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MINNESOTA BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

By T. A. Erickson, State Leader, and L. H. Fudge, Assistant in Charge
of Pig Club Project*

THE PIG CLUB PROJECT

This is the sixth year for the pig contest work in Minnesota.

Any boy or girl between the ages of 10 and 18, inclusive, may become a club member. If there are five or more in the same community, they should be grouped into a regularly organized club. This can be made a standard club by having a local club leader in charge, having a definite program of work, and holding at least six club meetings, with a record of the meetings. A club charter will be awarded after requirements are met.

Each club member must agree to keep a feed record of at least one pig, farrowed on or after March 1,^a for at least four months. The state contest closes September 1, so that the winning pigs in each county can be exhibited at the State Fair. A local contest may be conducted later, if desired. In the northern part of the state where it is difficult to obtain early pigs, the county contest can be started not later than June 1 and completed October 1.

The state contest for market class pigs will be held in November. Grade boars are ineligible. The best grade or purebred barrow or grade sow can be selected at the time of the county show.

Each contestant should provide an eighth of an acre of pasture or cultivated crop as part feed. Best results have been obtained by the use of some pasture crop.

All instructions sent relative to the care and management of the pig should be followed carefully and an accurate account kept of all items of expense.

All contestants must fill out the regular record book in ink and write a story of "How I Grew My Pig." This record book must be forwarded to the state or local leader at the close of the contest.

The basis of award is as follows:

Type, conformation, quality, and finish.....	60
Records and cost of gain.....	10
Daily rate of gain	15
Story, "How I Grew My Pig".....	15

*Joint agents, States Relations Service, U. S. Dept. of Agr. and Agr. Ext. Div., Univ. of Minn.

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The state champions will be the ones who have the highest scores.

If the county fair is held before the State Fair, the best purebred pig for the state contest can be selected at that time. Otherwise, the best pigs in the county should be checked up and the winner determined.

The best market pig may be selected at the county show and fed until exhibited at the state contest. At least fifteen market pigs must be fed in a county before it can be represented at the Junior Livestock Show.

In checking, pigs should be weighed either at the county fair or at the home of the club member. The total score for each club member should be determined by checking his record on each point as given in the basis of award.

Six hundred dollars is appropriated by the State Fair management to pay all expense of shipment, to care for pigs while on the grounds, and to provide liberal prizes. The National Record associations and state breeders' association offer special prizes to encourage pig club members to compete at the state contest.

The sow and litter project is an outgrowth of regular pig club work. This project will be more successful if at least one year's experience is required in feeding an individual pig.

Club members should secure a purebred sow or gilt (bred to a purebred boar) which will farrow on or after March 1. Any home record may be kept of pigs after they are weaned, and results transferred on basis of one pig from litter to individual pig club record books. Story should include results with litter.

The basis of award is the same for all pig club work, but a club member may compete for both state shows, by showing a registered pig and a barrow at the county show. All enrolled should plan to nominate for county futurity shows.



Haysen Bulfer, of Garden City, State Champion, With a Purebred at the State Fair

He won more than \$100 in prizes and refused to accept any offers for this pig.

Gurda Lexvold, of Zumbrota, State Champion, With a Market Pig at South St. Paul

Her pig was sold at 37 cents a pound, bringing \$122.10, besides the prizes she won, including a trip to the International Livestock Show at Chicago.

PIG CLUB PIGS

By H. W. Vaughan, Division of Animal Husbandry

Success in the pig club contest depends largely on the choice of a good feeder pig, and correct methods of feeding and management. Winners are well bred and well fed.

Selecting the Pig

Select a pig that is large for his age, of growthy type, upstanding, long bodied, deep, with good spring of rib, even width, full hams, smooth outlines, and one that is especially strong in the back, being well arched in his top line; straight and strong in feet, pasterns, and legs, with plenty of bone. If the pig is not up on his toes and strong in his back, do not select him for the contest. Do not select a short bodied, squatty, chunky pig. Do not select a coarse shouldered, rough pig, but a smooth, mellow pig, free from creases. Get one with good length of body and good length of leg, yet at the same time one with a good heart-girth and enough width and depth of middle to insure good feeding qualities. Select a healthy, thrifty pig showing plenty of vigor. Width between the eyes, width between the ears, a snout that is not too pointed, wide jaws, and an open, clear eye indicate constitution and feeding qualities. Short necks indicate good feeders.

It is important to select a pig out of a good sow and by a good boar. If possible, get a pig from a mating that has produced good hogs in previous years. Blood will tell.

Management

Exercise is important in keeping your pig healthy, thrifty, and strong in feet and legs. The best way to insure exercise is to keep the pig on pasture. Furthermore, the green succulent feed is a good tonic, and the cheapest gains are made on pasture. The best pastures are alfalfa, red clover, and rape. Rape is easy to grow, provides a quick pasture with a long growing season, and is one of the best forages for hogs. Sow from 4 to 6 pounds of seed per acre as early in the spring as the land can be plowed. One eighth of an acre is sufficient for one pig.

Toward the end of the feeding period when your pig is fat and heavy, it is a good plan to enforce exercise by walking your pig once a day in the morning or evening to keep him active on his legs and strong in feet and pasterns. This is important in preparing for show.

Provide a clean, dry bed, shelter from the rains, and a darkened shade that will protect from sun and flies. The comfortable pig is the pig that gains.

A lousy pig requires from a pound to a pound and a half more feed for every pound of gain in weight than a pig free from lice. Crude oil kills lice. Pour it over the back and brush it all over the pig, including head, neck, and belly. This may be repeated when necessary. Coal tar dips kill lice and may be used in the same way, diluting them according to directions.

For intestinal worms withhold the feed, but not the water, for 24 hours, and then give one dose of the following in a capsule or mixed in the slop: For a 50-pound pig, 2.5 grains of santonin, 1 dram of areca nut, 0.5 grain of calomel, 0.5 grain of sodium bicarbonate. For a 100-pound pig, give three and a half times as much as for the 50-pound pig. Repeat the dose in eight or ten days. Any druggist can supply this remedy.

Brush your pig once in a while to get acquainted with him and to make him quiet. But do not spoil your pig by too much kindness. Let him alone most of the time. He must rest a good deal in order to grow and gain rapidly.

Feeding

Feed a balanced ration made up of good feeds, feed liberally, and do not change the ration more often than is necessary. Until the pig weighs 100 pounds, make liberal use of growing feeds such as skim milk, buttermilk, tankage, middlings, oilmeal, and good pasture. Beyond 100 pounds use more and more fattening feeds, such as corn and ground barley. Keep salt before the pigs all the time.

Feeding Market Pigs

One of the best methods of feeding market pigs, especially after the pig has reached a weight of 100 pounds, is to use a self-feeder on a good pasture, putting shelled corn, middlings, tankage, and salt in separate compartments of the feeder. Ground barley may be substituted for corn. The pig will balance his own ration as well as or better than you can do it for him. When young he

will eat a good deal of tankage, but as he gets older he will eat less tankage and more corn. After 100 pounds it is not necessary to continue the middlings. In place of the tankage, a full feed of skimmilk or buttermilk may be fed in a trough three times a day, the corn and salt being fed in the self-feeder. The growthy, upstanding type of pig with good length of body and plenty of bone is the best type for self-feeding.

If you hand-feed market pigs it is best to feed three times a day, early in the morning, at noon, and late in the evening, giving them all they will clean up at each feed. The feed may be fed dry or as a slop made as thick as it will pour. All the grains may be ground and fed as a slop, or the corn may be fed separately as ear corn or shelled corn. There is some advantage in grinding corn during the last part of the feeding period. Barley should always be ground. The same rations may be used as given below for breeding stock.

Feeding Young Breeding Stock

It is doubtful whether the self-feeder should be used with pigs to be grown out for breeding stock. (It will usually be safest to hand-feed them three times a day, giving them not less than 3 pounds of feed daily on pasture for every 100 pounds of live weight, and later increasing the proportion of feed according to the appetite and condition of the pigs, but not feeding more than they will clean up each time they are fed. It is not advisable to feed young breeding stock to the high degree of finish demanded in the market pig. They should be fed so that they will be well grown and in good condition, showing what is called "bloom," meaning a thrifty, well-fed appearance, but should not be heavily loaded with fat.

Up to 100 pounds, any of the following combinations is good, especially on pasture:

3 pounds of skimmilk or buttermilk to 1 pound of corn or barley.

6 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of middlings and 1 pound of tankage.

6 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of middlings and 2 pounds of oilmeal.

8½ pounds of corn or barley to 1½ pounds of tankage.

From 100 pounds to finish of contest:

2 pounds of skimmilk or buttermilk to 1 pound of corn or barley.

9 pounds of corn or barley to 1 pound of tankage.

9 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of middlings and ½ pound of tankage.

9 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of shorts and 1 pound of oilmeal.

Do not feed corn and oilmeal. Do not feed cottonseed meal. A limited amount of oats may be used, but in a contest of this kind it is best not to use oats unless they are ground and the hulls sifted out, and even then the high cost is an objectionable feature.

Feed regularly. Study your pig carefully. Handle him quietly. Make him comfortable. If he is of the right type and is bred right he will be as good as the feed and care you give him. Do your best, and whether you win or lose you will learn enough about the hog business to more than repay you for the effort.