶ Full, firm, and deep hams.
- ▶ Trim jowls.
- ▶ Strong, straight legs.
- ▶ Short pasterns.
- ▶ Heavy bone.
- ▶ Two rows of normal teats, at least six in each row.
- ▶ Even temperament and quiet disposition.

Selection should be made from a large, healthy litter in a well-bred herd.

Points to look for in the boar:

- ▶ Purebred of the same breed as the sow.
- ▶ Masculinity about the head.
- ▶ Strong, well-arched back and long loin.
- ▶ Smooth shoulders and long, smooth, deep sides.
- ▶ Deep, smooth, firm hams.
- ▶ Straight, strong legs and pasterns.
- ▶ Quiet disposition and even temperament.



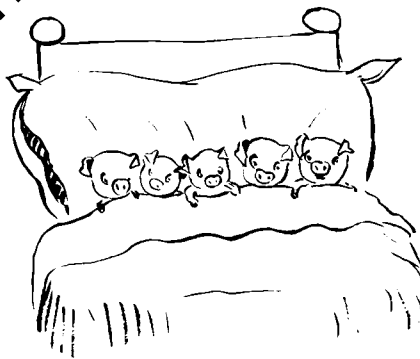
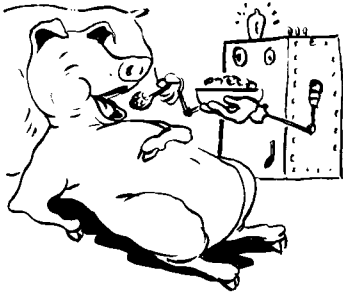
- ▶ Twelve or more teats.
- ▶ Freedom from disease or injury.
- ▶ Proper breeding age—at least eight months old.

Equipment

More equipment will be required in the litter project than in the feeder hog project. Here are some things that should be considered: 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. Often the bulletin will 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 the club members 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 pictured and described several different kinds of feeders and waterers that you may use in the project.

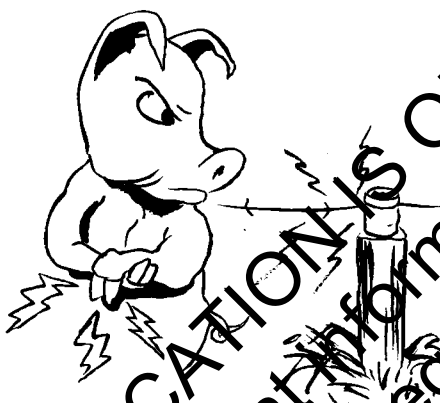
In this individual house, you should build a brooder that will be placed in the corner of the building to warm the pigs in cold, damp weather. More little pigs die at this time than any other. It is wise to grind hay and mix it in the ration, but if this is not possible, it is well to provide a rack where the sow may be fed some hay along with her regular daily feed. Some of the other equipment which you



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will need with your litter will be a pair of side-cutter pliers to clip off needle teeth on the newborn pig to prevent pigs from cutting each other while they are fighting and stop them 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.

Pasture is important in raising a litter. It may be considered

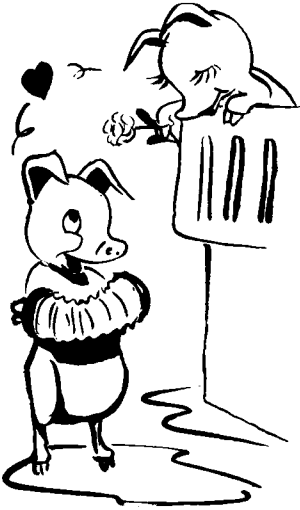


equipment. The fence may be woven wire, boards, or electric. If woven wire is used, it should be 24 inches high with one strand of barbed wire on top. Probably the electric fence will be the cheapest type of fence you can use in your project. Two strands of 12-gauge smooth wire are suitable. Have the wires about a foot apart with the bottom wire about six inches from the ground. In

any case, use a tight hog-proof fence best fitting your condition.

Breeding

When shall 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 you want the pigs farrowed. The time you intend to sell the pigs will determine the time you want them farrowed. Probably for this project you will want to farrow in the spring or you may want to use the two-litter system where you 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 eight or nine months of age. A sow is said to farrow 114 days after she is bred; however, this period may vary from 112 to 115 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.

Bring the boar to the sow in her natural surroundings. Do not take the sow to the boar.

Gestation

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, water, 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:

FEED	GILTS AND SUCKLING SOWS	OLD SOWS
<i>On drylot</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</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

Mix the feed in at least 100-pound lots. Meat scraps or tankage is essential in the ration so that the sow will produce strong, healthy



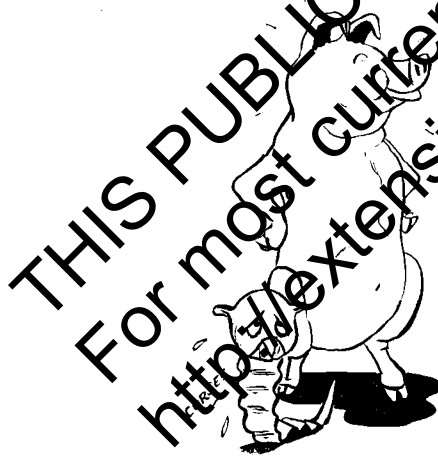
pigs. A pound of wheat bran may be substituted in the sow's ration about a week before she is to have pigs in order to give a laxative. Freedom from constipation will help to keep down the feverish condition at the time of farrowing. Reducing the amount of feed to about one-half the regular ration a few days before farrowing is helpful. The sow may be given added exercise by placing her feed and water at the opposite end 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 15 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 process, we are trying to eliminate the common round worm that takes 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.



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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 or barrel with the pigs around it. A heat lamp will also be of great help.

Suckling

The first milk, or colostrum, is very essential in the life of any young animal. 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 two or three 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 about one 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 ten days old.

More detailed information concerning farrowing and care at farrowing time is available in the bulletin "Swine Production in Oregon" (Oregon State College Station Bulletin 523) available from the County

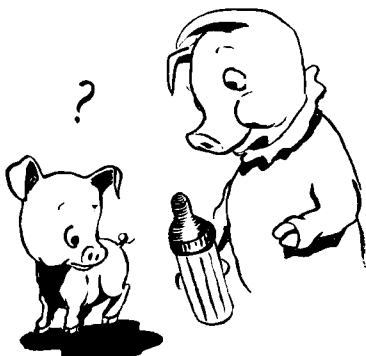
Agent. If the sow is put back on full feed too quickly after she farrows, she may produce too much milk which will cause the pigs to scold or she may have udder trouble that will dry her up completely. If the weather permits, move the sow and litter to clean pasture when the pigs are a week to ten days old.

By the time the pigs are three weeks old they will begin to eat from the trough with their mother. If you wish to hurry this development, creeps may be provided. 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 Equipment Bulletin mentioned previously.



Weaning

The pigs may be weaned at about eight 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.

Castration of boar pigs should take place at three to four 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 and your club members 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.

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 these:

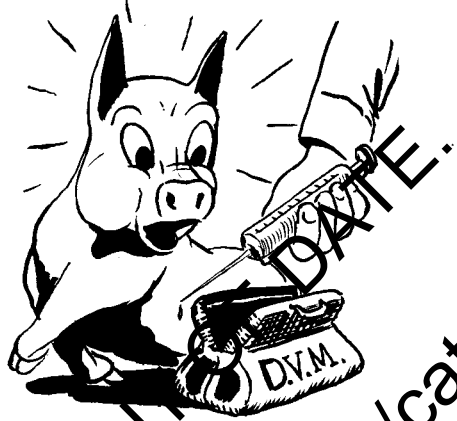
- ▶ Scrub the farrowing house with lye and boiling water as previously discussed.
- ▶ Clean the sow thoroughly before she goes into the farrowing pen.
- ▶ Haul the sow and pigs to clean pasture where no hogs have been for at least 2 years.

- ▶ Keep pigs on this pasture until they are ready to market.

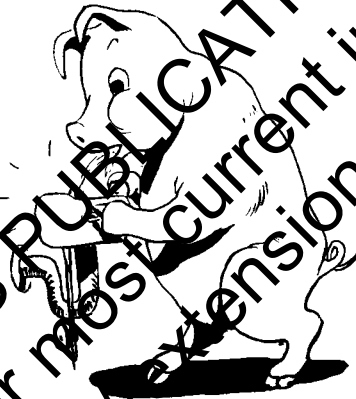


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Hog cholera and certain other swine diseases which are caused by virus or germs are spread only by direct contact with the particular organism, but the resistance of hogs to any disease is much reduced if sanitation is not practiced. Keeping your lot 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.



The most common internal parasite of hogs is the large round worm. External parasites are lice and mange mites. The worms may be treated with sodium fluoride or some other suitable expeller. Thoroughly mix one ounce of sodium fluoride in 6 pounds of dry feed. Feed this mixture dry for one day. The lice and mange may be controlled by spraying or dipping the hogs with DDT or Lindane. Follow the directions on the container.



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.

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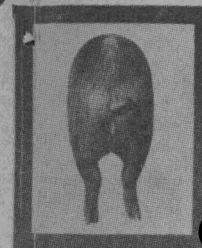
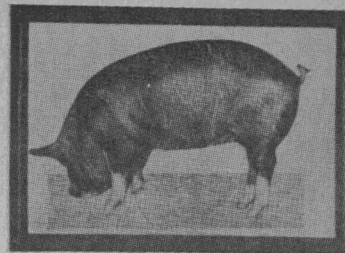
HOW DO YOUR HOGS GRADE ?

U.S.D.A. GRADES

THESE MARKET HOGS

YIELD THESE CARCASSES

CHOICE NO. 1



% Carcass Wt.

Total of 4 Lean Cuts* 49.5

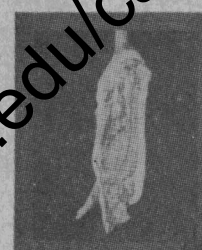
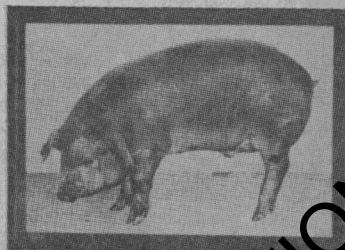
Fat for Lard** 19.2

Bellies 15.5

Miscellaneous 15.8

100

CHOICE NO. 2



% Carcass Wt.

Total of 4 Lean Cuts* 46.5

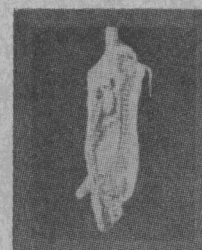
Fat for Lard** 22.4

Bellies 16.1

Miscellaneous 15.0

100

CHOICE NO. 3



% Carcass Wt.

Total of 4 Lean Cuts* 43.5

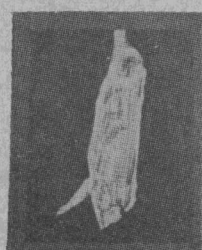
Fat for Lard** 25.7

Bellies 16.7

Miscellaneous 14.1

100

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.

Market Hogs

Selection

The market pig may be selected at weaning time. The best pig is determined by the market demand. Do not feel that because you plan to fatten your pig for home use you need not select the best type. Select either a gilt or a barrow at weaning time. Be particular and consider these points:

- ▶ Market standards of conformation
- ▶ Characteristics of a good feeder
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Size for age

A rule to follow in buying a weaner pig is to pay up to one third of the value of the market hog.

Market Standards

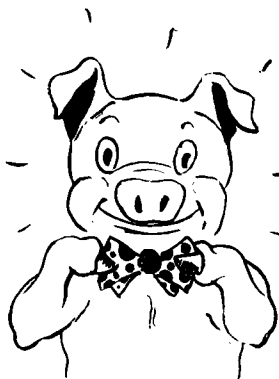
Market standards of conformation are important. At the present time market hogs are graded into Choice No. 1, Choice No. 2, Choice No. 3, Medium, and Cull. A Choice No. 1 hog is one that weighs about 200 pounds and is neatly finished and carries just enough fat to marble the lean meat well and produce a minimum amount of lard. The Choice No. 2 hog is one that has about the same conformation as the Choice No. 1 but does carry some additional lard; more than is necessary to properly marble the meat. The Choice No. 3 hog is one that carries an excessive amount of lard. A Medium hog is unfinished and a Cull hog is nothing but a feeder hog. These hogs and carcasses are illustrated in the picture in the center of this bulletin.

Characteristics of a Good Feeder

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 one-fourth, the fore quarters one-tenth, and the head and neck about eight 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 better pig and ready to start to work.

Water

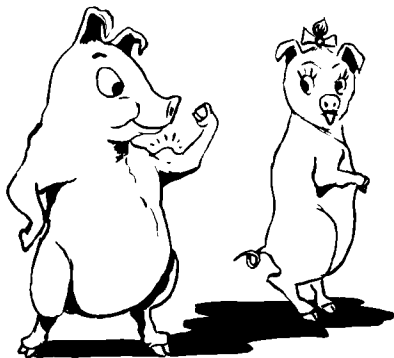
Provide a constant supply of clean water at all times for your hogs. Several different types of waterers are shown in the Hog Equipment Bulletin; one of the automatic type is preferable. A hog wallow is not necessary and a dirty wallow is an excellent place for the breeding of diseases and parasites 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 at the present time 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 will decrease the amount of labor. This equipment may be purchased; however, you can build the feeders and troughs very 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 15x15 feet square is necessary for each hog.

Feeding

Your objective is to raise a 200-pound hog with the least cost and feedstuffs. 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 a 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 160 to 225

pounds. 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 saves 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 carbo-

hydrates 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 per cent tankage and meat scraps, alfalfa hay or pasture, soy-

bean or meal, linseed oil meal, and fish meal and skim milk are all good sources of protein. Best results are obtained if a mixture of two or more of these protein concentrates are included in the rations. Cottonseed meal cannot be fed safely at more than 5 per cent by weight of the ration.

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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. 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, steamed bone meal, 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 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 twenty-four hour period. A balanced ration contains proper mixture of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, water, and minerals to provide energy and build tissues and bones.

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 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. It 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. Grain may be fed in a self-feeder or may be hand fed. If

you are hand feeding, the hog will eat from two to four pounds of feed per hundredweight each day. Grain such as corn, barley, or wheat should be coarsely ground before it is fed. If a self-feeder is

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used, mix the grain and protein supplement before putting it into the feeder. Some sample rations that might be used are as follows:

FEED	WITHOUT PASTURE	WITH PASTURE
<i>Ration A</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Grain	85	90
Tankage	10	10
Alfalfa	5	
<i>Ration B</i>		
Grain	80	
Tankage	10	
Soybean Meal	5	
Alfalfa Meal	5	


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

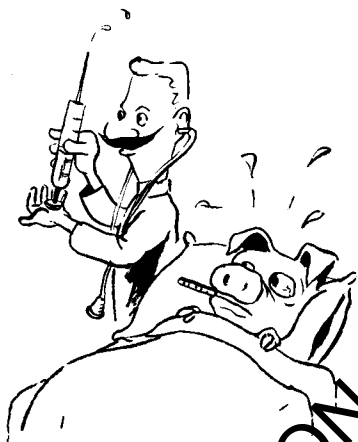
Sanitation is important in any livestock project, especially in a hog project. Internal parasites and foot-borne diseases are responsible for most hog losses in Oregon. These losses may be controlled by sanitation. There are, of course, infectious diseases among hogs in Oregon which require preventive 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 your lot and quarters are dry and well-drained. If there is water standing in the lot, your hog will make a wallow out of it. This is a good place to

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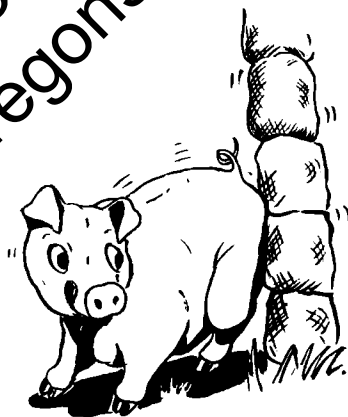
breed diseases. Let your hogs have the benefit of sunlight, but provide shade for them in the summertime. Do not crowd the hogs. Even if you have only one hog, be sure he has enough space. Practice sanitation daily so that cleaning the pens does not become a burdensome, unpleasant task for the weekend.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



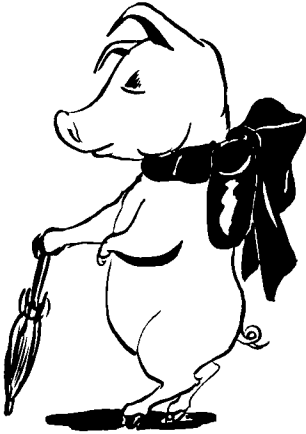
Erysipelas, flu, enteritis, and atropic rhinitis are among prominent infectious diseases of hogs found in Oregon. These diseases may be contracted in hog lots in the state. Hog cholera is not a serious matter at the present time, but may be at some later date.

If your pig becomes listless, has a dull coat, and loses the brightness of his eyes, 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 hard to cure.



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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.

Fitting and Showing.

The properly fitted and trained hog for the showing 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, touching him behind to move forward, and placing 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. Remember the inside of the ears, head, legs, and belly. Cleanliness is an essential in the show ring and in your showmanship contests.



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.

You may have to ship your hog

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to the show. At least, hauling in a pick-up or some other means may be necessary. There should be no projecting nails to scratch the hide and no holes in the floor; the surroundings should be clean. Slick 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 period before shipping.

Care of the hog at the fair is very important. The amount of feed your hog consumes should be reduced to prevent any 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.

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

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 important 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.



Glossary of Terms

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

Barrow. Young castrated male hog.

Boar. Male hog used for breeding.

Castrate. Remove sex organs of male hog.

Crecp. 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.

Grade. Any animal not pure-bred.

Gilt. Female hog before she has a litter.

Gestation. The period from breeding to farrowing.

Internal. Inside the body.

Parasite. Something that lives upon another.

Purebred. Any animal of pure breeding whose ancestors are recorded on a blood association record.

Ration. Feed required for a 24-hour period.

Sanitation. Being clean and free of diseases.

Scour. Loose, watery manure.

Sow. Mature female hog.

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

Weaner. Pig about weaning size and age.

Wean. Take away from sow.



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