

Oregon Agricultural College is the Friend of the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.



Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon, the Sole Aim of Which Is to Aid Agriculturists.

PROTEIN FOR PIGS.

WHEN young pigs reach the stage where their fattening should be crowded they require for economical gains more protein than is supplied by the grains usually fed to them. There are several available sources of protein, but feeding experiments at the Oregon Agricultural College have shown that tankage at present prices is the most economical. Tankage is a byproduct of the meat industry and is likely to become even more plentiful as more concentrated and economical methods of slaughtering are practiced. A great deal of the material from which tankage is made is wasted in farm butchering and in slaughtering for the village and small town markets and indeed often becomes a serious menace to health. If this wasted material were conserved in tankage it would serve a double purpose in sanitation and in cheapening pork production.

The rate with which tankage is to be used with ground grains has been found by careful experiment at the Oregon Station to be about ten pounds of tankage to ninety pounds of grain. This is to be mixed with the grain and fed as liberally as will be eaten without waste, twice a day.

Bran and alfalfa both have considerable protein but in neither is the form of it concentrated enough to be an economical addition to grain rations. That is, the right amount of protein is mixed with so large a quantity of matter of low food value that in order to secure the right amount too much of the grain is displaced. Middlings and shorts can be depended upon for considerable protein when the price is but little more than that of the cereal.

Cotton seed meal and linseed oil meal are used to a considerable extent as a source of supplemental protein. The former is somewhat cheaper but because of its poisonous effects in large quantities, it should not be fed to pigs for more than 42 days. The price of the linseed meal is high and probably will never be much lower, since it is so largely used by English and Scotch cattle feeders.

Where skim milk or buttermilk may be had these may be used very largely to supply the deficiency of protein. Table scraps, where but few pigs are kept by large families, are also a valuable source of protein.

WEIGHT OF HOGS FACTOR.

PROPER weight of hogs is considered the most important factor in judging its value, based on the score cards prepared for use of public school children in judging hogs. The reason for this, says Professor Samson, the O. A. C. swine specialist, who made up the value points, is that the over-weight pig cuts up to poor advantage and the under-weight pig is likely to be a loss to the producer. The best weight, that brings the highest market price per pound, is from 175 to 225 pounds, and the nearer the 200-pound mark the better.

Although condition, that is, carrying the fat evenly distributed over the necessary parts of the carcass, is marked as high as weight on the score card—20 points—but the cut for variation is double for over

weight and has the same value in under weight. Thus it is seen that really the highest value is placed upon the desirable weight.

The value of other points on this score card is as follows:

Weight, 20; condition, 20; quality, 10; dressing percentage, 10; form, 10; face, 3; ears, 1; poll, 1; neck, 2; jowl, 1; shoulders, 2; brisket, 1; legs, 2; chest, 4; back and loin, 4; sides, 3; rump, 1; hams, 3; hind legs, 2. Total, 100.

AIDS NEIGHBORLY EXCHANGE.

FARM bulletin boards are used by many farmers in some districts to post notices on of things to sell and things wanted. As described by R. E. Reynolds, field livestock man of the Agricultural College, these boards are about three by four feet in size, and have the name of the farm, the name of the owner and the words "For Sale," painted in plain letters near the top, and "Wanted" across the center of the space below. The surplus small items such as poultry, fruit and garden product, are then written under the sale notice, and other small items likely to be had by the neighbors are written in the same manner under "wanted." All the larger items for sale or wanted are advertised in the newspapers, where the notice will reach the centers of supply and demand. Only the items for neighborly exchange are posted on the bulletin board, which is placed on the road near the house. This practice not only facilitates neighborly exchange but it serves to advertise the farm, encourages the use of farm names and farm stationery, and conveys useful information to travelers. Farmers who have tried the plan are immensely pleased with it.

CLOSING CHICAGO YARDS

BLOW TO CATTLE MARKET

"THE cattle market is bound to be upset at least temporarily by the closing down of the Chicago stock yards," said Prof. E. L. Potter, beef specialist in charge of the O. A. C. Animal Husbandry Department.

"The effect of turning away \$4,000,000 worth of beef cattle during every week that the plants are shut down will be far reaching. Much of the western stuff that has been finding its way to the Chicago yards will be diverted to other packing centers, notably Kansas City and Omaha, where the unusually heavy supply must glut the market. The inevitable effect of a continued quarantine will greatly disturb the normal channels of trade in cattle and meat, producing a surplus in some quarters and a scarcity in others.

"Of course some of the live stock can be held, but much of it will be forced by lack of feed and other causes to find a market somewhere. The extent to which this will force down prices cannot be known, since the Chicago yards have been in continuous operation for almost 50 years and we have no closing precedent to base estimates on. Closing for a few days should not be serious since about one-half of the \$4,000,000 receipts are accepted on Mondays. But if the prevalence of the mouth disease forces closing over a period of several weeks the effects must be serious.

"In case cattle prices drop materially there will probably be a cheaper meat supply in the unquarantined production districts, while meat prices will rise in markets normally supplied by the Chicago packers. Thus we are apt to see prices fall for producers and at the same time rise for a large body of consumers.

PIGGISH PIGS PROFITABLE.

GREEDINESS is a distinct asset in pigs, and the heavy eaters are more profitable than the light eaters. "It is the pig's chief business to make a hog of himself," says the swine specialist at the Oregon Agricultural College. "If he eats only enough to live, he make no profit for the owner. Only on what he eats above his needs as a living animal is fat put on his body and money put into his owner's pocket. The extent to which the pig will eat and make good use of his feed is indicated by constitution. Hence in buying a pig for fattening we should look well to the points that indicate good constitution. A short snout indicates a good appetite, and mild eyes show the good natured inactivity that bespeaks a good use of the feed. The short, broad face that usually goes with a short blocky body is usually associated with easy fattening qualities."

ORGANIC MATTER IN SOILS.

ORGANIC matter of soils is the decaying roots and vegetable compounds and the really active soil constituent as compared with humus. Humus, as defined by Professor J. E. Larson, Extension agronomist at O. A. C., is the decaying vegetable matter already incorporated in the soil and has become a distinct part of the soil mass. A supply of organic matter is kept in the soil by applications of vegetable matter such as barnyard and green manures, which keep up the humus content as well. If soils are cropped long and continuously to grains in which the growth is mostly removed, they become sad and lifeless. The particles run together badly causing greater effort to work the soil and also less production. The surface puddles and bakes and becomes intractable. It may be made to respond to proper treatment in the application of organic matter. At the same time this matter furnishes an additional supply of plant food, increases bacterial activity and releases otherwise unavailable plant food. It also aids in proper aeration and drainage. It is indeed poor farming practice to fail to supply organic matter to hard worked soils.

WHY WINTER DAIRYING IS THE MOST PROFITABLE

"THAVE cows freshen in the fall is of decided advantage to the dairyman," says Professor E. B. Fitts, Extension dairyman of the Oregon Agricultural College.

"In the first place longer milking periods and greater yearly yields are thus obtained.

"The maximum yield is secured at the time when the price is the highest. The winter price for butterfat is sometimes 10 cents per pound more than in summer.

"Labor is employed to good advantage at a time when little can be done on the farm. Given good shelter and abundance of home grown feed the cost of producing milk in the winter is but very little above that of summer. Succulent feed is essential to the best success and the use of the silo is recommended for nearly all kinds of green food that can thus be preserved in their fresh and succulent condition. If there is no silo on the farm roots or kale furnish a good substitute for ensilage."

HOG CHOLERA SERUM.

HOG CHOLERA serum is made on the principle that the blood serum of artificially immunized animals can be used as a cure and a preventive. The disease is caused by the bacterium bacillus cholerae, and the anti-toxic serum is prepared through the use of this germ. Owing to the fact that the filterable invisible virus that causes hog cholera cannot be grown in the laboratory it becomes necessary to inject the blood of hogs actually sick with cholera into the serum animals. The principles and methods of manufacture were determined by officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as explained by Dr. V. W. Knowles, now representing the department and the Agricultural College in the campaign to eradicate hog cholera in Oregon. By obtaining a patent on these methods the government has insured to all citizens the right to use the serum without the payment of royalties.

"A change refreshes the man. Inaction results in atrophy and weakness. There is no reward for the idler. The lazy man is seldom an optimist."

Two governors, those of Oregon and Massachusetts, have suspended the hunting season this year because of increased danger of forest fires when the woods were exceptionally dry.

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