INCREASING HOG PRODUCTION

By W. F. TAYLOR.

Pork is scarce in the market. I do not know how much the present supply might be increased without lowering the price to a point where it could not be produced with profit, but I think we need not worry about any immediate decline in price. Hogs are scarce, pigs are hard to find, feed is so high, and the demand for pork so strong that the temptation to sell every hog off the farm that the buyer will take is very great.

Breed Sows for Fall Litters.

If we are going to increase the amount of pork in the country two or three things must receive attention. First, we must breed our sows for fall litters. Of course, it will be too late for early fall pigs before this advice can possibly be read. But we may be situated so that we can take care of litters that come late, as I am sure that many of us are.

It does not make so much difference when pigs are farrowed, if they have proper care. They may come along in mid-winter, providing the sow has a warm place, and the pigs have a chance to exercise.

Of course, it is not desirable to have pigs come later than October 1, though some of the best ones I have ever raised have been farrowed later than that. After all, it is all in the care they receive, though it is easier to give them that care in warm weather than in the cold of winter.

Second, we should prepare to feed well the pigs that we keep. To plant a larger acreage than we can cultivate, to milk more cows than we can feed properly, or to keep a larger number of pigs than we have the courage to furnish grain for, is to increase with none of the products indicated, but rather it has the effect to diminish the supply. If we have twice as many pigs on hand as we will feed liberally, we might better sell half of them to some one who will feed them, and thus make sure that all of them will be ready for market at the earliest possible date.

Feed Hogs Liberally.

The pigs we do keep should be fed for rapid growth if we would really increase the sum of pork products. If we have not faith enough in the business to feed liberally, let us sell our pigs to someone who has. It is a great mistake to let a bunch of pigs live along, hungry as bears, growing just a little, but evidently preferring to die if they only could, and waiting for the corn to get ripe so that we can get something with which to fatten them.

But you say, "Hold on, do you expect us to pay the present high prices for feed and give it to the hogs?" Well, I am putting a sack full into the self-feeder as often as the hogs can make room for it, and the faster they eat, the more I shall get for my work.

If anyone who reads this doubts that I am right, let me ask him if he expects that grain will be any cheaper next fall than it is now? Think for a moment of our present wheat shortage. Consider the large amounts of breadstuffs that must be sent to the bottom of the ocean before German's submarine war can be arrested. Corn cannot possibly be cheap next year. Pork can not be produced in sufficient quantities to more than supply the demand at the present high prices, if, indeed, it can be grown fast enough to keep the amount up to the present supply. So I shall feed just all the pigs will eat, from the time they come into the world until they go to market.

Utilize Pastures for Profit.

In the third place, we can use pasture in many cases economically. I do not believe it is wise to give the hogs very much good alfalfa meadow this summer, alfalfa is going to be needed next winter for cow feed. Grain is going to be very high. People everywhere are thinking about beans and potatoes, and while I do not think they are going to overdo cither, still it looks as though corn will be in great demand. But lands not otherwise occupied can be pastured by the hogs, and rape can be sown here and there, and now and then a man who is short of help may use the hogs to advantage in harvesting his corn. But in a general way, it seems to me that our good meadows, either clover or alfalfa, should be cut and the hay should be properly cured and stored for winter use, except so much as is needed to supplement the pastures, or to feed, for other reasons, on the farm.

In purchasing feeds for the hogs, we should watch for by-products more sharply than before. Products from the breakfast food factories, salvage grains, middlings, and in fact anything that the hogs like, that we can afford to buy.

Use the Self-feeder for Best Results.

In the fourth place, I would feed the hogs from a hopper feeder. It takes but very little time to make one, and that will be saved many times over, in feeding before the summer closes, and the feeder will still be as good as new. Every experiment I have seen proves that hogs will make more rapid, and more economical gains when fed in this way, than when a man attempts to say to the hog, just how much is good for him, and how often he shall eat.

Lastly, I would not sell the hogs until they had attained to good weight, unless the market looked bad. Every time a small hog is marketed, a chance to increase the supply of food is cut off.

If we feed too slowly, then this would not be good advice, for the hog would be too old to grow economically before he attained the proper size. It should always be remembered that it costs much more to put weight onto an old hog than a young one.

So now in closing, if we would increase the sum of pork in the country, or even if we would maintain the present supply, we must first breed all the sows we can; second, feed as liberally as we can, and third, grow our hogs to a good size before we market them.

Thus, if we seek economical sources of feed supply, if we watch all the little details that make for success, if in short, we put a little of our better selves into this work, we shall get our pay in dollars, and we shall help to feed a hungry world, and thus be good soldiers though employing only the weapons of peace.

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Conserve The Fruit Crop

Last summer, many women did not put up their regular supply of homemade preserves; and bitterly they regretted it. They became scared at what they called the high price of sugar. When sugar reached 7½ cents a pound, they let the strawberries and cherries go by. When sugar sold at 8 cents and 8½ cents, they permitted the luscious peaches, pears, plums and apples to rot on the ground.

But never again. This summer will see a genuine, old time revival in homemade preserving; because the women of Canada now realize what a foolish extravagance it was to do without preserves; especially when the increased cost of putting them up is infinitesimal.

As a matter of fact, every woman can prove, with her first lot of strawberries, that the increased cost of sugar is surprisingly small.

Turning back the files of papers publishing market prices, we find that in 1912, 1913 and 1914, up to the outbreak of war, the average price of granulated sugar was 5½ cents a pound. To-day, the best granulated sugar retails at 8½ cents. This is an average of 3 cents a pound for the whole of the country.

A quart jar of preserved berries or fruit, requires but half a pound of sugar; so that the increased cost of preserving, due to the increased cost of sugar, is only 1½ cents a quart, compared with the cost of preserving before the war when sugar was unusually cheap.

Now is the time for the women of Canada to come gallantly to the aid of the country, and help to conserve our food supplies. The fruit crop this year promises to be a record one, both in quality and quantity. Foreign markets being closed because of the shortage in transportation, it rests almost entirely with our homemakers as to whether this crop worth millions is to be a source of profit or a complete loss.

With the home pantries filled with delicious jams, preserves and jellies; with these delicacies served for dessert instead of pies and cakes; enormous quantities of wheat will be released for the troops in France and for the starving children in Belgium.

A careful consideration of the above facts will show to the Canadian housewife that sugar is not too high for preserving profitably; that the increased cost of sugar has not materially increased the cost of homemade preserves; and that preserving is both an economy and a patriotic action.

Poultry

When chicks appear stupid, do not remain with the flock, wings droop, whitish discharge, they are troubled with white diarrhoea.

Medicinal treatment is of little avail. To prevent: Breed from strong healthy birds; proper care and feeding of chicks; keep chicks vigorous; disinfect incubator and brooder; feed sour milk.

A good poultryman is not very easily discouraged.

Boiled oats, after draining off the water, can be mixed with bran and corn-meal to make a valuable egg food. Clover hay, cooked or steeped and mixed with bran and corn-meal, makes a grand breakfast for hens. Green stuff intended for mixing with the soft food should be cut in half-inch lengths.

Cow-peas are relished by poultry, and should be added to the diet at least twice a week. Squash or pumpkins, cooked and mixed in the mash, are good for growth, production and health. All kinds of roots can be fed raw or cooked.

Common field peas are egg food. Peas contain a large amount of nitrogenous substances.

The trouble with so many farm hens is that they do not get enough grain during the summer months to make them produce a profitable number of eggs to pay for their keep.

Molting season is near at hand. This means a decrease in the egg crop. It is necessary at that time to have the fowls properly fed and cared for, that they may pass through the ordeal safely.

No two things about a farm go together better than fruit trees and chickens. Make them acquainted early. Put the newly-hatched brood in a coop under a tree and surround the whole with a circle of two-foot inch mesh poultry netting. It will stand alone in the form of a circle. The shade is good for the baby chicks. The chickens are good for the tree. As they grow, they will scratch the soil and thus cultivate and enrich it, besides destroying many insect enemies.

Cuts Labor in Half

Do you first disinfect, and then go over all surfaces again with whitewash in order to keep your stables, dairies and poultry houses bright, cheerful and free from lice, mites, fly eggs and the germs of roup, white diarrhea, cholera, glanders, etc ?

Such a method is a waste of time, money and labor. Use Carbola instead—it does the two things at the same time. It is a disinfectant that dries out white—not dark and colorless—and gives much better results.

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Order Fertilizer Early.

As a result of labor shortage and the heavy demand on transportation for the shipments of munitions and other war supplies, to say nothing of the increase of ordinary business there has developed a very large shortage of freight cars and one of the great problems of the immediate future is the increasing of transportation facilities. Investigation has shown that the trouble can be to a certain extent remedied by shippers and consignees arranging to utilize the full capacity of each car. If this is done the carrying capacity of the railroads will be increased by at least one-third. In the shipment of no other commodity has there been a greater wastage of car space than in shipments of fertilizer. The average order placed by the fertilizer agent has been for a car of 21 tons. The standard box car is built to carry 50 tons. It may be loaded with a full 600 bags of fertilizer instead of the customary 250 bags, and one car made to do the work of two.

If farmers will give their orders early enough, it will allow agents to make up full cars. This will automatically cut down by a half the number of freight cars needed to move the fall tonnage. Since fertilizers are classed as preferred freight, it means freeing for other uses one half of the cars normally used for shipping fall fertilizer—and helping conditions by just that much.

Full cars cannot be ordered out unless the farmer is in sympathy with the movement. The fertilizer trade has grown up around the minimum car. The dealer's storage is frequently limited to 15 or 20 tons. If full cars are used by the dealer, he must have the help of the farmers who must haul goods away without delay.

It is very important that the agent and the farmer realize that in this national emergency full cars must be used. Farmers, order early even though it be inconvenient to unload cars during the harvest season.

Sweet clover on a patch of wornout land or run down pasture may produce surprising results.

The Dairy

The brains of the breeder build up the herd.

Economy in feeding is efficiency in production.

True worth in a bull is vindicated by the performance of his daughters at the pail and the showing of his sons on the block.

A large milk flow is not natural for a cow, but is an acquired character. For that reason it is only by constantly selecting the best and rejecting the poorest that the characteristic can be retained. Selection without testing is merely guessing.

No matter how good a showing a milker makes, she can not be registered unless she is the offspring of a registered sire and dam.

The use of caustic potash when the calves are a few days old makes the use of dehorning clippers unnecessary later on. Before applying the potash, clip the hair away from the buttons on the calves' heads; moisten the stick of potash and rub it on the spots until the places bleed slightly. If too much water is used, it may run down over the head, taking the hair off, or getting into the eyes where it causes serious trouble.

Many feeding experiments last winter, in which silage was made a major part of the ration while grain was used in limited amounts, show that a full feed of grain is not necessary to put a good finish on beef cattle.

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Grateful:—1. It is always the privilege of a bride to wear white with a wedding veil no matter how simple the ceremony or how early the hour, so you have your choice of white or a pretty silk going-away gown. Such things must really be decided by what best suits your own plans. 2. The bride provides the household linen and you would require six sheets, six pillow-cases, three spreads, three tablecloths, one dozen napkins, one dozen lunch napkins, several centrepieces, two sets of six doilies, also kitchen towels and pantry towels, six each; three dishcloths, one or two pairs of blankets and a table pad. I do not think you could manage well with less. 3. A letter of appreciation should be written to one's hostess after returning from a visit.

Anxious:—1. To remove spots on broadcloth try the following: Grind one and one-half ounces of pipe clay fine, mix with eighteen drops of alcohol and the same quantity of spirits of turpentine. Moisten a little of the mixture with more alcohol and rub on the stains. When dry remove with a woollen cloth. 2. Small swabs of antiseptic absorbent cotton should be used to wash an infant's eyes. 3. The covers can be kept on a small child at night by the use of garter fastenings; one end should be fastened to the side of the crib and the other end clasped to the corner of the covers. In this way they can be kept firmly on, yet the rubber allows the child freedom enough to turn. 4. Cotton stockings are better for children's wear than lisle.

P. H.:—1. The best remedy I know for black ants is to fill a saucer with sweetened water, add one teaspoon of tartar emetic and set it where the ants come. 2. For filling cracks in floors, make a thick paste of linseed oil and wheat flour. Use after first coat of paint and before the second has been applied.

Student:—1. The phrase "wearing the white flower of a blameless life" is in the "Dedication" to Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" and occurs in a tribute to the memory of the Prince Consort. 2. The two great rivers of Mesopotamia are the Tigris and the Euphrates. 3. The original meaning of "chiffon" is rags.

A. B.:—It is said that a tablespoonful of ground pepper and two tablespoonfuls of brown sugar mixed with enough cream to make a smooth paste will kill flies. You might try it.

K. L. J.:—Your phlox and hollyhocks are affected with rust, a common disease. The remedy is to spray with Bordeau mixture. To 4 quarts of water add 1½ tablespoonfuls of quicklime and 1 tablespoonful of copper sulphate. Mix well.

Perplexed:—1. A reply to an invitation to a home wedding, explaining why you cannot attend, is sent to those who issue it, in this case the parents of the bride, and the envelope should be addressed to them. The gift, with your card, is sent to the bride. 2. A shower is given by an intimate friend of the bride-elect and may be given any time within a few weeks before the ceremony, and it is good form to ask only those who are very close friends of the engaged girl, as to go outside and ask just acquaintances savors too much of asking for gifts.

Puzzled:—1. Do not pay any attention to remarks like these. No human judgment can possibly be perfectly just. If we do what we consider right according to our best knowledge we can safely leave the result to a Higher Power. 2. It is not worth worrying about. If you think you would have a good time at the picnic, go by all means.

Housewife:—1. To make mint bags for the linen closet put into little silk bags a mixture made of a pound of dried lavender, an ounce of thyme, an ounce of mint, an ounce of ground cloves and caraway seeds and a tablespoonful of dry salt. 2. Food scientists tell us that corn meal is not "heating" and can therefore be used in summer. It is a duty at the present time to use more corn and save the wheat for our Allies over the seas.

The First Embroidery Class in the World.

The first embroidery class in the world was held one early, early morning thousands, oh! thousands of years ago, under a huge mullein leaf! Way before sun-up the members began to arrive.

They tied their butterflies to the clover posts and fluttered down excitedly upon the moss-green carpet. Fairies! of course, they were fairies! And who do you suppose taught them to embroider? Why, Grandmother Spider!

She brought out the wonderful web that she had spun and with the fairies fluttering and flying about her she showed them the first stitches in embroidery. She didn't use silk, though; she used skeins of mist, and when they had been worked in and out and over and over they made the shining dew drops like the ones you have often seen trembling on the grass blades in the early morning.

The fairies clapped their hands and danced with excitement and begged her to let them work some. But the old spider shook her head and sent them off to gather some tiny green leaves. Pretty soon every fairy head was bent over a leaf and the fairy needles were flying merrily.

Next time you see a leaf with these delicate tracings upon it you'll know that some little fairy has been at work—perhaps, if you look very closely you will see her needle sticking in it. I hope so, for fairy needles are golden and very precious, I can tell you! Well, the fairies were so delighted with embroidery that they came again and again to Grandmother Spider's class and she grew very fat and rich, I am told.

And the fairies—why, the fairies set about embroidering everything in the world. The leaves and flowers, their silken coverlets, the great robe of the sea. Have you never seen the frost pictures on the window-panes in winter? Well, that is fairy embroidery!

Yes, the fairies learned to embroider from old Mother Spider and then the kind little creatures showed the human folk the secret of it. They taught them to copy the flowers from the garden upon their centerpieces and doilies and upon their dark frocks, so that the glad out-of-door things could be found indoors, too.

Wherever mortals are embroidering and especially where little girls are, there are always fairies! They hover about overhead, perch upon the needles and scissors and sometimes they steal the thimbles away to use for honey pails.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
JULY 22.

Lesson IV. Sennacherib's Invasion of Judah—2 Kings 18, 13 to 19. 37.

Golden Text Psa. 46. 1.

Verse 20. Sennacherib—King of Assyria, B. C. 705-681; the expedition against Judah took place in 701. The king's own account may be read on the so-called Taylor Cylinder, Col. 11, 34 to Col. III, 41 (For a translation see R. W. Roger's Cuneiform Parallels to the Old Testament, pages 340-344).

21, 22. The opening words of a taunt-song (21-28), describing the arrogance and impending humiliation of Sennacherib. Blasphemed—Especially through the speech of Rabshakeh (18. 19ff.). Holy One—A favorite term with Isaiah. Describes Jehovah as holy and implies the responsibility of Israel to reflect the same holiness (see Lesson Studies for July 1, verse 3).

28. Raging—The Assyrian having acted like a wild beast, Jehovah will treat him accordingly.

29-31. An oracle directed to Hezekiah. Sign—Meant to guarantee the fulfillment of the preceding promises. Remnant—See Lesson Studies for July 1, verse 13.

32-34. Mine own sake—If he should not do it, the observers would get a false view of his character and power. David—The expression frequently in Kings. The reference is to the promise in 2 Sam. 7. 11-17.

35. Smote—There is no reference in Sennacherib's inscription to this calamity, but an occurrence of this sort would explain the hasty return to Assyria. According to an Egyptian tradition preserved by Herodotus (11. 141), the army was rendered helpless by a plague of mice. Since the mouse is a symbol of pestilence in ancient tradition, the story of Herodotus may imply that a destructive epidemic swept through the camp of the Assyrians. The disaster is said to have occurred at Pelusium, near the Egyptian frontier, a region of swamps and marshes, which might easily breed an epidemic.

37. Assassination of Sennacherib. Nisroch—No Assyrian deity bearing this name is known. Sennacherib's grandson states that the king was assassinated in Babylon, at the entrance of the temple. If so, Nisroch may be a corruption of Marduk, the name of the chief god of Babylon. Adrammelech . . . Sharezer—Called in Isa. 37. 38 "his sons." The Babylonian account mentions only one son. The difference may be accounted for by assuming either that one of the sons was the prime mover or that there was only one murderer, the two names referring to the same person. Into the land of Ararat—The Assyrian Urartu, the modern Armenia.

When draft mares are used for farm work, the income from the sale of colts each year makes the cost of horse labor much less than when the work is done by geldings.