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## THE HOG THE GREAT PRODUCER OF MEAT

He Is the Most Important of All the Animals Raised on the Farm

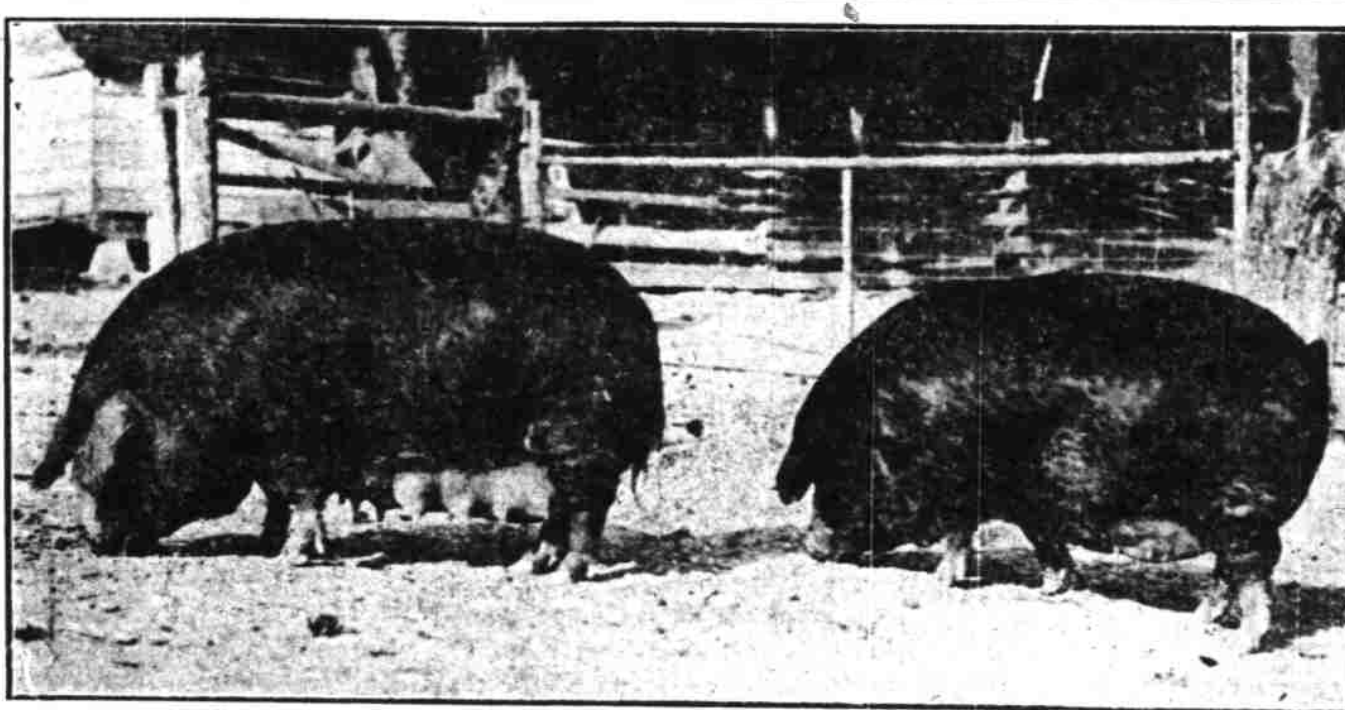
Geo. De Bok, of Oregon City, contributed the following article to the Pacific Homestead of last week--that issue being devoted largely to swine breeding:

Why is pork production popular with all classes of farmers in all the world? There are many reasons, but the greatest of these is the fact that hogs are profitable on every farm. Never do you hear a farmer say that hogs are not profitable. The gigantic impor-

...factor in American agriculture is hardly appreciated to the extent which it demands.

The importance and value to our people of the swine grown in the United States compared to other kinds of livestock as shown by figures officially compiled are quite astonishing to those who for the first time have this brought to their attention. Nearly 50 per cent of the total value in dollars and cents of the meat and meat products slaughtered in the packing houses of the United States is derived from the hog. Three-fourths of the world's international trade in pork and pork products originates in the United States in normal times and the war has greatly increased this proportion. There is no animal which produces more meat and meat products than the hog.

Pork finds ready sale because packers have discovered many ways of placing pork on the mar-



Two Poland China brood sows. There should be more of these and other breeds on the Willamette valley farms

ket in attractive and highly palatable form combined with most excellent keeping qualities. There is no other meat from which so many products are manufactured.

It is said that hogs bring to the coffers of the American farmers more money than any other livestock product. The hog is the most important animal to raise for meat and money. He requires less labor, less equipment, less capital, makes greater gains per hundred pounds of concentrate, and produces himself faster, and in greater numbers than any other domestic animal.

As a consumer of by-products the hog has no rival. No other animal equals the lard hog in its fat storing tendency. The most satisfactory meat for shipping long distances on train, boat or wagon and for long storage after reaching its destination is mess pork. If properly handled hogs will pay a profit on most any farm because they consume feed which might otherwise be wasted, reproduce abundantly and mature rapidly, and they are exceedingly useful on most farms.

The farm should feed the farmer's family. Raise a few hogs; hogs help to make farming pay and there is money in it if done right. Carelessness and inattention never got anywhere in the hog business. The writer of this article lives on a 20-acre farm and keeps four and five brood sows and raises two litters of pigs a year, grows out and markets from 40 to 50 head of hogs a year and finds it quite profitable, and farmers as a rule would make more money if they would market their grain through the hog and thereby keep up the fertility of their farms.

Yours truly, -GEO. DE BOK, Oregon City, Oregon.

## THE RAVINGS OF A PUREBRED BREEDER

He Thinks This Is the Time to "Go" in Swine Breeding in These Parts

In the swine number of the Pacific Homestead, published from the Statesman building (last week's issue), George W. Buck, of Buck & McDonald, importers and breeders of big type Poland Chi-

na swine, of Yamhill, Oregon, had the following interesting and valuable (if acted upon) communication:

Why do I raise purebred stock? Because I like fine stock and enjoy developing them year after year to see how much I can improve them, also because I can't afford to put my high-priced grain through a grade animal. We purebred breeders are farmers and our customers are farmers, and we are absolutely indispensable to the success of the farmers. Note the difference in the dairy herds today and what they were not so many years ago. The grades today are pretty good because they are crosses of highly bred purebred stock, imported by the purebred breeder.

Also note the difference in the hogs. Here in the Willamette valley they were pretty badly inbred, so they were farrowing three or four pigs to the litter, and were small and slow in maturing. This is rapidly changing and there are several herds of purebred swine here now that will compare favorably with the best in the world. My bug is the hog. I can't feel that a farm is right that hasn't at least one brood sow, to clean up the scraps and provide the meat and pay the taxes. The hog has lifted more farm mortgages than any other farm animal, and can still do it.

I have talked to lots of farmers about buying a bred sow and getting in the hog raising game. Lots of them say "yes, yes, I'd like to have some pigs but my fences won't hold them." So they sell all their grain every fall and buy their hams and bacon, and rob their soil, so that their farm is worth less and less every year. The farmer that doesn't feed his crops to stock and put the manure back on the land is headed towards the poor house.

Others say "Well, I guess a common sow is good enough for me; you fellows want too much for your purebred stuff." Right there is where I start raving. Our stock is the result of years of selected breeding, every animal being selected to produce progeny that are better than those preceding; we breed to get large uniform litters of easy feeding, quick maturing pigs, that have enough bone to carry them through to any age, and not break down in the feet or backs, and we bring new blood into the country, so that the stock will not become inbred, and speaking about that, we send east for a new boar or bred sow, and it costs us four times what we can get from you farmers for the same stuff from us and besides the express runs from \$40 to \$50 on each animal, and it turns out they sent us a poor individual we consign it to the pork barrel and pocket a big loss. That's one of the big items of expense in producing purebred stock for the farmers.

Also we have to advertise our stuff, keep the records of every P. E. pay for the registering and buy the lumter and make the crates. All this costs money, and if you farmers are not willing to pay a reasonable price for our stuff, we will have to quit selling breeding stock, and a reasonable price

doesn't mean what a bred sow would bring as pork plus five or ten dollars, or a stag price for a boar. Right now I can contract all of our pigs at weaning time as feeders for \$5, that means a bred gilt will bring me \$35 and \$40 and we will have a 300-pound sow left, so why give them away

We will have about 140 spring pigs, and it looks like a big hog year to me. I am not going to raise a lot of service boars any more; will sell them from weaning time till about July 1st, then alter all but our show herd. A boar should be raised alone, and the farmers would save money by buying them at weaning time and raising them on their own farms.

The swine breeders have been deflated for three years, but now with things going back toward normal, let's go, and put a few purebred weaned pigs on every farm in the northwest this summer.

## PUREBRED HOGS PAY BEST ALWAYS

A Practical Demonstration by Two Washington County Farmers Is Given

Writing for the Pacific Homestead of Salem, in the issue of last week, which was a swine number, Thomas W. Grigg of Hillsboro said:

There are hundreds of farmers in Oregon who are wasting feed by trying to make a profit from "scrub" hogs, thinking that the scrub is just as good for pork as its more highly bred cousins, but it would be a poor purebred that would not put on more flesh per pound of feed than a scrub. That's what purebred hogs are for--to reach a marketable weight at the earliest possible age. Otherwise there would be no excuse for the purebred.

P. B. Case of Tigard has proved to himself that "scrub" hogs do not pay even for pork. Last July Case was visiting my farm and, looking at my big type Duroc Jersey hogs, asked the price of a weaning pig and was told the price would be \$10.

"Well, I only want two for my own pork, so I think I'll buy two from my neighbor--he sells them for \$5 each. They are not purebreds but will be just as good for pork."

I replied that I did not think they would, but he said he would show me that the "scrub" hogs would grow as fast as my purebred Durocs.

Well, he went home and bought his neighbor's pigs, put them in a pen, and fed them according to the O.A.C. balanced ration sheet, giving them charcoal, green feed and everything. Mine I put in a pen and fed the same as usual--about what I happened to have on hand; oats and barley, usually, and three different times they were fed corn meal for about two

weeks each time--each time refusing to eat it for two days. Each time Case would come to the farm he would visit the hog pen to compare hogs. For the first two months he did not say much one way or the other, but each time he saw them after that his disgust with his own hogs would deepen. "I don't see why mine have stopped growing!" he would exclaim. "I'm sure it is not because I don't feed them! Why man, I feed them more than you do yours, and they are fed three times a day without fail--still yours are growing away from mine."

"Mine are purebreds," I told him, and laughed. He butchered last week and so did I. His weighed 125 pounds, dressed, and mine dressed 201 pounds. "I'll never try to raise a 'scrub' hog again, even for pork," he declared, and has put in his order for two purebred weaning pigs for his next winter's meat supply. With the best of feed his hog dressed 125 pounds at 5-1-2 months of age, while mine at six months dressed 201, without any milk in its ration, besides being "off its feed" three different times. So the "scrub" is really more expensive than a purebred hog.

## THIS IS THE YEAR TO PUSH GOOD HOGS

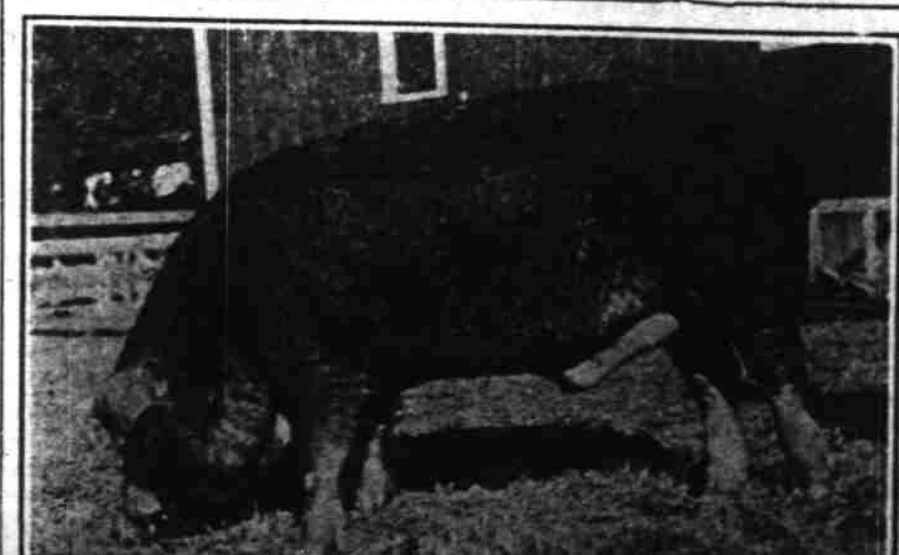
The Advice of a Good Breeder of Long Standing in the Willamette Valley

The following communication from Ed Schoel of Albany, a reliable breeder of long standing in the Willamette valley, appeared in the swine number of the Pacific Homestead, the farm paper published from The Statesman building, of last week:

This is the time for the farmer to buy and likewise a good time for the breeder to sell to the farmer. Breeders do not need to secure such high prices for their stock at this time as they have received in the past two or three years; they can, therefore, afford to solicit the farmer's business and to furnish them some of their best animals at prices that farmers can afford to pay.

The farmer can afford to pay reasonable prices for first class pure bred hogs because the swine raising industry is much the best paying proposition on American farms today, and better hogs will sell better pay, and the owner will take much pride in purebred stock. The demand for breeding hogs this season among the farmers will be very brisk, as there is a marked scarcity of hogs throughout the country and feed is much cheaper and more plentiful.

Breeders should be prepared to meet this demand and the prospective breeder will begin to talk to his neighbor farmer and to advertise them locally in every conceivable manner to get his share of this local business. This is the year to start thousands of



Loka Farm Red Bird, one of the Duroc champions on the Loka Farm, Silverton, Oregon

## OREGON IS LOSING BY HOG SHORTAGE

State Fair Board Is Attempting to Popularize the Purebred Breeds

The following is from the swine number of the Pacific Homestead of last week:

Oregon has 50,206 farms with only 42,691 head of breeding hogs, including scrubs and purebreds of all breeds. There is in the state an average of a little better than one head of brood sows to each two farms, according to the 1920 U. S. Census.

The United States department of agriculture gave out a statement recently in which it was estimated that \$20,000,000 is wasted annually by farmers in America by feeding scrub swine. Oregon has 11,617 head of purebred hogs, all breeds included, which means that there is only one purebred hog for each four farms.

According to A. H. Lea, secretary of the Oregon State Fair board, that association has been endeavoring to popularize the purebred hog in this state, and thereby increase the production of swine on our farms, by inducing large and classy exhibits of swine at the annual state fair. Mr. Lea announces that arrangements have been made with the Poland China Breed Promotion committee of Peoria, Illinois, for a futurity show for the 1922 fair carrying \$1000 in prize money, the fair and the committee each guaranteeing 50 per cent of the money.

This purse in addition to the money offered by the fair association in the open classes will make the prize money for this one-breed aggregate nearly \$1600, and consequently assures a large show. According to the terms of the futurity show, breeders will be eligible to compete for the premiums on condition that they nominate their herd by March 15, with the Poland China Breed Promotion committee, by the payment of \$5. There must be at least 20 herds nominated for the show to be assured.

Breeders in any adjoining state where there is no futurity show are eligible to enter the Oregon show provided they nominate. Futurity exhibitors are eligible to open classes.

new breeders into the purebred hog business. I might say Chester White, but have discarded that hammer, no knocking; get the breed you like, but get purebred. There will be the usual number of breeders who will secure new herd boars and new foundation sows this season, but special attention must be also given to the distribution of good animals among the farmers. Give the farmer the same guarantee as you do the breeder, also a certificate of registry and make him satisfied. He may not ask for a certificate, but insist that he take it, as it may make a new breeder of him later.

Yours for more and better hogs.

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