

## FARMERS AND DAIRMEN.

On Wednesday morning at the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, Mr. F.W. Hodson spoke on "The Bacon Pig and How to Feed Him." He spoke as follows:

In recent years much has been said and written concerning the home and foreign markets for pork and pork products. The desired pig has been described as a long, lean, singer; this definition has led many into error, they supposing from the description that the old razor back pig was the most desired. Even some clever American professors have fallen into this error and have gone so far as to select some of these South Western "razor-back pigs" and fatten them for exhibit at Chicago, claiming that they were the hog demanded by the English markets. When those animals were killed it was found they did not possess desirable carcasses; the lean meat was of undesirable quality, and not abundant, while the fat was too abundant in proportion to the lean. The pig required for the English and the best Canadian markets should be described as a long, deep, fleshy singer, that is an animal whose carcass abounds in lean, juicy meat of the best quality, and in which the proportions of fat and lean are properly balanced; a carcass possessing if possible a much greater proportion of lean meat than fat. This brings us to consider the

**THICK FAT PIG.**—Many discerning men quite properly ask, "Why is it that the thick fat pigs bring higher prices in Chicago and the other American markets than the lean singer, and why is it that there is a greater demand for this type of pig in the American markets than for the lean singer?" It is partly because of the large foreign population in the United States; most of these people prefer the thick fat pork to that of any other quality. This population together with the large demand from the Americans consumes a great deal of lard. Then again it must be remembered that pork in the United States is a by product; not of the cheese factories and dairy farms but of the great corn fields of the middle West and Southern States. In these portions of the United States great numbers of pigs are reared on the blue grass and clover. They receive little additional feed, which is usually corn, until they are of suitable age, when they follow the fattening cattle in the corn fields, in the proportion of one bullock to 4 pigs; these pigs pick up what the cattle break down, and otherwise consume the waste. By this method pork can be sold at a profit of three cents per pound. It is said by some feeders that the cost of production by this method does not exceed two cents per pound, but by this method the thick fat type of pig only is produced, not the finer classes of bacon. Very great quantities of pork and pork products are annually produced in this way. When we consider these facts we must conclude that Canadians cannot compete in the production of this thick fat pig, neither can the American feeders produce the finer classes of bacon. Even if they could, it is doubtful whether they would be willing to do the work necessary to produce the Wiltshire sides and other of the finer grades. It is more profitable for them and much less laborious to produce the thicker and heavier porks.

Therefore it was necessary for the Canadian pork packers to cast about to find a market for what Canada is best calculated to produce, and they found this in the market for the Wilshire side. This is not an unlimited market and may be overdone. Ireland, Denmark and a portion of England cater to this trade, and may be considered as our chief competitors. Canada can only hope to maintain a foothold, and perhaps a growing trade on the English markets by putting on these markets the choicest products. This is a point I should like to emphasize; every time a Canadian farmer sells to the packer an undesirable pig he injures this market, but first class products always bring to us a steadily growing market. In order to hold this trade our packers must be supplied with pigs of the right quality each day, pigs of uniform quality, long, deep and fleshy. At the present time the demands of the Maritime market are not for export trade but for home consumption, and your packers seem to desire a thicker and fatter pig than is desirable for the foreign trade, but this condition is gradually changing, and even your home market is demanding a better class of pork each year. Although this is the case you will find that buyers will go through the country and pay what is known as level prices, pay the same rate per pound for the wrong as well as the right kind of pig. This is very discouraging to the farmer who is endeavoring to produce the kind of pig the market demands, but the fault in this particular is in many cases with the seller as well as the buyer. If a buyer comes to a farm where there are sixty pigs for sale, forty of which are first class, twenty the farmer knows to be seconds, either too thin or too thick, too heavy or too light, he may say:—"I will give you 6c. per pound for the number one pigs, and 4½c. for the number two." It is ten chances to one if the seller does not

say,—"I must have 6c. a pound for the lot, or you cannot have the pigs." If the buyer leaves them, the next buyer that comes along will probably pay 5½c. or 5½c. for the lot. The farmer by compelling the drover to buy in this way is doing an injury to himself and to the trade. The packers overcome this difficulty by buying at a level price, and they determine what the price shall be this week by the quality of the pigs they received last week. For instance when pigs grading No. 1 are selling for 5c. and lower grades for 4c. per pound live weight, and 60% of the offerings rank seconds and lower, the average price paid by drovers would be \$4.40; if 60% were No. 1 and 40 per cent. No. 2, the average would be \$4.60; if 80 per cent. were No. 1 and 20 per cent. No. 2, and lower, the average price would be \$4.80; a difference between the first and last calculation of 40c. per cwt., not a large amount if calculated on the weight of a few pigs, but an enormous sum when applied to the yearly output of Canada.

Canadian farmers lose at least 20c. per hundred on all pigs because of these conditions; packers fixing their buying prices according to their average receipts from sales. The man who insists on breeding the wrong type of pig, or on feeding improperly not only loses 20c. per hundred himself, but also causes his neighbor to do so as well. Not only this but he injures the home and foreign trade. Therefore it is to the interests of every citizen that the right sort of pigs be bred on every Canadian farm, and that they be properly fed. Pigs of the wrong type cannot be made good by any kind of feeding, yet bad feeding will spoil a good pig. A loss of 20c. per hundred on all pigs sold to packers means a total loss to the farmers of Canada for \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually.

**FEEDING PENS.**—One of the first necessities in feeding pigs is a first class pen. These pens should be very light and well ventilated, no dark corners. They should be built so that they will be warm in winter and cool in summer. It is usually better to have two pens, one for feeding, and the other for breeding stock, as the breeding pigs require more attention than the feeding or finishing animals. It will be found a good system to feed a nursing sow and pigs, until the litter is five months old, three times a day. Pigs in the finishing stage, that is from 140 to 220 pounds need not be fed oftener than twice a day, morning and night, but the feeding period should extend over a considerable time. Attached to the feeding pen should be a yard in which all the liquid and solid manure can be saved, and in this particular I would like to draw your attention to the value of pig manure, which on a good many farms is unfortunately wasted. I will give you a little data in this respect, and more extended tables can be turned up at your leisure. The following table was prepared by Sir Jno. B. Lawes and shows the relative value in manure of one ton of each of the following feeds:—

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Linseed cake.....    | \$19 72 |
| " meal.....          | 15 65   |
| English beans.....   | 15 75   |
| Peas.....            | 13 38   |
| Tares.....           | 16 75   |
| Lentils.....         | 16 51   |
| Malt Dst.....        | 18 21   |
| Indian meal.....     | 6 65    |
| Wheat.....           | 7 08    |
| Barley.....          | 6 32    |
| Oats.....            | 7 70    |
| Fine Shorts.....     | 13 53   |
| Coarse ".....        | 14 36   |
| Wheat bran.....      | 14 59   |
| Clover hay.....      | 9 64    |
| Meadow hay.....      | 6 33    |
| Bean straw.....      | 3 87    |
| Pea straw.....       | 3 74    |
| Wheat straw.....     | 2 68    |
| Barley straw.....    | 2 85    |
| Oat straw.....       | 2 90    |
| Mangle Wursels.....  | 1 97    |
| Swedish turnips..... | 91      |
| Common turnips.....  | 86      |
| Potatoes.....        | 1 50    |
| Carrots.....         | 80      |
| Parsnips.....        | 1 13    |

The probable values of the manure in producing 100 pounds of pork are as follows:—

Value of manure in producing 100 lbs. pork, from Indian corn, \$1.78.

Value of manure in producing 100 lbs. pork, from peas \$3.56.

Value of manure in producing 100 lbs. pork, from clover \$4.82.

Value of manure in producing 100 lbs. pork, from skimmed milk \$5.00.

The average value of the manure, \$3.79.

It is estimated that the value of the manure, liquid and solid from a brood sow or stock pig for one year is about \$12.00.

The question can be very properly asked, What precaution are we taking to save this valuable product? More manure means heavier crops, heavier crops mean more manure and by exercising care in this respect, our farms will grow richer yearly.

While we need warm, well ventilated pens for winter feeding, our summer feeding should be done on pasture, if possible where lucerne will grow. The pigs will thrive on lucerne pasture and will also do well on clover, timothy, tares and rye. When they are turned out on pasture, moveable pens should be used. These are permanently fastened to 4x4 skids, and can be readily moved from place to place with one horse.

## UNSUITABLE AND DOUBTFUL FOODS.

**BEANS.**—have been blamed for the production of a large quantity of soft pork in Western Ontario. This is a bean growing district and large quantities of damaged

beans have been fed to pigs. The packers claim that the pork thus produced is soft and of inferior quality. Conclusive experiments have not yet been conducted but we will be safe in the meantime to give beans a wide berth as far as pig-feeding is concerned. The beans fed in Ontario must not be confounded with the horse bean which can be grown in the Eastern Provinces, and which is grown to a considerable extent in Great Britain.

**BUCKWHEAT.**—This should never be fed as a whole grain ration. As regards increase in live weight for amount of feed consumed, it is but slightly inferior to wheat, but it is heating in character, and does not produce first class bacon. It may be fed in limited quantities in connection with peas, oats or barley, but in no case should form more than one quarter of the grain ration. It will perhaps give better results when mixed with oats or barley, than with other grains.

**RYE.**—Both rye shorts and rye bran in any considerable quantity have been found prejudicial to obtaining the best quality of bacon. Rye itself as regards the gain in weight is about equal in feeding value to barley, while as regards its influence on the quality of bacon Danish experiments have found it favorable. In view of the bad results obtained from its by-products however, it would be well to refrain from feeding to any great extent, until our experiment stations have made further tests to its practical value.

**SLOPPY FOODS.**—Some feeders make the serious mistake of feeding their pigs too much "sloppy" food, that is too much water or swill is added to the grain. The Danes and Germans long ago found out the unsatisfactory results from thus doing, and therefore lay great stress on having the food just moist enough to run easily into the trough.

## WHAT TO FEED.

**BARLEY.**—In Great Britain and Denmark barley is favored above all other pig foods, the bacon resulting therefrom being very sweet and of high quality. It may be fed as a whole grain ration but will give better results if mixed with such feeds as peas, wheat, corn, oats or shorts. In comparison with corn meal, 8 per cent more barley was required to produce a given gain. The barley fed pigs also drank about twice as much water as the corn fed pigs. In this experiment as in other experiments the carcasses of the corn fed pigs were rated as poor in quality, and while 92 per cent of those fed on barley alone came in classes No. 1 & 2, only 62 per cent of those fed on corn throughout were qualified for these two classes and 14 per cent came in class No. 3, which were sold at a discount.

**WHEAT AND ITS BY-PRODUCTS.**—Wheat has a feeding value practically equal to corn, as regards the amount of gain in live weight, and the bacon produced is of good quality. It is only however during an era of low prices for wheat that it can be economically and profitably used for feeding purposes, but goose wheat and frozen wheat, such as can be obtained in Manitoba and the North West Territories can be put to good service in feeding swine. The pork produced from frozen wheat at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, was rated higher than that produced by peas. 15-46 pounds of increase in live weight were obtained there from one bushel of frozen wheat. It was thought at one time that wheat might be the cause of soft bacon, but experiments have proved that such is not the case.

Of the by-products of wheat the value of shorts or middlings as a food for both young and older pigs is well known. Experiments have proved middlings superior to corn in the proportion of 108 to 100. A combination of the two was found to be 20 per cent. more economical than middlings alone. Shorts has a tendency to produce soft and undesirable pork therefore should never be fed except in combination with peas, barley, corn or other grains. If however, skim milk or whey is fed in combination with the ration of which shorts forms a part, and in addition to this the hogs get plenty of exercise, the quality of the bacon will not be affected. Bacon from pigs fed exclusively on shorts and bran is darkish in color, and contains a large proportion of lean meat. The Kansas experiment station in some tests found that bacon thus produced possessed a hard toughness when fried, and also shrank more than corn fed pork when boiled.

**BRAN.**—The chaffy character of this food renders it unfit for the digestive apparatus of the young pig, but as they increase in size some bran may be fed with advantage; bran may be fed with good results to breeding stock, and to a limited extent to fattening swine.

**PEAS.**—Peas make an admirable adjunct to other grains in the feeding of swine. They are best fed ground but they have given good results where they have been fed whole, and soaked for some hours previously. They should not be fed alone, but in combination with barley, oats, corn or other grains. When fed as the sole grain ration both the fat and lean of the carcass is apt to be too hard.

**OATS.**—Oats are very valuable for both growing and feeding swine but should always

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be fed in connection with corn, peas, or barley, in order to get the best results. For young and growing pigs I have found that ½ oats and ½ corn; ½ oats and ½ peas or ½ oats, ½ barley and ½ corn have given excellent results.

**CORN.**—Prof. Henry in his admirable work "Feeds and Feeding" says that corn should constitute not over half the ration at any time, the quantity being smallest with young animals. As the body increases in size and nears maturity the demand for protein and ash becomes less and the proportion of corn to other grains can be gradually increased until during the fattening stage the ration may if desired consist almost wholly of this grain. Whether corn should be fed whole or as meal depends on circumstances. If the kernels are very hard the corn should be ground. If no trouble arises from this source

the utility of grinding hinges on the relative cost of grain and grinding. Where grinding is not possible hard corn may be prepared for feeding by soaking the grains. Corn meal should always be soaked in water before feeding, the dry meal being unpalatable, but corn like other grain will give the best results when fed in combination with other foods, particularly oats, barley, and skim milk. Pigs will do very well fed on corn and skim milk, in the proportion of three to five pounds skim milk to one pound of corn.

Concluded next week.

## MONEY TO LOAN.

Money on good real estate mortgage security, on reasonable rates of interest, may be obtained at application to the undersigned at his office opposite the Carleton Hotel.

LOUIS E. YOUNG, Woodstock.