

# AGRICULTURAL NEWS

## PASTURES ARE GOOD FOR PIGS

### Pastures Replace One Eighth Of Feed Concentrates For Pigs

Just how valuable is pasture for pigs?

In 29 different tests with about 2,200 pigs in Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and South Dakota the total of concentrated feed eaten by pigs on pasture averaged about 13 per cent less for every 100 pounds of gain than for the pigs in dry lots, according to summaries by the United States Department of Agriculture, states L. A. Richardson, U-T Extension live stock specialist.

The pigs were put on test at an average weight of 55 pounds. About one-half of them were allowed pasture. The tests showed that pasture took the place of about 1 out of every 8 pounds of concentrated feed needed when pasture was not furnished. Pigs on pasture gained about a quarter of a pound more per day than those in a dry lot. There was less opportunity for them to pick up parasites. A side from other things, the pasture furnished vitamins, minerals, and exercise—all necessary for speedy pork production.

Pigs should not be stinted with too little pasture. The exact number of pigs that can be carried per acre depends on the pasture.

Pigs like and make good gains on alfalfa, lespedeza, rape, clovers, Sudan grass, green soybeans, and cowpeas, Bermuda, Bluegrass, and rye when properly supplemented with concentrated feeds. They make the best gains, however, on young, tender, succulent, green growth.

The value of pig pastures lessens as the growth becomes woody. New growth following a hay crop or clipping is good.

Two or more pastures give an opportunity to shift the pigs when pastures go down in feed value.

Many farmers use a number of small pastures. Some plant late

drops to lengthen the pasture sea-

son. Practical farmers have proved over and over again that their pig pastures are feed saver and money makers.

### AFTERNOON BEST FOR BUTCHERING

#### Cool Dry Day Is Ideal Butchering Weather On Farm

The best time for killing hogs on the farm is a cool, dry afternoon, not the coldest day in mid-winter.

On a bitter cold day the job is too disagreeable and there is danger of the meat freezing on the outside before the animal heat escapes from round the bone. Ideal butchering weather is in a temperature of 28 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, stated L. A. Richardson, U-T Extension animal husbandman.

Keep hogs off feed for 24 hours before slaughtering, but give them plenty of fresh water. After they have been killed, scald them in water heated to a temperature of 150 degrees.

If you don't have a thermometer dip your finger quickly into the water. If it burns badly the first time, it is too hot. If you can dip your finger in and out more than three times in rapid succession, the water is too cold. A barrel may be used to scald one or two hogs, but where more than two are to be dressed, a vat is much more satisfactory.

After hogs are scalded and scraped, the carcasses should be split down the center of the backbone and the leaf fat loosened from the lower end of the ribs. Hang them in the smoke house to chill overnight, but be sure the meat does not freeze.

The next morning, after all animal heat has dissipated, make the various cuts as neat and smooth as possible. Trim each piece closely, as ragged edges and too much fat lower the value of the cured product and also provide a hiding place for meat insects.

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### CHANGES ASKED IN FARM PLAN

#### Farmers Recommend Alterations In Government Farm Program

Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 27—Nearly 15,000 farmers, representing 565 communities in Indiana, got their heads together this fall to make some definite recommendations of what they wanted formulated into the 1937 agricultural conservation program. These recommendations recently were sent to Washington D. C. by Marshall Vogler, chairman of the state agricultural conservation committee, which has its headquarters at Purdue University.

There were 22 Indiana counties that favored no change in the 1937 program from the 1936 program 33 counties that would like to see an increase in the soil building payment, and 17 counties expressed a belief that payments should be made on soil conserving acres rather than on the number of soil depleting acres.

Farm woodlands are not only helping to control soil erosion but are paying farmers on the Coon Creek, Wis., Soil Conservation Service project area good dividends, according to John Fry of the Soil Conservation Service forestry staff. Fry made a study of 118 farms within the area in the winter of 1934-35—and found that the average farm woodland produced more than 11 cords of fuel wood, worth \$4 per cord; 649 board feet of lumber, worth \$25 per thousand; 41 railway ties, worth 35 cents each; and 259 posts, worth 10 cents apiece.

Fry's survey showed that the average farm included in the study produced in 1 year woodland products valued at \$101.67. Approximately 85 percent of the woodland products, valued at more than \$87, were used on the farm and would have cost the farmer \$228 a year if he had bought them on the open market. Thus, the farmers averaged an annual saving of about \$141 apiece, by utilizing woodland property. As a single example, the fuel wood used annually on the average farm was equal in heating value to 9½ tons of anthracite coal.

More than 130 veterinarians of the state attended the conference which was in charge of Dr. Robert Graham, chief in animal pathology and hygiene of the agricultural college. A full day of the meeting was devoted to the most recent developments in the solution of the poultry disease problem.

It was emphasized at the conference that the most effective steps in the prevention and cure of poultry diseases was good, clean poultry management and early diagnosis of any disease outbreaks.

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### FARM WOODLOTS ARE PROFITABLE

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### DRUGS USELESS FOR TREATMENT

#### Poultry Owners Warned Against Use Of Medicine For Farm Flocks

Urbana, Ill., Nov. 27—No drug or mixture of drugs known to veterinary medicine at this time can be depended upon to expel all types of worms which may infest poultry and other animals, Dr. H. E. Moskey, veterinarian of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, told Illinois College of Agriculture.

In discussing so-called poultry conditioners, tonics and other products labeled as containing health-giving properties and as being valuable in increasing egg production, he pointed out that health can not be sold in bottle, box or bag. Furthermore, he stated that no known drug or combination of drugs, when fed to poultry, can be considered valuable in increasing egg production.

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