

A total of 52,872,634 head of hogs was slaughtered under federal inspection throughout the United States in 1924. Our estimated hog census is around 65,000,000, an estimated shortage of close to 12,000,000 for 1925.



Where Town and Country Meet

EDITED BY C. H. BLAKELY.



This page is not intended as a source of advice, but rather we wish to cooperate with those factors, which will make agriculture and business compatible. We believe the opinions of leading business men are valuable to farmers.

Farmers Urged to Raise Hogs in Face of Rising Price of Corn

Market Up; Animals Do Not Come In

No Chance of Pork Famine Nor of Over Abundance; Commission and Farmers See Time to Keep Swine.

Prospects Never Better

Perhaps there is nothing in market forecasts, but it is similar to writing cross-word puzzles; it has a fascination for those who study it. We went into the future question of hogs over at the South Omaha market last week and some of the things we have heard makes us want to get back upon the farm to raising hogs.

A large per cent of the commission men are bullish. The condensed opinion is for a steady market for the next 60 days and after that runs would let up and the market would get better. Practically all the men interviewed expressed this opinion.

We acknowledge the following statement which was secured by the assistance of the Omaha stockyard exchange. A number of other men were interviewed and the opinion given here is representative.—Agr. Editor.

Optimistic. "We are very optimistic in regard to hog prices for the next three months, in fact, we are optimistic as to hog prices for many months to come."

"All people who keep in close touch with market conditions, especially those who actually operate and trade at market centers, realize there is just one law that controls prices of product, and that is the law of supply and demand."

"You can legislate to your heart's content, but whenever the visible supply is heavy the price goes down, and up if the condition is reversed. The reason why we are optimistic in regard to hog prices during the coming months is because the visible supply is short."

Three Way Shortage. "This shortage is apparent in three separate ways. First, according to government statistics, the number of pigs raised last spring and which are being marketed was about 12,000,000 short of the number raised for consumption during the year 1924."

"Secondly, owing to the high price and scarcity of corn, producers have been loath to feed the corn and make their hogs heavy. To illustrate, the average weight of all hogs sold on the Omaha market during December, 1923, was 250 pounds. During December, 1924, the average market was 221 pounds, making a shortage of 29 pounds in every hog marketed. This same condition exists at practically every other market in the country."

"Thirdly, owing to the high price and scarcity of corn, producers have been loath to feed the corn and make their hogs heavy. To illustrate, the average weight of all hogs sold on the Omaha market during December, 1923, was 250 pounds. During December, 1924, the average market was 221 pounds, making a shortage of 29 pounds in every hog marketed. This same condition exists at practically every other market in the country."

"The government report also shows a reduction of 24 per cent in last fall's pig crop. A summary of their report shows that hog production in 1925 will be as small as any year in the last 10. It also shows there will be a marked falling off in receipts at primary markets in the coming months."

"In view of the fact that two or three years the hog has been looked upon, more or less, in disfavor by the farmer because he was not paying his way. It seems just about time to adopt the slogan, 'Stick to the hog.'"

About Consumption. "You will hear some say that the advancing price of pork products will cut down consumption. There cannot be much truth in this statement, because pork is the poor man's meat, and it is still much cheaper than beef. The demand from all sources is enormous and there is no sign of a diminishing demand."

"Indications are that our labor will be well employed this year. Also foreign countries are being financed that heretofore have been short of funds to buy our pork."

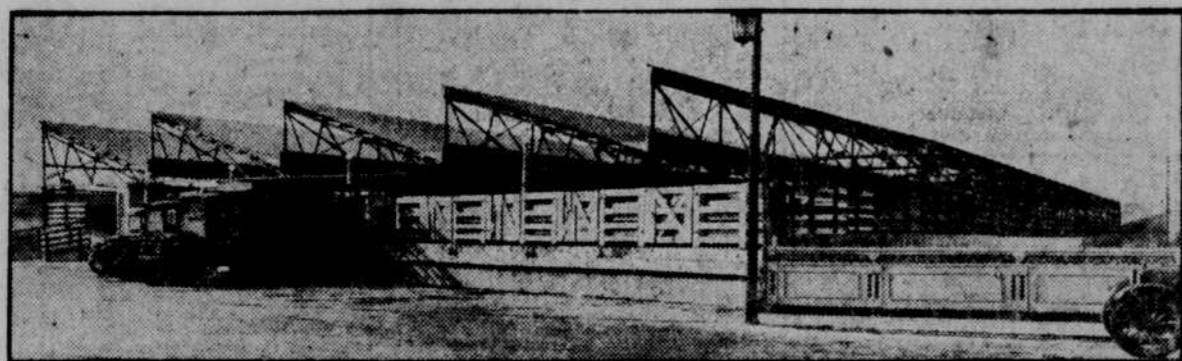
"It is true that packers' cellars are showing an enormous accumulation for this time of the year. Government agricultural statistics show an increase of 25,000,000 pounds of lard, frozen pork, 30,000,000 pickled pork, 65,000,000, and 51,000,000 of cured pork during the month of December."

"January is showing a like increase, but it is our guess that all this accumulation will melt away in the next few months to come."

"Of course, the packer has his problems. Every pound of meat put in storage has to be financed. This requires an outlay of enormous sums of money. He is not sure of the future market. If it does not advance, he will lose money."

"Again the packer must figure on merchandising an immense amount of fresh meat; if he does not, his accumulation will become greater than can be conveniently handled. It is no wonder that he sometimes balks at paying continued higher prices for product that has to be put in storage. Packers have had lots of financial troubles during the last few years and have not forgotten them by any means."

New Truck Unloading Chute at South Omaha Market



The new unloading chute at the South Omaha market. The truck division, which was installed in 1924, is one of the most complete of its kind to be found at any livestock market in the world.

The growth of the South Omaha livestock market in "drive-in" animals has more than doubled since 1920.

This class of animals coming to the market is well reflected in a report of hogs driven in to market since 1920. In 1920 the total reached 181,546 head. In 1921, 216,267 came in by truck and other routes than car shipments. In 1922, 255,410 head came into the market by the truck route. In 1923, 350,702 head, and in 1924, 414,599.

Just Started. In speaking of this increase the secretary of the Union Stockyards company declared that the increase of hogs being marketed by trucks is just getting under way this year.

The new truck terminal which was built in 1924 has already increased the number of arrivals and it is predicted that these new facilities will stimulate the handling of hogs by truck.

Speeds Up Market. These improvements make it possible for the market to handle hogs which arrive at a much better advantage. They are unloaded at special chutes and are shoved into the selling pens without delay.

Many New Feeders. The handling of hogs by truck has developed a new line of feeders around the South Omaha market. Many farmers who would not have attempted to handle a full carload of animals are now feeding in smaller lots. They can come on the market with a truck load of hogs, get another load and be back upon the farm the same morning. Other markets have truck divisions, but such improvements are meager compared with the improvements at the South Omaha market.

Before going any farther just take a dose of this. It is "good stuff" as newspaper parlance goes. It comes from the pen of the old reliable market editor, Bruce McCulloch, editor of the Journal Stockman. In an editorial upon predictions he says:

"This business of forecasting future receipts of livestock at the markets has always been a bit and miss game and since the department of agriculture has gone into the forecasting business the results have not been any more satisfactory. There is this about the government forecasters, however, when they miss their guess they generally have an alibi ready. 'This forecasting hog receipts is a hazardous business at best, and not less so when undertaken by the government than when undertaken by the individual. All present indications point to reduced supplies of hogs at the markets this year, but from past experience it will hardly be necessary to prepare for a pork famine either in 1925 or 1926. 'This is a mighty big country.'"

A Summary. "Summing up the situation, we ask ourselves the question, why should any of us, as individuals, decrease our production of pigs? 'There is an old saying in the livestock business that when the fellow walks—run, when he runs—walk. It seems to us that as far as raising pigs is concerned, this is a good time to run."

"There are primarily two kinds of farmers, one the so-called grain farmer and the other, one who raises grain and feeds it to livestock. Present indications are that the grain farmer will predominate; in other words, the usual amount of grain will be raised and not the usual amount of hogs. What will be the result, simply that hog prices will soar and corn will get cheap."

"Hogs and corn must work together; they must dovetail for hogs cannot be raised without corn and corn will not be worth the raising unless there are hogs to eat it. 'Again we say 'Stick to the Hog.'"

Farmers Fight Round Worms

Cleanliness of Surroundings and Early Care of Litter Best Aids.

By E. G. MAXWELL. She laid 80,000,000 eggs! All I want is that this was some hen—I she was a hen!

Did you ever hear of a useful, food-producing animal making a record equal to that? No? Well, neither did we. This living monstrosity was none other than a female round worm—so very commonly found in hog lots everywhere.

The life of the round worm is one of destruction from the time the young worm hatches until its life period is over. Round worms cause digestive troubles, thumps and pneumonia, retard growth and development and are especially disastrous to young pigs.

Farmers are beginning to learn that a few precautionary measures will greatly reduce infection by this recognized enemy. The system of sanitation worked out by the United States Department of Agriculture co-operating with farmers of McLean county, Ill., is a sure means of escaping the evils of not only the round worm but other diseases caused by filth found in hog lots.

This system consists in handling pigs from the time of birth until they are about 4 months old, in such a manner as to avoid, or reduce, the chances of infection. It is recommended wherever possible that sows be allowed to farrow in individual houses on clean ground. If this is not possible the farrowing pens should be cleaned thoroughly with boiling water and lye.

This is the only sure means of killing the round worm. It is recommended that sows be allowed to farrow in individual houses on clean ground. If this is not possible the farrowing pens should be cleaned thoroughly with boiling water and lye.

"Our opinion is that using some plan to raise your pigs on clean ground is the only way you can afford to raise them at all. By keeping them in fresh surroundings a great deal of trouble is avoided."

Every Business Is Dependent on Farm Conditions

All Urged to Join Study of Agriculture Through The Omaha Bee.

The page devoted to the poultry industry which ran last week has created a great deal of reader interest. Besides the letters and comments coming to the agricultural desk of The Omaha Bee, there were several letters and telephone calls to County Agricultural Agent E. G. Maxwell. Mr. Taylor, writing from Grand Island, Neb., sends a letter which is typical of the many inquiries sent to Mr. Maxwell.

Grand Island, Jan. 19.—"County Agricultural Agent E. G. Maxwell, Omaha, Neb.—Dear Sir: I was interested in the full page in Sunday's Omaha Bee in regard to the raising of poultry. I am expecting to go into this business and as I saw your name so much in this page, I am writing you as to where I can obtain the desired information on this subject."

"This page has decided my mind to make it a study from the first and I am willing to keep it up should it prove successful. 'Please let me hear from you in regard to this, for which I am sending stamped envelope. Respectfully, 'FRANK A. TAYLOR.'"

Suggestions Are Wanted. Should you like the page, we will never know it if you fail to send in your appreciation. Should you see means of improving it, let us hear from you.

Mr. Banker, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Railroad Man, Mr. Anybody who is living in the territory covered by The Omaha Bee, remember that your opinion is what we want. You are indirectly dependent upon agriculture for your own success. The recent failure of farming affected your own business.

If you were selling goods to the farmer, you should have been brought close to farming during the late hard times. We want you to write to The Omaha Bee and tell them what you think about this page. Is it the thing a farmer to edit part of its editorial matter? Should the farmer be given a special service which is gotten up by a trained farmer? Your opinion will help us to write the kind of stories which help. Write it today.

All Business Is Affected. We are talking to the farmer separately, not because he is a separate class, set aside as especially privileged or due to receive consideration just because he is a farmer. We believe the town and city man should be just as vitally interested in agriculture as should any farming community.

But, Mr. Farmer, we know that you never write letters. It is a difficult task at best. But should you like this special service which The Omaha Bee has been giving you, it is to your interest and to ours to know about it. No other daily in the middle west is giving so complete attention to agricultural news as is The Omaha Bee. We are adopting a policy of agricultural news reporting which should make The Omaha Bee a farmer's paper. If you like the new service, write us and tell us about it. Your failure to write will signify to us that the service is of little interest to you. Do it today.

"FLAPPERS" NOW "EASTER EGGS"

In speaking of ultra-modern young women it is no longer good form to call them "flappers." They are now called "Easter Eggs," says the Gilroy California High School Agriculture News, because they are hand painted on the outside and hard-boiled on the inside.

Backyard Poultry Philosophy

By C. H. B. E. Psychology plays a big part in the marketing of farm products. Perhaps nothing can stampede a market as does a report of disease among certain classes of farm animals.

I am thinking specifically of the recent poultry embargo which was thrust upon poultry breeders of the corn-belt states by the New York board of health.

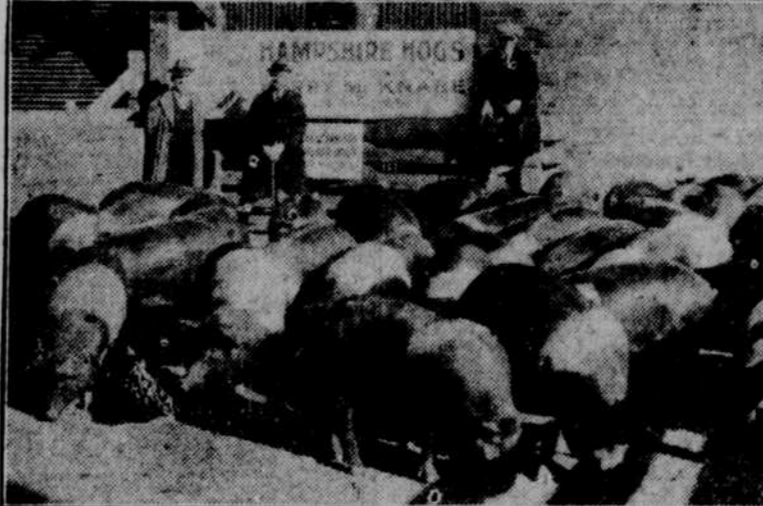
Before any estimate can be made of the results accruing from the action of the New York authorities, let's look at the human side of the question and see what happens when such reports become current.

Getting really personal about the story, let me tell about my own household. The other night Mrs. Blakely and I went shopping. We had procured everything necessary for the week-end menu except the meat part of the allowance. She said, "What kind of meat shall we buy for our Sunday dinner?" I thought for a moment then suggested that we buy a hen.

On Chicken Wagon. Now, Mrs. Blakely is a real farm girl, raised and trained by a successful corn belt farmer. She has raised her share of farm poultry and knows more about the business than the average city shopper. What did she do? She threw both hands in the air and replied, "Why I wouldn't think of buying a fowl at this time!" Like most husbands I could only look upon her as a "chicken wagon."

Honestly, I never thought of the poultry embargo. I had been studying the results of this attempt to curtail an imaginary evil and had only been

Knabe's Grand Champion Barrows



Grand Champion Carload Hampshire Barrows, American Royal Livestock Show at Kansas City, 1924, shown by Harry Knabe, Nehawka, Neb. (Mr. Knabe at right.)

Put the Pure-Bred Hog Business Upon a Sound Cash Basis

By C. H. B. According to the best information which can be had at present, hogs are coming into their own again. The experts over at the Omaha livestock market declare the market will see strength in the future. These statements made by some of the best authorities should be hailed as welcome tidings.

What about the "comeback" of the purebred swine business? Will it see the day that good purebred hogs are once seen? Will the game ever attract men of ability as it once attracted thousands of novices? We say novices, for surely the boom days of the purebred swine business were built upon novices—support rather than sound business policy. Breed papers went into absurd contracts which were never paid for by breeders, fieldmen advised purchases which never had bankable credit back of the paper which changed hands in the transaction. Good honest breeders practiced "swapping equities."

They fell in with the system then in vogue. They didn't call the new men novices, for at that time no one knew them to be gullible. Most promoters actually believed that we had entered a new age in the world of swine breeding. Men who had been doing conservative breeding for a generation lost their heads and plunged into the stream of unsound promotion which was running wild. All of those mistakes are now history. But it has been claimed that history repeats itself every so often. The question uppermost in the minds of breeders today is, shall we recognize upon a cash basis or shall we swing back into the old custom of financing our sales through credit.

Credit Business a Failure. Perhaps failure came as a result of over expansion. However, the recent purebred boom had this one lesson which should not be forgotten. Failure was partly due to a credit system which never had any sound basis. Most of the paper taken as settlement for purebred hogs was not worth the stationery upon which it was written. Bankers who made the mistake of believing it tangible credit are out of the banking business today. It may be that never again will the industry have the opportunity it had during those good days. If bankers and financial advisers would have "set tight" and done only sound cash business, the game would never have been where it is today.

A farmer wishing to buy a good purebred animal should not expect a breeder to accept a note for the animal unless the note is negotiable at a sound bank. The banker should not accept notes for purebred animals unless such notes are secured by other animals to the extent that only prevailing market prices for slaughter are used as a basis of establishing values. In other words a purebred actually is not worth any more than it will bring upon the livestock market.

Potentially the purebred is worth much more, but don't forget that it was not potential value which "busted" the hog breeder. He didn't have the money to take up the bad notes when they came due so away went equities when he was forced to cash in on the credit which he had extended. The breeder who pays cash for his new stock and sells for cash cannot be shipped.

A Wide Open Field. Today breeders are thinking straighter than formerly. Those fellows who have weathered the storms of the past are to be congratulated. Perhaps they will now reap benefits equal to their former sacrifices. In the new day for the hog breeder let's hope for an appreciation of the work being done by our breed promoters, but let's not try to establish the purebred upon bubbles of unsound credit. When hogs begin to soar upon the open market let's get all we can for

Wyandottes for Sale. Choice White Wyandottes, exhibition or production stock, singles or pairs, won first prize in both classes at the Omaha Poultry show; also at State show. Write for particulars. E. E. HANSEN, Uni. Place, Neb.

FANCIER HAS NEW POULTRY BREED

Fanciers are attempting to establish new breeds from time to time. The latest attempt was reported at the Chicago poultry show. A. F. Rolf is developing a breed which has peculiar sex markings. The males are a creamy white and the females are barred.

The baby chicks when hatched can be distinguished along sex lines, that is the males are white and the females dark. Many advantages are claimed by this sexline process. It enables the fancier to select his cockerels at an early age for development. He can develop a special flock of females by crowding them from the time they are hatched out. The remainder of the hatch can be raised in an ordinary commercial manner.

The breed was developed by crossing a white leghorn male upon a barred Plymouth rock female. Later female blood was introduced from the Black Minorca breed and Barred Rock blood. The breed has been called "Cameos."

POULTRY MANUAL FILLS LONG NEED

The American Poultry Journal has just completed a book called, "All Breeds of Poultry." It deals with the origin, history, description, mating, and characteristics of all recognized breeds of poultry.

The little volume has been sent to the agricultural editor's desk for review. The publisher says, "It is not for sale, it is a token of our interest in the great American industry."

The book can be had by request, providing you are a real booster for the poultry industry. The editor of this page wishes to say that he has never before owned a book so complete as this little comprehensive volume. It tells the story in a scientific style, yet it is free and easy of expression, making it a book which should be of interest to all poultry breeders.

Your Guide from Chick to Grown Bird

Hundreds of thousands of packages of Peters Red Feather Poultry Feeds are guiding chicks to profits.

HERE is a special Red Feather Poultry Feed for every stage of the chick's life. Only a correctly balanced and scientifically prepared feed can pull those little money-makers through to healthy and sturdy birds.

Our twenty years experience in the study and manufacture of poultry feeds has given you opportunity of avoiding the costly and tedious practice of mixing your own feeds. The keynote in the use of Red Feather Poultry Feeds is—Simplicity. A child can show an increase in profits by using them.

Start now and let results prove to you the ability of these feeds and see how quickly bowel impaction is eliminated and how much healthier, stronger, and faster your chicks grow.

M. C. Peters Mill Co. South Omaha, Nebraska

