

CROOK COUNTY HOG SITUATION

O. A. C. EXPERT ON SUBJECT

Says More Feed Should Be Raised Here—Then Hogs Could Be Raised at Greater Profit—Prices Going Higher if Slaughter Continues

(By E. L. POTTER)

(Oregon Agricultural College)

The hog situation in Crook county is not very difficult to describe. The hog men are just now unable to make any money shipping in grain and feeding it to hogs at current prices of grain and pork and are therefore, for the most part, closing out as fast as they can and for whatever they can get. The present disparity between the price of grain and the price of pork is having a bad effect upon the hog producers throughout the Northwest but it is particularly hard on the hog raiser of the Deschutes valley. For some time past it has been the opinion of nearly all hog men that the Deschutes valley farmers were "plunging" and were getting too many hogs and it is certainly true that there are more hogs in the valley than are now being fed properly and that the hog raisers were facing quite a difficult problem even before the outbreak of the European war and its effect upon prices. It would seem, however, just as proper to say that instead of there being "too many hogs," there is not "enough grain." Upon looking over the situation here we have been impressed, not with the enormous number of hogs but with the small amount of grain upon which to feed them. Three years ago the Agricultural College sent a demonstration train through this country and from that train a number of things were advocated, among them being crop rotation, more crops, better soil management, better irrigation and more hogs. Unfortunately the "more hogs" propaganda was more popular than some other phases of the campaign and consequently the growth of the hog industry was not equaled by the increase in crop production. It thus became necessary to ship in large quantities of grain and mill feed for these hogs and we all know that there is no profit in raising hogs on grain shipped in from the outside. Now the production of hogs must slacken until the production of feed can catch up. The farmer must therefore go easy on the hogs and bend every effort to increase his production of hog feeds. The real question before the hog raiser is not one of live stock management but of crop production.

The question of the present disparity between the price of hogs and the price of grain we have left until the last because, while serious enough for the moment, it is a temporary problem and will soon solve itself. In any business there comes years when a profit is impossible but such years are offset by the years when the profit is abnormally large. To assume that the recent market prices can prevail would be an absurdity because it would mean that the hog would practically disappear from the farms and pork be a rarity on the American table. On the contrary, anything which tends to cause breeders to market their stock hastens the time of shortage and consequent higher prices. The financial panic of 1907 caused a general clean up of breeding stock and young pigs and as a result in a few months hogs were higher than they had been for many years. The present situation can only mean a very serious shortage and that right away. There seems no doubt that hogs will be high very soon and that furthermore the Portland packers will have to go to the Corn Belt to get enough hogs to supply their demands, and all this within the year 1915. The man who has hogs to market during that time will surely profit thereby and not only profit by that transaction but make enough to wipe out his losses of the present winter. We have already stated that the Deschutes valley farmer would do well to bend every effort toward increased crop production and to go easy on the hogs but this does not mean to abandon the hog but on the contrary to save a few brood sows and be so prepared to profit by the reaction that is coming quickly. To have more feed than we have stock is just as bad as to have more stock than feed. A general closing out of all breeding stock and young pigs on the present low market must certainly be a mistake and one that will be regretted. By all means keep a few sows but raise more feed at home so that it will not be necessary to ship in outside grain at such high prices.

A BIT OF ADVICE.

First—don't delay. Second—don't experiment. If you suffer from backache; headaches or dizzy spells; if you rest poorly and are languid in the morning; if the kidney secretions are irregular and unnatural in appearance, do not delay. In such cases the kidneys often need help. Doan's Kidney Pills are especially prepared for kidney trouble—they are recommended by thousands. Can residents desire more convincing proof of this locality? J. F. Montgomery, West Oregon City, Oregon, says: "I was troubled by kidney and bladder complaint. I had a dull pain in my back across my kidneys. While I have only use one box of Doan's Kidney Pills I appreciate their worth. After I took them, the pain left me and my kidneys and bladder were in much better shape. Price 50 cents at all dealers. Don't simply ask for

a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Montgomery had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

BEARD OF THE TURK.

It is Sacred, For by It He Pledges His Word and Honor.

Some years ago the German Colonel von Schlichting, instructor to the Ottoman army, was shot dead on parade at Yildiz kiosk by a young Albanian soldier, Hadji Butram, because the German in correcting the faulty pose of the soldier's head touched his chin with his riding whip.

Unfortunately the colonel did not know or did not remember that to touch a Mussulman's chin is a grave offense from a religious viewpoint. It is by the beard of the prophet or his own beard that he swears allegiance and makes his vows and promises. According to a Turkish general, an Albanian would kill his own father if he laid hands upon his son's head in so disrespectful a manner. A Mohammedan military service is simply a religious duty, and it implies a voluntary submission to discipline. But Turkish officers know better than to touch their men rudely or even to shout at them.

Of course it was a very regrettable misunderstanding, and the sultan sent a telegram to the kaiser to express his sorrow, and an imperial Ottoman prince and three Turkish ministers followed the victim's hearse to the cemetery. But in the interests of discipline the murderer had to die despite an appeal for a reprieve, from the colonel's widow.

The Albanian was shot by ten men of his own battalion, and when he was asked before the execution if he repented of the deed he replied twice in a firm voice, "No!"—Washington Star.

Some Forgotten Slang.

The cheese. It is the forgotten slang. But there were days when the proper man was not the Champagne Charlie or anything else but the "cheese." And the negative was "Oh, cheese it!" as a request to refrain from anything. And the origin was a song:

Ain't I the cheese,
Ain't I the cheese,
Walking the park
With my happy Louie?
—London Chronicle.

Resourceful.

Blondine—Gerty Giddygad is the most resourceful girl I know.
Brunetta—in what way?
"The other day the young man she is trying to land for a husband called her attention to a spot of powder on her nose."
"Well, well!"
"And Gerty said, 'I always do that every time I eat marshmallows.'"—Yourestown Telegram.

POCKET GOPHER DAMAGES RANGE

FACTS BROUGHT OUT BY STUDY

Investigation Made in Ochoco National Forest Shows That Animal Destroys Grazing Value—Method of Combatting Pest is Found.

The district forester at Portland, Oregon, announces that a report has recently been completed upon a study made last summer and fall to determine the amount of damage done by rodents, notably the pocket gopher. The study was made by the Biological Survey, and the area chosen for the investigation was upon the Ochoco National Forest in Central Oregon. The facts brought out by the study are somewhat startling.

It has been known to the Forest Service for some years that certain areas had the appearance of being overgrazed, but it was not until a more intensive study of the range was made that suspicion turned toward the pocket gopher so frequently seen in these localities. As a result of the study of the ways of these little animals, it is safe to say that on many areas 50 per cent of the grazing value of the range is destroyed by their work.

This destruction is brought about in three ways: First, by the actual food which they consume or store away, which consists of the roots of various grasses and forage plants. In one storeroom alone over 1,000 bulbs of the melica or bulb grass were found. Second: the mounds of earth thrown out by the gopher cover considerable forage. This may appear of small consequence, but each mound will average a square foot in size. On one area there was found an average of 5,800 mounds to the acre. This means that one-fourth of each acre was rendered valueless. Third: their system of burrowing countless runways fairly undermines the ground, increases the friability of the soil, destroys the root systems of the plants above, and when stock in bands passes over the ground it is as badly torn up as if it had been plowed.

After having ascertained these facts, the agent of the Biological Survey set about a method of combatting the pests. Pieces of sweet potato, seasoned with a preparation of

sugar and strychnine, were placed in the gopher runways by means of a long pointed stick. In going over the area a second time, it was found that from 95 to 100 per cent of the gophers were poisoned the first round. Those that survived the first dose of poison would soon throw up fresh mounds and could be easily detected and poisoned on the second round.

BRICK TESTS WELL

Product of Local Yard Leads Oregon in Matter of Absorption.

That the brick made by the Bend Brick & Lumber Co., at its plant west of town is equal in quality to, and in some respects better than, that made at any other plant in Oregon has been shown by recent tests conducted by the State Bureau of Mines and Geology. Samples of bricks for the test were secured by Ira A. Williams, ceramist of the Bureau, last September and its latest monthly report gives the results of the tests.

For the class of brick reported on only two plants in Oregon showed a higher crushing strength than the samples from the Bend plant, and on these the difference is less than two per cent. In the absorption test the local brick made a state record by absorbing less water than any brick tested. The report also shows a higher crushing strength and lower water absorption test for the Bend brick than for 48 tests of brick from Wisconsin, North Dakota and Canada used as a comparison.

As indicating the range of use of the Bend brick, A. H. Horn, manager of the company, points out that they are being used for fire brick in the local mills and bakeries as well as in general construction.

MARKET REPORT.

NORTH PORTLAND, Feb. 18.—The receipts for the week have been: Cattle 1055, calves 14, hogs 447, sheep 2221. A comparatively good run of cattle brought good quality to market this week. Prices however did not register as strong as previous week. Top steers of prime quality going at \$7.55. Market steady at close of week. Hog prices continue on a par with Eastern markets. Many light hogs and brood sows have made their appearance on the market, bringing of course low prices for this class of offerings. Top at close of week \$6.90. A very strong sheep market all week. Top lambs sold with fleece on at \$8.25; shorn lambs \$7.25; choice ewes \$6.15 and wethers at \$7.15. Market continues very strong.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Issued by Crook County Abstract Co. Bend Park Co. to Orville Kline II, 1, blk. 65, Bend Park, \$200.
T. A. Rutherford to State Its. 13, 14, blk 14, Laidlaw.
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George W. Clough, Prentiss, Miss., who had suffered greatly with kidney trouble, writes: "Foley Kidney Pills are the only remedy that ever did me any good at all. Just think of the relief and comfort that means to him. Foley Kidney Pills are recommended for sleep disturbing bladder troubles, pain in sides or back, rheumatism and kidney and bladder ailments. Patterson Drug Co.—Adv.

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The Courts.

Circuit—Meets first Monday in September and December and second Monday in March.
Probate—Meets first Monday in each month.

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