

Farmers last year who marketed their wool through the Cooperative Wool Growers Association received on the average of six to seven cents per pound more than those who sold through the local buyers. This increase in wool prices was made possible through the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation loaning program. An advance which averages about eighteen cents per pound of wool was made at the time the wool was delivered to the local cooperative assembling point for wool, which in this county was at Baldwin. When the wool was graded an additional payment was made on grade, and when all the 1938 wool crop was sold, the farmer received his 3% payment which was his bonus in addition to the advance and the grading payment. This year all indications are that the payment per pound over local buyers will be much in excess of 1938 because a large part of the wool was sold after the war boom early in September and commanded top prices.

We had a series of sheep dipping demonstrations and also did considerable work on docking and castrating lambs. This fall the Wisconsin State Ram Truck brought 35 fine purebred rams into the county from old established sheep breeders in the state. These rams were offered for sale and 12 of them were bought by farmers in the county. The sale of rams is not the only object of this ram truck. This is a fine opportunity for farmers to see choice rams, to compare them with what they already have, and to see what is being used as a guide in selecting good rams.

SWINE

A number of requests have come in from time to time for information regarding sicknesses in hogs. In hogs, as well as in other livestock, we have no intention of replacing the licensed veterinarian. It has been our aim to work in cooperation with the local veterinarians in the county in bringing about an understanding of diseases and their control.

We have discussed with various swine breeders the problem of marketing their product and they too, as well as dairymen, are becoming aware of the fact there if there is going to be a continued market for pork as well as for lard, we are going to have to put on a strenuous advertising program to again convince people that lard is a by-product of the swine industry that cannot be substituted successfully.

HORSES

Much lively discussion has come up from time to time regarding the merits of the horse versus tractors. We have seen sufficient cases where tractors on small farms are a detriment in that they do not come near to paying their own way so that, as a result of this, many times we are encouraged to say that unless there is sufficient need for a tractor it is questionable whether it is advisable on the average small farm. In support of this statement we usually ask the farmer if the use of the tractor increased his income. We do not answer this question. His answer will satisfy anyone.