Raising Fine Hogs in the Northwest

Some Ideas on the Best Way to Breed and Produce the Farmers' Mortgage Lifters.

BY JAMES E. WITHYCOMBE and E. L. POTTER.

FTER the growing period the pigs should be put on a full ration and day. fattened for market as rapidly as will be short and dry and will furnish but little feed.

The fattening pigs do not need much exercise, so it is well to put them in comparatively small pens and feed wasted, but the tarkage must be pugrain, supplemented with skim milk, chased. tankage, middlings or some similar feed. A little rich, green alfalfa pasture, such as is found in many places in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, will be very satisfactory, but the pastures of Western Oregon and Western Washington, especially those found in the latter end of the season when the pigs are ready to fatten, are of little value except for growing pigs and stock hogs. Rape properly cultivated, however, will furnish a good pasture late in the season.

Wheat and Barley.

The grains that are used for fattening are largely wheat and barley, at 20c per hundred pounds will thus Pound for pound these two are about usually save from \$1.50 to \$2.00, and a share of your patronage and correspondequal. The one chosen should there in some cases even more. It must be fore depend upon the market price. In understood that this saving applies only some places and in some years a little where limited an ounts of such feeds corn may be used. Corn also has about are given in connection with grain. If the same value as wheat, pound for thesce supplemental feeds were to take pound, the preference, if any, being for the place of the entire amount of grain the corn, if it is properly supplemented. no such saving would result; instead None of these feeds should be fed alone, the pigs would probably go off feed but supplemented with a small amount and the results would be entirely unof some such feed as skim milk or tank. satisfactory. The reason for this is age. The pigs will eat more, will go that grain, as wheat or barley, supple off feed less readily, will gain faster mented as mentioned, makes a well baland take less feed pere pound of gain

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♦ ♦ | when so fd. Of all the supplements which may be used skir milk and tank-This is the fourth of a series of @ age are the best. It is hard to say which articles by two men will informed 9 is the better, not considering price. upon what the hog can do for the . Ten pounds of milk per day per pig should be about right. If tankage is used about one-half pound per day per pig would give about the same realthough perhaps a trifle more grain hand, however, to unquali ed recomwould be used by the tankage hogs; say one-half pound more grain per

On this basis one pound of tankage possible. This fattening period will and one pound of grain would be equal last about 60 days, and at the end of to 20 pounds of skim milk. In experi this time the pigs should weigh about ments at the Oregon experiment sta-200 pounds, which is the most salable tion, where pigs were red on this basis, weight in this state. After this weight practically the same g ns were ob the gains are slower and more expentained. Also from the standpoint of sive, and the price per pound received the chemical nutrients contained the for the animal will be less, hence the two would be about equal. Tankage total profit to the grower will be less, will cost in ton lots about 24c per As pigs are ordinarily handled the pound. Cn this basis skim milk growing season will come at the time would be orth a little less han 20c of the best pasture, and by the time per hundred pounds, rroughly, about they are reaedy to fatten the pastures lie per gallon. Where these supplements must be purchased they may be purchased on this basis. In most cases however, the skim milk will be a home product and would otherwise be largely

Grain Feeding.

In comparing the feeding of grain alone with grain supplemented with in favor of the supplements. Experiments at the Cregon experiment station, where grain feeding has been compared with grain and skim milk, balance 4 years, 6 per cent interest. have shown that 100 pounds of skim milk have saved from 20 to 59 pounds of grain, more commonly about 30 to 40 pounds. One hundred pounds of tankage have saved rhout 400 pounds of grain. A dollar inveseted in tankage at 1de per pound, or in skim milk aneed ration. It is appetizing and suited to the pig's digestive system, and contains the proper amount of the nutriments which the pig needs. Grain alone, or skim milk or tankage alone, will not meet all of these requirements.

There are other feeds which may be used as a supplement to wheat or barley with good effect. The best of these is middlings. Where middlings are fed from one-fourth to one-third of the ration should be of this feed. When fed in this way good results can be expected, and it will be found that the middlings will save much more than their own weight in grain. When used in this way middlings will be worth from \$2.00 to \$2.00 per ton more than wheat, barley or rorn, and may be purchased on this basis.

Tankage Not Advised.

As to using more than one of these supplements at once, we would not recommend the purchase of tankage when skim milk is abundant, and not ordinarily when middlings are cheap." Both middlings and skim milk may be fed to advantage to hogs of any age, but especially to sows suckling young pigs and to growing pigs from one to four months old. Shorts may be used in place of middlings if of similar composition. Some shorts are about the same as middlings, while in other cases they are the same as bran.

Bran is a bulky feed and contains so much fiber that its use for pigs is not recommended, and its value for dairy cows makes the price too high to justify its use for pigs. Alfalfa, vetch or clover hay, which is especially valuable for stock hogs in winter, has little value for fattening hogs, and its use for this purpose is not recommended.

The same may be said of kale and roots. Oats are very good for pregnant sows, but have too much bulk for the best results with other stock. Sheaf

sults are ecured if it is theehed. Experiments .onducted at the Oregon experiment station some years showed plain! that the waste of feeding sheaf grain amounted to a great deal more than the cost of thr shing. In some places the hogs are llowed to run in the field of uncut grain, or to "hog it down" as it is ealled.

There is of course no expanse to this method, the waste is comparatively small, and the indications are that the practice is one that may well be extended. There is not sufficient consuits as the ten pounds of skim milk, clusive evidence on the subject at mend the practice, but it is suggested that growers try it on a small scale, especially in the dry farming sections, and on grain that is too short to harvest by the usual methods. .

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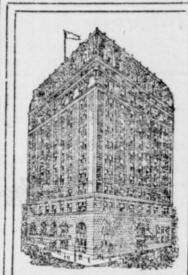
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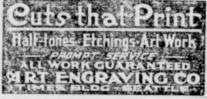


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