FORAGE CROPS TO LESSEN COST OF PORK

Pigs in Rape at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station.

(By L. A. WEAVER, Missouri College of Agriculture.)

Forage crops furnish the best possible way of cheapening the cost of pork production, if we can trust the experience of the Missouri agricultural experiment station and of numerous hog feeders. High-priced grain must be used to a certain extent, but cheaper crops may be substituted for a part of it. The Missouri station experiments show that the five pounds of grain required to produce a pound of pork in dry lots may be reduced to three pounds if the hogs are running on alfalfa, rape, clover, sorghum or blue grass. The average return per bushel of corn fed was 66 cents a bushel in case of dry-lot feeding, as compared with $1.10 when the hogs fed were running on pasture.

Economy of work and a better effect on the fertility of the soil are also secured by hogging down, so the 40 per cent saving in grain feed does not tell the whole story. Hogs on pasture nearly always drop the manure where it will do some good, but this is rarely the case if dry-lot feeding is practiced. The grain feed keeps the animal in better health and free range gives him a chance to keep himself more nearly free from lice and worms.

Among the forage crops tested for pork production, alfalfa stands at the very top because (1) its long growing season enables it to furnish both early and late pasture, (2) it is drought resistant and does very well in the driest seasons and the driest parts of the growing season in Missouri, (3) its high protein content makes it especially good for balancing the corn in the ration.

Clover ranks next to alfalfa and fits into corn-belt rotations much better. It is similar in composition, but does not furnish pasture as early or keep as many hogs per acre.

Dwarf Essex rape is the best of the crops that must be sown each year. It may be sown alone or broadcast at the rate of six pounds per acre after which a bushel of oats per acre can be drilled in. Sorghum is also to be recommended and blue grass is excellent, especially for early and late pasture, but it is likely to take a rest during a hot, dry summer. At such times the green, succulent sorghum will be very acceptable.

INCREASE IN VIGOR MADE BY CROSSING

After First Generation There Is Decrease in Yielding Power of Hybrid Strains.

It has been the common belief of feeders that a first cross between two pure breeds produces an animal that makes more rapid gains and matures earlier than would an animal of either of the pure breeds that entered into the cross. The blue-gray steer (Shorthorn-Galloway cross) has been famous as a feeder for many years. Likewise farmers that are raising hogs for the butcher's block usually prefer Berkshire-Poland-China, Duroc-Tamworth, or Duroc-Berkshire first crosses to pure bred stock of any of these breeds. There is an increase of vigor in the first generation cross.

It has also been known for many years that first generation crosses among plants that have been bred pure for some time will give an increase of yield over their parent stock.

Later experiments have brought out a point that the earlier experimenters failed to fully appreciate—that the increase in vigor from crossing is only temporary. After the first generation there is a decrease in the yielding power of hybrid strains. Unfortunately most breeders after they have made a cross with good results, will try to perpetuate a hybrid variety.—Bulletin 202, Virginia Experiment Station.

USE OF FULL-BLOOD SIRES ON THE RANGE

Striking Argument in Favor of Registered Bulls Reported From State of Utah.

A communication from Washington, D. C., gives a striking illustration of the value of the use of full-blood sires on the range.

Two Utah ranchmen shipped their steers to the same market on the same day. Both grazed their stock on the national forest range under grazing permits, controlling the same amount of range per head, and paid the same grazing fee. There was this difference: One had used registered bulls, the other had not. The owner of the steers by registered bulls actually received $40 per head more for his steers on the market than the other one received for the steers sired by the nonregistered bulls.

There is more sound argument in favor of the use of registered bulls in this one fact than could be written into a volume.

Treatment of Peppers.

The same treatment in the seedbed and after transplanting in the frame or greenhouse practically is required of peppers as tomatoes. Higher temperatures are necessary to get the best results. Peppers thrive in any kind of loose, fertile soil and the tendency to become spindly is not so marked as in the case of tomatoes.

Heat in the Hotbed.

Fresh horse manure, containing a liberal amount of straw or other litter is the best material to furnish heat in the hotbed. If manure is saved from the home stable it should be collected and preserved under cover. It requires about one two-horse load for every two sash.

Grain Bin Is Cheap.

A grain bin that will last at least ten years can be had for ten cents a bushel, or one cent per bushel per year storage expense. That's cheap!

HORSE REALLY HAS VERY LITTLE SENSE

Not Nearly So Intelligent as He Is Often Pictured—"Jibbler" Not Stupid.

(By GEORGE H. GLOVER, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colo.)

Those who have had the least to do with horses ascribe to them an intelligence which they really do not possess. A horse knows about as much when it is born as it ever does.

The majority of horses have very little will power, they can be rendered docile and tractable, they will work at high pressure until exhausted, never apparently learning the obvious lesson that it is the "willing horse" which suffers and that the more they work the more they will get to do.

The so-called stupidity of the ass and the provoking obstinacy of the mule are not indications of a lack of intelligence. On the contrary they manifest a determination of purpose which if they could combine against man would secure for them complete freedom from civilization.

A horse that "jibs" is one that has learned to disobey; he has learned his own strength and the comparative powerlessness of his master and he has learned this through an exercise of reason. The "jibbler" is an intelligent and not a stupid horse.

GIVE YOUNG COLTS VERY BEST OF CARE

Dry Bed and Protection From Cold Winds and Rain Is of Utmost Importance.

(By PROF. DONALD J. KAYS, Ohio State University.)

With the demand for good draft horses advancing, the young colts should receive the best of care to insure rapid and complete development. Many may be ruined by heavy feeding in the stalls where they cannot take exercise.

The ideal shelter for colts is a tightly built shed open to the south where the animals may go in or out at their own pleasure and where they may have the run of a lot for exercise. A dry bed and a protection from cold winds and rain is all that is needed. Clover and alfalfa make good roughage for colts with a grain ration of two parts oats and one bran added.

There is little danger of overfeeding a colt if room for proper exercise is given. Growth can be made more cheaply during the first year than at any other time and feed should not be spared.

Keeping Bees Quiet.

To keep a newly-settled swarm of bees quiet and make them enter the hive well, sprinkle them lightly with water before beginning to work with them.

Preserving Fence Posts.

Dipping the butts of fence posts for a length of 30 inches in hot coal tar will prove a great saving in fence-post expense.

Avoid Low-Priced Seed.

Don't purchase the lowest-priced seed. In nine cases out of ten the highest-priced seed is by far the cheapest. The seed doesn't cost much, after all, in proportion to the labor put on plants, once they start. A full crop is important, and possible only with good seed.

Worth of Planning.

A day in the fields is worth more than a day hauling grain, but an hour of planning may be worth more than both.

SANDWICHES OF MANY KINDS

Some of Them in the Nature of Departure From the Well-Known Fillings Generally Used.

Olive Sandwiches.—Thin slices of bread evenly buttered, cut hexagon shape. Between each two slices place a layer of neufchatel cheese mixed to a paste with equal quantities of cream and salad dressing and covered thickly with chopped olives.

Fig Sandwiches.—Thin slices of bread cut in fancy shapes and buttered, with fig filling between each two. The fig filling should be prepared as follows: One-half pound finely chopped figs, one-third cupful sugar, one-half cupful of boiling water, add two tablespoonfuls of lemon juice. Mix these ingredients and cook in a double boiler until thick enough to spread.

Chicken Salad Sandwiches.—Between two thin, oblong slices of bread, buttered, place a layer of chicken salad on a lettuce leaf. In making chicken salad for sandwiches chop the chicken and celery much finer than for ordinary purposes.

Ham Sandwiches.—Chop ham very fine and season with mustard, make into a paste with melted butter, spread between two thin slices of bread, thinly buttered.

German Sandwiches.—Mix equal parts of cream cheese and chopped walnut meats with French dressing. Spread between thin slices of bread.

Russian Sandwiches.—Stir grated cheese into mayonnaise and spread between thin crackers.

SOUR BEEF WITH DUMPLINGS

Recipe Which Will No Doubt Find Favor With Anyone Who Is Moved to Try It.

Put three to four pounds of beef (the round is best) in a bowl and pour over it sufficient vinegar to cover. Set aside for 24 hours, turning and basting frequently. Brown two large onions, chopped fine, in two tablespoonfuls butter. Place meat in roasting pan, pour over it the brown onions and the vinegar in which it was soaked; add a few cloves, a blade of mace and a bit of allspice. Bay leaves and lemon peel may be added if desired. When browned and thoroughly cooked the liquor should be strained and thickened either with flour or grated ginger snaps.

Potato Dumplings. — Cream a piece of butter the size of an egg, add yolks of two eggs, half cupful stale bread crumbs and a cupful of cold boiled potatoes; put through the ricer; season with salt and nutmeg, and, lastly, add the beaten whites of the eggs. Make into small dumplings and drop into the boiling liquor in which meat was cooked, and boil, closely covered, for ten minutes.

Noodled Ham.

Make the noodles by beating one egg with a saltspoon of salt till very light. Add as much flour as it will require to make a stiff dough. Roll thin, cut in narrow strips, shake them out, then break or cut in pieces when dry. Put two cupfuls of them in stewpan, cover with boiling water and boil ten minutes. Chop enough boiled ham to make a large cupful. Butter an earthen dish, drain noodles and alternate layer of ham and noodles, with ham for the last layer; beat two eggs, add one cupful of cream or rich milk and pour over top. Cover with layer of crumbs and dots of butter. Bake a delicate brown and serve in dish in which it was baked.

Potato Caramel Cake.

Cream together two cupfuls granulated sugar, two-thirds cupful of butter and yolks four eggs; add one cupful hot mashed potato and one-half cupful of milk, one teaspoonful each clove, cinnamon and nutmeg, one cupful grated chocolate, two teaspoonfuls baking powder in two cupfuls flour, and last stir in lightly the whites of eggs and one cupful broken or chipped English walnuts.

About Lemons.

Here are some of the things the ever-useful lemon can do:

Remove stains from the hands.

Relieve fever if used to sponge the patient's lips. One part lemon juice and one part glycerin is the proper proportion.

A dash of lemon juice in a glass of water is an excellent mouth and tooth wash. It removes tartar and sweetens the breath.

Chicken a la Boston.

One cup cold cooked chicken cut to strips, three cold boiled potatoes, cut in half-inch slices, one truffle cut in strips, three tablespoonfuls butter, three tablespoonfuls flour, one and one-half cupfuls scalded milk, salt and pepper. Make a sauce of butter, flour and milk. Add chicken, potatoes and truffle, and as soon as heated add seasoning.

Hot Fricassee.

Cut into small pieces the remains of a roast, either beef, lamb or veal, put into a frying pan, dredge thickly with flour. Season with salt and pepper, cover with cold water and cook gently. Serve very hot with mashed potatoes. At this time of the year potatoes are much nicer mashed or scalloped than boiled. They go farther also.

Pork Chops With Eggs.

First put a couple of slices of bread in oven to toast, then fry meat, drop eggs in gravy and scrable them, adding piece of butter. Now dip your toast in hot, salted water and pour eggs over it. I think sausage a nice change, also tripe fried in butter. Beat an egg, add salt and tablespoon of flour. Dip your tripe in this and fry in pork fat.—Boston Globe.

Scotch Shortbread.

Rub four ounces of butter into six ounces of flour and add two ounces powder sugar. Knead the mixture until it becomes a stiff paste. (When it is hard to knead add one egg but that is not necessary.) Mold it on a board with your hand. Roll out and cut in fancy shapes. Prick with a fork and bake in moderate oven 15 minutes.

A LAND PROBLEM AHEAD

(FROM THE PEORIA JOURNAL.)

The Nebraska State Journal calls attention to the fact that Uncle Sam's opening of a 4,000-acre tract in the North Platte irrigation district for settlement practically winds up the "free land distribution" of the nation. It adds:

"Free or cheap land has been the American safety valve. A population straining for self-betterment has had its own remedy—to go west and grow up with the country. With the government reduced to advertising an opening of forty-three farms, the safety valve may be considered forever closed. The expansive energy formerly exerted outward, must hereafter work itself out intensively. Increasing land speculation, with rapidly rising prices of land and proportionately increasing dissatisfaction among the landless would seem inevitable. The tone of our politics and the intensity of our social problems cannot but be vitally changed under the strain of dealing internally with a social pressure which hitherto has had the wilderness to vent itself upon.

"'Land hunger' will soon become a reality in this rapidly growing country and the constant pressure of population, increasingly higher than the ratio of production, is bound to bring us face to face with economic problems that we have heretofore considered remote. The far-sighted statesman and publicist must devote his thought earnestly to the consideration of these questions if we are to escape the extremes which curse the older nations of the world."

In the above will be found one of the reasons that the Canadian Government is offering 160 acres of land free to the actual settler. There is no dearth of homesteads of this size, and the land is of the highest quality, being such as produces yields of from 30 to 60 bushels of wheat per acre, while oats run from fifty to over hundred bushels per acre. It is not only a matter of free grants, but in Western Canada are also to be had other lands at prices ranging from $12 to $30 per acre, the difference in price being largely a matter of location and distance from railway. If one takes into consideration the scarcity of free grant lands in the United States it is not difficult to understand why there has been most material advances in the price of farm lands.

A few years ago, land that now sells for two hundred dollars an acre in Iowa, could have been bought for seventy-five dollars an acre or less. The increased price is warranted by the increased value of the product raised on these farms. The lands that today can be had in Western Canada at the low prices quoted will in a less time than that taken for the Iowa lands to increase, have a proportionate increase. In Nebraska the lands that sold for sixteen to twenty dollars per acre seven years ago, find a market at one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre, for the same reason given for the increase in Iowa lands. Values in these two States, as well as in others that might be mentioned, show that Western Canada lands are going at a song at their present prices. In many cases in Western Canada today, there are American settlers who realize this, and are placing a value of sixty and seventy dollars an acre on their improved farms, but would sell only because they can purchase unimproved land at such a low price that in another few years they would have equally as good farms as they left or such as their friends have in the United States.

The worth of the crops grown in Western Canada is of higher value than those of the States named, so why should the land not be worth fully as much. Any Canadian Government Agent will be glad to give you information as to homestead lands or where you can buy.—Advertisement.

No man ever has as much sense as the female he is engaged to thinks he has.

Most of the world's heroes dwell between the covers of novels.

W. N. U., OMAHA, NO. 19-1916.