

The University of Minnesota

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION

Special Bulletin No. 24

University Farm, St. Paul

April 1918

Published by the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, Extension Division, A. D. Wilson, Director, and distributed in furtherance of the purposes of the cooperative agricultural extension work provided for in the Act of Congress of May 8, 1914.

MINNESOTA BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

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

THE PIG CLUB PROJECT

This is the fourth year for the pig contest work in Minnesota. More than seven hundred boys and girls were enrolled last year and many of them made excellent records. This is one of the most popular contests because it deals with a growing animal and the gains produced are due to the good care and feeding provided by the club member.

The project requires that each member grow at least one pig. A litter is preferred where this is possible. The contest has always been based on the feeding of one pig, because boys and girls should learn to feed properly before undertaking the breeding phase of the work.

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.

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. The best work has been done where clubs were organized.

Each club member must agree to keep a feed record of at least one pig, not more than three months old at the time the record is started, 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 continued 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.

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 helped Uncle Sam by growing a 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:

Conformation to type.....	40
Cost of gain.....	25
Daily rate of gain.....	15
Story of "How I helped Uncle Sam by growing a pig"....	20
Total	<u>100</u>

The state champion will be the one who has the highest score.

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

THE PIG CLUB PIG

By R. C. Ashby, Division of Animal Husbandry

The object of each pig club member is to grow the largest and best pig in the shortest time at the least cost. That is the problem of every producer of meat animals. Therefore successful club members not only achieve personal honor, but benefit us all. They are at the same time feeders, students, and teachers. They should do their best and be especially careful that their records are free from mistakes. If they succeed, others will follow, but errors in reports may mean disappointment to many.

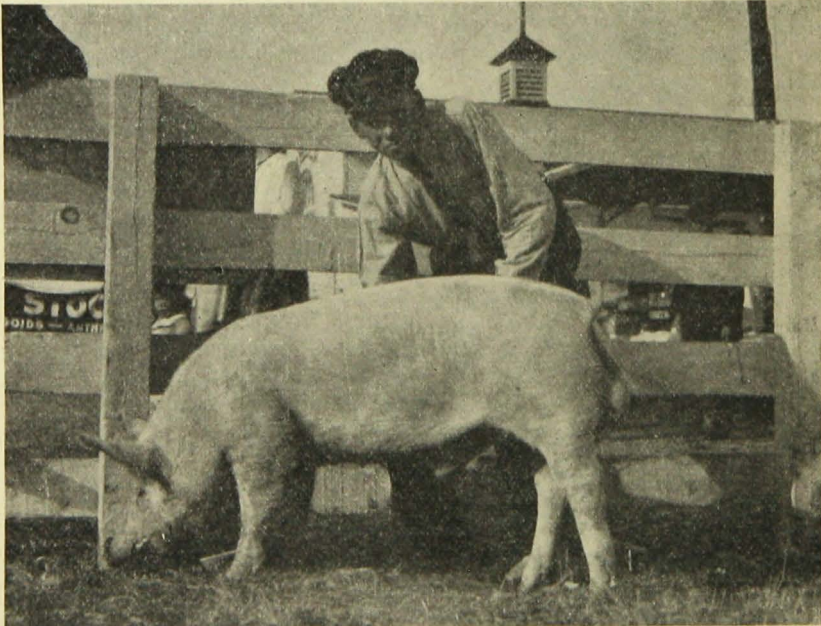
Selecting the Pig

The winning pig must make large gains economically and suit the butcher when fattened. A pig must be wide and deep at both ends and all the way between. It must have wide jaws, a full, deep chest, a well-developed middle, and plenty of depth through the hind flanks. Avoid any tendency to low backs, open shoulders, and small chests. The good feeder has "pep" or vitality, and is active and wide awake.

Experienced hog men recommend a strong, wide back, smooth shoulders, deep sides, and strong clean bone. Early maturity and a good constitution are important. Avoid extremes. You can not get too much depth of body; but legs that are too short, bodies that are too compact, or pigs that are too long and rangy should be avoided.

Boar pigs are more restless and seldom make as economical gains as do barrows or sows. Males will do best if castrated three weeks before the feeding period begins.

It is a good plan to feed two pigs. Pigs from the same litter often differ as much as ten per cent in the amount of feed used per pound of gain. If it is possible to have two pastured together but fed separately, keeping separate feed records, you will learn a valuable lesson and can select the better animal for the exhibit.



Chester Hanson of Graceville, whose pig was declared champion at the state fair. He won \$50 in prizes and his pig was sold for \$85.

Handling the Pig

Only a healthy pig will do well. To insure health, exercise and comfort are necessary. If every pig can have a pasture, it will get the needed exercise. If no fenced pasture is available, a movable pen in the orchard will do. Shade can be supplied by nailing a couple of boards across one corner of the pen. Cover with old canvas or burlap sacks ripped open; or with fresh brush whenever the pen is moved. However, the pig should be kept dry during rains.

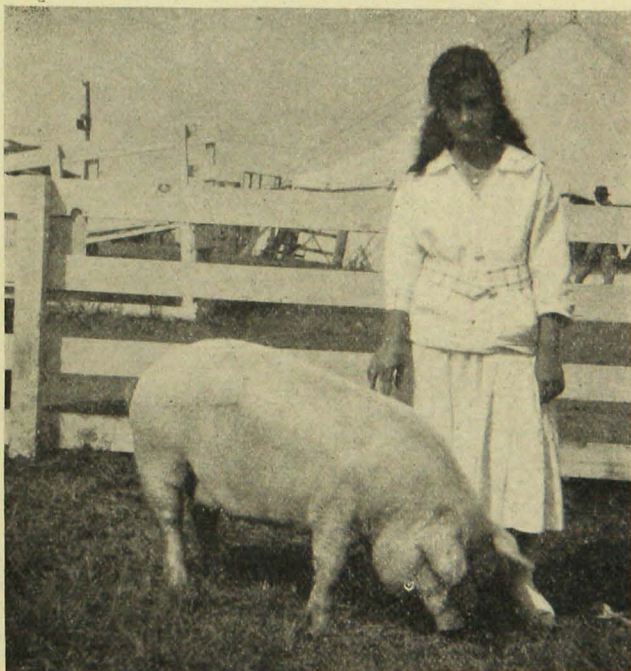
If a wallow is desired and only one or two pigs are in the yard, set a tight box in the ground and keep the water in it reasonably clean. For a single pig that has good shade, a weekly bath and a rubbing post will take the place of the wallow. Twist a sack and tack it on a post. Pour oil on it occasionally and you have a cheap oiler.

Feeding

Feed makes a pig. No one can tell just how and what the pig should be fed, but helpful suggestions can be obtained. Study your pig carefully, watch its appetite, its relish for its feed, and the way it is growing and putting on flesh. Until it weighs one hundred pounds, the pig should grow rather than put on fat. It should receive a full feed, but a growing ration rather than a fattening one. Milk, oats, shorts, oilmeal, tankage, and good pasture are classed as growing feeds. Corn, barley, and cooked potatoes are fattening feeds.

Good pasture is the cheapest feed and furnishes exercise as well. Five pounds of grain fed on good pasture often produce as much gain as six pounds or more fed in a dry lot. The clovers, alfalfa, rape, or oats and field peas are all good hog pastures for Minnesota.

Corn is the most efficient grain on pasture, and barley is good. Milk, oilmeal, or tankage should be added whenever a full feed of corn or barley is supplied. Shorts and oats are very good growing feeds. Corn or barley should



Mildred Pentz of Faribault, who made the best record of all the girls in the state. Her pig produced a gain of 1.65 pounds a day at a cost of 7 cents a pound. The state champion was Reinhardt Borgess of Waldorf, who produced a gain of 1.9 pounds a day at a cost of 7 cents a pound.

make up half or more of the grain ration after the pig reaches one hundred pounds in weight.

The following combinations are suggested as good ones. Any of these can be modified as price of feed indicates best. Also change as your pig's appetite seems to swing. Gradually make your ration more of a fattening one as the pig develops.

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

5 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of shorts and 3 pounds of oats.

5 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of shorts and 2 pounds of tankage.

5 pounds of corn or barley to 3 pounds of shorts and 3 pounds of oilmeal.

From one hundred pounds to finish of contest:

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

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

6 pounds of corn or barley to 2 pounds of shorts and 2 pounds of oilmeal.

Opinions differ as to the number of times a pig should be fed. Some feed twice a day, some three times, and some five times. Talk it over with your pig and try it out. But do not try too many experiments on it. Feed just what it will clean up at each feeding and be hungry for the next one.

Self-feeders may be used if desired. They are a safe method especially for finishing. For all members who are interested in building one, plans can be obtained by writing to your state club leader. Or you can use a flat-bottomed trough that is located in a sheltered place and which has as many partitions as you expect to use kinds of feed. This will serve splendidly for one pig. Each feed is thus kept separate and the pig can make its own choice. Up to 125 pounds, oats, shorts, oilmeal, and tankage are good for self-feeding. Milk will replace the oilmeal and tankage if you have enough available. Feed some corn or barley once a day by hand. After 125 pounds, corn and shorts may well be self-fed. Milk should be fed two or three times a day or tankage in a self-feeder.

Grain fed dry is as efficient as when fed in slop, so there is nothing gained by soaking oats or other grains. Keep clean drinking water available all the time.

Treat your pig for intestinal worms. Keep it off feed (but not off water) for twelve hours. Then for a pig that is under fifty pounds, give 2½ grains santonin and 4 grains calomel in a light feed of slop. In twelve hours, follow with a teaspoonful of epsom salts in milk or slop. Thereafter feed as usual. This remedy can be had at any drug store and is not expensive.

Keep your pig free from lice. A mixture of equal parts kerosene and machine oil or kerosene and lard will kill all lice. Rub a few drops behind the ears and in the flanks every week. If you have any of the coal tar dips, they may be diluted and used as a wash. Remember that there is no market for hog lice.

For a general conditioner, the following is good and a little of it should always be kept where the pig can help itself.

Mix together:

1 peck charcoal or slack coal	1 pound sulphur
1 peck ashes	2 pounds air-slaked lime
2 pounds salt	½ pound copperas (dissolved in water)

Keep your eyes open and study your pig all the time and you will learn more this summer than any one can teach you from a book. Continue your work as a pig club member for three years and you will be either an expert feeder or no feeder at all. What you learn is of far more importance than winning a prize.